

1st International SUNRAISE conference

TRANSBOUNDARY REGIONS UNDER GLOBAL CHANGE: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORIES

Gorno-Altaiisk, Russian Federation

November 26-28, 2019

Outline

01. Organizers
 02. List of participants
 03. Conference objective
 04. Conference description
 05. Results
- Annex 1 - List of Participants
Annex 2 - Information Letter
Annex 3 - Conference Program
Annex 4 - Conference Proceedings



01. Organizers

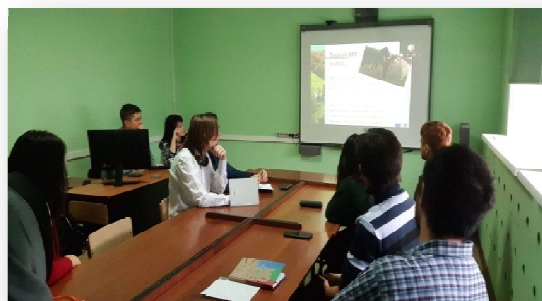
The conference was co-organized by Gorno-Altaiisk State University, Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve, Katon-Karagay National Park, Siberian Federal University, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Khovd State University, and the Branch of the Russian Geographical Society in the Altai Republic. The event was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

02. Conference participants

Totally the Conference gathered 55 in-person participants - scientists, students, representatives of NGOs and protected areas - from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Switzerland and different regions of Russia: the Altai and the Tyva Republics, Tomsk Oblast, Altai Krai, Krasnoyarsk Krai and Zabaikalsky Krai (please see the list of participants attached). Unfortunately, due to the flight delay Saint-Petersburg - Moscow the following participants from Bhutan, India, Estonia, Saint-Petersburg and Pskov missed their flight Moscow - Gorno-Altaiisk and were able to join the Conference only via Skype:

1. Joshi Bhagwati, Kumaun University;
2. Tiwari Prakash Chandra, Kumaun University;
3. Joshi Pawan Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University;
4. Tripathi Jayant Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University;
5. Lohmus Lagle, Estonian University of Life Sciences;
6. Jaak Kliimask, Estonian University of Life Sciences;
7. Henri Järv, Estonian University of Life Sciences;
8. Kalev Sepp, Estonian University of Life Sciences;

9. Katel Om Nath, Royal University of Bhutan;
10. Dorji Phub, Royal University of Bhutan
11. Likhacheva Olga, Pskov State University;
12. Sergunin Alexander, Pskov State University;
13. Sanotskaya Nadezhda, Russian State Hydrometeorological University;
14. Inyakona Alena, Russian State Hydrometeorological University;
15. Fertikova Ekaterina, Russian State Hydrometeorological University.



03. Conference background and objectives

Many countries attach significant importance to transborder cooperation initiatives, with transboundary regions seen as a key policy instrument for supporting sustainable development along their frontier. As such, transboundary regions entail a lot more than just a policy tool. Policies may act as an important driver of regionalization, however the regions themselves result from longer historical processes and from top-down dynamics. Fit and interplays between these drivers and existing international, national and subnational policies and governance frameworks represent an important dimension of the success of neighbourhood policies, and are important for achieving sustainable development goals nationally and beyond. To make it more complex, cross-border regions are also often homes to challenging biophysical, ethnic and cultural contexts, as well as uneasy socio-economic situations. International scholarly literature and policy documents do not offer plausible solutions to these problems and challenges. Organizing this conference, we had an ambition to fill some of knowledge gaps, or at least to contribute towards this. The geographical focus was on mountain regions and Arctic, in recognition of frontier nature of such areas, and due to high vulnerability of their ecological and socio-ecological systems. Relevant contributions from other areas were welcome as well, especially where

methodology or lessons learned were relevant for our core geographical focus (please see the Conference Information Letter attached).

04. Conference description

The plenary session was opened by the Rector of Gorno-Altaiisk State University and the Chair of the Branch of the Russian Geographical Society in the Altai Republic Valeriy G. Babin who pointed out the importance of international cooperation on conservation of natural and cultural heritage. Welcoming addresses were also made by the Acting Head of the Altai Republic Aleksei S. Tyukhtenev, the Deputy of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Ivan I. Belekov, the Director of Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve Alexander V. Zateev, and the Director General of the Katon-Karagaiskiy National Park Zhanbolat B. Tynybekov.



The conference became a platform for new ideas and open discussions. The participants presented more than 50 reports on both general issues of transborder cooperation and the results of their applied research (please see the Conference program attached).



A special attention was paid to the youth research projects presented at the separate breakout session.

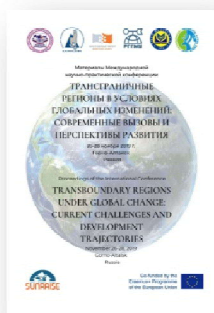
All presentations were met with a strong interest and attracted extensive discussions. Within the conference agenda there was also held a round table “Development of Massive Open Online Courses in Order to Promote Sustainable Development of Arctic and High Mountainous Areas.”



The conference was marked by the signing of a cooperation agreement between Katunsky Biosphere Reserve and Karatal-Zhapyryk State Nature Reserve of Kyrgyzstan.



05. Results



The conference resulted in a set of recommendations for future actions that should strengthen cooperation between transboundary regions and help their sustainable development.

The Proceedings of the Conference (ISBN 978-5-91425-171-7) include 66 articles.