

>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

Climate change is already threatening mountain ecosystems and consequently nature's contribution to people's good quality of life. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have recently gained attention as initiatives with a potential for transformative adaptation of mountain socio-ecosystems. NbS are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address climate change, biodiversity loss and human well-being. While the number of NbS implemented in the Alps is rapidly increasing to face the more frequent and intense drought, floods and landslides, the levers and barriers to NbS implementation are still unclear. The PORTAL project (Pathways of Transformation in the Alps) has identified and characterised a portfolio of on-the-ground NbS for adaptation to climate change in the Alps. In 20 semi-structured interviews with managers of identified NbS, we used the Values-Rules-Knowledge framework to understand the making-decision context of each NbS. This framework structured our exploration of combined barriers and levers from human values, multiple knowledge types and formal or informal institutions. Specifically, we investigated how the governance model, the knowledge used and financial instruments facilitated or impeded i) the decision to act for adaptation; ii) managers risk assessment and exploration of possible actions; iii) the implementation of the initiative; iv) the future and the potential transfer of the NbS. We discuss the main leverage points that need to be activated to foster transformative NbS in mountains.