

# Resilience Building in Global Mountains

[International Conference on Climate Risk, Vulnerability and Resilience Building](#)

Abstract below

## Date & timings

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Panel discussion: 13:15 – 14:15 CET

Speaker		Duration	Time
Stefan Schneiderbauer (GLOMOS)	Introduction. Global context of risk in mountains in context of climate change and its implications for water.	5 min	13:15-13:20
María Arguello (CONDESAN)	<i>How climate risk is affecting the Andes and what role CONDESAN plays in supporting resilience-building?</i>	5 min	13:20-13:25
Joyce Loza (MDTP, South Africa)	<i>How climate risk is affecting the Maloti Drakensberg and what communities need for building resilience?</i>	5 min	13:25-13:30
Farid Ahmad (ICIMOD)	<i>How climate risk is affecting the HKH and about some concrete experiences of resilience building in the HKH?</i>	5 min	13:35-13:40
All speakers + moderator (Anna & Stefan)	Panel discussion: How to address the risks while building resilience? What do the mountain regions have in common, what is different?	15 - 25 min	13:40-14:05
Jess Delves (GLOMOS)	Conclusions	5 min	14:05-14:10

Anna Sinisalo (GRID-Arendal), Farid Ahmad (ICIMOD)	Book presentation: Resilient Mountain Solutions, 10 local solutions for global impact	5 min	14:10-14:15
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## Abstract

### **Title: Resilience building in global mountains**

Mountains cover approximately 24 percent of the Earth's land surface and are home to about 900 million people. They provide critical ecosystem services to the global population including 60-80% of the world's freshwater. Mountain social-ecological systems and their communities are however facing an increasing number of compound and interconnected risks, further exacerbated by climate change.

These risks need to be addressed by adjusting and upscaling adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as applying innovative approaches to respond to new challenges. Innovative adaptation strategies often require coordinated efforts bringing together science, policy and practice. Such approaches can reduce the vulnerabilities of mountain populations while conserving mountain ecosystems and their services.

This side event brings together global mountain experts to present and discuss the multidimensional challenges facing mountains. Keynote speakers from the Andes, southern Africa and the Hindu Kush Himalaya will provide both a global and local perspective on these challenges, and how they are being tackled in their respective mountain regions.

A closer look at adaptation options in the Hindu Kush Himalaya is provided through the launch of a coffee table book presenting 10 resilient mountain solutions. The solutions are based on local and scientific knowledge, developed and tested over several years, in close relation with local communities, partner organizations and experts, and with the support of governing institutions and decision makers in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

This will be followed by a panel discussion on the feasibility of upscaling and outscaling existing solutions, and how these can be modified for new locations. In addition, panelists will discuss the potential of simple, affordable technologies to increase long-term resilience towards climate-change related hazards, particularly in relation to water security.

The event is co-organized by GRID-Arendal, UNU-EHS, Eurac Research and ICIMOD. GRID-Arendal is a non-profit, environmental communications organisation in the heart of Arendal, Norway, working internationally to support sustainable development through communicating policy-relevant information that strengthens capacity and motivates action. UNU-EHS and Eurac Research are represented by their joint research programme, the Global Mountain Safeguard Research (GLOMOS)

team, which conducts applied research on sustainable mountain development and brings together science, policy and practice. ICIMOD is an intergovernmental knowledge and learning centre that develops and shares research, information, and innovations to empower people in the eight regional member countries of the HKH – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan.