universität innsbruck

Institut für Geographie

Master Thesis about climate change adaption in the Kali Gandaki Valley, Nepal

In the Kali Gandaki Valley in Nepal, rooftops are traditionally built with loam and wood. Yet, more and more houses are built or retrofitted with corrugated iron roofs. The latter is better suited for heavy rain and snow falls, which have increased in the past years. Particularly in the upper parts of the Kali Gandaki Valley – a semi-arid area close to the Tibetan Plateau - an increase in extreme rain and snow fall events seems to occur.

While the retrofitting of roof tops might be a logical aspect of social modernization, it can also be part of a deliberate climate change adaption. Thus, the following questions arise:

- What motivations are behind the use of corrugated iron roofs? (e.g. deliberate climate change adaption measure or "hidden adaptation")
- Which factors influence the use of corrugated iron roofs?
    - Are there links between the use of corrugated iron roofs and climate change perceptions?
- How do local stakeholders perceive the effects of corrugated iron roofs on traditional architecture and local culture?

A field visit is required with the project team in November 2019.

Preferred skills:

- methods of empirical social research,
- statistical analysis of precipitation and temperature data,
- cartographic analysis

Benefits:

- integration in a scientific project (touRES),
- assistance with travel grants,
- support with field research,
- provision of contacts and infrastructure on site

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