

GEO Mountains Small Data Grants Call 2026-2027

The Global Network on Observations and Information in Mountain Environments ([GEO Mountains](#)) is a Work Programme Initiative of the Group on Earth Observations ([GEO](#)), co-led by the Mountain Research Initiative ([MRI](#)) and the National Research Council of Italy ([CNR-ISAC](#)). GEO Mountains connects research and mountain observations networks to enhance the discoverability, accessibility, and usability of data and information pertaining to environmental and socio-economic systems in mountain regions worldwide.

In this context, and thanks to the support from the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) via the [Adaptation at Altitude Programme](#), we are launching a **third small data grants call (2026-2027)** for projects that focus on addressing mountain monitoring, data, and information, with priority given to projects in the following five mountain regions: *Andes, Central Asia, East Africa, South Caucasus, and Hindu Kush Himalaya*.

As the MRI commemorates its 25th Anniversary in 2026, projects that contribute towards the [MRI's objectives](#), for instance in consolidating “*the state-of-the-art based on 25 years of scientific advances, research, syntheses, data, and information*” or in promoting “*transformative research capabilities for sustainable mountain development*”, are particularly encouraged, especially those that also contribute to the existing work and objectives of relevant [MRI Working Groups](#).

Depending on the quality and merit of the proposed projects, support for up to two projects per region is envisaged, with a **contribution of up to CHF 10'000.00** per project, granted on a competitive basis. Ideally, project proposals leverage resources from other projects or funding sources to support the project's objectives, thereby enhancing the project's outputs, outcomes, and impact. Project duration is up to 12-14 months, and all projects should conclude no later than 1 August 2027. Below is a (non-exhaustive) list of the types of projects that could be supported:

- Compilation and development of databases, programmes, and/or tools to describe, access, visualise, combine, analyse, and/or apply geospatial datasets corresponding to mountain regions.
- Mountain data rescue or digitisation projects, with publication of the resultant digital data for open online access (e.g. via [Zenodo](#) or similar open data repository).
- Curation and preparation of novel mountain datasets for publication or for sharing online and/or in peer-reviewed data journals (e.g. [ESSD](#), [Scientific Data](#) etc.).
- Mountain data evaluation or inter-comparison projects.
- The integration of various types of mountain data with data-driven, physics-based numerical models, or scenarios, to answer key scientific, practical, or policy-relevant questions.
- Education, training, or capacity development activities related to the data lifecycle (including campaign planning, infrastructure specifications, data collection, data transmission, quality assurance, documentation, storage, and dissemination).

Some useful resources are available via the GEO Mountains [General](#) and [In Situ](#) Data Inventories. Others include the [GEO Knowledge Hub](#) and other data resources offered by other [GEO Work Programme Activities](#). All projects should follow the [GEO Data Sharing and Data Management Principles](#). Further details on eligibility and funding conditions are provided in the **Annex: General Eligibility and Funding Conditions**.

Proposals must be submitted via [this online form](#). Please ensure all requested information is provided, as incomplete submissions will not be forwarded for evaluation. **Deadline: 20 February 2026, 23:59 CEST**.

Key dates and milestones:

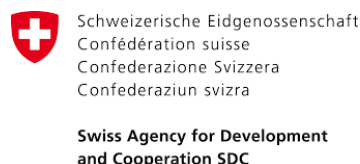
Call for GEO Mountains Small Grants 2026-2027 opens:	27 November 2025
Deadline for proposal submission via this form :	20 February 2026, 23:59 CEST
Confirmation of successful applications:	by 1 May 2026
Projects start:	1 June 2026
Projects end, with deliverables completed:	1 August 2027
Showcasing of project outputs and outcomes:	September - December 2027

For any questions, please contact: geomountains@mountainresearchinitiative.org

Part of:



Supported by:



Annex: Small Data Grants - General Eligibility and Funding Conditions

1. The GEO Mountains Small Data Grants 2026-2027 aim to support projects that improve the data and information situation across the world's mountain regions, and generate practical outputs, focusing on the following mountain regions: *Andes, Central Asia, East Africa, South Caucasus, and Hindu Kush Himalaya*.
2. All project proponent(s) must have full and updated profiles in the [MRI Expert Database](#) at the time of proposal submission, detailing expertise and/or a track record of projects or publications that correspond to the proposed activity. If awarded funding, proponents must also consent to becoming members of the GEO Mountains network by selecting the corresponding option when creating or updating a profile in the Database.
3. Project proponents should encourage the inclusion and participation of early-career researchers (ECRs, generally up to 5 years after MSc or PhD) and researchers from developing countries as part of the proposed project.
4. Proponents are expected to generate at least matching funding and/or in-kind contributions that, combined with the GEO Mountains' contribution, can sufficiently support the planned activity. Types of costs eligible for support from GEO Mountains' contribution can include the hosting and facilitation of project meetings or workshops; researcher / database developer time; contribution support for student assistance; equipment purchases that directly contribute to the expected project outputs; materials for teaching or training purposes; or open access publication costs for publishable datasets (ideally in specialist data journals and reputable repositories). Priority for funding allocation should be to support the participation and inclusion of ECRs or those from developing countries. GEO Mountains excludes the use of its funds for personal travel to attend conferences, or for overheads incurred by the host institution or institution of affiliation of the proponents.
5. In keeping to the GEO Mountains' focus on integrated social-ecological mountain systems, we encourage inter- and/or transdisciplinary projects, collaborations, and co-production of knowledge that consider both natural and social sciences and humanities, plus different types of data (e.g. in situ, remotely sensed, modelled). Where possible and/or relevant, projects should also include other stakeholders outside of academia such as practitioners, NGOs, or other community members.
6. Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant transfer agreement and will need to liaise with the GEO Mountains Secretariat throughout the scheduled activity to publicise the project, its activities, and all its resultant outputs. Once details of the activity are confirmed, the project will be showcased on the [GEO Mountains website](#) and promoted via social media. After the project's conclusion, a contribution to the GEO Mountains website (e.g. in the form of a news article and/or presentation at a GEO Mountains event) may also be requested.
7. A full activity and financial reports are required within six weeks of the project's conclusion. This report should describe key outcomes and datasets developed, plus how the funding was utilised. The GEO Mountains Secretariat will provide reporting templates.
8. All outputs that ensue from the supported project, including oral or poster presentations at conferences as well as reports or scientific papers, must include the GEO Mountains logo and acknowledge the GEO Mountains funding contribution, with a copy of all products provided to the GEO Mountains Secretariat as they become available. If the activity generates new datasets, they must be shared under an open data license such as [CC BY 4.0](#).
9. Proposals will be checked for eligibility by the GEO Mountains Secretariat and forwarded for evaluation to the GEO Mountains Co-Leads in tandem with external experts. As such, these individuals are ineligible to apply.

The applicable evaluation criteria include the following aspects:

- a) High degree of scientific merit and quality in terms of design, methods, and analyses.
 - b) Adheres to the [MRI guiding principles](#) for activities and the [GEO Data Sharing and Data Management Principles](#).
 - c) Includes the participation of early career researchers, as well as ensures genuine steps are taken to achieve inclusivity and diversity in project activities.
 - d) Scope of the activity addresses and targets key data and information needs in at least one of the five mountain regions targeted by this call.
 - e) The main proponent(s) demonstrate expertise and a scientific track record in the chosen topics, including full profile entries in the [MRI's Expert Database](#).
10. Proposals must be submitted online via the specific call's submission form (applications via email will not be considered). All requested information must be provided by the specified deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.