

ADAPTATION AT ALTITUDE

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Taking Action in the Mountains



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A collaborative programme launched and co-supported
by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Mountain regions cover about one quarter of the Earth's land surface and are home to more than 1 billion people. Mountains host an impressive array of natural resources – 25% of terrestrial biodiversity and 60% of all biosphere reserves – and they supply freshwater for lowland irrigation and domestic use for half of the global population. Mountains provide essential ecosystem services for livelihoods, and with their rich ethnic and cultural diversity and magical natural beauty they offer recreation and restoration for residents and visitors alike.

Mountains feature some of the clearest indications of climate change: rising temperatures, melting glaciers and changing precipitation patterns are disrupting water flows and affecting ecosystems, creating and worsening natural hazards and threatening livelihoods

and communities both within the mountains and downstream. And because climate impacts are often more profound in mountains and affect people already confronting poverty and land degradation, mountain livelihoods are particularly sensitive to climate change.

Mountain people have always faced the challenges of living in a rugged environment and have developed coping strategies to adapt to harsh conditions, but the unprecedented magnitude and speed of climate change puts them under increasing pressure. Traditional adaptation strategies need to be blended with innovative approaches and this knowledge needs to be shared among the mountain communities and with policymakers so that adaptation can match the scale of the changes.

Objective

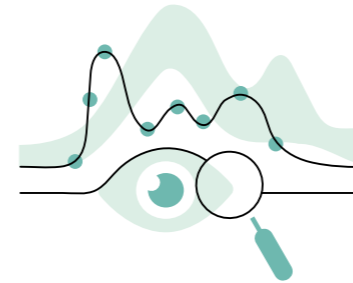
The Adaptation at Altitude programme seeks to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of mountain communities and ecosystems to climate change by:

- Improving the knowledge of appropriate climate change adaptation strategies in the mountains
- Transferring that knowledge through science–policy platforms to inform decision-making in national, regional and global policy processes

Adaptation at Altitude will foster exchange among the mountain areas of the world and seek short- and long-term solutions to the problems arising from climate change.

Outcomes and Activities

1. Data, information and monitoring



Outcome: The improved availability and use of mountain observation data and information services contribute to regional and global knowledge products on the impacts of climate change in mountains.

Activities: Strengthening the Global Network for Observations and Information on Mountain Environment (GNOME) under the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

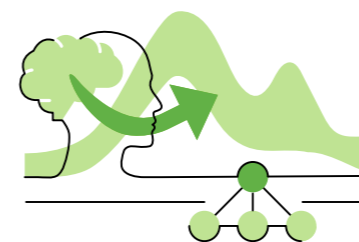
2. Regional science–policy exchange and collaborative action



O: As a result of established and strengthened science–policy platforms, regional bodies and their national constituencies support the integration of mountain-specific climate change adaptation into planning and policy processes.

A: Facilitating science–policy dialogue in the Andes, East Africa, Hindu Kush Himalaya, South Caucasus and inter-regional collaboration and sharing of experience.

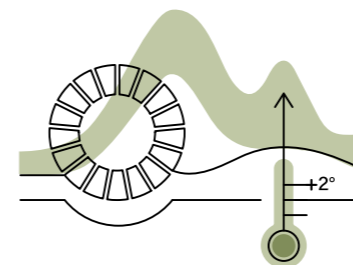
3. Knowledge generation and sharing



O: Stronger knowledge on climate change adaptation opportunities in the mountains informs the development of national, regional and global approaches to increase resilience and adaptation capacity.

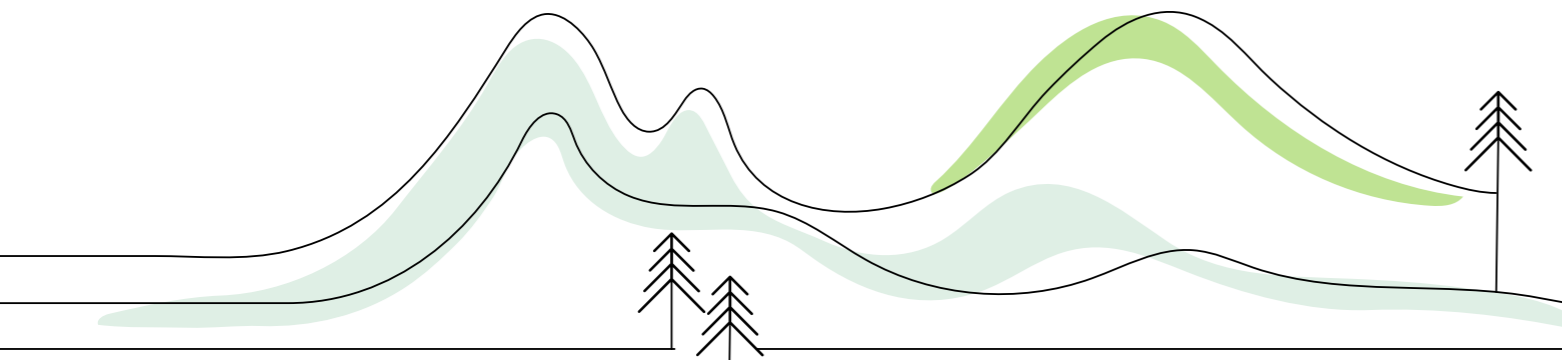
A: Establishing a knowledge base and community of practice on climate change adaptation opportunities in mountains.

4. Policy mainstreaming



O: Major global policy processes take climate change adaptation in mountains into account.

A: Influencing policy processes related to climate change (UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Global Stocktake), disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework for DRR), and Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).



Climate Change Vulnerability & Mountain Areas



Sources: Verisk Maplecroft;
Climate Change Vulnerability Index 2017
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Partners

Adaptation at Altitude is a programme funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by Consorcio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Ecoregión Andina (CONDESAN), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the University of Geneva, and Zoï Environment Network.

The first phase of programme runs from 2020 to 2023.



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CONDESAN
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Contact us at www.adaptationataltitude.org

