

Workshop Output WS 1.3.D

Title of workshop: Sustainability of urban agglomerations in mountain regions, especially in developing nation contexts

Prepared by

Moderators	Sunder Subramanian, Manfred Perlik, Carolina Adler
Participants*	Andreas Haller, Haley Fitzpatrick, Judith Müller (Oral presentations); Daniela Antonescu (poster)

* Workshop participants that have submitted contributions to the workshop

General questions to please be answered in the workshop reporting

- 1) What was the focus of the workshop? Methodological issues and advancements or thematic issues (systems knowledge, transformation knowledge, target knowledge). Please check and fill in the matrix in the output section.

Methodological issues and advancements	Thematic issues		
	System knowledge	Transformation knowledge	Target Knowledge
✓	✓	✓	✓

The intended focus of the workshop was primarily on thematic issues, equally on system, transformation, and target knowledge issues, and in small part also discussed methodological issues and advancements

- 1) Which key points were discussed in the workshop as a whole? (This should be more a synthesis and not simply a summary of the key points in each presentation)
 - The current state of knowledge relating to the workshop title, and how the topic was under-researched and poorly understood;
 - Some of the drivers of sustainability (and conversely, unsustainability relating to urban agglomerations in mountain regions) including inter-alia globalization and market processes, differential aspects of competitiveness, migration (in and out); inter-connectedness of urban agglomerations and the rural continuum as well as upland-lowland interactions and dynamics including food and agriculture, water, infrastructure;
 - Multi-scalar processes of urbanization, local identities and their evolution over time, and urban typologies in mountain regions;
 - Impacts of tourism, connectedness (internet);
- 2) What is your opinion on the current state of knowledge concerning your topic(s) (focusing on mountain regions)? *Please check and fill in the matrix on the following page.*

Overall assessment of the state of:

What is your personal opinion on the current state of knowledge concerning the topic(s) addressed in your workshop. Please tick the appropriate field. Brief explanations are appreciated.

State of knowledge	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	Not appropriate	Comments
Global				✓		
Regional				✓		<i>Which region?</i>
Scattered case study-based knowledge			✓			<i>Where?</i>
Knowledge about past states/trends				✓		
Knowledge about current situation				✓		
Knowledge about future states/trends/thresholds				✓		
Knowledge about the system			✓			
Knowledge about shaping pathways to more sustainable development (transformation knowledge)				✓		
Knowledge about envisaged goals (target knowledge)				✓		

Ideas for questions to potentially be answered by the moderators after the workshop in the reporting (please delete what is not useful):

- 1) What was the main message/consensus of your workshop?

The main consensus was that the workshop topic was significantly under-researched and that there was a need to building on the existing (scanty) knowledge base. There was also a consensus on the need to form a “working group” or “community of practice/research” on the topic, and that a lot more research focused on understanding the dynamics and key drivers of unsustainability is needed, from multiple regions and case studies from mountain regions/systems globally.

- 2) Were new research questions raised? If yes, would working on these questions need to involve other disciplines (which ones)?

New research questions on the impacts of Internet connectivity (or lack thereof), social media, on the shaping of local identities, as tools of innovation and/or competitiveness, etc were discussed.

- 3) Did the workshop identify research topics (e.g. environmental drivers other than climate) that are, in your opinion, currently greatly underrepresented in mountain research, but should urgently be addressed?

The broad topics articulated in the workshop abstract, with their numerous sub-themes/issues continue to be greatly underrepresented in mountain research, and systematic efforts at addressing these are urgently needed.

Further Comments