

Building Climate Resilience in Mountain Communities



Mountain ecosystems have been identified as extremely vulnerable to climate change¹ and therefore human populations within mountain communities have a high exposure to climate change consequences. Given that over half of the human population depends on mountains for essential resources including water, food and clean energy – working to address adaptive capacity to climate change is essential. More than 600 glaciers are disappearing due to rapid warming which means rivers and streams are drying up² and access to water in increasingly becoming a major concern.

Mountain communities around the world also rely on major market segments of tourism that are most likely to be affected by climate change such as nature-based tourism and winter sports tourism³. The ski industry has already lost over \$1B in aggregated revenue between low and high snow fall years in the last decade. That's between 13,000-27,000 jobs. Predictions show warmer winters to come – leading to shorter snow seasons and decreases in snow cover.⁴

As a member of the The Mountain Partnership under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Canadian Mountain Partnership, TRI seeks to build on its global-to-local; local-to-global concept by sharing and developing good practices in mountain research and education.

Project examples are:

- A series of focus groups and workshops in Canadian mountain communities;
- Learning about risks through the Fire & Ice senior's engagement project;
- Building adaptive capacity through multi-stakeholder engagements and flood adaptation projects in mountain communities such as Canmore.

¹ Fischlin et al. 2007

² United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization Mountain Partnership: www.fao.org/3/i8385en/i8385en.pdf

³ Scott et al., 2012

⁴ Global Call for Action



The Rockies Institute (TRI) is a charitable organization based in Canada. Our mission is to grow the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities to build their resilience to climate change by bridging the gaps between knowledge and action. With a focus on adaptation, we will achieve this through education, weaving together knowledge systems, and conducting action research. Our vision is that humans have the knowledge, will, and capacity to incorporate the risks and opportunities associated with climate change in all of their decision making.

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