

Table 1: Indicators of the "Skewed Perspectives" on Global Environmental Changes^{a)}

Elements prominently focussed	Elements under emphasised
<p>'Systemic' type of change:</p> <p>Focus on biochemical variables and their interaction processes relating to the functions and operation of geosphere and biosphere systems of the earth.</p> <p>'Geocentric perspective':</p> <p>Focus on physical dimensions, typically in the natural science framework; concentration on geobiological variables and their complex interaction patterns, with little direct incorporation of human dimension of changes and change-processes.</p> <p>Other associated aspects:</p> <p>Emphasis on long time horizon (decades/centuries), inter-generational issues; focus on terminal impacts involving selected variables (e.g., sea level, and temperature rise, shift of climatic zones, etc) affecting fundamental equilibrium of world system and atmosphere; analytical methods and material used involve high degree of complexity and sophistication, information on several unknowns, limited transparency (for uninitiated ones), multiple uncertainties, and conjectural nature of predictions.</p> <p>Advocacy and action:</p> <p>High 'scarce and noise' potential of issues covered, (e.g., doomsday predictions); approaches to abate/adapt to changes: obstructed by uncertainty of change scenarios, induce higher discounting of the potential options, inject vagueness about gains and sacrifices and create more panic and debate than concrete action.</p>	<p>'Cumulative' type of change:</p> <p>Localised and widely replicated changes in different variables and process of resource use, (when accumulated) influence the global systems.</p> <p>'Anthropocentric perspective':</p> <p>Primacy of nature-society interactions with focus on their importance to the society; potential mechanism for understanding and handling 'cumulative changes' (with some possibility of influencing impacts of 'systemic changes'.</p> <p>Other associated aspects:</p> <p>Sensitivity to both intra-generational and inter-generational issues; analytical approaches simpler and oriented to integration of change processes in current problem-solving mode; predictions, action/advocacy focus on short or medium planning horizon, greater ease and possibility of associating causes, consequences of and responses to change; greater possibility of integrating geocentric and anthropocentric perspectives.</p> <p>Advocacy and action:</p> <p>Possibility of evolving options within the received (and modified) framework of handling current crisis situations in local contexts; greater scope for clearly associating cost and benefits, greater certainty of potential options and their easy acceptability to decision-makers; possibility of dual purpose options to handle current and future 'impacts'.</p>

a) Source: Table adapted from Jodha (1990c)

For various issues and examples which could fit into the following grouping of perspectives see Price (1990), Turner et al. (1990), Flavin (1989), Jodha (1989), Glantz et al. (1988), Clark (1985), Chen et al. (1983), and Kasperson et al. (1990).

Table 2: People's Traditional Adaptation Strategies in Response to Mountain Specificities

Adaptation Measure	Mountain Specificities ^{a)}				
	I	F	M	D	N ^{a)}
Diversification and Self-provisioning:					
o Spatially, temporally interlinked activities	x	x		x	x
o Local resource-focussed recycling, self-provisioning		x		x	x
o Scattered settlement patterns	x			x	
Folk Agronomy:					
o Annual - perennial plant complementarities (farming-forestry linkages etc)		x	x	x	
o Cultivars of varying attributes		x	x	x	
o Fallowing, rotations, topo-sequencing, intercropping	x	x	x		x
Ethno Engineering:					
o Slope management (terracing, etc.)		x	x		
o Protective vegetation, contour farming		x	x		
o Traditional irrigation/drainage management			x	x	x
o Small-scale transport logistics (ropeways, trails, donkey tracks, etc)	x				
Collective Arrangements:					
o Common property resources		x	x	x	
o Social regulations for use/protection of fragile resources		x			
o Community irrigation systems, etc			x	x	x
o Crisis period sharing systems	x	x	x		
Upland-lowland Linkages:					
o Petty trading in specialised mountain products (with high value, low weight etc).				x	x
o Periodical migration	x				
o Transhumance	x	x			
o Externally planned extraction of mountain 'niche'	x	x			x

Source: Table adapted from Jodha 1990a.

The following letters stand for the respective mountain characteristics: I = Inaccessibility, F = Fragility, M = Marginality, D = Diversity, N = 'Niche'.