Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 735

First Author First Name Last Name	 Paola (1) Fontanella Pisa
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	 Paola Fontanella Pisa
Correspondence	fontanella.pisa@ehs.unu.edu
Co-Authors **>> E-Mails will be not listed**	Schneiderbauer, Stefan (1); Boret Penmellen, Sébastien (2)
Organisations	1: United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, Italy 2: Tohoku University, Japan

Country	Italy
Region	Western Europe
Title	Local Knowledge Transformation For Enhancing Community Resilience In Unesco Biosphere Reserves.
Keywords	Adaptation, Local Knowledge, Biosphere Reserves, Transdisciplinary Research, Narratives
Type	List Of Focus Session
Focus Session ID	02

Abstract

Research Topic and Problem Statement

The increasing number of hydro-geological hazards in mountain regions worldwide is causing extended damage, posing a great challenge to community resilience. Mountain regions are particularly exposed to the adverse effects of climate change. The vulnerabilities of mountain communities to climate-related risks are further exacerbated by socio-economic and political pressures interrelated to changes in the land management systems over time. To reduce community vulnerability to these risks, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction encourages efforts towards a holistic understanding of disaster risk and strengthening disaster governance. These Priorities for Actions benefit from transdisciplinary research for better understanding social-ecological interdependencies in relation to disaster management. Upon researchers' engagement with local actors, the process of co-creation of transformation knowledge leads to the development of ad-hoc adaptation strategies. More guidance is however still lacking on transdisciplinary methodologies that can facilitate the development of adaptation pathways through the co-creation of transformation knowledge based on complex social-ecological dynamics.

Adopted Methods

This research aims at contributing to this topic, suggesting the adoption of qualitative methods for the co-creation of transformation knowledge that can support the risk governance and enhance community resilience of two identified UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Italian Julian Alps (Italy) and Tadami (Japan). Both sites are in mountain areas and are recognized for their exceptional biodiversity and cultural richness that has for centuries been shaping these social-ecological systems. The transdisciplinary research will adopt methods from the social sciences and humanities in collaboration with local stakeholders and communities. Longitudinal data on past events and changes in the way communities have been interacting with their environment are collected through focus groups and in-depth interviews, for the co-creation of narratives. These narratives are then analysed and translated into transformation knowledge in contribution to developing adaptation pathways.

Findings

Methodological approach and preliminary findings to this research project will be presented, showing initial results on the analysis of narratives of the studied social-ecological systems.