# Adaptive governance of water resources and risks through continuous monitoring and citizen science



#### Wouter Buytaert and the Mountain-EVO team



### Climate change and water resources

- Low data availability
- Deep uncertainties
- A need for flexible, no regret strategies

-> Increasingly, "predict and control" based approaches are being replaced by more **adaptive** approaches to **governance** of natural resources and risks





collection & citizen science construction, simulation, and prediction

policy support systems

### Polycentric governance of natural resources

### New technologies for environmental sensing

#### Sensor networks





#### oxfloodnet.co.uk







# Participatory monitoring

- Precipitation and river discharge
- Responding to local questions on land-use impacts
- Local buy-in and participation

Iniciativa Regional de **Monitoreo Hidrológico** de Ecosistemas Andinos





# Knowledge generation

- ICT, web technologies
- Multilevel, multipurpose, multidirectional
- Integration of heterogeneous data & knowledge
- Polycentric models of data curation, knowledge co-generation, and governance

Karpouzoglou, T., et al. (2015). Environmental Virtual Observatories (EVOs): Prospects for knowledge co-creation and resilience in the Information Age. COSUST, 18, 40–48.



# Visualization and communication







# Part of a bigger "data revolution"

### Opportunities

- Increasing adoption of technologies by the poor
- Need for evidence-based decision-making
- Facilitating the involvement of marginalized communities
- Increased openness and transparency



#### frontiers in EARTH SCIENCE

#### Citizen science in hydrology and water resources: opportunities for knowledge generation, ecosystem service management, and sustainable development

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The participation of the general public in the research design, data collection and interpretation process together with scientists is often referred to as citizen science. While citizen science itself has existed since the start of scientific practice, developments in sensing technology, data processing and visualization, and communication of ideas and results, are creating a wide range of new opportunities for public participation in scientific research. This paper reviews the state of citizen science in a hydrological context and explores the potential of citizen science to complement more traditional ways of

### Thank you

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