GEO Mountains Task Group 2.3

Contribute to a GEO Mountains workshop to identify Essential Mountain Societal / Socio-Economic Variables

Meeting #1, 25 January 2022

gemountains.org
Housekeeping

- Kindly mute yourselves when not speaking
- Please “raise your hand” to request the floor
- The meeting is being recorded
- Brief notes will be circulated afterwards
GEO Mountains: an introduction

The Global Network for Observations and Information in Mountain Environments
An Initiative of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) co-lead by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) & the National Research Council of Italy

Objectives:

- To identify and satisfy the data and information needs of a diverse range stakeholders operating in the mountain sphere
- To improve monitoring and understanding of mountain processes and phenomena, especially under change
- To build, connect, and communicate with the community of mountain researchers, practitioners, and policy makers
- To develop collective reporting capacity that responds to pre-identified assessment and policy needs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1a</td>
<td>Develop, maintain, and share a list of relevant datasets</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1b</td>
<td>Develop and maintain a list of interdisciplinary in situ mountain observational infrastructure and associated datasets</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>Contribute to our series of regional workshops / consultations into data portal requirements and main data needs / gaps</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>Contribute Knowledge Packages via GEO Mountains to the GEO Knowledge Hub</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Analyse the extent to which data from mountain observatories are freely available, and which measurement protocols are followed</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Contribute to the MRI’s existing Mountain Observatories (MOs) and Elevation Dependent Climate Change (EDCC) Working Groups</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Contribute to a GEO Mountains workshop to identify Essential Mountain Societal / Socio-Economic Variables</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>2.4</td>
<td>Develop a global spatial dataset related to mountain socio-economics</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>Establish links with the paleoscience community to help ensure that paleodata pertaining to mountains are discoverable, accessible, and usable</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>3.4</td>
<td>Develop educational, training, and capacity development materials related to the drivers, processes, and impacts of environmental, ecological, and societal change in mountains</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>Identify areas in which / how existing resources can be applied to respond to pre-identified policy needs</td>
<td>28</td>
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Previous related activities

- Workshop (2019) and publication (2021): “Essential Mountain Climate Variables”

- Workshop (2020) and publication (in prep): “Essential Biodiversity Variables in mountains”

- Regional consultations into data needs in key mountain focus regions conducted by GEO Mountains under the Adaptation at Altitude Programme

  - Socio-economic data often identified as a particular challenge / lacking
Main TG objective and scope

- To help plan, conduct, contribute to, and write up a workshop on identifying critical societal variables that should be monitored / obtained as priorities in order to track, understand, and better predict the impacts of change (both climatic and societal) on mountain socio-ecological systems in an integrated sense.

- Variables influencing climate change adaptation and natural hazard vulnerability, exposure, and risk mitigation (amongst others) are expected to feature prominently.

- Having defined such a set of variables, the workshop may proceed to consider the specific attributes that those data / measurements should have (e.g. spatial resolution, temporal coverage, accuracy, etc.) to be useful for general applications in mountains terrain.

- And furthermore analyze the extent to which these needs can be presently met by existing data sources.

- Also, ensure that societal data are sufficiently represented in the GEO Mountains data inventories.
Expected outcomes

- A proposed consensus set of societal variables and associated (minimum) attributes to be prioritized for obtaining in a reasonably consistent fashion across the world’s mountains

- Identification of the most critical socio-economic data gaps in relation to climate and other change impacts in mountains

- Recommendations for improving the situation

- Scientific publication
Practicalities

- We are looking for an individual or a small group to lead this task (please do consider volunteering).

- Possibility to hold the workshop as a side event at the International Mountain Conference 2022 (Innsbruck), or at some later date.

- We have funding available to support the workshop (e.g., room hire, catering, etc.) and some attendance (e.g., from less developed countries, ERCs, etc.).

- Some funding may also be made available to support the co-leads (dedicated to specific tasks, e.g., workshop design).
Follow on activities

- Task 2.4 – *Develop a global spatial dataset related to mountain socio-economics*
  
  - Idea to develop a novel spatial data layer, potentially integrating many of the newly defined “essential” or “high priority” societal variables (e.g. in the form of an index)
  
  - Will be heavily informed by the outcomes of the workshop
  
  - Many of you may also like to get involved in this Task Group; if this applies, please just write to me!
Discussion: questions / comments / ideas?
Many thanks for your interest and contributions!

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