



1st Global Mountain Sustainability Forum

5–6 October 2020
Sexten/Sesto, Italy

Sustainability Governance: International Frameworks and Local Contributions

In the epoch of Anthropocene, where humans have a significant impact on the Earth's geology and ecology, the sustainability of our social-economic systems is the basic prerequisite for the long-term existence of mankind. Any pathway towards such sustainability necessarily calls for deep transformations of our society and will require complementary actions by governments, civil society, science, and business (Sachs et al., 2019). By and large, it remains unclear if and how respective processes of societal and institutional upheavals may be initiated and will take place. Nevertheless, sustainability has turned into a matter of individual lifestyle and individual daily choices rooted in common values in parts of the society.

Acknowledging the necessity of fundamental changes, the United Nations and its member states have been developing a framework for national action and global cooperation: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the respective 17 Sustainable Development Goals. With only 10 more years left to achieve these goals, the United Nations' Secretary-General has raised a universal call to mobilise for a decade of global, local and people action. At the core of this call is the need to tackle growing poverty, empower women and girls, and address the climate emergency. Within this context, the newly established Global Mountain Sustainability Forum (GMS Forum) conference series will discuss particular challenges concerning sustainability in mountain regions, which provide invaluable ecosystem services for lowlands and their populations; these are often not appropriately taken into account in policies and decision-making processes. The GMS Forum 2020 event will tackle sustainability governance issues at the crossroads between international frameworks and local contributions focusing on the topics of tourism and natural resource management. Questions to be addressed include but are not restricted to:

How can the implementation of international frameworks for sustainable development at the local level be facilitated? What are inherent complexities?

Who is holding the responsibility of initiating and shaping sustainable governance in mountain regions?

**What is the role of the interaction between science-policy interfaces with the private sector, in the process towards sustainable development?
How can synergies be improved?**

What are the difficulties/challenges for achieving transdisciplinarity in sustainable development?

Major thematic sessions are:

1. Global developments and critical issues in sustainability in mountain regions

- a. Overtourism
- b. Climate change
- c. Demographic change
- d. Energy transition

2. Natural resources and sustainability in mountains

- a. Integrated catchment management
- b. Climate resilience
- c. Supply and demand issues between highlands and lowlands

3. Tourism and sustainability in mountains

- a. Monitoring tourism activities
- b. Assessing developments in tourism against sustainability objectives
- c. Societal transformation processes related to tourism
- d. Cultural sustainability

4. Sustainable governance in mountain regions – potential and limitations of possible solutions

- a. Successful management of natural resources within the context of competing users
- b. Disaster risk reduction within the context of changing climate conditions and increasing touristic activities
- c. Sustainable management of natural resources – protected areas (WHS, Geoparks, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserves, UNESCO Global Geopark Network (GGN))
- d. Local community space versus destination space?
The role of participation: instruments and methods for local empowerment



Preliminary Program

4th October

Arrival

5th October

Keynotes, panel sessions and social dinner

6th October

Networking session in the mountains, keynotes, and panel sessions