

# GROWTH AND MORTALITY ANALYSES IN AN UPHILL STRUGGLE? THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOUNTAIN FOREST COMMUNITIES IN THE ERA OF RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

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## ABSTRACT

*Climate change is altering the performance and distribution of species around the globe. An expected consequence is an upward shift of mountain forests, changing forest communities and a decrease in alpine area at high altitudes. However, climate change interacts strongly with land-use change, soil and water availability and other environmental limitations to substantially modify patterns of forest change that are witnessed compared with those predicted from temperature changes alone. I will discuss research investigating changes in forest distribution in mountain systems and their consequences for cooccurring organisms, and how we might gain a better understanding of regional changes in habitat availability.*