Housekeeping

- Please raise your hand to request the floor

- Any comments can be made / questions asked in the chat

- The meeting is being recorded – if you have any concerns about this, please let me know; the recording will be made available upon request

- All presentations will be circulated to registered participants afterwards
Agenda

14:00 – 14:05  1. Welcome & Introduction, Dr. Carolina Adler & Dr. Elisa Palazzi

14:05 – 14:30  2. Updates on GEO Mountains’ Activities & Q&A / discussion

14:30 – 14:40  Input from the community #1: Dr. Josh Beneš, Natural Areas & Mountain Environmental Science Research Initiative – The North-east Appalachian Mountain Network

14:40 – 14:50  3. Input from the community #2: Prof. Michael Krautblatter, Technical University of Munich – The Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)

14:50 – 15:00  4. Q&A on the VAO

15:00 – 15:05  Comfort break (10 minutes)


15:50 – 16:00  6. Wrap-up & Next Steps
Agenda

14:00 – 14:05  1. Welcome & Introduction, Dr. Carolina Adler & Dr. Eliza Palazzi

14:05 – 14:40  2. Updates on GEO Mountains’ Activities & Q&A / discussion

14:40 – 14:50  3. Input from the community #2: Prof. Michael Krautblatter, Technical University of Munich – The Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)

14:50 – 15:00  4. Q&A on the VAO

15:00 – 15:05  Comfort break (10 minutes)


15:50 – 16:00  6. Wrap-up & Next Steps
Agenda

14:00 – 14:05  1. Welcome & Introduction, Dr. Carolina Adler & Dr. Eliza Palazzi

14:05 – 14:40  2. Updates on GEO Mountains’ Activities & Q&A / discussion

14:40 – 14:50  3. Input from the community #2: Prof. Michael Krautblatter, Technical University of Munich – The Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)

14:50 – 15:00  4. Q&A on the community contribution

15:00 – 15:05  Comfort break (10 minutes)


15:50 – 16:00  6. Wrap-up & Next Steps
GEO Mountains

The Global Network for Observations and Information in Mountain Environments

Since 2016, this network has been a Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Work Programme Initiative, co-led by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) & the National Research Council of Italy (CNR).

- To increase the **discoverability**, **accessibility**, and **usability** of a wide range of data and information pertaining to mountains globally
- To integrate and apply such data and information for **scientific**, **policy**, and **practical** impact
- To build, connect, coordinate, and share capacity across a community of mountain researchers, practitioners, and policy makers

https://geomountains.org/
Adaptation at Altitude

- Confirmation of financial contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under the Adaptation at Altitude Programme to continue supporting the GEO Mountains Secretariat and its activities via the Mountain Research Initiative for the period 2024 – 2027

- GEO Mountains under Outcome 1 works to support bridging data & information gaps also in Andes, East Africa, HKH, Caucasus and Central Asia

https://adaptationataltitude.org/
Regional Workshop Series completed

- The fifth workshop in the Andes, February 2024 (Bogotá, Colombia)
- 69 participants attended the workshop (40 in person and 29 online)

2024 – 2027 Activities:

- Regional Policy Briefs
- Follow-ups & regional engagement activities (summer schools, joint publication, etc.)

Small Grants 2023

Supporting Ecosystem Conservation in Kenya’s Mountain Regions through Meteorological Data Rescue and Digitisation (SECoMet)

Kenya Meteorological Department (Kenya) & MeteoSwiss (Switzerland)

To see all summaries: https://geomountains.org/projects-impact-stories/small-grants-projects
Small Grants 2024–2025

- Call for project proposals that explicitly explore mountain monitoring, data, and information
- Proposals that address the themes of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation in 2025 are especially encouraged
- 5 priority regions: Andes, East Africa, HKH, Caucasus, Central Asia
- 10 projects, up to CHF 10,000 each
- **Key Date:**
  - Deadline for proposals: 3 June 2024
  - The recording of the webinar is available [here](https://geomountains.org/resources/funding-opportunities/2900-geo-mountains-small-grants-programme-2024) (Passcode: $&vg9+a9)
Spatialisation of the IEADB in Mountainous Areas

Update on Part 1 of the project

Part 1 (A@A Phase 1):
- Evaluation of the number of mountain-related treaties
- Establishment of clear classification guidelines

Part 2 (A@A Phase 2) – still under development:
- Binary classification
- Spatialisation of the IEADB
- Case-study analysis of mountain-specific treaties

2024 – 2025 Activities:

- Spatialisation of the database: New Task Group under consideration!
- e.g. Defining mountain-relevance of treaties; hackathon integrating the database with other variables, investigating specific regions

Mountain-relevant treaties within MEA

Regional distribution of "Yes" and "Likely" categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andes</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Africa</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu Kush</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himalaya</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Yes (178)
- Likely (314)
- Unlikely (213)
- No (753)
Adaptation @ Altitude news

**4 Years of Collaborative Action in the Mountains**

Mountains are vital ecosystems, providing a home for people and rich biodiversity, hosting an impressive array of natural resources, and essential ecosystem services for SmallRural.

- **Visual Scroll**: 4 Years of Collaborative Action in the Mountains
- **Movie**: Taking Action in the Mountains
GEO Mountains Membership

New Expert Database

NEW: GEO Mountains Membership

How to become a GEO Mountains Member?

- Registration through MRI Expert DB + click on GEO Mountains member (receiving GEO Mountains news and being eligible for funding)
- Active membership involves contribution to a Task Group (TG) or another GEO Mountains activity and will be acknowledged on GEO Mountains outputs
Coming soon: GEO Mountains' new website

Currently: New MRI website & new Expert Database
Uniform High Elevation Platform (UHOP)

**Aim:** To define protocols and operationalise a common approach for monitoring climate and other variables across elevational gradients (transects) globally, building upon existing infrastructure.

- Balance measurement quality vs. pragmatism / feasibility / cost / inclusivity (globally applicable)
- Public-facing proposal document nearing finalisation (explains the need for UHOP and invites feedback on the concept from all interested parties)
- Identify **existing transects** which may be interested to become “badged” UHOPs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 14:05</td>
<td>1. Welcome &amp; Introduction, Dr. Carolina Adler &amp; Dr. Eliza Palazzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:05 – 14:40</td>
<td>2. Updates on GEO Mountains’ Activities &amp; Q&amp;A / discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:40 – 14:50</td>
<td>3. Input from the community #2: Prof. Michael Krautblatter, Technical University of Munich – The Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:50 – 15:00</td>
<td>4. Q&amp;A on the community contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 – 15:05</td>
<td>Comfort break (10 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:50 – 16:00</td>
<td>6. Wrap-up &amp; Next Steps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agenda

14:00 – 14:05  1. Welcome & Introduction, Dr. Carolina Adler & Dr. Eliza Palazzi

14:05 – 14:40  2. Updates on GEO Mountains’ Activities & Q&A / discussion

14:40 – 14:50  3. Input from the community #2: Prof. Michael Krautblatter, Technical University of Munich – The Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)

14:50 – 15:00  4. Q&A on the community contribution

15:00 – 15:05  Comfort break (10 minutes)


15:50 – 16:00  6. Wrap-up & Next Steps
Comfort break: 10 minutes
Agenda

14:00 – 14:05  1. Welcome & Introduction, Dr. Carolina Adler & Dr. Eliza Palazzi

14:05 – 14:40  2. Updates on GEO Mountains’ Activities & Q&A / discussion

14:40 – 14:50  3. Input from the community #2: Prof. Michael Krautblatter, Technical University of Munich – The Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO)

14:50 – 15:00  4. Joint Q&A on the community contributions

15:00 – 15:05  Comfort break (5 minutes)


15:50 – 16:00  6. Wrap-up & Next Steps
GEO Symposium & ODOM Workshop 2024

- 23–26 September 2024, Hangzhou, China
- Theme: From Vision to Action: Crafting GEO’s Post 2025 Implementation Plan
- Registrations are open until 30 June 2024
- Call for posters, demos & exhibition

Are GEO Mountains members planning to attend?

https://earthobservations.org/events/geo-symposium-and-odok-workshop
Call for GEO Working Group Members

Five Working Groups have been established as part of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Earth Observations (GEO) 2023-2025 Work Programme

GEO Working Groups:

- Capacity Development Working Group (CD-WG)
- Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG)
- Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR-WG)
- Data and Knowledge Working Group (DK-WG)
- Resilient Cities and Human Settlement Working Group (RCHS-WG)

Deadline: 31 May

https://earthobservations.org/organization/working-groups
GEO Mountains Task Groups

Task Groups under development to consider:

1. **Inventories**: Be part of a collective effort to increase data discoverability by contributing to GEO Mountains' inventories, plus coverage analyses

2. **Regional Engagement Activities**: Contribute to knowledge products (such as syntheses or policy briefs) & contribute to other follow-up activities stemming from Regional Workshops Series, e.g. technical training and capacity building tailored to needs

3. **Global Policy Outreach**: Be part of GEO Mountains’ advocacy activities related to International Years, UNFCCC COPs, etc.

4. **Treaties Spatialisation**: Be part of a community that collectively work towards improving our understanding of the coverage of international environmental agreements across global mountains

5. **Essential Mountain Variables**: Identify and help select a set of Essential Variables to prioritise for mountains areas, including the specification of requirements to meet mountain specific needs

6. **Contributions to global assessments**: Contribute towards assessment relevant syntheses products that respond to knowledge needs e.g. for the IPCC 7th assessment, among others

Interested in joining a Task Group, and so becoming an Active Member?

Please register here before 15 June:
Other Updates / International Events

- International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation (IYGP) 2025
- Joint Body on the Status of Mountain Snow Cover (WMO, IACS, MRI)
- New EuroGEO Secretariat
- International Mountain Day, 11 December 2024
- Others?
Many thanks!

Please kindly provide some feedback on this meeting:

geomountains@mountainresearchinitiative.org