



# Transdisciplinary Case Study 2014

Alpine Systems und Global Change: The example of the Saas Valley, Valais

# The topic of the Transdisciplinary Case Study 2014

- The central question is:
  - If and what results of inter- and transdisciplinary projects (such as the Mountland project) have had an impact in a case study region?
- Related to that are more detailed questions
  - Can one measure some direct or indirect outreach?
  - How can data (project results) be compiled and edited to meet stakeholder demands?
  - Is it possible to build a meta-model using models and results from Mountland? How can this be communicated to potential stakeholders?

## Case Study embedded in .... the Mountland project

- Inter- and transdisciplinary endeavor
- Funded by Competence Center Environment and Sustainability
- Phase I: 2008 – 2012
- Phase II: 2012 – 2015
- Study areas: mountain regions
  - Jura, Visp-Region (Valais), Davos (Grison).
- Case study region of the TdCS 2014 is the **Visp-Region**

## About the Mountland project

- Goal was to establish a research network analyzing the provision of *mountain ecosystem goods and services* under global change in an integrative framework
- Inter- and transdisciplinary structure (from the beginning)
  - Stakeholders from the region have been involved to different degrees at different project phases
  - Several workshops have been conducted

## Key features of the Mountland project

- Various disciplines collaborated from the very outset
  - Combining methods from economics and the political and natural sciences
- Coupled human-environmental systems perspective
  - Analyze ecosystem functioning and management in mountain regions
- Explicitly considering feedbacks
  - Global change conditions (climatic and socioeconomic)
  - Changing socioeconomic and political conditions on land use
  - Adaptation to climate

## Key persons from the **Mountland team** that join the Case Study board

- Dr. Andreas Rigling (Mountland PI)
  - Head of the Research Unit Forest Dynamics; WSL
- Dr. Robert Huber (Mountland project coordinator)
  - Research Unit Forest Dynamics, WSL
- Prof. Willi Zimmermann
  - Environmental Policy and Economics; D-USYS, ETH
- Prof. Harald Bugmann
  - Institute for Terrestrial Ecosystems; D-USYS, ETH.

# Introduction of the 2014 Td Case Study Board



Seidl



Krütli



Rigling



Huber



Zimmermann



Bugmann



Adler



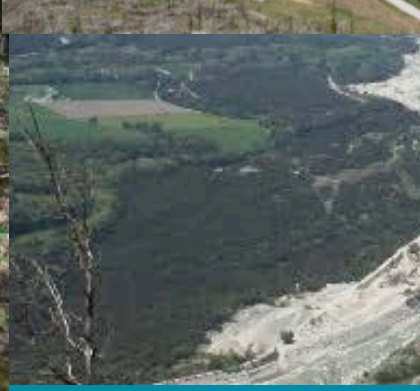
Snell



Robleda



Gallati



# The case study area

The Saas Valley (Saastal) from Visp to Saas-Fee



# ...from Visp to Saas-Fee





View from Visp – the high mountains are everywhere



## Forest and infrastructure



Getting higher



The glacier



## Infrastructure



Need to maintain convenience



## Tourists

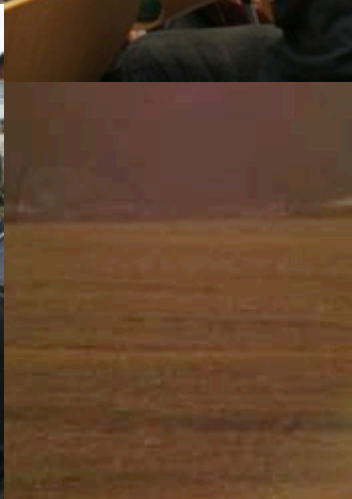
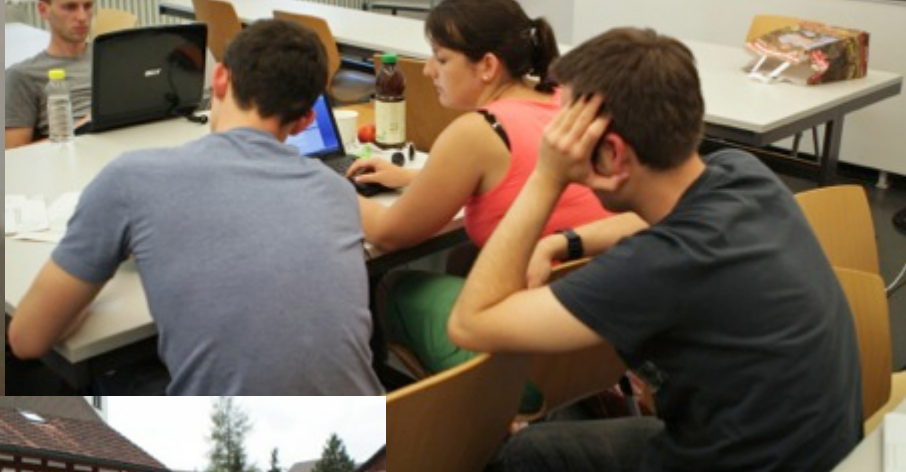
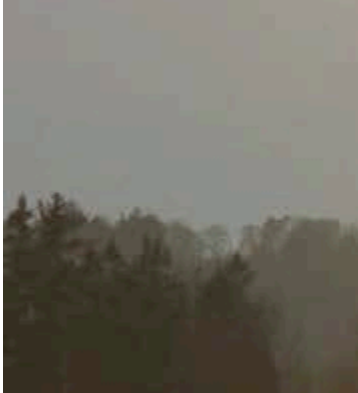
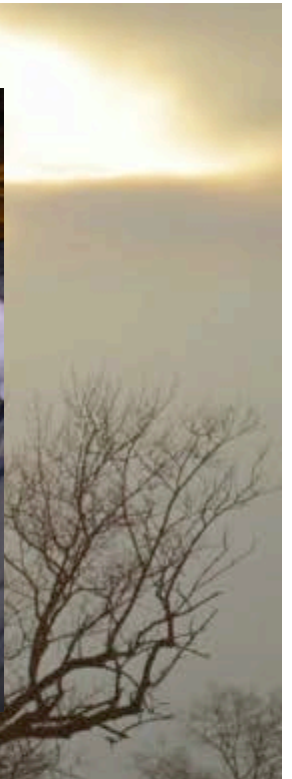


# The Case Study ... is different



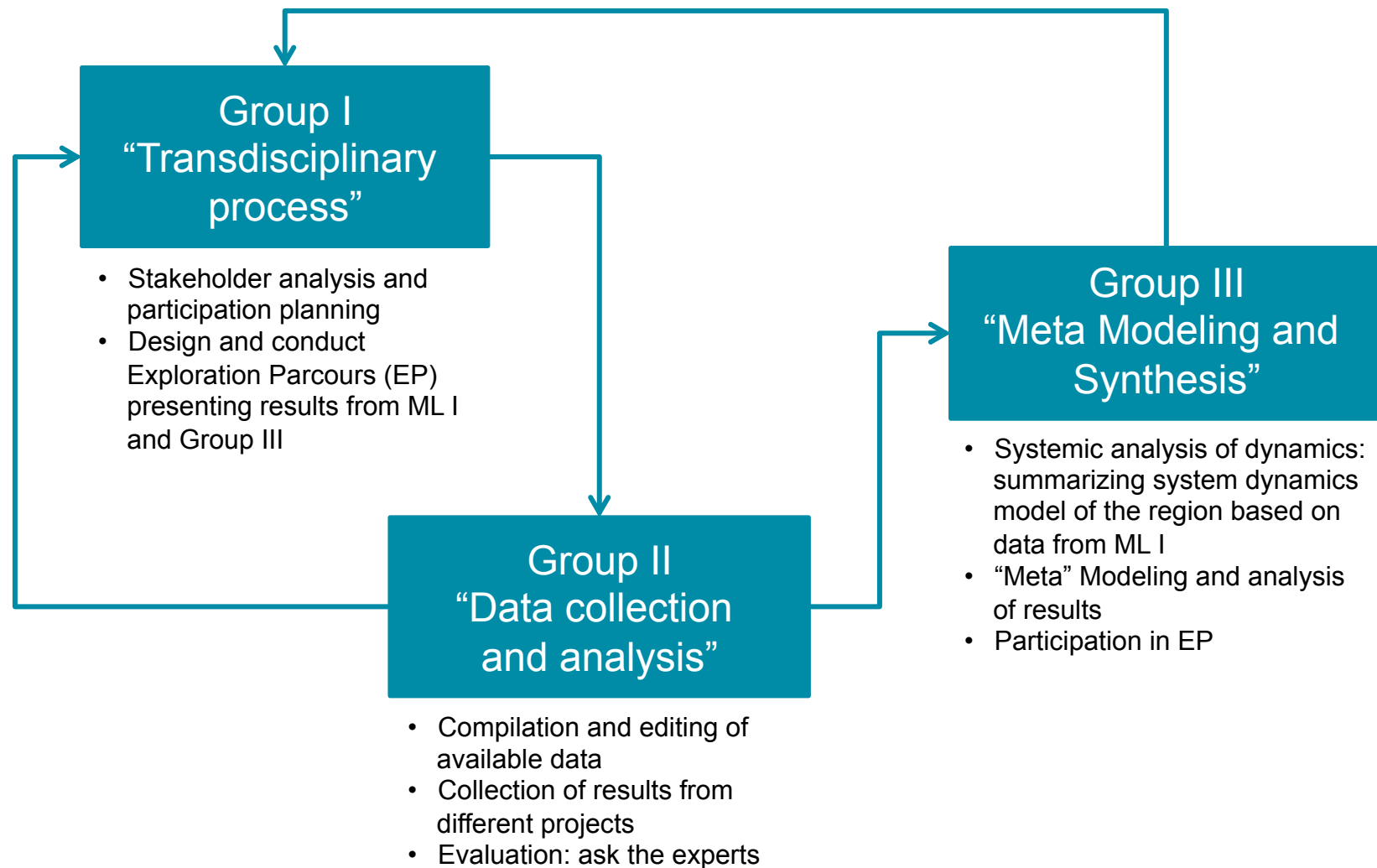
## The Case Study ... is different

- You work in groups
  - Interdisciplinary, last years from at least three different MSc
  - Multi-culturally, last years from more than six countries
- You work individually when the project demands it, you are responsible for individual tasks within the group
- You learn to design your research, formulate research questions and hypotheses, collect and analyze data, write a research report by doing it
- You work together with stakeholders from practice
  - you organize and experience a mutual learning process with practice,
  - discuss your research idea and results with different stakeholders





# Three groups



## TdCS 2014: schedule [7 Credit points in total, approx. 210 h work]

- Kick-off two days (Fri – Sat, February 21 – 22, 2014)
  - Case area visit: day 1 Visp, day 2 trip to Saas Fee
- Further Schedule
  - 14 Wednesday afternoons (13-17)
  - February 19 – May 28, 2014  
(plus add. approx. 1.5 hrs. homework per week during semester)
  - One block week after Easter: Wed – Fri, April 23 -25, 2014
  - Three block weeks (just after end of semester)
    - June 2 – 18, 2014 (a full week & 4 days in second week)
    - (Tue – Fri => Pentecost) & 3 days, Mon – Wed, of third week)
    - Finalizing workshop to be planned in Visp second to last day of TdCS. One final meeting after this workshop for recap

## BSCW – Server

- We use a specific folder on the BSCW Server for data exchange and repository for your work
- <http://bscw-app1.let.ethz.ch/bscw/bscw.cgi/13601957>
- You will be granted access
  - Receive an e-mail with the link
- You will find updated information and folders to upload your presentations and working group results