

Arctic-Alpine Environments and Tourism: Can Sustainability be Planned? Lessons Learned on Svalbard

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The Arctic is a region of spectacular and diverse mountain environments. One example is the Svalbard Archipelago in the Norwegian high arctic. Despite its remote location in the Arctic Ocean, Svalbard has an astonishingly diverse economy based on coal mining, arctic research, and the island's geostrategic importance. In recent years, tourism has become increasingly important, with more than a fourfold

increase in tourists from the 1970s to the 1990s. This development poses serious threats to the island's highly vulnerable arctic-alpine environment. A management plan for tourism and outdoor recreation has been prepared in recent years, with a view to safeguarding the unique environment and keeping tourism development within environmentally sustainable and commercially acceptable boundaries.



FIGURE 1. Spitsbergen (northwest coast), one of the world's last wilderness areas. Svalbard has a total area of 63,000 km², of which approximately 50% is covered by glaciers. The environment is arctic-alpine. The major islands contain rugged peaks, the highest of which rise to just above 2,700 m, as well as fjords, broad valleys, and mountainous plains. Average temperatures are higher than at comparable latitudes in the Canadian or Siberian Arctic, and the west coast is free of ice during most of the year. Favorable climatic conditions foster a relatively diverse terrestrial and marine life. Some of the largest seabird colonies in the North Atlantic are found here. Seals and walrus are abundant, as are polar bears, arctic reindeer, and the arctic fox. The vegetation cover varies from polar desert to lush tundra, and 560 species of higher plants have been identified. (Photo by author)

Arctic And Alpine Environments

Jack D. Ives, Roger G. Barry



Arctic And Alpine Environments:

Arctic and Alpine Environments Jack D. Ives, Roger G. Barry, 2019-10-08 Originally published in 1974 Arctic and Alpine Environments examines the relatively simple ecosystems of arctic and alpine lands that still occupy extensive areas little disturbed by modern technology The book argues that there is a necessity for carefully controlled development of the resources of these regions and suggests that there is a risk of irreversible disturbance without full understanding of these regions This book provides a detailed documentation of cold stressed arctic and alpine terrestrial environments and systematically deals with the present and past physical environment climate hydrology and glaciology biota treeline vegetation vertebrate zoology and historical biogeography abiotic processes geomorphological and pedological and the role of man bioclimatology archaeology and technological impact including radioecology The book will appeal to academics and students of environmental and biological science as well as providing a significant source for conservationists government agencies and industrial organizations Arctic and Alpine Environments International Association for Quaternary Research, 1968

Arctic and Alpine Biomes Joyce A. Quinn, 2008-09-30 This volume in the Greenwood Guides to Biomes of the World series covers the biomes at high altitudes and near the poles including the arctic tundra biomes the Mid Latitude Alpine Tundra Biome found in the mountain ranges of North America Asia and South America and the tropical alpine tundra biome for example Hawaii

Arctic and Alpine Environments Herbert E. Wright, 1968 Arctic Alpine Ecosystems and People in a Changing Environment Jon Børre Ørbaek, Roland Kallenborn, Ingunn Tombre, Else N. Hegseth, Stig Falk-Petersen, Alf H. Hoel, 2007-01-10 This book addresses the significant environmental changes experienced by high latitude and high altitude ecosystems at the beginning of the 21st century Increased temperatures and precipitation reduction in sea ice and glacier ice the increased levels of UV radiation and the long range transported contaminants in arctic and alpine regions are stress factors that challenge terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems The large natural variation in the physical parameters of these extreme environments is a key factor in structuring the biodiversity and biotic productivity and the effect of the new stress factors can be critical for the population structures and the interaction between species These changes may also have socio economic effects if the changes affect the bio production which form the basis for the marine and terrestrial food chains The book is uniquely multidisciplinary and provides examples of various aspects of contemporary environmental change in arctic and alpine regions The 21 chapters of the book are organised under the fields of Climate change and ecosystem response Long range transport of pollutants and ecological impacts and UV radiation and biological effects each also including aspects of the Socio economic effects of environmental change The introductory chapter presents and explains the internal connection and integration of all chapters The added value of these reviews and review like manuscripts from different disciplines hopefully yields new information about the integrated aspects of environmental change

Arctic and Alpine Environments. Proceedings International Association for Quaternary Research, William

Sherman Osburn, Herbert Edgar Wright, National Research Council (U.S.), 1968 **The 28th International Arctic Workshop**, 1998 **Arctic and Alpine Environments** International Association for Quaternary Research. Conference, International Association for Quaternary Research. Congress, 1968 **Source-to-Sink Fluxes in Undisturbed Cold Environments** Achim A. Beylich, John C. Dixon, Zbigniew Zwoliński, 2016-07-07 Provides the first quantitative overview of global source to sink fluxes in cold climate environments for graduate students and researchers Hearings, Reports and Prints of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Environment and Public Works, 1980

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