

Mountain Futures Conference

Nurturing seeds for change in the Anthropocene

The term Anthropocene recognizes that humans have become the dominant agents of environmental change. In keeping with the tendency to focus on the negative effects of human activities, the Anthropocene is generally viewed as an epoch of environmental destruction and degradation as consequences of human meddling. This view should not blind us to the positive potential of human transformations.

Discussion of the Anthropocene has so far been more global than local. The role of specific environments including mountains has not often been considered, nor has there been adequate dialogue on regional and local environmental and social implications. This inhibits our ability to think of positive opportunities for mountains and the people who live in them.

There are persuasive reasons for taking a special look at mountains in the Anthropocene. The highlands are home to twelve percent of the world's population and half the global biodiversity hotspots. They are the sources of vital waters and important crops. They provide refuge for endangered species and cultures. They are hotspots of global environmental change, with adverse but also potential positive consequences. Mountains are areas of environmental and cultural diversity; they may serve as repositories of global learning and testing grounds for adaptations to global change.

This conference invites anyone with an interest in the mountains to register their 'seeds of change': grass-root practices and ideas that show the positive potential of human activity in the environment. Together we will nurture these seeds to seedlings and eventually to robust trees.

Call for Proposals for Sessions:

Each Session will be 90 minutes, and can be organized at the discretion of the session organizer, and can be in a “roundtable” type format, or simply organized to present a set of related oral presentations, but should be focused on presenting or discussing “*seeds of change*’: *grass-root practices and ideas that show the positive potential of human activity in the environment*”. Oral presentation sessions should consist of at least 4-6 oral presentations. Roundtable session can be organized at the discretion of the organizer, e.g. brief introductory statement (5 min) by the participants, then a series of questions to discuss, or roundtable discussion.

- ✓ The Session organiser will be responsible for selecting and reviewing the presentations.
- ✓ Abstracts of oral presentations accepted for Sessions will be published online and in the Conference Proceedings.
- ✓ Following the end of the Conference, selected presentations will be considered for publication in a special issue on Mountain Futures.

Submission of Session Proposals:

Proposals to organize Sessions should include the following information:

- ✓ The Title of the Session
- ✓ The name, affiliation, mailing address and e-mail address(es) of the proposer(s)
- ✓ Brief Abstract (not exceeding 250 words) describing the session, e.g. the topic, focus, or purpose, and/or relevance to Mountain Futures conference themes.
- ✓ The deadline for proposal submission is 31 DEC 2015.

Please send your proposal to: sander@mountainfutures.org

Call for Submission of Abstracts for Oral:

Each oral presentation will be about 10-15 minutes, with some time for questions, or discussion at the end. Oral presentations should generally have some relevance to the theme: *“seeds of change”: grass-root practices and ideas that show the positive potential of human activity in the environment”*.

- ✓ The Conference organiser will be responsible for selecting and reviewing the presentations.
- ✓ Powerpoint presentations should be submitted to organizers at least one day in advance.
- ✓ Abstracts of oral presentations accepted for Sessions will be published online and in the Conference Proceedings.
- ✓ Following the end of the Conference, selected presentations will be considered for publication as a full paper in a special issue on Mountain Futures.

Submission:

Abstract submissions should include the following information:

- ✓ The title of the Oral Presentation
- ✓ The name, affiliation, mailing address and e-mail address(es) of the proposer(s)
- ✓ Abstract: A description of the topic of the presentation (not exceeding 250 words)
- ✓ The deadline for proposal submission is 31 DEC 2015.

Please send your proposal to: sander@mountainfutures.org