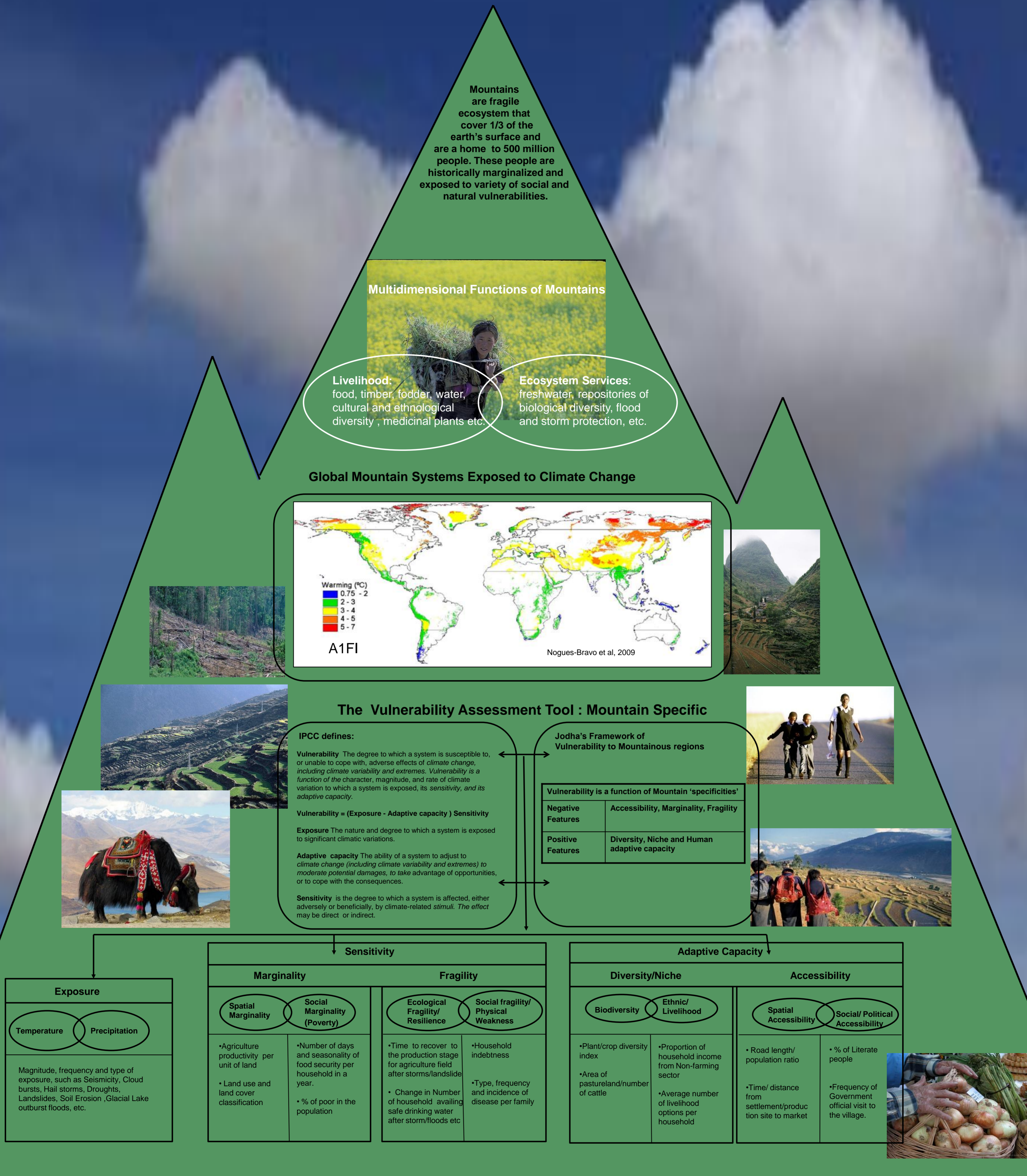


A View From the Top: Vulnerability and Adaptation in Mountain Systems

Mountain ecosystems are among the most vulnerable to climate change and in the frontline of adaptation to extreme warming scenarios. These extreme increases are projected to have major repercussions for regional hydrological systems through advanced glacial melting and also transform mountain livelihoods. These livelihoods are already among the most marginal and stressed, and the prospects of large-scale warming are likely to overwhelm existing coping mechanisms of local populations. This poster proposes a vulnerability assessment tool for these mountain livelihoods, building on the IPCC components of vulnerability: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. The tool will identify and apply a mountain-specific set of vulnerability dimensions and criteria, based on Jodha's framework on mountain specificities. The latter highlights the particular conditions and constraints for sustainable development in mountain regions, and calls for tailored development interventions. In a similar vein, we make a case that successful adaptation in these high-risk environments will depend on a sound assessment of mountain-specific climate vulnerabilities.



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