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>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Submitted Abstract

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First Author First Name Last Name	Graham (1) Prescott
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Graham Prescott
Correspondence	graham.prescott@ips.unibe.ch
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Adhikari, Biraj (1,2); Bugingo, Adili (3); Chettri, Nakul (2); Delgado, Freddy (4); Geschke, Jonas (1); Kilungu, Halima (5); Mariaca, Karina (4); Munishi, Pantaleo (3); Mwampamba, Tuyeni (6); Snethlage, Mark (1,7); Urbach, Davnah (1,7); Fischer, Markus (1)
Organisations	1: University of Bern, Switzerland 2: ICIMOD, Nepal 3: Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania 4: COMPAS, Bolivia 5: Open University of Tanzania, Tanzania 6: National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico 7: Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, Switzerland
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Abstract

Mountain ecosystems are centres of cultural and biological diversity, and provide vital ecosystem services (including water, food, income, and protection from natural disasters) both in mountain communities and far beyond. However, the costs of conserving biodiversity may be incurred at different scales and locations than the benefits from resulting ecosystem services. This means we need to explicitly account for synergies and tradeoffs between biodiversity conservation and other Sustainable Development Goals (such as eliminating poverty and food insecurity) at different scales. Here, we synthesise insights from database analyses, expert surveys, literature reviews, and household questionnaires to uncover the challenges faced in conserving mountain ecosystems generally, and in particular, pathways for synergistic nature-based solutions and adaptation strategies in mountains in Tanzania, Bolivia, and Nepal.