

The Sustainable Mountain Development and Conflict Transformation Global Database

PROPOSAL

The recent international attention, research, and literature focused on mountain communities and regions, and their particular challenges, calls for a database that will be used globally and be the single best site for the wealth of data relevant to these geographies and communities. Surprisingly, it seems no such database yet exists. The ICIMOD database is, for all its virtues, limited in many ways. I envision a database far closer to comprehensive than the ICIMOD, or any other database of which I am aware. Many international and regional organizations have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development and peacebuilding in mountain regions and communities. On December 2012, a Resolution was adopted and released to the public at the National Academy of Sciences in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic that called for the creation of this database. The conference delegates who called for this database included climate scientists, university administrators and faculty, NGO officials, and government officials from Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian states. The conference was co-sponsored by many organizations, including (to name a few): Utah Valley University, the Caucasus Institute and New Silk Road Program at Johns Hopkins University, the International University of Kyrgyzstan, the United Nations Development Programme, the (international) Mountain Partnership.

An *essential* tool in efforts toward sustainable mountain development and conflict transformation is access to a large and ever growing quantity of information. Only a database can provide the information necessary, it is the only tool that can provide this necessary function. The database will be essential for scholars, students, government officials, NGO officials, the United Nations, multilateral organizations, policy makers, and others. It will also be a site for asset transfer. For example, a state, NGO, or university may have resources or an asset that it is willing to transfer to another state, NGO, or community. Moreover a state, NGO, or university may need a resource or asset and communicate that need through the database. The database will make such communication and transfer more likely and possible.

Database Structure

The database will be organized into various categories, including the following, but far more categories than the following will be employed (written here in general and nontechnical terms and in no particular order):

- Anthropogenic climate change
- Ecology (there are many subtopics here)
- Water
- Agriculture
- Economics and Economic Development
 - o Labor and Migration
 - o Investment and Capital Transfer
 - o Social Entrepreneurship and investment
 - o Microfinance
- Education
- Culture and Religion
- Civil Society
- Law and Policy
- Religious organizations
- Women's Opportunities
- Youth and Children
- Urbanization
- Democratization
- Political Movements
- Conflict and Violence
- Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, Prevention, and Reconciliation
- Transitional and Restorative Justice
- Problems and problematics
- The United Nations
- Multilateral organizations
- NGOs
- Resources and assets needed
- Resources and assets held
- Resources and asset transfer costs and criteria
- Technologies (e.g., micro-hydroelectric power)
- Developing trends
- Developing solutions
- Important Texts and Documents
 - o Peace and conflict literature
 - o Peace and conflict institutions
 - o Sustainable development literature
- Countries
- Regions
- Communities

The above will, in time, be available in a number of languages, and translation of documents and sites will become an important function of the database.

Organizational Structure

The database can be co-owned by more than one institution. For example, perhaps Utah Valley University, Johns Hopkins University, and the International University of Kyrgyzstan would be equal partners in this venture. The project need not be limited to two partners. In at least one location, but not necessarily one, there will be a Database Center where a sufficient number of computers and related equipment will be used by employees who will build, sustain, maintain, and develop the database. The database will expand in various ways over time (for example, perhaps all text will eventually be offered in three or more languages). In addition to highly qualified professional employees, I suggest a Student Research Network whereby students around the globe receive stipends for sending useful data to the database.

Cost

From the start, in terms of USD, I suggest the necessity of:

5 computers with relevant equipment:	25,000
1 Program Manager (compensation and benefits, one year):	80,000
1 Research Manager (compensation and benefits, one year):	80,000
2 Research Associates (compensation and benefits, one year, each):	110,000
Room and overhead costs:	donated by university
Total cost for one year's operation:	\$295,000

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8 December 2012