

Financing adaptation for mountain communities

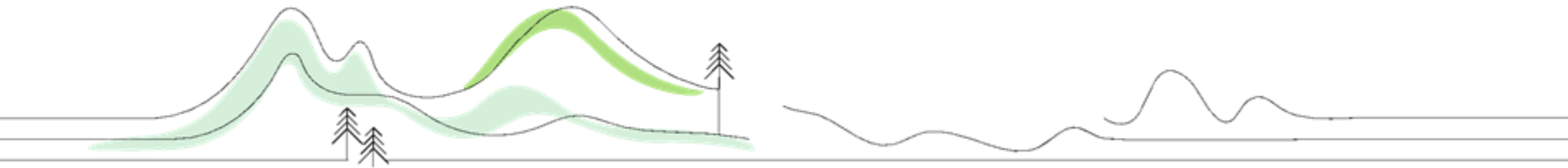
Agenda:

Welcome and introduction to the A@A Knowledge Network

Opening remarks

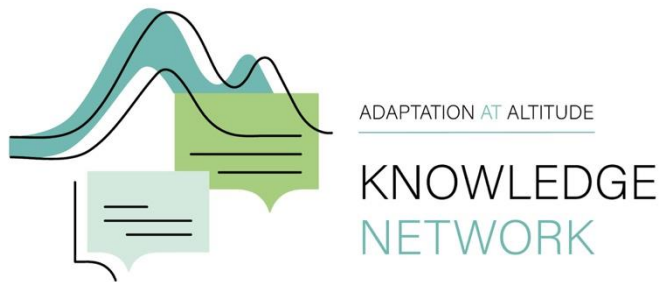
Panel discussion & Q&A

Closing and AOB



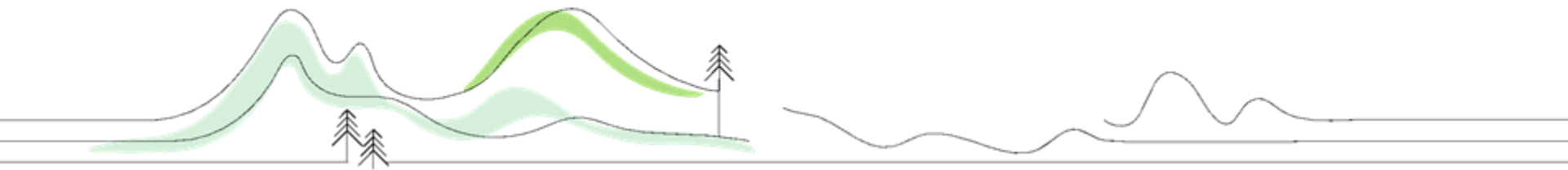
The Adaptation at Altitude Knowledge Network

- A **global community** through which we can share experiences and knowledge on adaptation in the mountains and collaborate to accelerate the uptake of innovative solutions. It aims to:
- **Encourage communication between stakeholders** working on and experiencing climate change adaptation in mountainous regions across the globe.
- **Support the sharing of successful solutions** for adaptation in mountains.
- **Foster the translation and uptake of solutions** for use in other locations.



Financing adaptation for mountain communities

- Mountains feature some of the clearest indications of climate change.
- Adaptation finance is central to strengthening the resilience of mountain communities and the ecosystems they depend on.
- Yet adaptation finance often falls short in tackling the root causes of vulnerability and reaching those – around the globe – who need it most.
- Mountain communities face unique challenges - to which adaptation finance must adequately respond.



Introducing the panel:



JANNE PARVIAINEN

Research Fellow
SEI-Oxford



DIPESH CHAPAGAIN

Senior Research Associate
GLOMOS, UNU-EHS



MARIAM DEVIDZE

Climate Change and
Biodiversity Specialist
UNEP

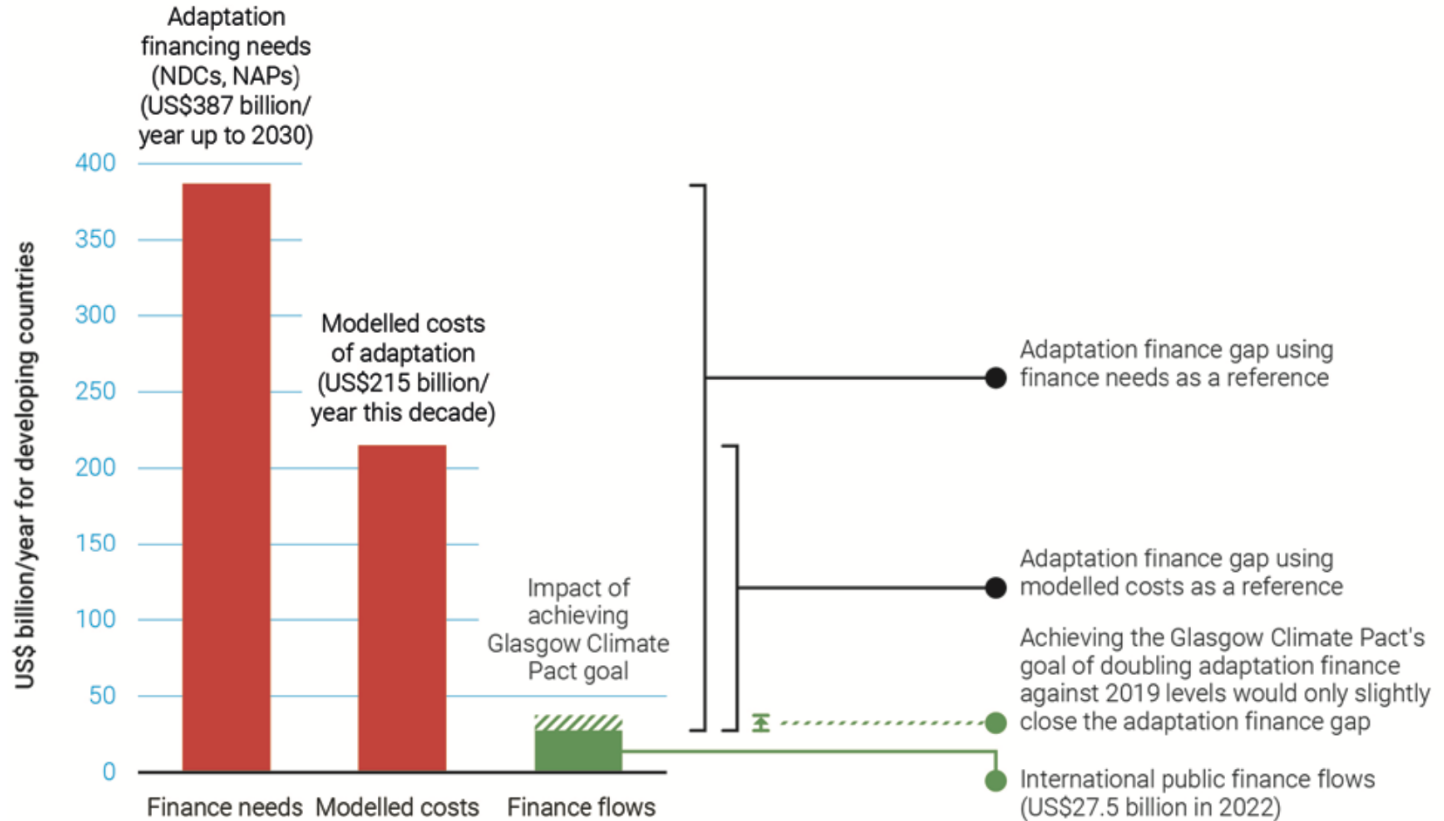
State of adaptation finance: 2025 update



An overview

- Need to *dramatically* increase finance for adaptation.
- For countries of the Global South, an average of US\$215 –387 billion needed **per year** by 2030 with a range of US\$101 – 975 billion (UNEP, 2023).
- **The positive:** adaptation finance flows to GS have increased from US\$22 to \$27.5 billion between 2021 – 2022 (largest relative increase %). Overall, US\$68 billion spent in 2021 – 2022 (ODI, 2022)
- **Glasgow Climate Pact:** Doubling contributions by 2025 would reduce the adaptation gap by 5%.







- On top of these problems...
- Most money still with mitigation.
- Private sector contributions for adaptation fairly limited to date (no “incentive”).
- **Bilaterals, MDBs, DFIs going through massive funding cuts** and internal reorganization.
- Also: difficult to track!



LANDSCAPE OF CLIMATE FINANCE IN 2021/2022

Global climate finance flows along their life cycle in 2021 and 2022. Values are averages of two years' data to smooth out fluctuations, in USD billions



SOURCES AND INTERMEDIARIES

Which type of organizations are sources or intermediaries of capital for climate finance?

INSTRUMENTS

What mix of financial instruments is used?

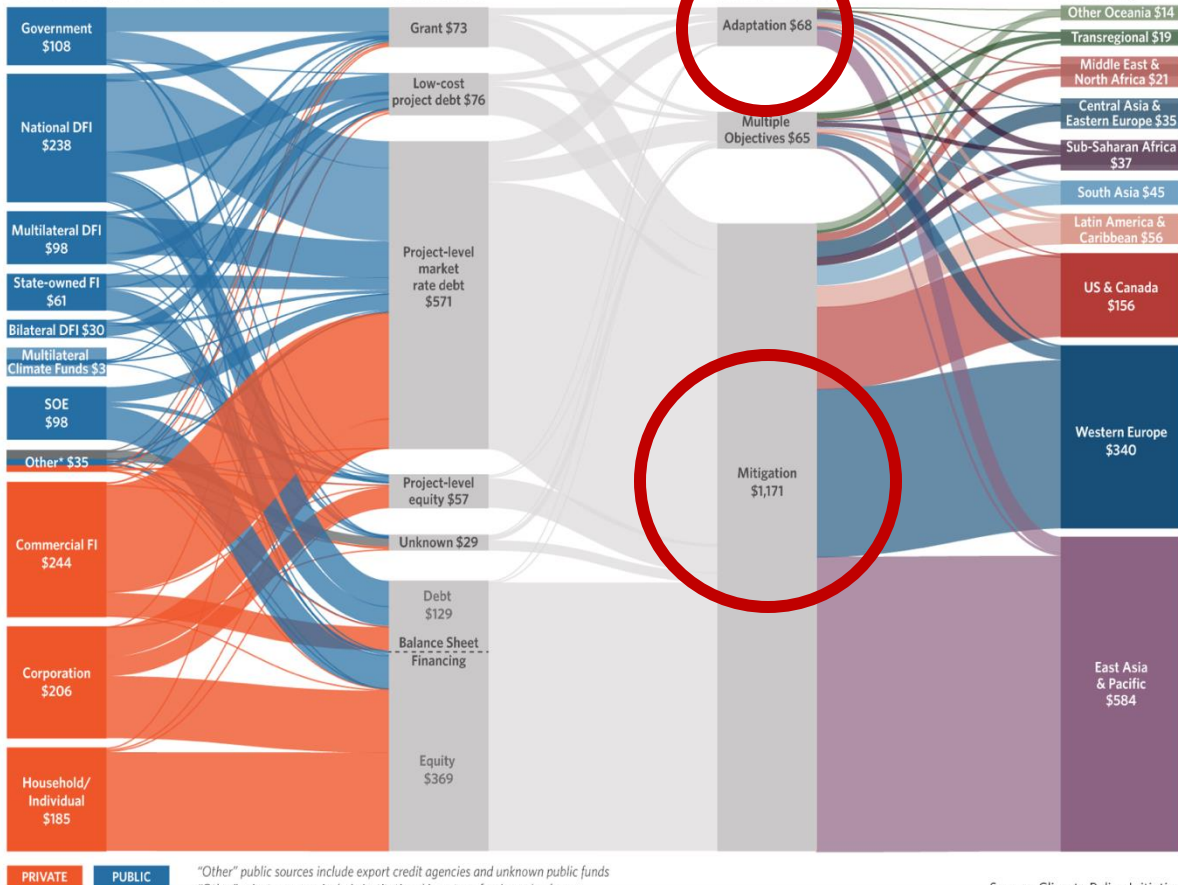
USE

What types of activities are financed?

1.3 TRILLION USD ANNUAL AVERAGE

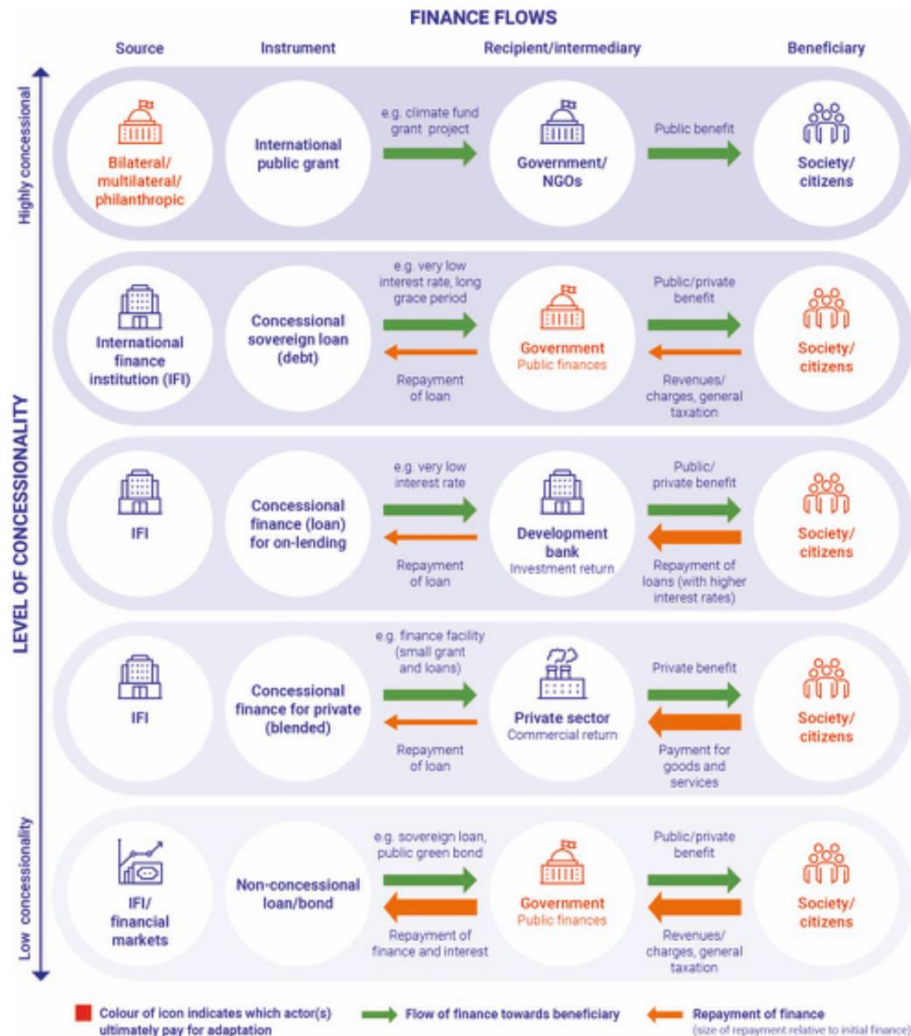
DESTINATION

Where are the flows directed by region?



How?

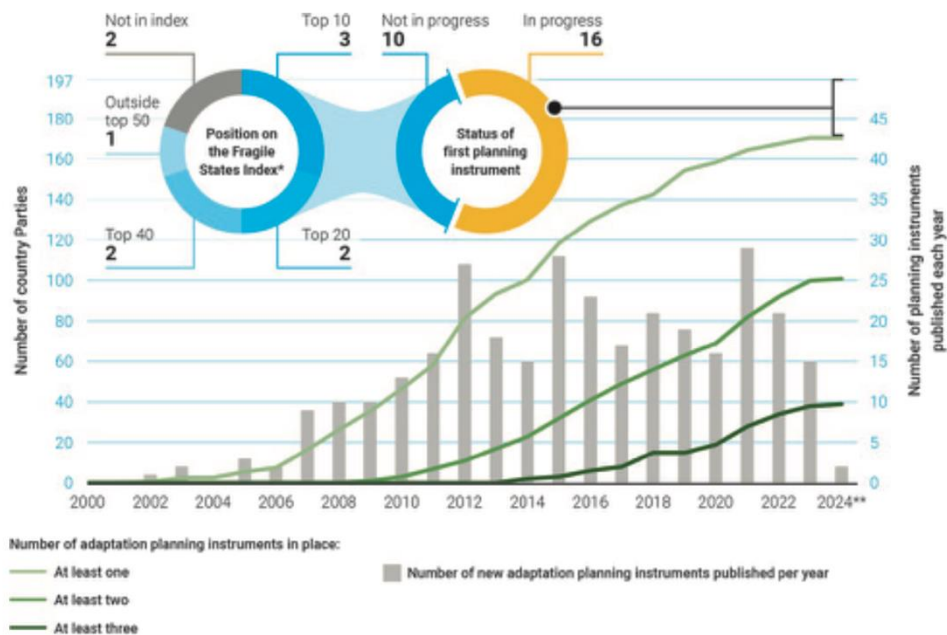
- Mechanisms vary (with differing levels of concessionality).
- Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund (UNFCCC), Global Environment Facility, World Bank, ADB, etc – primarily public/country contributions in the form of grants.





- NAPs, policies and plans are steadily increasing (including expression of funding needs).
- However, these rarely include sectoral plans and detailed cost-benefit analyses to support planning at sub-national levels.
- Resources, capacity... how to implement sustainably, and across sectors? Development vs. adaptation?

Figure 2.1 Publication of national planning instruments for adaptation over time





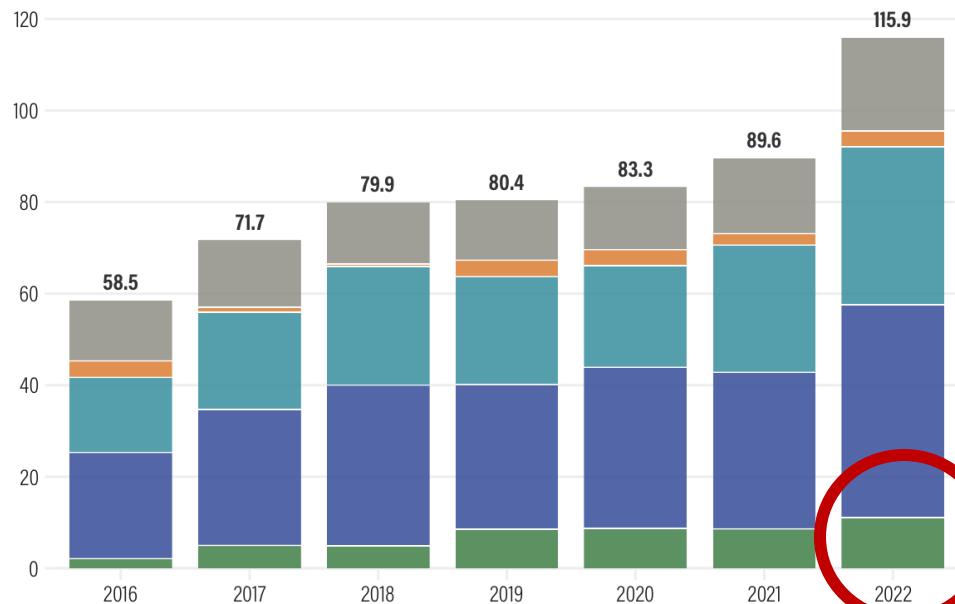
- How to get money where it needs to go? Also – lowest appropriate level?
- Who has the capacity and technical skills to cope with injections of finance to a standard that financiers consider “adequate”?
- How to “incentivize” adaptation investments? Needs vs. “bang-for-buck”?
- *Can a market-based approach to adaptation work?*

Climate finance received in 2016-2022 by country income group

Country income group

- Low income countries
- Lower middle income countries
- Upper middle income countries
- High income countries
- Unallocated by country income group

\$ Billions



Funded by

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology


UN
environment
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Mountains ADAPT

"Financing adaptation for mountain communities"

Mariam Devidze | 26 June, 2025

The Mountains ADAPT project

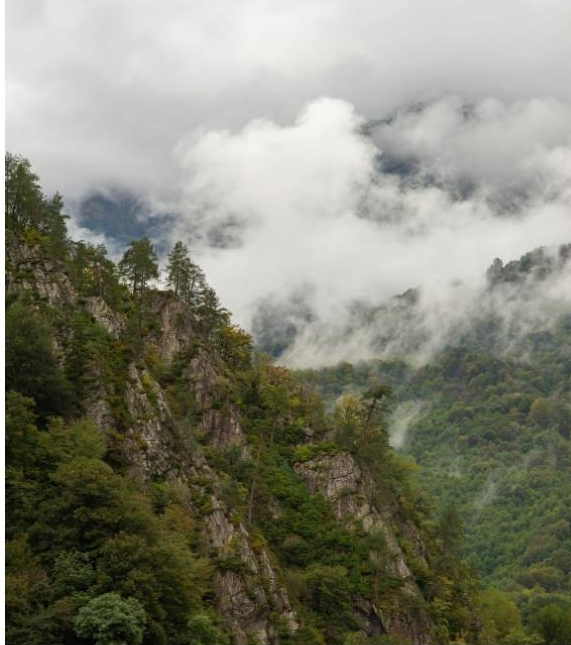
Mountains ADAPT is an Austrian funded project implemented by UNEP in partnership with Sustainable Caucasus.

The project aims at:

- Promoting innovative mountain adaptation action
- Providing needs based and easily accessible financial support to catalyze concrete solutions at local scales
- Establishing small grant schemes that aim at answering the needs of local communities

Specific objectives of the stock-take

30 programs identified, 14 programs analyzed and 18 projects screened



Identifying existing programs that channel small grants



Analyzing small grant transfer mechanisms and country specifics in the South Caucasus



Documenting key attributes and parameters of existing grants schemes, including analysis of practical operations



Identifying potential shortcomings and main issues to consider when developing the Mountains ADAPT Small Grant Funding Scheme.

Stock-take results - Recommendations

1: Adapt application, selection and reporting processes to the capacities of mountain communities

- The application process should **avoid extensive written documentation**
- Any **required documents should be minimal**, ideally permitted in national language
- **Reporting required of the communities should be kept simple and straightforward.** It should leverage technology to easily transfer results in real-time to the implementing partner using simple tools (GPS, USSD, SMS, mobile applications)

2: Define smart routes for funds transfer and disbursements

- Disbursement **route should be fast, efficient and minimize costs to maximize the grant received by communities.**



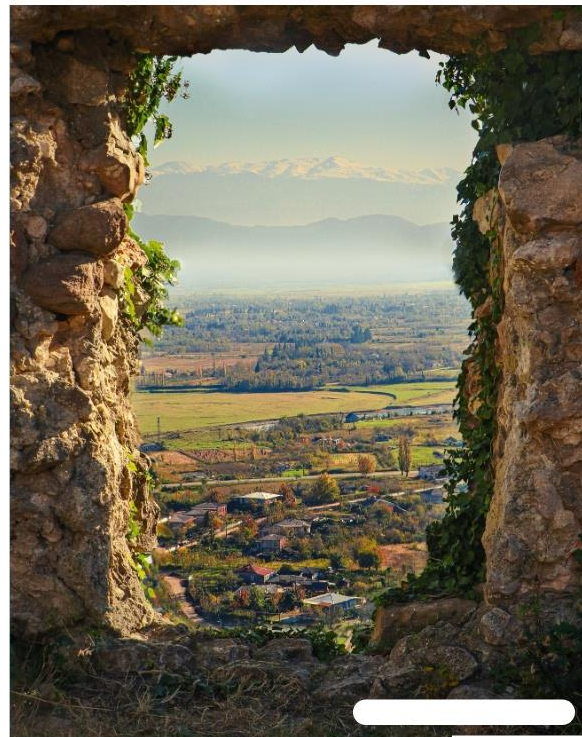
Stock-take results - Recommendation 3

3 : Minimize the costs and implementation time by leveraging technology

- **Leverage technology to overcome remote access challenges and use methods traditionally applied by international donors**
- **Mobile phones used for the application process and for reporting.** Beneficiaries could report using pictures, videos or simply describe via audio the tasks completed.
- **Use remote sensing technologies and GPS.** valuable for monitoring land, environmental changes, and vegetation through direct observation and tracking.

4 (1/2) : Ensure sustainability and mobilize communities by building capacities and understanding their priorities and motivations

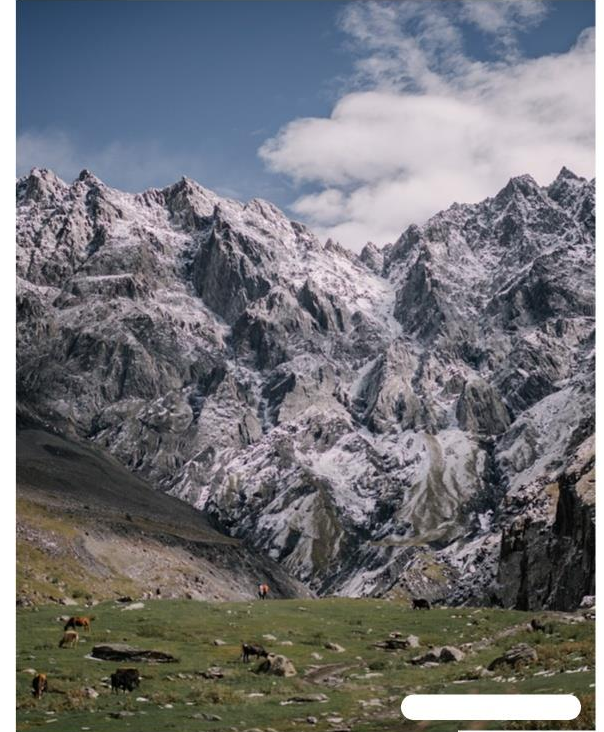
- **Strengthen community ownership by empowering them to decide on the projects to implement.** Local consultations with communities may not only allow identifying the issues of communities but also empower them with the decision of the project to implement, with the guidance of experts, if needed.
- Application of **local and traditional knowledge** should be used in projects implementation
- **Develop capacities, create employment** and offer financial schemes that sustain livelihoods and foster sustainability



Stock-take results - Recommendation 4

4 (2/2) : Ensure sustainability and mobilize communities by building capacities and understanding their priorities and motivations

- **Ensure that the project's design effectively encourages partnerships between diverse stakeholders** (CSOs, local communities, local municipalities, local leaders, field experts, etc.)
- **Actively engage local governments/authorities in project implementation due to their unique knowledge of the local regulation context** : participation facilitates community engagement, given their understanding of local dynamics, expertise in land use planning, and familiarity with local regulations
- **Secure the endorsement and support from national ministry stakeholders to ensure alignment with national adaptation priorities.**



Piloting objectives



- Implement a mountain adaptation solution in each South Caucasus country with a budget of USD 30k/project.
- Test the design of the **Mountains ADAPT small grants scheme**
- Test the **workflow with the Kobo toolbox**
- Test the **funds disbursement route**

Potential thematic areas



Water harvesting and retention



Restoring ecosystems



Enhancing and diversifying income sources



Climate smart agriculture and agroforestry



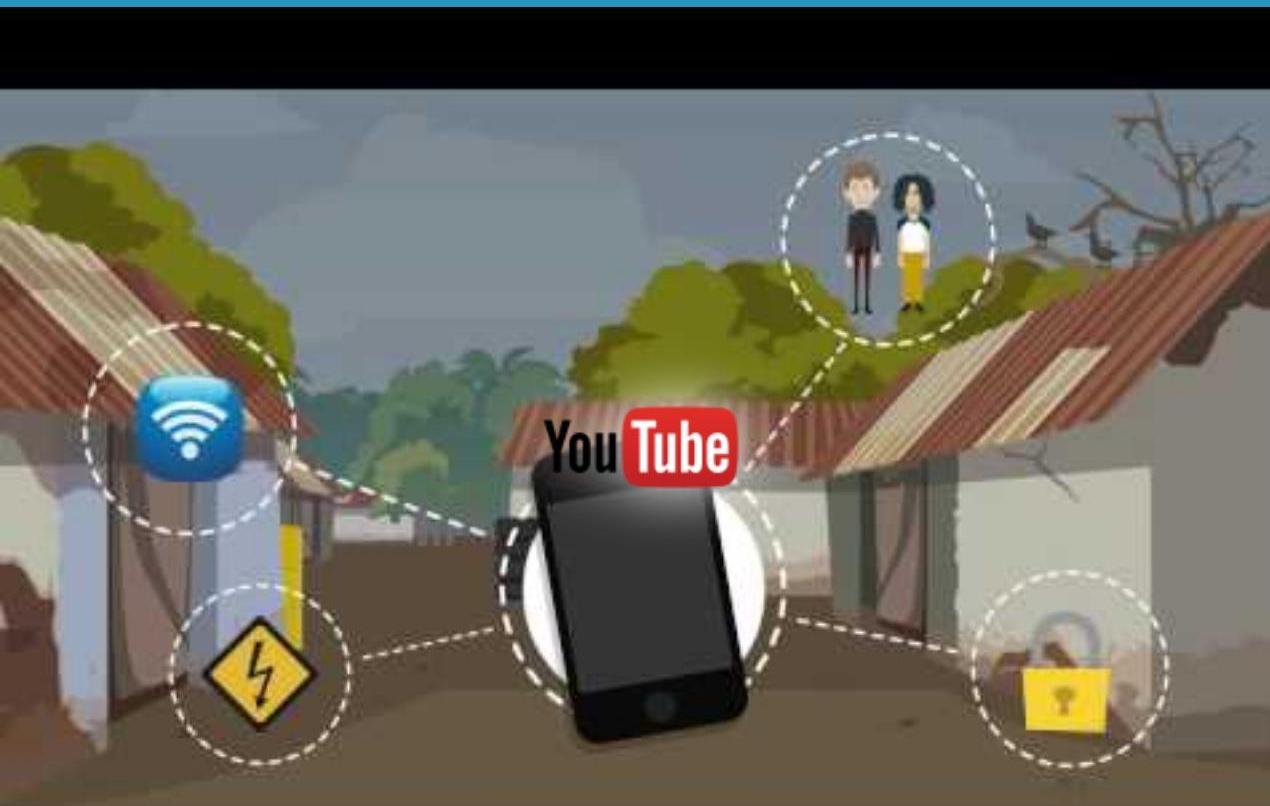
Erosion control



Eligibility to apply

- A registered local non-profit organization (preferably, community-based, youth or women organizations).
- Based in a country of the South Caucasus.
- Work with mountain communities on actions to adapt to climate change impacts.
- Want to solve a climate-change related issue with the goal to preserve, restore or improve livelihoods, ecosystems and enhance food security.

The Kobo data management platform



The Kobo platform

- Used by many UN agencies for data collection and management (UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP...)
- Two interfaces for data collection : Android mobile application and web interface
- Works online and offline
- The data is stored on a server hosted by

Funded by

 Federal Ministry
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Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology



Thank you!

Contact: mariam.devidze@un.org

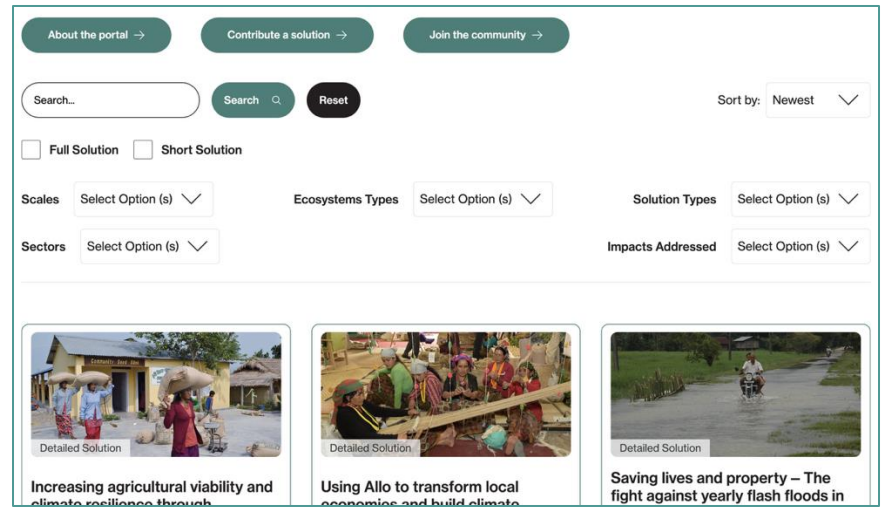
How to get involved:

Visit the A@A website and Solutions Portal to:

- Access and share resources
- Learn and be inspired by solutions
- Share your solutions
- Keep up to date with the work of the A@A programme



Visit the A@A website here




How to get involved:

Visit the 'Climate Change Adaptation in Mountains' theme on weADAPT to:

- Share your projects and article
- Subscribe for notifications
- Create an account

Visit the page
here





Theme

Climate Change Adaptation in Mountains

Mountains are highly vulnerable to climate change. They also provide numerous essential services. This theme explores how mountains and mountain communities can be made more resilient.


136 Members


110 Articles

23 Case studies

Join

Share

 Johanna Zwahlen Published an Article





From monitoring to resilience: Cryosphere information services in Central Asia

Explore how cryosphere data can be transformed into actionable information for decision-making.

11th Jun 2025

3 min read

 Multiple Authors



Adaptation Solutions: Climate Resilience in the Andes

Explore this accessible compilation of climate adaptation solutions in the Andes! This book presents 12 tried-and-tested initiatives with details on implementation, actors, benefits, challenges, potential for replication and more.

26th May 2025

5 min read

How to get involved:

Keep up to date with the A@A Knowledge Network:

- Join the Climate Change Adaptation in Mountains theme for notifications
- Keep an eye on the A@A KN homepage
- Watch the A@A social media for updates!



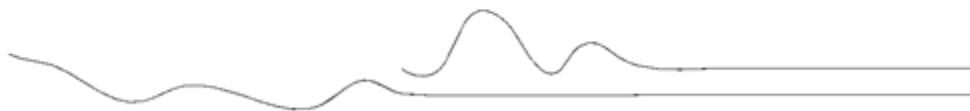
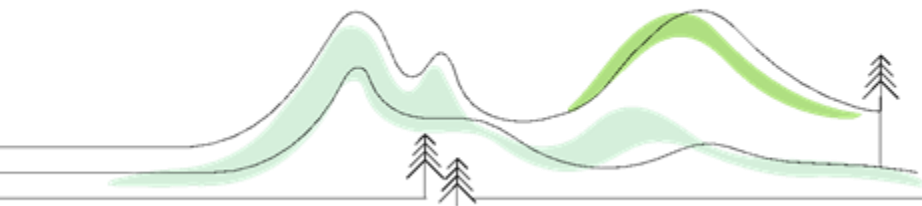
@AdaptationAtAltitude



@AdaptationAtAltitude







Keep up to date
with the A@A KN
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How to get involved:



#IMC: September 14 - 18 2025



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EVENTS

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MY#IMC


Private

WS 3.119


Solutions for adapting to climate change in mountains

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#IMC25

 WS 3.119: Solutions for adapting to climate change in mountains: an exchange of lessons learned and ways forward

Details



Full Title

WS 3.119: Solutions for adapting to climate change in mountains: an exchange of lessons learned and ways forward

Mountains feature some of the clearest indications of climate change, disrupting water flows and affecting ecosystems, creating and worsening natural hazards and threatening livelihoods and communities both within the mountains and downstream. Identifying

Description

Thank you!



CONDESAN
Consejo para el Desarrollo Sostenible
de la Ecorregión Andina

ICIMOD

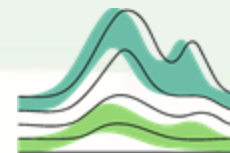


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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



**ADAPTATION
AT ALTITUDE**

Taking Action in the Mountains