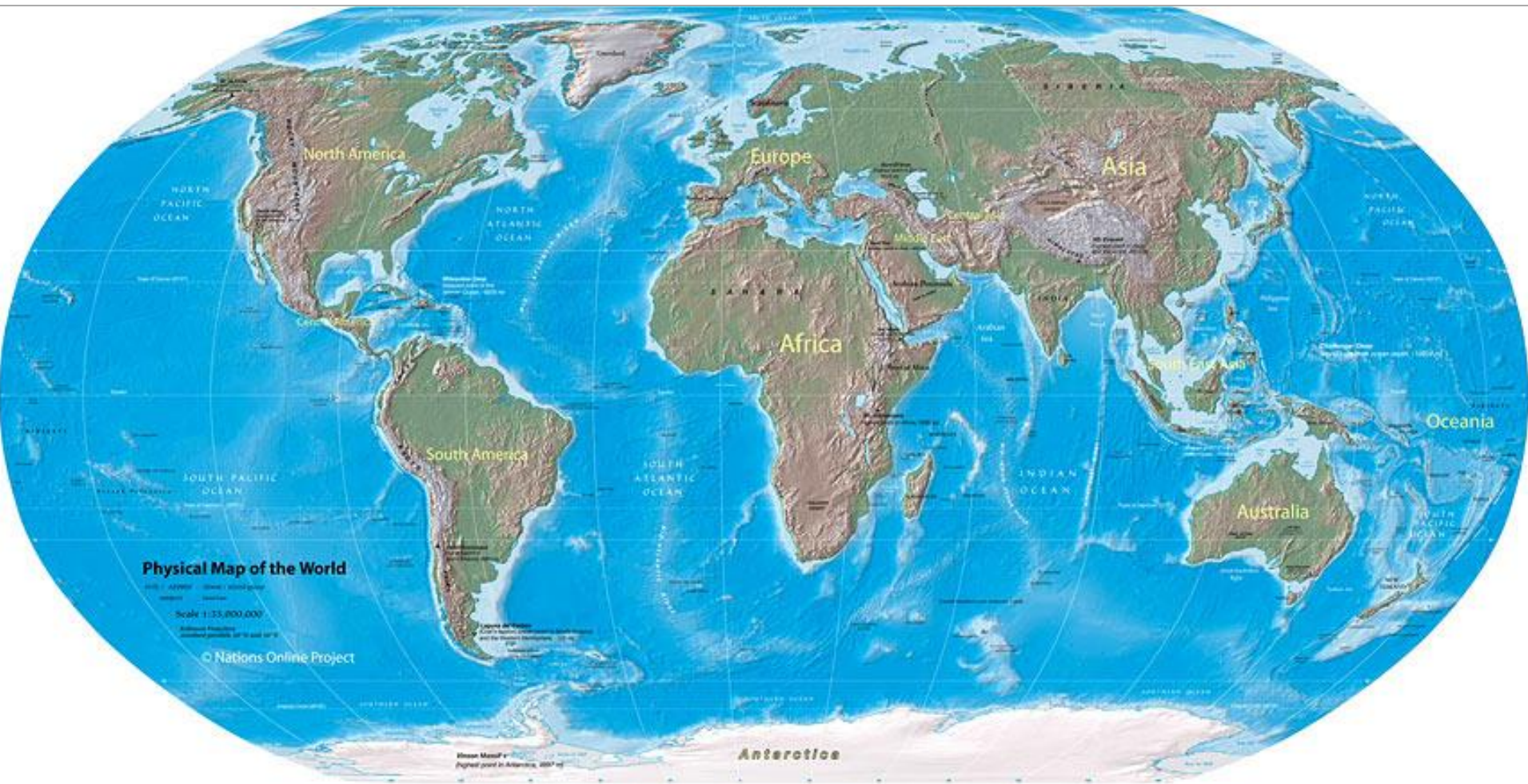


WHY MOUNTAINS?

**Event: Mountain Women and Agenda at the United Nations
FL120, Utah Valley University
2 October 2017**





Mountains Matter!



Environmental Services

Over **half of humanity** depends on mountains for fresh water—drinking, sanitation, irrigation and industry.

Mountain forests, wetlands and peatlands are **critical** for carbon storage and sequestration.

Mountains are key to regulating the global climate.





Mountain Biodiversity

An amazing variety of wild animals and plants depend on mountains to survive.

- Nearly a **quarter of global forest cover** is in mountain regions.
- Of the planet's 34 terrestrial biodiversity "hotspots," 25 are in mountains.
- 60% of all Biosphere Reserves are in mountains.





Cultural, Sacred & Historic Sites

Mountains are home to a wealth of traditional knowledge and practices.

- Mountain population = 915 million
- 1,000+ languages
- Mountains as sacred
- World Heritage Sites
- Mountain recreation: US\$ 70-90 billion/year, 15-20% of global tourism





Climate Change Impacts

Mountains warming faster than lowlands!

- Climate extremes, glacier retreat, landslides, floods, droughts, pathogens
- Risks of ecosystem collapse
- But also: new options for agriculture, etc.





Environmental Degradation

Local to Global Drivers

- Mountains are inherently vulnerable to natural hazards and are ecologically fragile.
- Is there a lesson to be learned from the Forest Transition Curve?

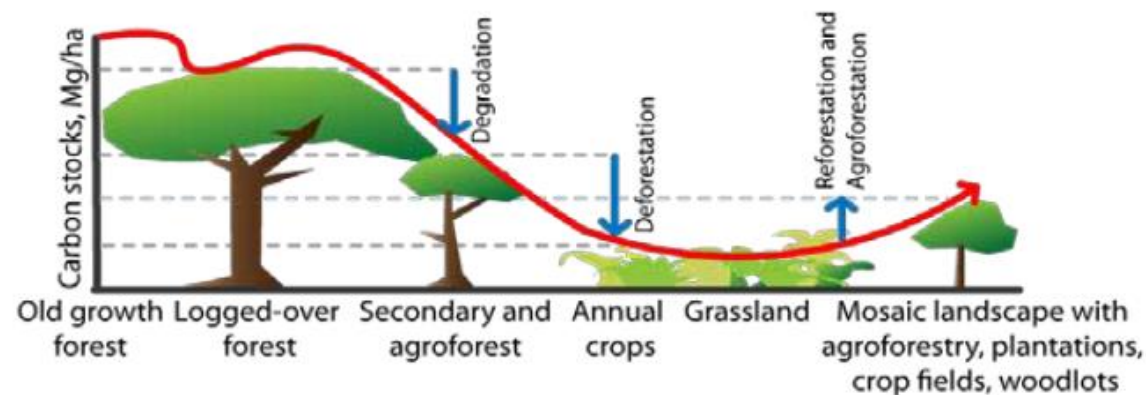


Figure 1.4 Forest and land use transition curve





The Mountain Paradox

resource rich – income poor

- 329 million mountain people are food insecure (up 30% from 2000)
- Half of rural mountain people live in developing countries
- Onslaught of lowland culture and values: from school to social media
- Changing human settlement patterns: urbanization, end of nomadism?
- Massive out-migration: gender and age dimensions





Policy, Governance and Security

- Policies designed by/for lowlanders
- Weak governance, tenure, rights, services and capacity
- “Frontier” people in the way of resource extraction
- Epicenters for conflict: natural resources, transportation, ethnic



Smuggling to neighboring country ↘

*Isolated
communities,
male out-
migration*

*National Park – “on paper”
Tourism impacts*

*Changing and extreme
temperatures and rainfall*

*Human-wildlife
conflict*

*Endemic
species at risk,
invasives*

Receding glaciers

Eroding new road

*Degraded
rangelands*

*Extreme
poverty –
unclear land
tenure*

*Deforestation,
erosion,
landslides*

Illicit Crops

Mining and leaching impact water quality

*Unsustainable
firewood harvesting*

*Seasonal water flow
variability affects millions
downstream ↘*

A “typical” mountain landscape faces many challenges.





We partner with mountain people to transform their livelihoods,
protect their cultures and thus conserve vital
natural resources for the planet.



Conservation and Environmental
Management

Cultural Empowerment

Gender Equity

Community Livelihoods

Education and Public Outreach

Enterprise Development

Policy and Governance

Poverty Alleviation