



The Mountain Partnership, a platform for bringing pastoralist women centre stage

Sara Manuelli
Advocacy and Outreach Officer
Mountain Partnership Secretariat





The Mountain Partnership

The Mountain Partnership is the United Nations alliance working together with the common goal of achieving sustainable mountain development around the world.

Vision: A world with empowered mountain communities and increased commitment and investment to address the climate and biodiversity crises in mountains, and to ensure the social and economic well-being of mountain people – leaving no one behind

568 members:

- 66 governments
- 22 intergovernmental organizations
- 480 major groups (CSOs, NGOs, private sector)

The Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership is hosted by FAO, and supported by the governments of Andorra, Italy and Switzerland.

- **Advocacy** – raise awareness through events about sustainable mountain development (HLPF, UNFCCC, NWP, Five Years of Action)
- **Capacity development** – host courses on sustainable mountain development and agrobiodiversity (IPROMO, GROW)
- **Knowledge sharing and communications** – produce and share publications, articles, videos, newsletters, social media, databases (International Mountain Day, Science and Knowledge Advisory Committee, publications)
- **Joint action** – support collaboration among Mountain Partnership members at the global level (Mountain Youth Hub, projects)



Our
work



Vital role of pastoralist women in mountains

- Women pastoralists play a key role in environmental protection and social and economic development in mountain areas. They are livestock producers, income generators and caregivers and integral to maintaining pastoralist community life, identity and knowledge.
- They take care of many aspects of herd management, and livestock is more easily accessed and controlled by women than other assets. Livestock as mobile banks.
- Women are usually in charge of food security and livestock can be a nutritious source food and of income.
- **Yet, they remain vulnerable and must constantly negotiate their position within their households, communities and otherwise. Access to natural resources and economic opportunities is key.**

- IYRP 2026 was declared in 2022 at the proposal of the Government of Mongolia, to be implemented by FAO.
- Increase understanding, mobilize people worldwide, create new knowledge, share experiences and practices, inform decision makers.
- FAO hosts the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, of which the Mountain Partnership is a partner. Knowledge repository, network, events and news.
- Rangelands cover more than half (54%) of the world's land surface and are critical to the livelihoods of more than 500 million people around the world.



**FAO's work on
rangelands and
pastoralism**

- Italian fashion designers work hand-in-hand with artisans to design contemporary collections inspired by local traditions, knowledge and culture.
- Technical and financial support is provided to improve value chains and innovate products.
- 2022: MPS collaborated with *alpaqueras* in the Peruvian Andes to produce a collection using multicoloured alpaca fleece. Through this partnership, the women are building their own economic autonomy, preserving their traditions, and gaining a place in the global market.



Empowered women boost livestock development

- Engage women pastoralists directly for policy planning and programme development to ensure effective representation and empowerment
- Reduce gender related barriers to participation of women in value adding livestock initiatives, including livestock value chains. Paying attention that is labour saving for women.
- Apply a gender lens to all livestock research
- Improve quality and quantity of sex disaggregated data and evidence on pastoralist households to inform decision-making at the national and regional levels
- Support capacity-building initiatives for developing innovations in methods, tools, and technologies relevant to pastoral systems



Thank you!

#MountainsMatter



www.fao.org/mountain-partnership

