The discoverability, accessibility, and usability of a wide range of environmental and socio-economic data are crucial prerequisites to both the advancement of science and a range of more practical applications related to sustainable development, higher quality tourism, climate change adaptation, and natural hazard mitigation.

Building upon previous efforts, this workshop, jointly convened by the Mountain Research Initiative, GEO Mountains, the University of Geneva, UNEP/GRID-Geneva, Sustainable Caucasus, and the Scientific Network for the Caucasus Mountain Region, seeks to better understand the current interdisciplinary data landscape across the Caucasus region.

This will be achieved through open discussion with a wide range of stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners, representatives of local authorities, and NGOs. The following questions are of particular interest: i) what requirements do users of mountain data have with respect to online database(s)/portal(s) through which mountain data is made searchable and downloadable?, ii) which organizations and institutions are major providers of relevant data in the region?, and iii) what are the major gaps in terms of data discoverability, accessibility, and usability that are currently experienced by data users? We also hope to better understand the coverage of thematic regional publications.

This dialogue will identify future possibilities for strengthening crucial data-dependent applications and efforts, including by GEO Mountains under the Adaptation at Altitude Programme. For instance, we hope to expand our data and resource inventories with contributions from the region and identify opportunities collaborations and exchanges that support the overlapping objectives of SNC-mt, the MRI, GEO Mountains, and UNEP.

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