


Mountain Forum: Communication, Collaboration and Community-Building



*Amy Krause, Coordinator
North American
Mountain Forum*  THE BANFF CENTRE

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being here. I coordinate the North American Mountain Forum, which is a voluntary partner in this network – the global Mountain Forum. I will be spending most of my time today introducing you to the Mountain Forum family – in spite of the fact that it is dedicated to sustainable mountain development in general and not just women’s issues in mountain places. But before I do I would explain a little bit more about who I am.

Mountain Forum Networks



- Asia Pacific Mountain Network
 - International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development



- InfoAndina
 - International Potato Center



- African Mountain Forum
 - African Highlands Initiative

independent

- European Mountain Forum
 - independent



- North American Mountain Forum
 - Mountain Culture division at The Banff Centre

This is me – at the bottom of the list. I coordinate the North American Mountain Forum – a voluntary partner in the global Mountain Forum network. Networks. Host Institutions.

[*What is The Banff Centre?*]



“... arts, cultural, and educational institution and conference facility.”

- Arts
- Leadership
- Mountain Culture & Environment



THE BANFF CENTRE

The Banff Centre is...

I would love to share more information about The Banff Centre and the Mountain Culture and Environment division...

[*What is Mountain Forum?*]

- A network of people & organizations
 - share information
 - support one another
 - advocate for sustainable and equitable mountain development
- Supported by
 - a secretariat
 - five regional nodes
- Founded in 1996



<http://www.mtnforum.org>

Mountain Forum is a network of people and organizations that ...

Membership in Mountain Forum is free...

It is supported by...

Founded in 1996 in response to...

Mountain Forum is involved in a couple of projects directly related to women...

Both Mountain Partnership and Mountain Forum offer tools for people interested in gender and women's issues in sustainable mountain development.

[*'mf-women' Discussion List*]

- mf-women
 - discussion list for women and other people with an interest in women & sustainable mountain development
 - 600 members
 - go to the Mountain Forum website to join – free membership



<http://www.mtnforum.org>

Example: Mountain Forum & Women

MF-Women discussion list

created after the Celebrating Mountain Women 2002 (Bhutan)

600 members

we would be happy to help participants at this conference keep in touch

The second project related to women that I will talk about today...

Linking Indigenous Women's Groups



Partners

- MF Latin America (InfoAndina)
- MF Asia (Asia-Pacific Mountain Network)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Telecenter Program
- Fundacion Chasquinet

My colleagues with the Mountain Forum in Latin America and Asia (specifically InfoAndina and the Asia Pacific Mountain Network) along with the Mountain Forum Secretariat and these other partners were asked to be involved in a project...

[*continued...*]

- Connecting Indigenous Mountain Women Collaborative Project
- Objectives:
 - connect women's groups
 - share stories
 - discuss issues
 - document and share success stories
 - teach ICT skills



Connecting women's groups where there is some level of literacy.

Share stories between the women's groups in the Himalaya and the Andes.

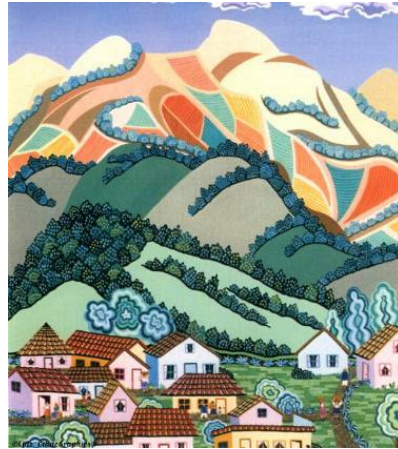
Discuss issues such as health, education in the context of their rights and avenues available to them.

Document and share best practices

Teach ICT skills to those who wish to learn.

[*continued...*]

- How?
 - telecenters (wired community centre)
 - managed by local women
 - in partnership with local development organizations & ICT groups



If you would like to learn more about this project – or participate – come talk to me and I will put you in touch with my colleagues who are working together on this project.

[*What else does Mountain Forum do?*]

- We offer online tools, publications and personal support to all our members:
 - Online Library
 - Mountain Calendar
 - Mountain Forum Bulletin
 - Member Database
 - E-Conferences
 - Email Discussion Lists
 - One-on-one support

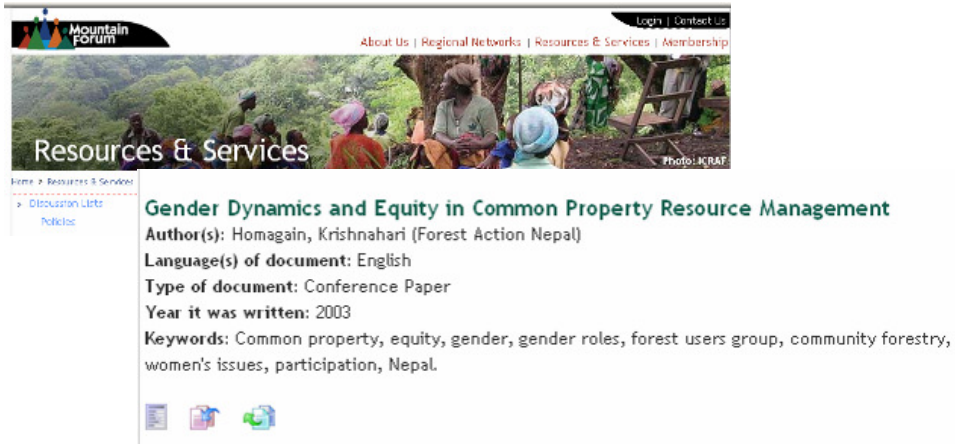


Mountain Forum offers online tools and publications to every member, and personal support to any member who asks.

We provide an...

As you can probably tell, most of what Mountain Forum does is online which means that you do need to have access to the internet to access most of our services. But what we are finding is that for better or worse, access to the internet is growing by leaps and bounds. Perhaps because it makes information accessible across geographic boundaries, political boundaries, gender, status, class, education. What Mountain Forum tries to do is provide access to information and people that our members may not be able to reach otherwise.

[Online Library]



The screenshot shows the Mountain Forum website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About Us', 'Regional Networks', 'Resources & Services', and 'Membership'. A 'Login | Contact Us' link is also present. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of people in a forest setting, with the text 'Resources & Services' overlaid. The main content area displays the following information for a document:

- Gender Dynamics and Equity in Common Property Resource Management**
- Author(s):** Homagain, Krishnahari (Forest Action Nepal)
- Language(s) of document:** English
- Type of document:** Conference Paper
- Year it was written:** 2003
- Keywords:** Common property, equity, gender, gender roles, forest users group, community forestry, women's issues, participation, Nepal.

At the bottom of the document information, there are three small icons representing different file formats or services.

<http://www.mtnforum.org>

Access to Information

Online Library (A place to pool our knowledge)

~485 full text documents

~1400 bibliographic references

45 periodicals

Our members contribute.

[Mountain Calendar]



Mountain Partnership
Partenariat de la montagne
Alianza para las Montañas

HOME NEWS MEMBERS INITIATIVES FUNDING ISSUES MOUNTAIN CALENDAR

[submit a new event »](#)

Mountain Calendar

International Conference: Women of the Mountains [\[Details\]](#)
Orem, USA. 7-3-2007 / 10-3-2007
Deadline for abstract: 15-12-2007
Contact: AbdrisBa@uvsc.edu
More information: <http://www.womenofthemountains.org>

<http://www.mtnforum.org>

Calendar (What are we all up to)
~170 events added each year

Bulletin

The screenshot displays the Mountain Forum Bulletin website. At the top, there is a banner for "Resources & Services" with a background image of people in a mountainous area. Below this, a navigation menu includes "Home > Resources & Services > Bulletin", "Discussion Lists", "Library", "Periodicals", "Reference", "Search", "Contribute", "Contact Librarian", "News", "Mountain Forum News", "Calendar", "Theme of the Month", and "Bulletin".

The main content area features a "Bulletin" section with the following text:

Bulletin
Mountain Forum members contribute to the Bulletin, facilitating information exchange, Internet and email. Printed copies are available for members with limited Internet access.

Electronic copies of past issues are available for download. To download that document, click on the issue title.

Volume VI Issue 2, July 2006.
Volume VII Issue 1, January 2006.
Volume V Issue 1, June 2005.
Volume IV Issue 2, September 2001.

Below the text are two thumbnail images of bulletin covers. The left cover is titled "Sustainable Tourism for Poverty Alleviation in Mountain Areas" and features a person on a bicycle. The right cover is titled "Deserts and Desertification in High Altitude Areas" and features a person carrying a basket on their head. Both covers include the Mountain Forum logo and the website URL <http://www.mtforum.org>.

Bulletin (paper publication)

Published three times a year with articles from five continents.

Any member can contribute to the Bulletin.

Member Database

Contact Member

Search individuals by

- > Name
- > Town/City
- > Country
- > Region of location
- > Massif/Mountain Range
- > Subject specialisation
- > Advanced search
- > Atlas search

Search organisations by

- > Organisation's name
- > Town/City
- > Country
- > Region where the organisation works
- > Type of organisation
- > Scope of work



Access to People

Member Database (organizations and individuals)

Explains who are we all and what are we doing

2567 individuals from 102 countries; 321 orgs from 60 countries

[E-Conferences]

- 5 global conferences
- regional events annually
- pre-conference collaboration meetings



- Global Mountain Summit 2002
- Celebrating Mountain Women 2002
- 2nd Meeting of Mountain Partnership 2004

<http://www.mtnforum.org>

E-Conferences (global and regional) (A way to work together even when we are apart)

Bishkek Mountain Summit 2002

Celebrating Mountain Women 2002 (Bhutan)

5 global conferences & smaller events regionally

Email Discussion Lists

- regional and thematic
- 12 different lists
- anywhere from 50 to several hundred subscribers on a discussion list

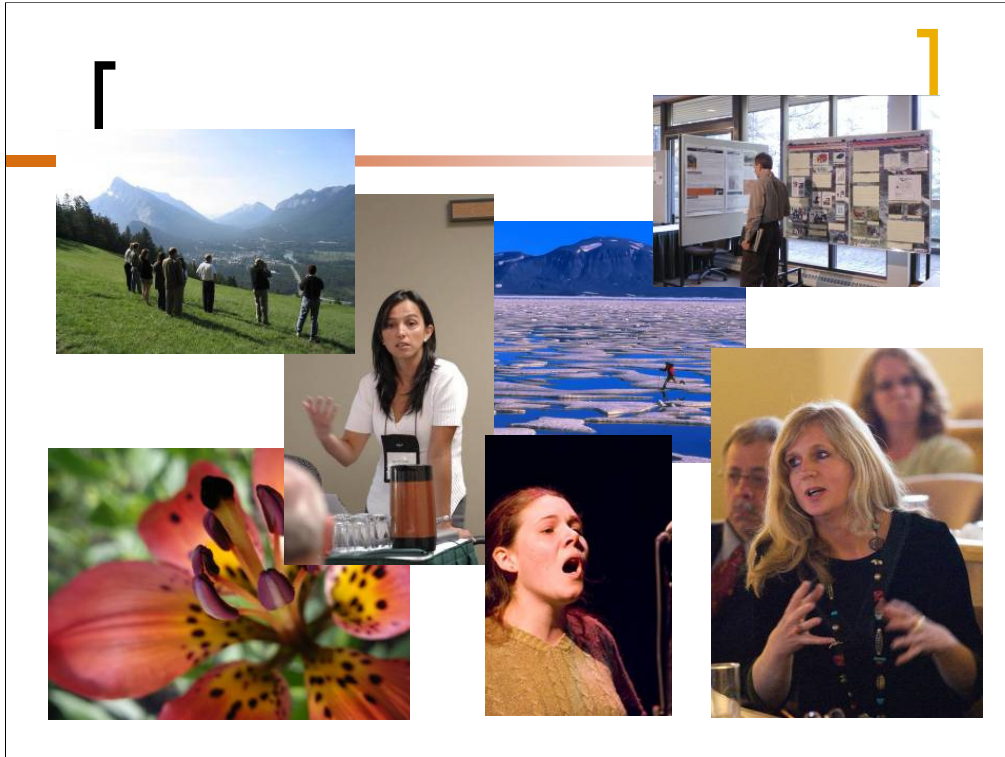


<http://www.mtnforum.org>

The most popular tools we offer, however, are definitely email discussion lists.

Mountain Forum hosts...

Does anyone have no idea what I'm talking about when I say "email discussion list"?



Why are email discussion lists so popular – I think they are popular because they give people a sense of being part of a larger community. The feedback that we receive from Mountain Forum members is that this sense of community and particularly the support and encouragement from this community are empowering and help members take the next step to achieving their goals.

I am proud to be able to help that happen.

Thank you

Mountain Forum



The Banff Centre

