GEO Mountains General Meeting 2025 #2

GEO MOUNTAINS
Observing Mountain Environments

MOUNTAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

ADAPTATION AT ALTITUDE
Taking Action in the Mountains

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

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 may be made available upon request**
- **The slides will be circulated** to registered participants afterwards

Agenda

14:00 – 14:05	1. Welcome & Introduction (Alex Massot and Carolina Adler)
14:05 – 14:35	3. Recent and ongoing GEO Mountains activities
14:35 – 14:45	4. Community Input #1: Joshua Beneš, University of Vermont
14:45 – 14:55	5. Community Input #2: Nick Pepin & Yaping Mo. University of Portsmouth
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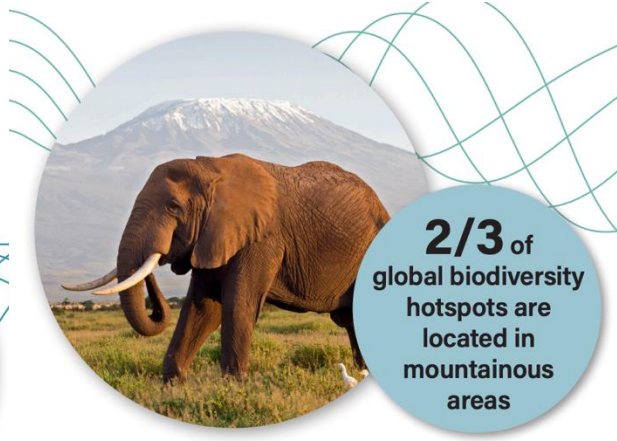

GEO Mountains

The Global Network for Observations and Information in Mountain Environments

A Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Work Programme Initiative, co-led by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) & the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), since 2016

- 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

- The **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** continues to support the GEO Mountains Secretariat and network activities (via the Mountain Research Initiative) under the Adaptation at Altitude Programme from **2024 – 2027**
- Under Outcome 1, GEO Mountains works to support bridging data & information gaps in Andes, East Africa, HKH, Caucasus and Central Asia

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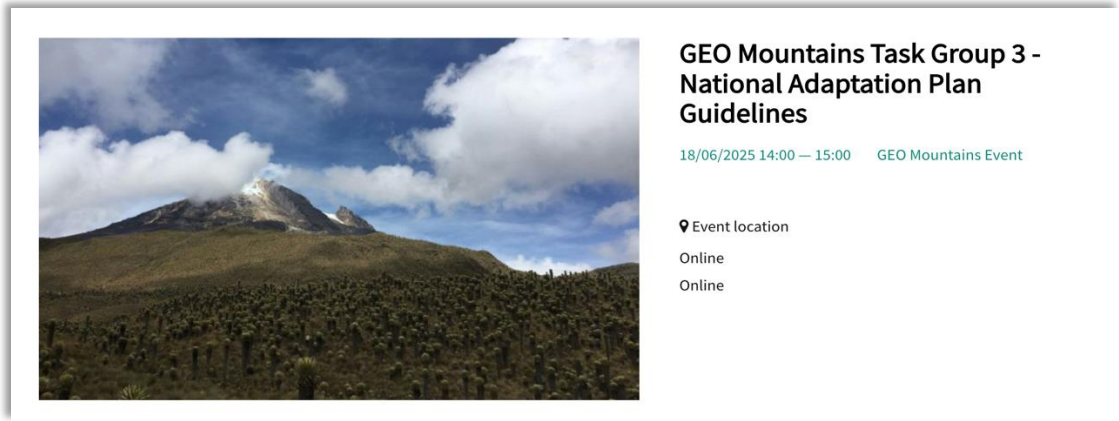
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

https://adaptationataltitude.org/

Task Group 3 – Global Policy Outreach

- GEO Mountains plans to develop a Technical Supplemental to the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans (NAP) on the topic of **"Earth Observation for Monitoring Adaptation in Mountains"**
- The first TG3 meeting took place in June 2025, launching the work on the NAP Technical Supplement, outlining the potential structure of the document and seeking interest from participants.
- A preliminary analysis of NAP coverage with respect to mountains was conducted by the Zoï Environment Network in 2023, and presented during the June 2025 meeting.
- Further work with the TG will continue in 2026, with new updates based on UNFCCC COP30 outcomes.



https://geomountains.org/geo-mountains-task-group-3-kicks-off-work-on-a-nap-technical-supplement-on-earth-observations-for-monitoring-climate-action-in-mountains/

Other updates

- The MRI and GEO Mountains participated in a "network of networks" meeting for the Andes region, held between 1-3 July 2025 in Lima, Peru. A valuable opportunity to take stock of research and monitoring network activities in the Andes, with a view to strengthen coordination efforts among activities: https://cloc.condesan.org/redes-que-se-encuentran-taller-de-articulacion-cientifica-en-los-andes/
- GEO Mountains was represented at the EuroGEO workshop, 13-15 October 2025, The Hague, The Netherlands. The workshop was a key event to coordinate and connect European efforts within the GEO Post-2025 phase: https://eurogeosec.eu/egw2025/
- MRI (GEO Mountains) invited to participate in an European Commission Horizon Europe-funded project ***iClimateAction***, a collaboration between the WMO, GCOS, and GEO. The MRI is facilitating the expert consultations on ECVs in mountain regions: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101216980
- **Outlook**: Preparation for the GEO Post-2025 Work Programme, with an updated GEO Mountains Implementation Plan for 2026-2028.

Meeting of Networks, 1-3 July 2025. Lima, Peru.
Photo:©CLOC Conectate A+ Secretariat

EuroGEO Workshop, 13-15 October 2025. The Hague, The Netherlands.
Photo:©EuroGEO Secretariat.

International Mountain Conference (IMC): updates

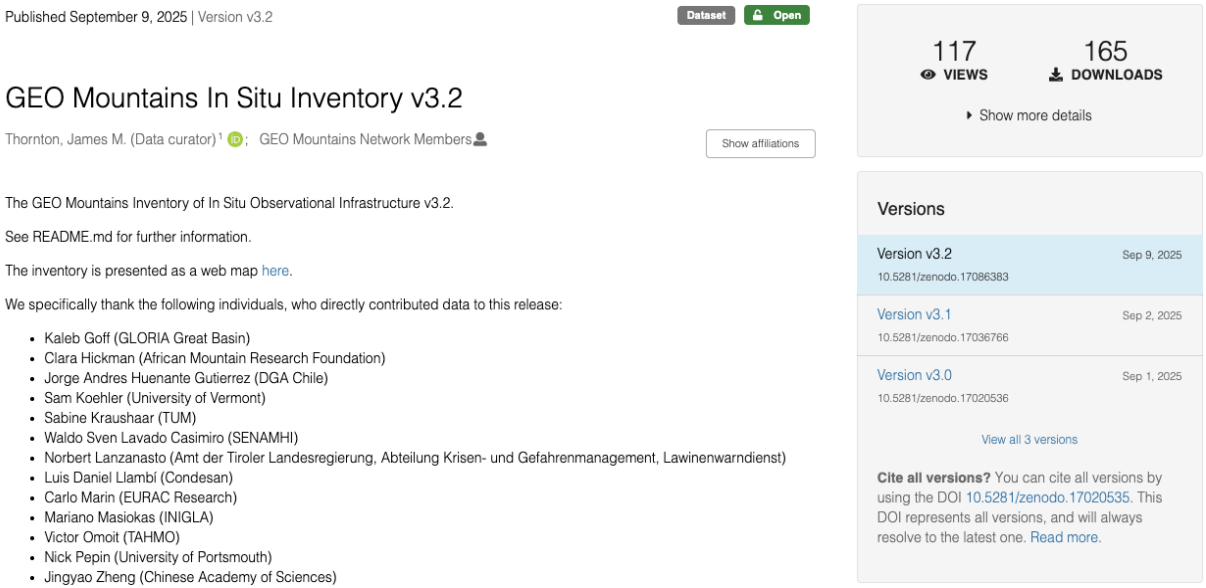
- 2 GEO Mountains sessions at IMC, September 2025: (1) focus session on socio-economic monitoring; and (2) workshop exploring challenges & opportunities in interdisciplinary monitoring and bridging science and policy.
- The workshop highlighted key data gaps, particularly in socio-economic and local-scale information.
- Emphasis on participatory, ethical, and standardized approaches to improve data sharing and policy relevance.
- Calls for stronger interdisciplinary collaboration, long-term monitoring support, and sustained science–policy dialogue in mountain regions.

https://mountainresearchinitiative.org/news/making-connections-for-science-and-policy-at-the-international-mountain-conference/

In Situ Inventory: new version 3.2 released!

This latest update introduces several major developments:

- ❑ Expanded coverage: more stations and networks
- ❑ Network associations: Each station is now explicitly linked to the wider network or compilation it belongs to.
- ❑ Mountain range attribution: All stations are now associated with the mountain range in which they are located, based on the GMBA Mountain Inventory v2.



Published September 9, 2025 | Version v3.2

Dataset Open

GEO Mountains In Situ Inventory v3.2

Thornton, James M. (Data curator)[1]; GEO Mountains Network Members

Show affiliations

The GEO Mountains Inventory of In Situ Observational Infrastructure v3.2.

See README.md for further information.

The inventory is presented as a web map here.

We specifically thank the following individuals, who directly contributed data to this release:

- Kaleb Goff (GLORIA Great Basin)
- Clara Hickman (African Mountain Research Foundation)
- Jorge Andres Huenante Gutierrez (DGA Chile)
- Sam Koehler (University of Vermont)
- Sabine Kraushaar (TUM)
- Waldo Sven Lavado Casimiro (SENAMHI)
- Norbert Lanzanasto (Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung, Abteilung Krisen- und Gefahrenmanagement, Lawinenwarndienst)
- Luis Daniel Llambí (Condesan)
- Carlo Marin (EURAC Research)
- Mariano Masiokas (INIGLA)
- Victor Omoit (TAHMO)
- Nick Pepin (University of Portsmouth)
- Jingyao Zheng (Chinese Academy of Sciences)

117 VIEWS

165 DOWNLOADS

Show more details

Versions

Version v3.2 Sep 9, 2025
10.5281/zenodo.17086383

Version v3.1 Sep 2, 2025
10.5281/zenodo.17036766

Version v3.0 Sep 1, 2025
10.5281/zenodo.17020536

View all 3 versions

Cite all versions? You can cite all versions by using the DOI 10.5281/zenodo.17020535. This DOI represents all versions, and will always resolve to the latest one. Read more.

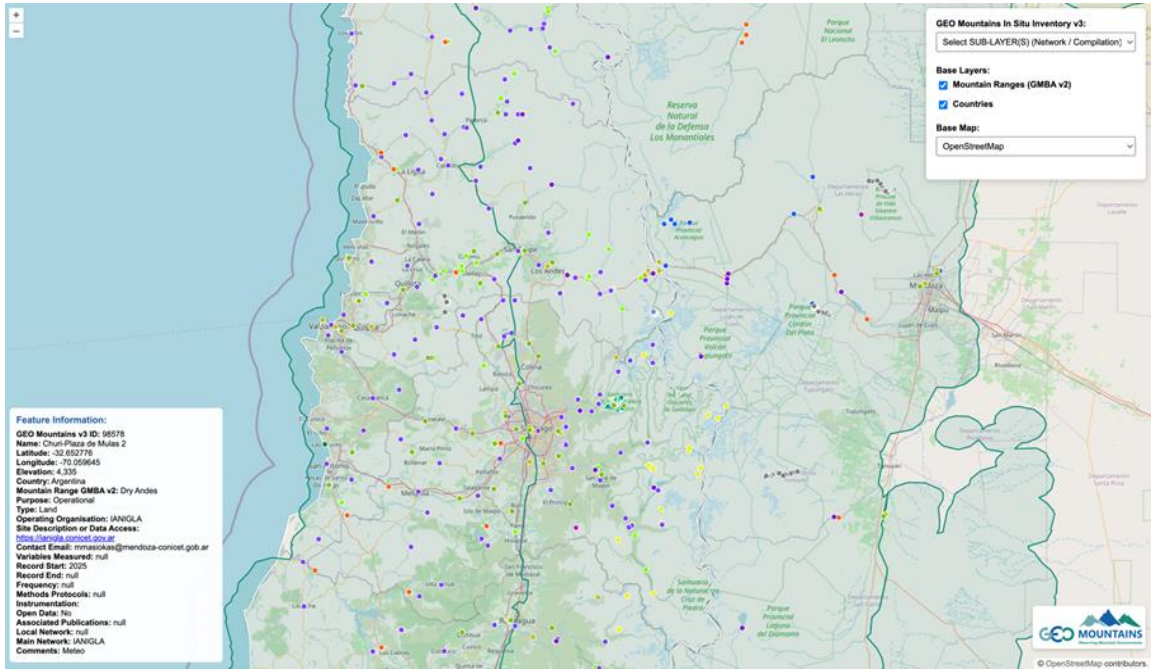


Figure 1 (left). Screenshot of the inventory page, available on Zenodo.
Figure 2 (right). Screenshot of the inventory web map interface showing all stations in regionof Santiago, Chile (Andes).

https://geomountains.org/geo-mountains-releases-a-new-version-of-its-in-situ-inventory/

New website just launched!

- Enhanced functionality and features
- Improved project explorer – filter & search GEO Mountains activities
- Dedicated publication section: new GEO Mountains publications hub brings outputs from activities together
- Expand history section: the history page has been developed and offers a comprehensive overvew of GEO Mountains' development over time
- Fresh new design and mobile-friendly layout
- **https://geomountains.org/**

Feedback is welcome!
geomountains@mountainresearchinitiative.org

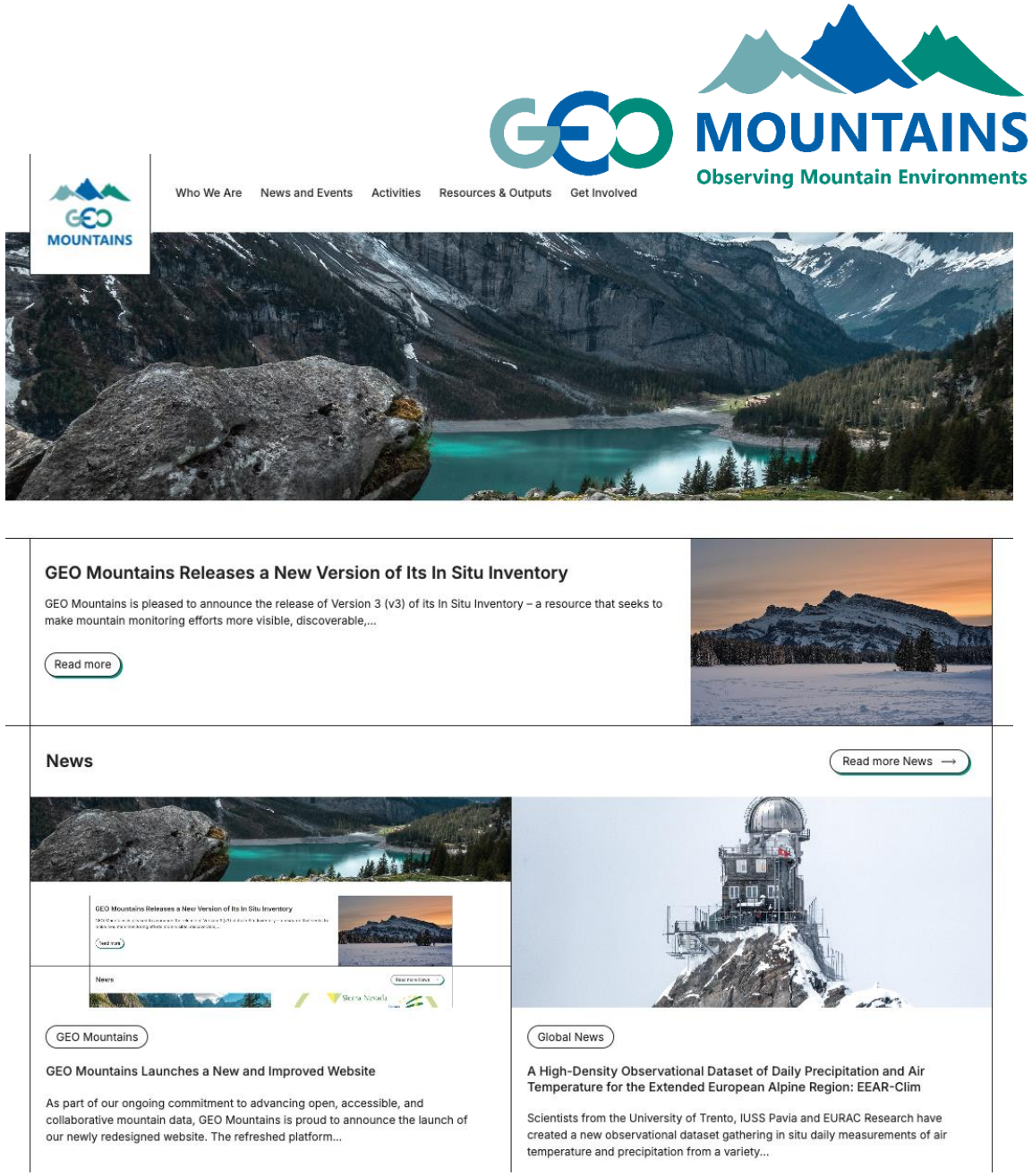
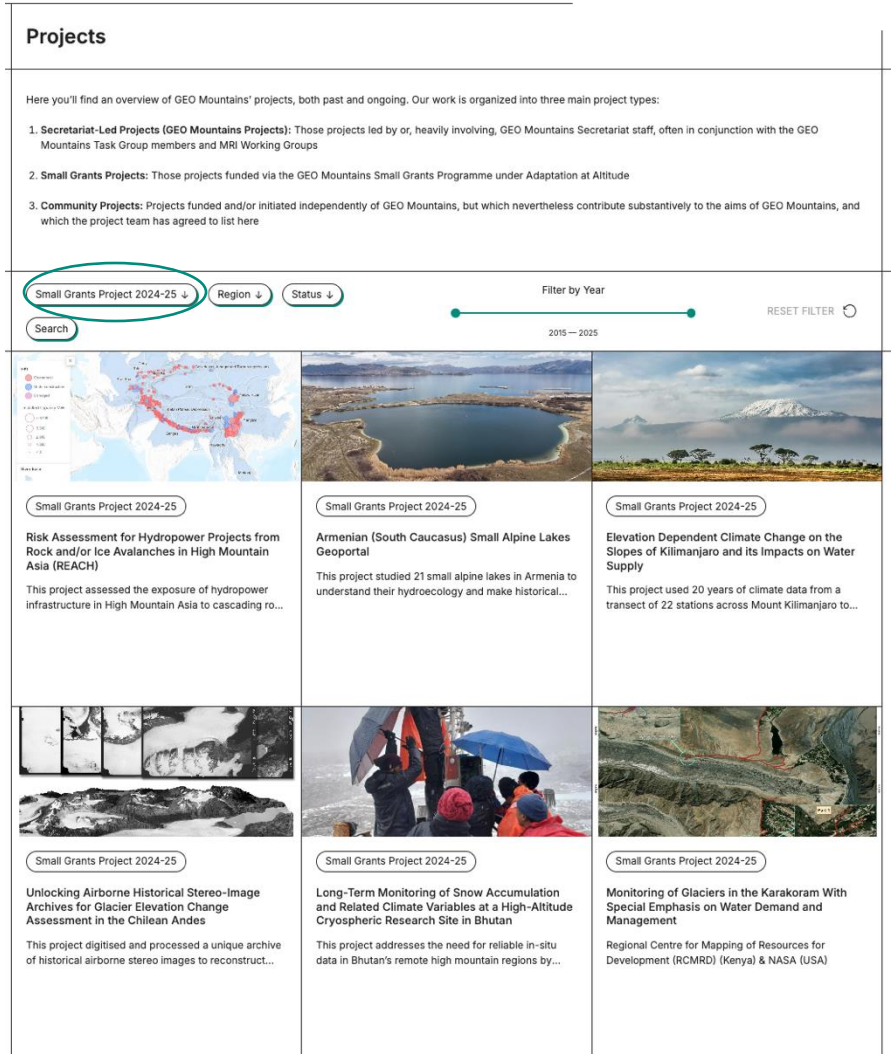


Figure 1. Screenshot of GEO Mountains brand new website.

Small Grants 2024 – 2025 & new call

- ❑ Final reports are being compiled & added to our website under the Projects page
- ❑ You can find summaries & main results on their dedicated pages
- ❑ The results will be added to the GEO Mountains inventories
- ❑ A Small Grants Campaign showcasing the results on social media & newsletter will be done in the course of 2026
- ❑ If anyone interested in presenting their work & main results at the next GEO Mountains GM, contact us.

Next Small Grants 2026-2027 Call: Call launch, 27 Nov. 2025.
See announcement and call details in the MRI Newsletter, out tomorrow!
Deadline for submission: 20 February 2026.



https://geomountains.org/projects-impact-stories/

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Monitoring Mountain Meteorology and Snow Across Elevational Gradients in the Northeast Appalachians and Adirondacks in North America

Joshua Beneš (1) Mark Beauharnois (2), Arne Bomblies (1), Jay Broccolo (3), Elizabeth Burakowski (4), Paul Casson (2), Jordan Clayton (5), Patrick J. Clemins (1), Alix Contosta (4), Vamsi Dondeti (1), Keith Garret (3), Anna Grunes (1), Heather Hoffman (5), Sara Lance (2), Braedon Lineman (6), Cara McCarthy (5), Scott McKim (2), Justin Minder (2), Colby Morris (3), Georgia Murray (6), Chris Nadeau (7), Sarah Nelson (6), Kyler Phillips (6), Melissa Webb (5)

(1) University of Vermont, Farrell Hall - 210 Colchester Ave, 05465 Burlington, VT USA

(2) Whiteface Mountain Field Station and SUNY-Albany, Wilmington, NY USA

(3) Mount Washington Observatory, North Conway, NH USA

(4) University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH USA

(5) USDA NRCS National Water and Climate Center, Portland, OR USA

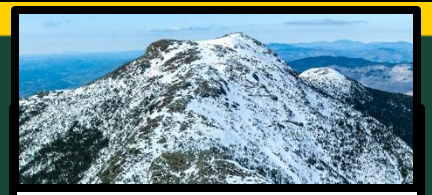
(6) Appalachian Mountain Club, Gorham, NH USA

(7) Schoodic Institute, Winter Harbor, ME USA

University of Vermont

Water Resources Institute
University of Vermont

NorthEast Network of Mountain Observatories



University of Vermont
Mount Mansfield Natural Area

MWOBS
Mount Washington Observatory

Photo credit: Mount Washington Observatory

APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
Atmospheric Sciences Research Center

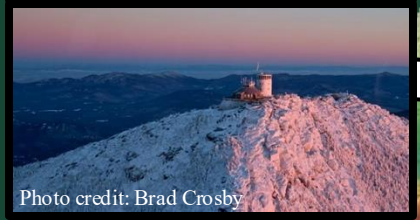


Photo credit: Brad Crosby

Vermont

New York

New Hampshire

University of New Hampshire

USGS
science for a changing world
Kitteridge Hills: Sleepers River Research Watershed

HUBBARD BROOK ECOSYSTEM STUDY

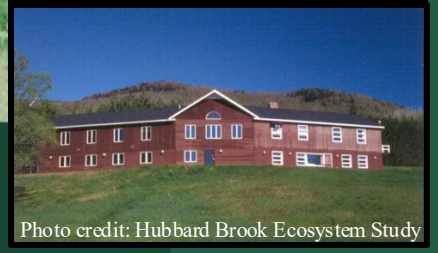


Photo credit: Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study

SCHOODIC INSTITUTE
AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK


Photo credit: Schoodic Institute

Background map credit: Renee Vieira Farnsworth, NALCC

NENMO Environmental Network Project

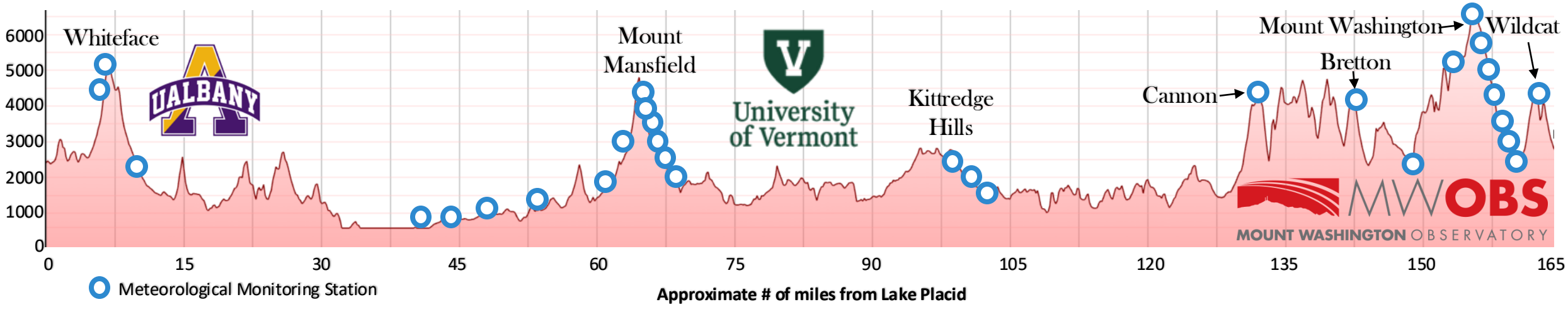
University of Vermont

MWOBS
MOUNT WASHINGTON
OBSERVATORY

UALBANY

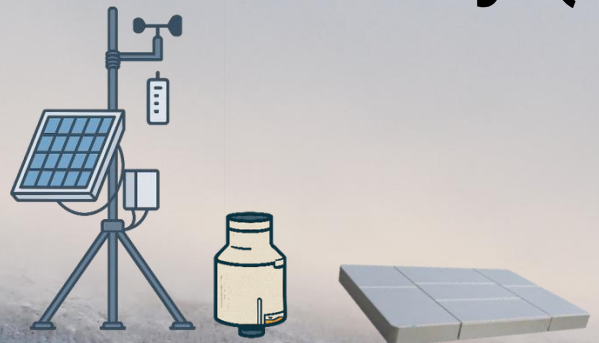
Data Driven Regional Resilience

- **Standardize Data:** Ensure mountain observatories use common formats for data and metadata.
- **Enhance Forecasts:** Partner with stakeholders to improve flood and snowmelt forecasting.
- **Align with International Methodologies:** Update monitoring practices to meet national and global objectives.
- **Share Data Publicly:** Create a public portal to make data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).



← New York → ← Vermont → ← New Hampshire →

Northeast Snow Survey (NESS) Feasibility Study



- **Purpose:** The NESS project aims to create an automated snow and weather monitoring network in the Eastern US to fill a significant data gap in the region.
- **Goal:** The primary objective is to gain a better understanding of how climate change is impacting snowfall, runoff, and mountain ecology in the Northeast.
- **Model:** The project is a feasibility study modeled after the successful Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) network that operates in the Western US.

Mesonet Development

NYS Mesonet
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

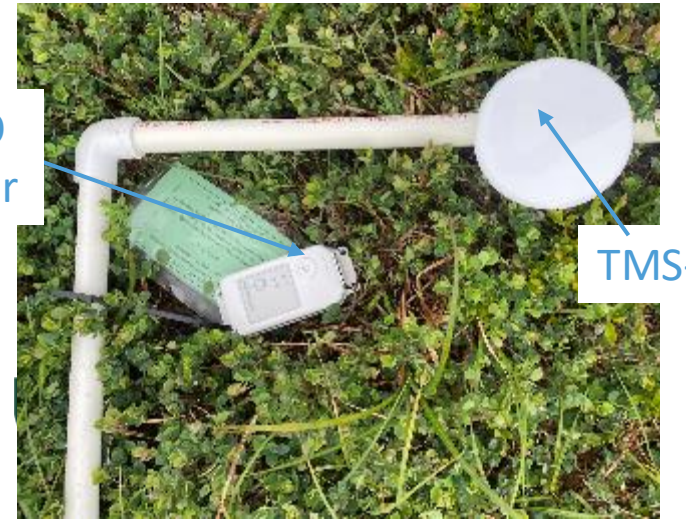
University of Vermont
Vermont Mesonet

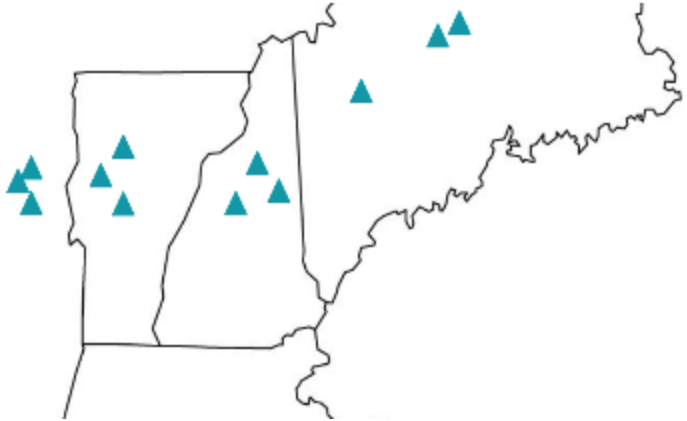
1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
Mesonet

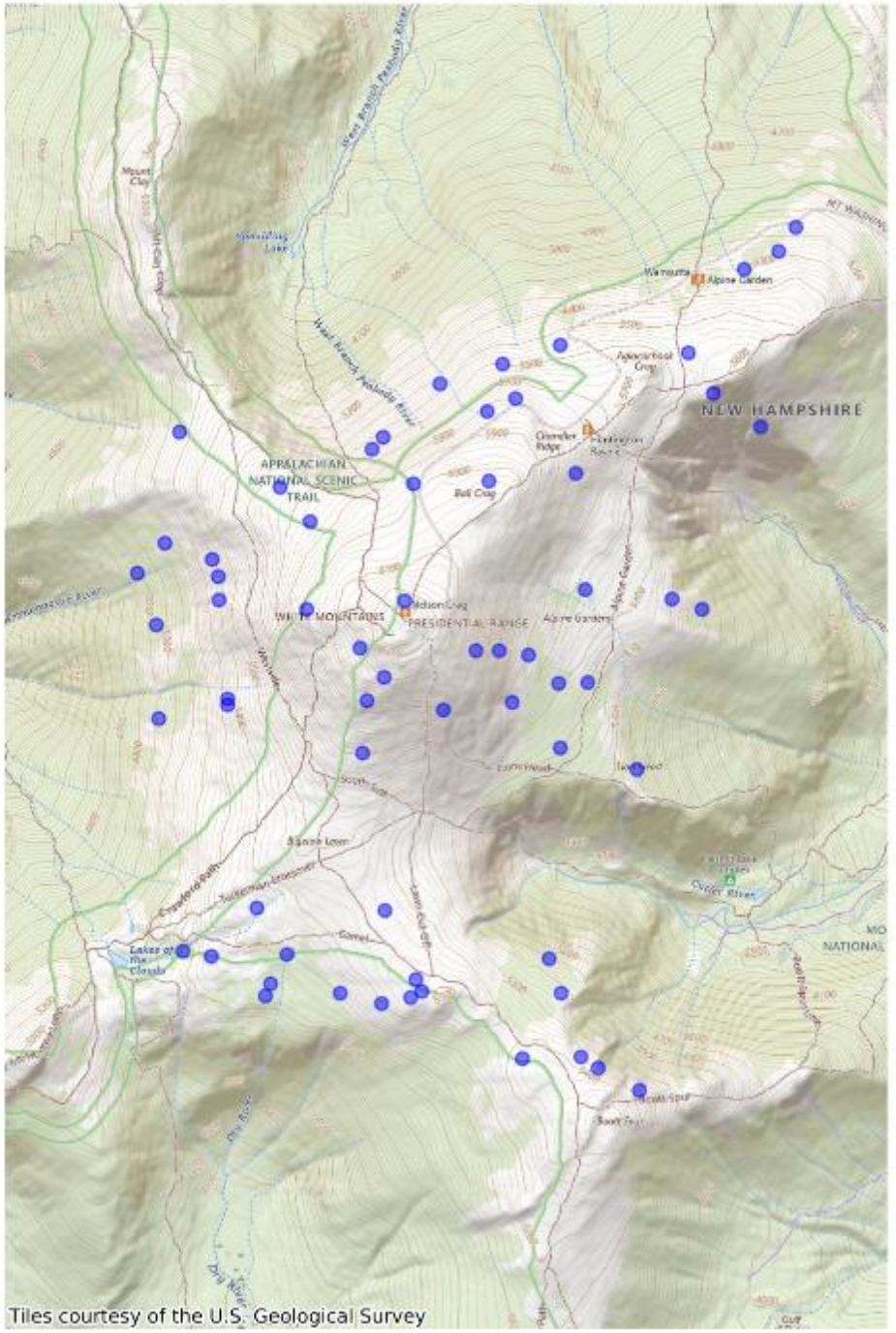
Alpine Micro-climate monitoring

Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie
cmcdonoughmackenzie@bennington.edu

Stephen Keller
Stephen.Keller@uvm.edu

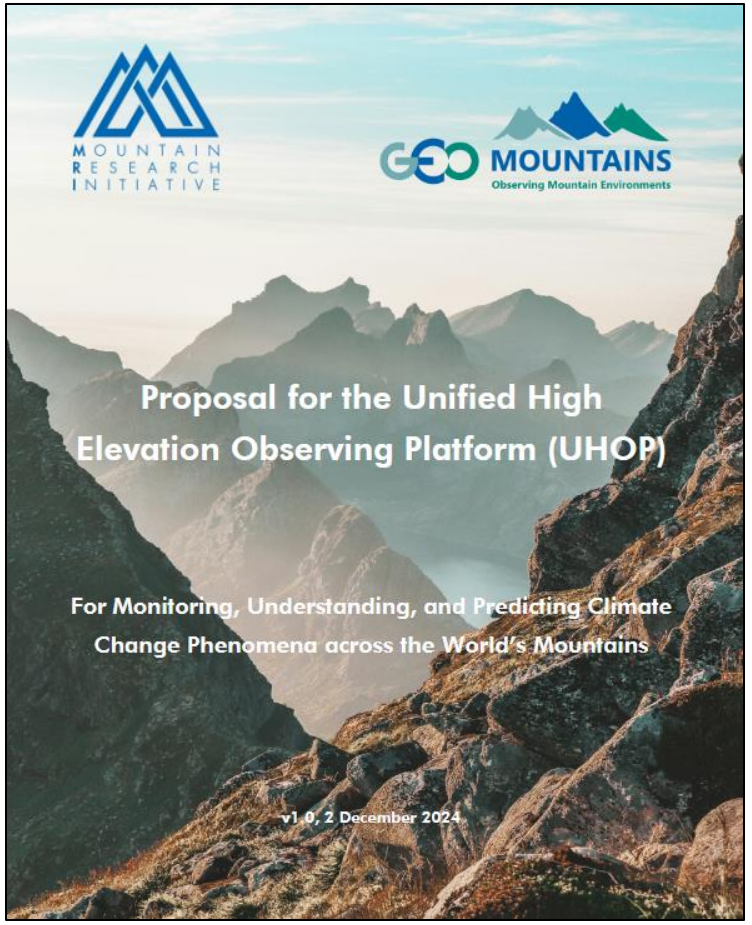






Unified High Elevation Observing Platform (UHOP)

- A global initiative for consistent mountain climate and weather monitoring.
- **Goal:** To fill data gaps, improve forecasting, and enhance community resilience.
- **Method:** A multi-tiered network of stations along elevation gradients.
  - **Tiers:** Gold, Silver, and Bronze accreditation based on station density and quality.
  - **Station Types:**
    - **Anchor:** High-quality, long-term stations for baseline data.
    - **Intermediate:** Moderate-quality stations to fill data gaps.
    - **Float:** Low-cost stations for high-resolution spatial data.



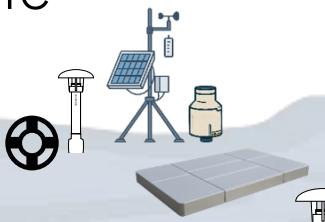
Pepin, N.C., Beneš, J., Masiokas, M., Steiner, J., Thornton, J.M. & Williamson, S. (2024).

June 2023: Unified High Elevation Observing Platform (UHOP) Workshop – Bern, Switzerland

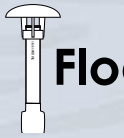
UHOP in the Northeast USA

NESS Stations

- WMO (as far as practicable) with complete radiation balance.
- SWE



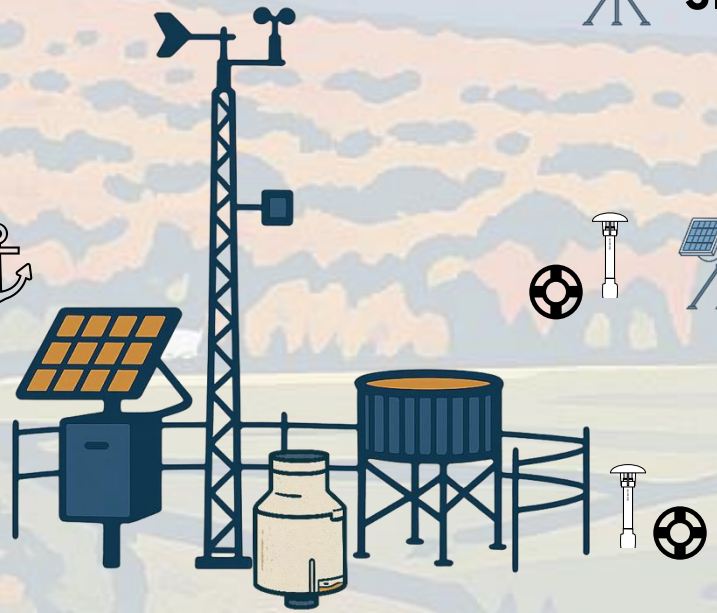
Float Stations



Intermediate Stations

Mesonet Stations

- WMO-certified meteorological observation in valleys



University of Vermont

A model for the world

- **Prototype for UHOP**: Our networks serve as a successful example for UHOP.
- **Regional Network:** We are establishing a regional network of high-elevation observatories that can serve as a model for other networks.
- **Collaboration:** Our project is a prime example of multi-institutional collaboration.
- **Enhanced Data Sharing for Resilience:** We provide an example of enhanced data sharing for researchers, forecasters, and emergency personnel.

University of Vermont

Questions?

Joshua Beneš
Associate Director of
Research Facilities & Networks
University of Vermont
Water Resources Institute
jbenes@uvm.edu

University of Vermont

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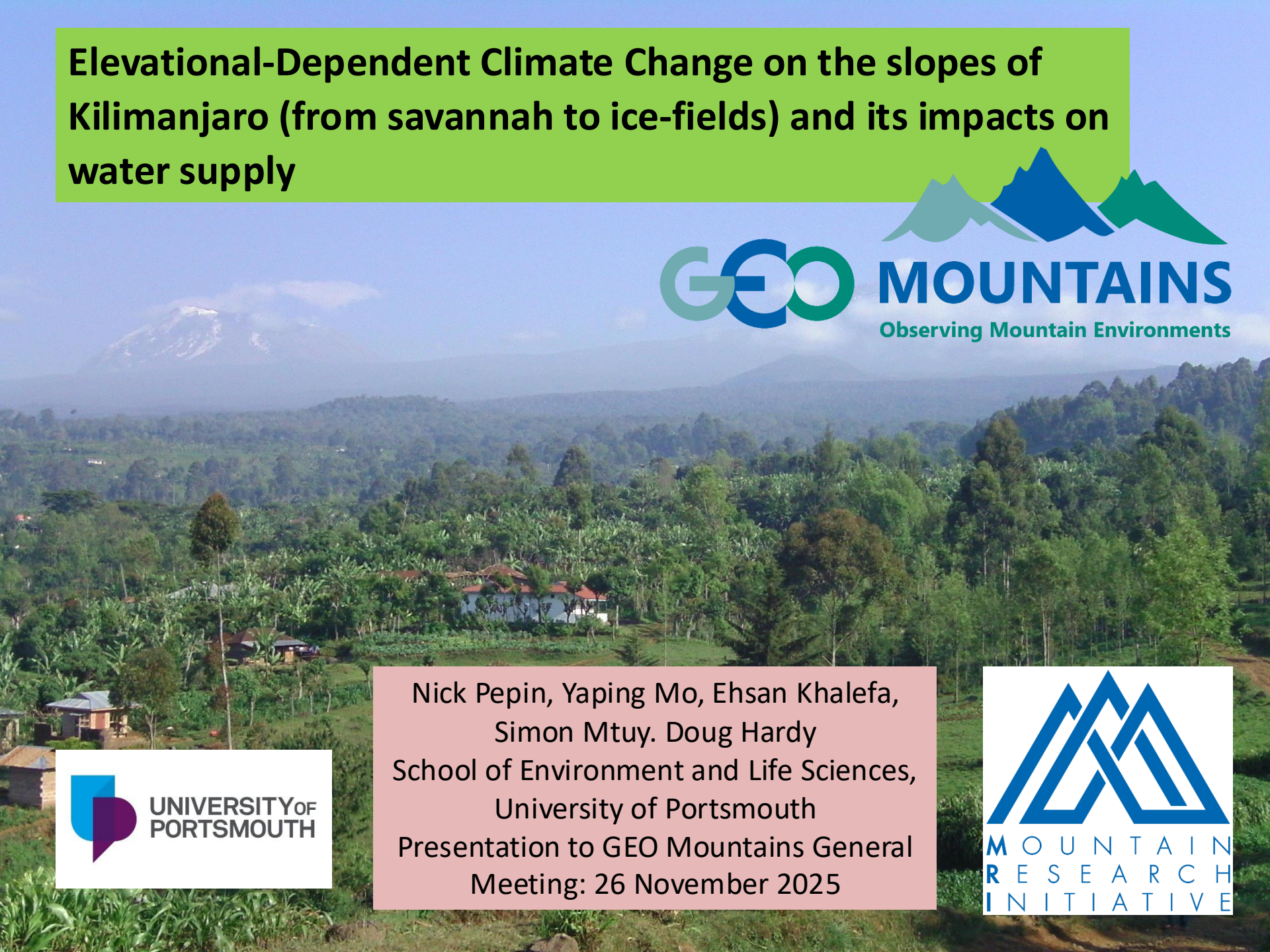
Elevational-Dependent Climate Change on the slopes of Kilimanjaro (from savannah to ice-fields) and its impacts on water supply



GEO MOUNTAINS
Observing Mountain Environments

Nick Pepin, Yaping Mo, Ehsan Khalefa, Simon Mtuy. Doug Hardy
School of Environment and Life Sciences, University of Portsmouth
Presentation to GEO Mountains General Meeting: 26 November 2025

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

MOUNTAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Mountains are on average changing more rapidly than lower elevations

Elevation – dependent climate change

- Water resources, glaciers/snowpack (Rasul & Molden 2019, Hugonnet et al. 2021, Kraaijenbrink et al. 2021)
- Extreme events: landslides/floods/GLOFs (Ding et al. 2021)
- Mountain ecosystems and human society (Palomo 2017)

EDCC Working Group

Part of Mountain Research Initiative:

Lead: Nick Pepin
Contact:
Nicholas.pepin@port.ac.uk

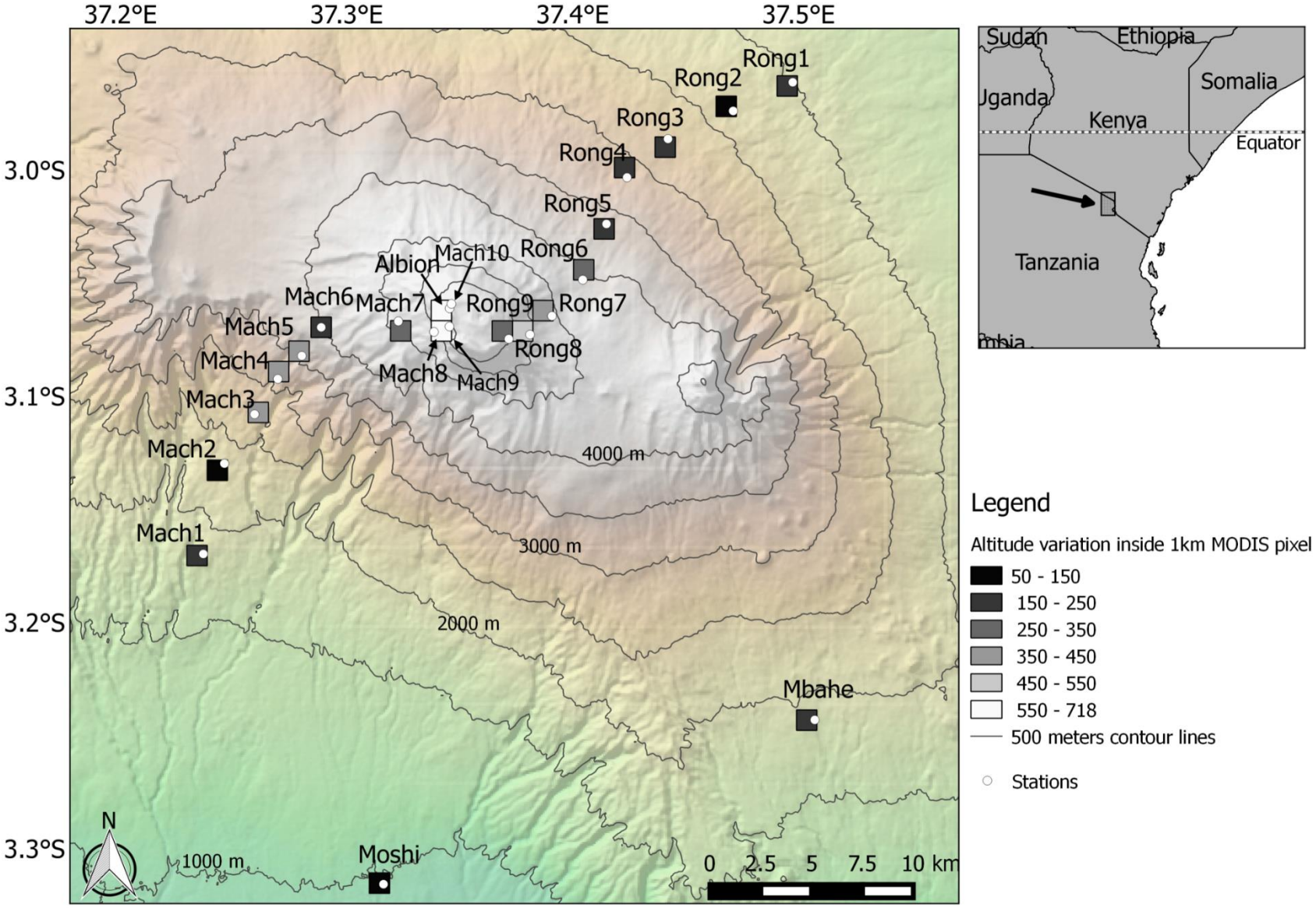
Many rapid changes on upper slopes: Loss of snow and ice:

On lower slopes as well: Deforestation

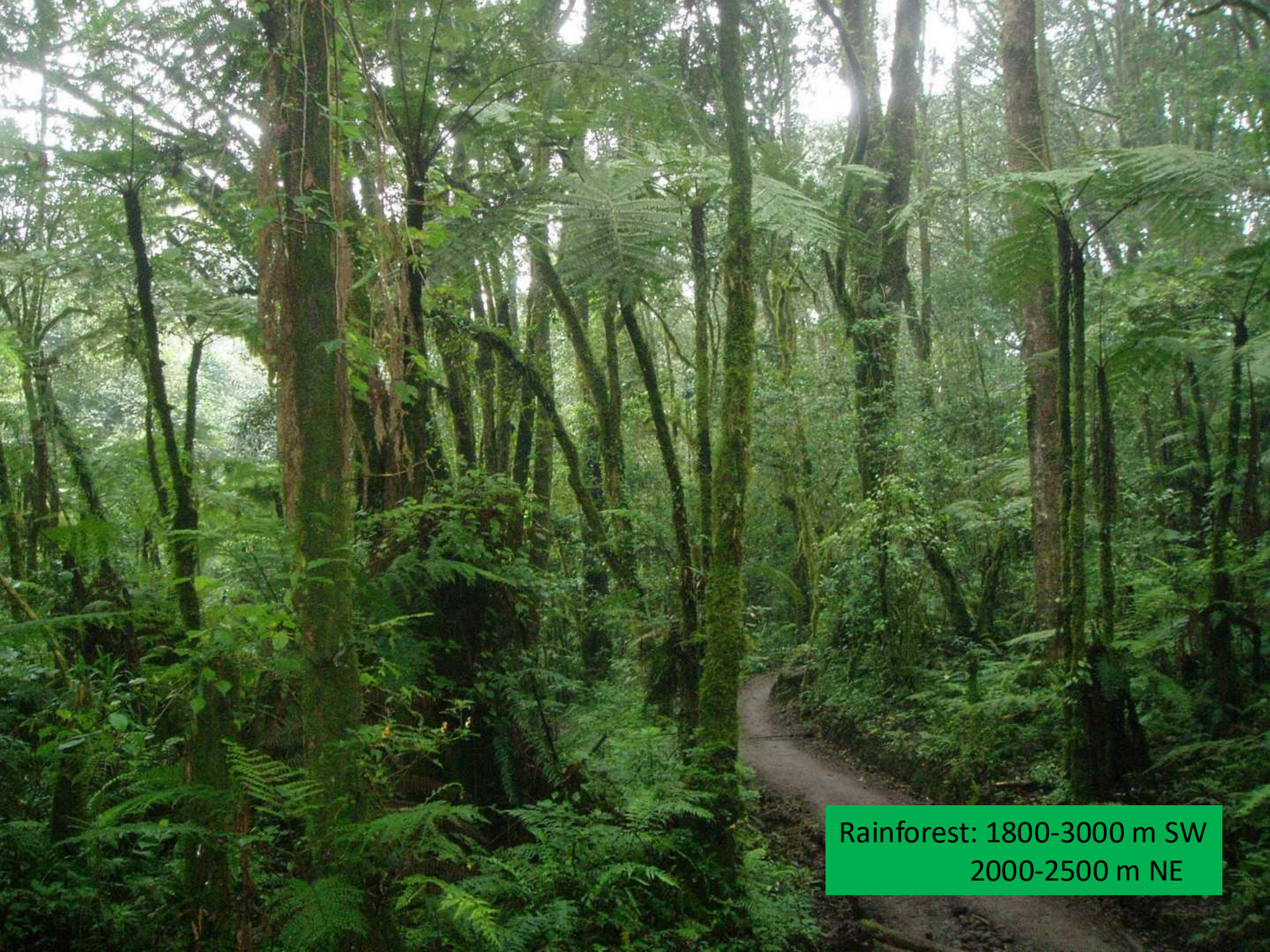
Increasing population pressure

The Kilimanjaro transect: 22 stations: 900 m to 5800 m

Started in 2004



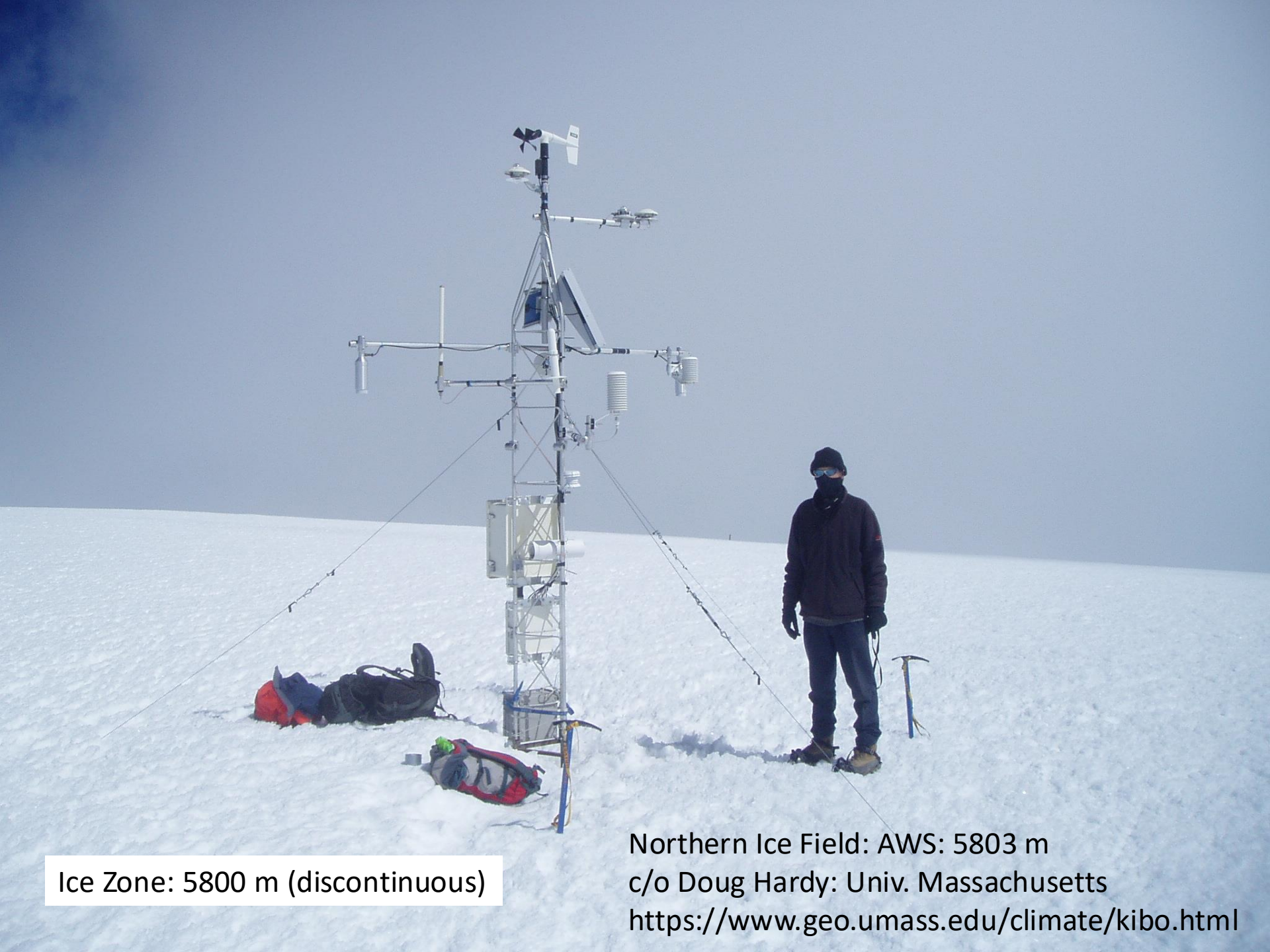

Cultivated Zone: 1000-1800 m SW
1000-2000 m NE


Rainforest: 1800-3000 m SW
2000-2500 m NE


Giant Heather Zone: 3000-3800 m SW
2500-3500 m NE


Moorland Zone: 3800-4600 m SW
3500 – 4300 m NE


Desert: 4600 m-5800 m SW
4400 m-5800 m NE



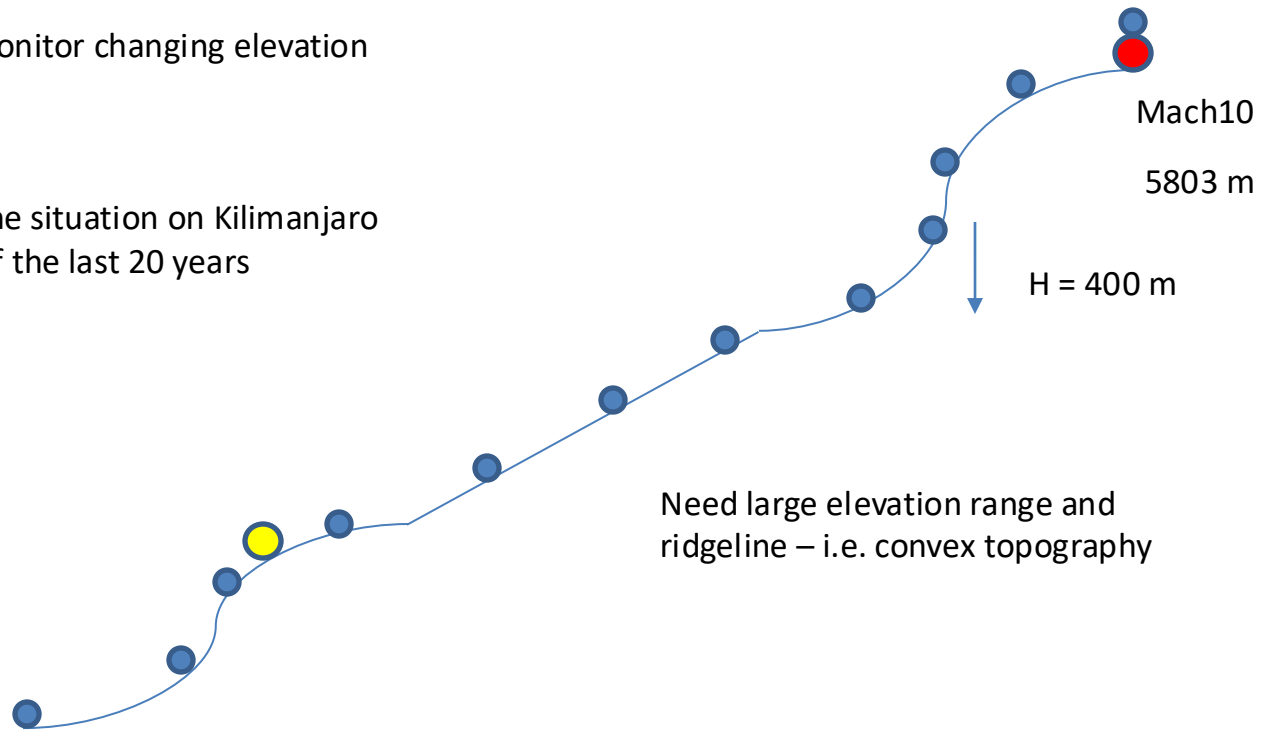
Ice Zone: 5800 m (discontinuous)

Northern Ice Field: AWS: 5803 m
c/o Doug Hardy: Univ. Massachusetts
https://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/kibo.html

Elevation Transect
Unified High Elevation Platform (UHOP)

Need to monitor changing elevation gradients

This was the situation on Kilimanjaro for most of the last 20 years

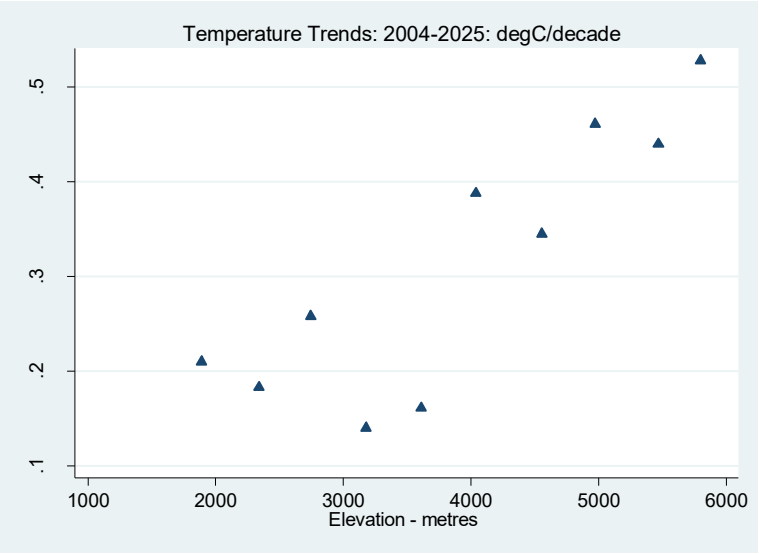


Variety of stations on lower slopes

Some standard screens – some cheaper home made tubes: this shows a calibration between two

This grant enabled us to
a) Start an upgrade to standard screens
b) Obtain 20 years of data for the transect to enable analysis of EDCC
c) Examine impact of EDCC on water supply on lower slopes (interviews with farmers)
d) Enable outreach

Elevation Dependent Warming on Kilimanjaro



2010

2012

2015

This graph shows the warming rate for the 10 stations on the Machame (SW) side of the mountain over the last 20 years : The higher elevations are warming faster:

Up to 0.5degC/decade or **1degC over 20 years**

The bottom sites are around 0.2degC/decade or **0.4degC over 20 years**

This has important consequences: see the above pictures (taken from the same point) of the decaying ice fields

To some extent the rainforests are stabilizing the climate on the mid-lower slopes
The trees also provide moisture for the whole mountain and have positive impacts on water supply

OUTREACH

Lecture: why mountains matter and how to use Google Earth Pro's Historical Imagery to explore visible changes in the landscape.

Link to our website is here.

Interactive session: younger pupils created drawings of the mountain-past, present, and imagined futures if climate change and human activities continue to affect it

Thank you for listening

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- Bill Duane, Gary Pike, Martin Schaefer (field assistance)
- Simon Mtuy and Summit Expeditions and Nomadic Experience (SENE) – trekking support on mountain
- Will Taylor (Geography) and other teachers at International School in Moshi

Agenda

14:00 – 14:05	1. Welcome & Introduction (Alex Massot and Carolina Adler)
14:05 – 14:35	3. Recent and ongoing GEO Mountains activities
14:35 – 14:45	4. Community Input #1: Joshua Beneš, University of Vermont
14:45 – 14:55	5. Community Input #2: Nick Pepin & Yaping Mo, University of Portsmouth
14:55 – 15:05	**6. Joint Q&A**
15:05 – 15:15	7. Future Activities
15:15 – 15:30	8. General discussion & wrap-up

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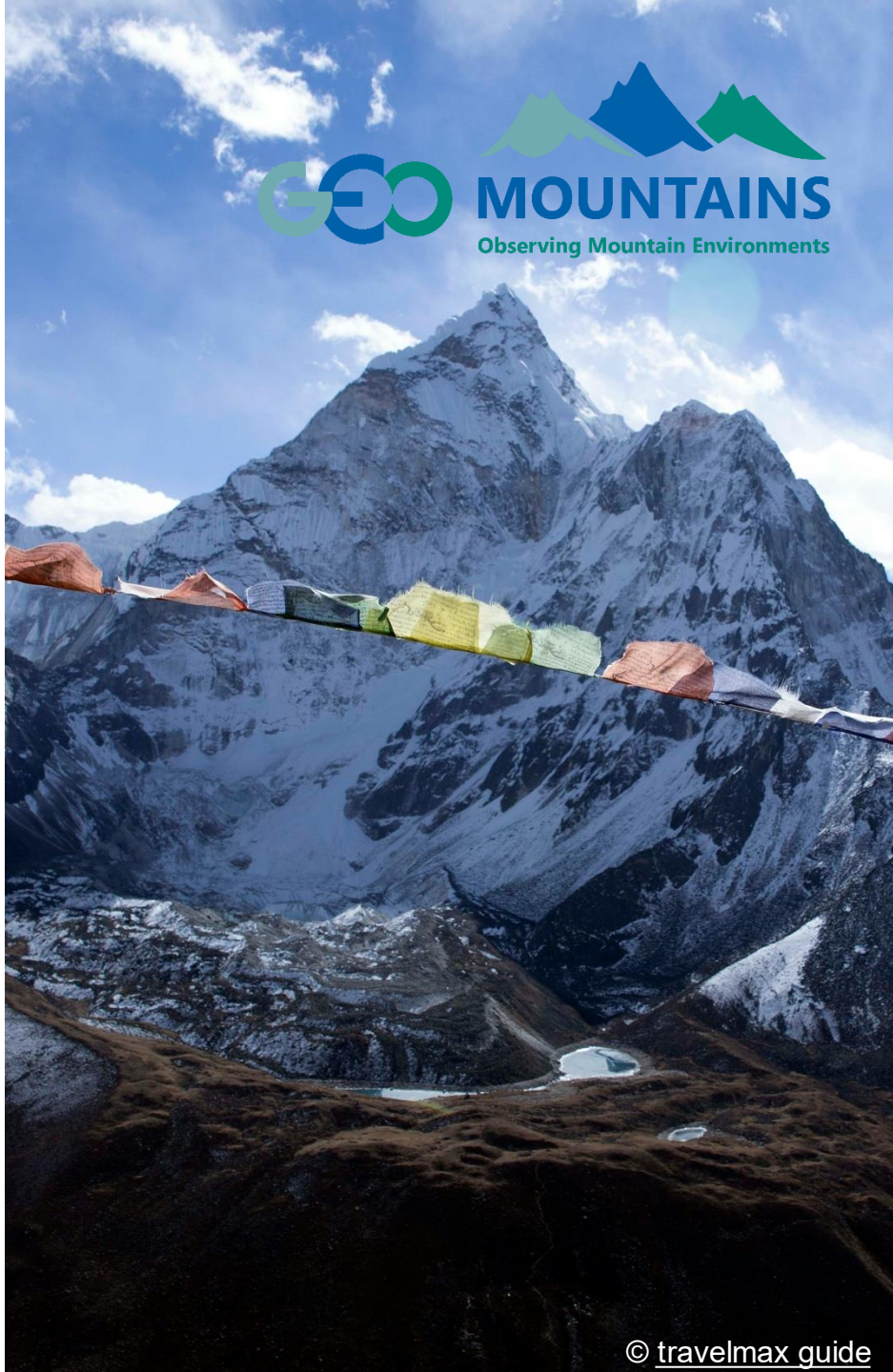
Mountains Connect

- Mountains Connect, 16 – 20 Feb. 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Partners of the Adaptation @ Altitude Programme
- The MRI/GEO Mountains initiative will host a stand to share information on mountain data and monitoring, with a strong focus on how information can effectively support policy processes.
- We are also gathering **success stories** from our partner regions (Andes, HKH, Central Asia, South Caucasus, East Africa).
  - If you have a **project, dataset, or example** that you would like us to highlight during the February workshop, please feel free to contact us: geomountains@mountainresearchinitiative.org



GEO Mountains x GEO Youth Ideathon

- **Concept**: Bring together ~15–20 early-career researchers and young professionals (age ≤35) from the research community, practitioners and government to collaboratively design innovative, data-informed solutions to disaster risk reduction in mountain environments. The programme includes field visits, technical training, and a micro-ideathon where participants will co-develop actionable projects with mentorship from experts in EO, governance, and stakeholder engagement.

- **Format**: 2–3 days of technical and field engagement and ideathon-style challenge, followed by a conference, where participants can learn on ongoing initiatives, network and engage with stakeholders. 7-10 days in total.

- **Date**: 1/2 – 8/9 July 2026 (tbc)

- **Location**: Obergurgl, Austria

Stay updated via MRI Newsletter –
Registrations should open in February 2026

News from the network

- **Adaptation @ Altitude Knowledge Network** next event tomorrow, 27 November, 14:00 – 15:00 CET: Harnessing nature-based solutions for adaptation in mountains

- **GEO Work Programme Open House Webinar #1,** 3 December, 13:30 – 15:30: Weather, Hazard and Disaster Resilience focus area

- **Swiss Geoscience Meeting**, 5 – 6 December
  - MRI-hosted session 'Glaciers and Deglaciation: Multidisciplinary perspectives on their relevance for society' presented by Glenn Hunt (MRI Senior Project Coordinator), Iago Otero and Jeanne Fournier (Interdisciplinary Centre for Mountain Research), and Elisa Frank (Forum Landscape, Alps, Parks).

- **7th Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership of the United Nations**, 26 – 28 March 2026, Andorra

- **GEO Symposium**, 26 – 28 May, Geneva

- **Regional Mountain Conference** (RMC2026): 5-8 July Obergurgl; Submission for workshop or focus session open until 17 December.

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GEO MOUNTAINS
Observing Mountain Environments

Many thanks!

Please kindly provide some feedback on this meeting:

geomountains@mountainresearchinitiative.org