

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

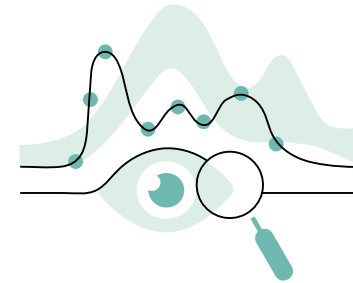
The Adaptation at Altitude programme seeks to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of mountain communities and ecosystems to climate change by:

- Continually updating the knowledge base on climate change strategies in the mountains, and disseminating that knowledge widely
- Providing access through science-policy platforms to knowledge that can inform the implementation of policies and measures at the national, regional and global levels

Adaptation at Altitude will foster dialogue and knowledge sharing among the mountain areas of the world, mobilise resources and seek short- and long-term solutions to the problems arising from climate change.

Outcomes and Activities

1. Data, information and monitoring



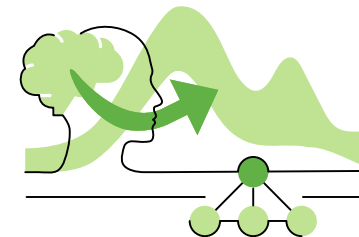
Knowledge on climate change impacts and adaptation in the mountains is facilitated through integrated monitoring and improved access to relevant Earth observation data, information, and synthesis products, and through research-based services.

2. Regional governance and collaborative action



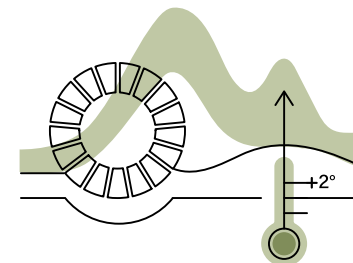
Mountain climate change adaptation is mainstreamed into regional planning in the Andes, East Africa, the Hindu Kush Himalayas, and South Caucasus, and policy processes and regional collaborative action and advocacy are fostered as a result of strengthened science-policy dialogue, targeted resource mobilisation and inter-regional exchange and action learning.

3. Knowledge generation and sharing

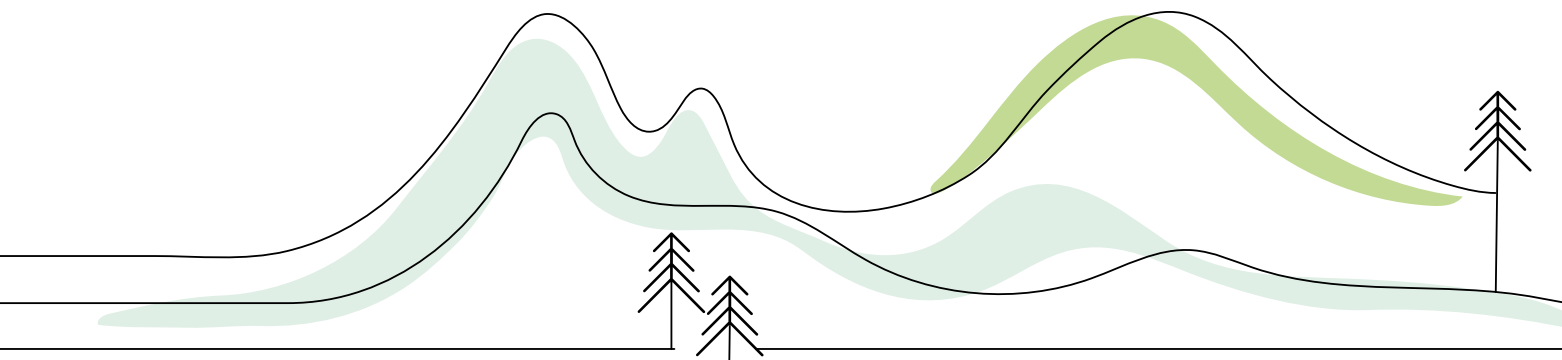


Knowledge and climate change adaptation information and solutions in the mountains are fostered, exchanged, discussed, and easily accessible, and applications are promoted at the local, regional and global levels through the Adaptation at Altitude Solutions Portal and the Adaptation at Altitude Knowledge Network.

4. Advocacy and policy influencing



Informed by evidence, improved knowledge, and a strengthened science-policy dialogue, UNFCCC and other relevant major global processes and policy frameworks incorporate climate change adaptation strategies for mountain regions into their strategies and plans.



Mountain Areas



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 second phase of the programme runs from 2024 to 2028.
The programme started in 2020.



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and Cooperation SDC**



CONDESAN
Consortio para el Desarrollo Sostenible
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Contact us at www.adaptationataltitude.org

