



# ON THE TRAILS OF THE GLACIERS

Photography and science in defense of an environment  
on the verge of globally significant climate change



Karakorum  
2009

Caucasus  
2011

Alaska  
2013

Andes  
2015

Himalaya  
2017

Alps  
2019





## The Project

“On the Trails of the Glaciers” is a photographic-scientific project conceived and developed by Italian photographer Fabiano Ventura in collaboration with a specialized technical and creative team and an ad hoc international Scientific Committee.

The project, combining analytical photographic comparison with scientific research techniques, pursues the aim of analyzing the effects of global climate change studying the collapse of the Earth’s largest mountain glaciers.

## Methodology

Through a series of expeditions to the world’s longest mountain chains, the project team takes glaciological measurements and shoots high definition photographs at the same time of year and from exactly the same spot where photographers and explorers took photographs in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

The photographs are realized with large format film cameras in order to obtain the best overlap with historical images, the best resolution quality and guarantee their documentary value.

## Scientific Purposes

Climate and environmental changes have given rise to the rapid disintegration of huge glacial masses with environmental consequences which are still not completely understood. Combining documentary and scientific approaches, the project aims to gather unique data on the recent dynamics of glacier movements and on the state of health of test case glaciers in Karakorum, the Caucasus, Alaska, the Andes, the Himalayas and the Alps.

## Communication Purposes

Through an original fusion of innovative scientific research and comparative photography techniques the project aims to contribute to the general public’s understanding of issues such as:

The importance of sustainable development and the conservation of the world’s natural resources, in particular water resources;

The importance of biodiversity;

The role of scientific research in raising awareness and understanding of environmental issues;

The restoration and safeguarding of photographic archives, recognizing their value as historical and cultural heritage.

## Past Expeditions

The initial three expeditions were to Karakorum (2009), the Caucasus (2011) and Alaska (2013) with all the mission objectives being met in terms of data collected, comparative photography and in communicating the scientific significance and purpose of the project to a wider public.

## Future Expeditions

With the same objectives and operating methodology the upcoming expeditions are at various stages of the planning process: Argentinian and Chilean Patagonia during the winter of 2015-2016 to further the TEMATIC scientific project (TEsting Methods And Techniques for Investigating the Cryosphere); the Himalayas in 2017 and the Alps in 2019.





## Results in Figures

- 3 expeditions
- 60 repeat photography
- 3 research programs
- 8 universities and research institutions engaged
- 14 glaciers analyzed
- 3 television documentaries broadcast internationally
- 6 cities hosting the travelling photographic exhibition
- 39 conferences, conventions and public screenings
- 300 articles on the Web
- 73 articles published in print media
- 31 radio and television broadcasts

## Documentaries

During each expedition the SD Cinematografica Film Production Company made a documentary in the "On the Trails of the Glaciers" series. The first two documentaries produced to date have been broadcast by TV companies including ZDF, ARTE, RTSI, RAI and NHK.

## Exhibitions

The travelling exhibition which accompanies the project displays over 60 large-format comparisons of new and archive photographs and includes an interactive video installation with a 4x3 meter screen and modern and vintage camera equipment displayed side by side. The exhibition has been hosted by internationally important museums and institutions such as the Messner Mountain Museum in Firmian (Italy).

## Financing the Project

"On the Trails of the Glaciers" is financed through public and private bodies; income from the sale of information content produced by the project; and backing received from commercial and technical sponsors who share the project's core values.



## Project staff

**Fabiano Ventura**

*Project Creator, Manager and Photographer*

**Claudio Smiraglia**

*Scientific Manager*

**Roberto Dall'Angelo**

*Documentaries Production and Distribution*

**Dario Orlandi**

*Communication Strategies*

**Gianni Boschis**

*Educational Outreach Programs*

**Giuseppe Garimoldi**

*Photography Historian*

**Letizia Oneta**

*Fund raising, Italy*

**Pasquale Cimaroli**

*Communications and graphic*

**Claudio Palmisano**

*Digital Images post production*

**Manuela Spartà**

*Scan and Restoration of Archive Photographic Material*

**San Trin Dinh**

*Digital Image Composition*

**Valentina Varoli**

*Archive Research*

**Michela Mazzali**

*Press Office*

## Scientific panel

**Professor Claudio Smiraglia**

*Università Statale di Milano (Italia)*

**Professor Kenneth Hewitt**

*Waterloo University (Ontario, Canada)*

**Professor Roman Motika**

*Fairbanks University (Alaska, USA)*

**Dr. Bruce Molnia**

*U.S. Geological Survey*

**Dr. Christoph Mayer**

*University of Munich (Germany)*

**Dr. Stefano Urbini**

*Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Rome (Italy)*

**Dr. Riccardo Scotti**

*Università di Milano Bicocca, Milan (Italy)*



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## Institutional Relations

Alaska State Library  
 Embassy of the United States of America in Rome  
 Embassy of Georgia in Rome  
 Embassy of Italy in Islamabad  
 Embassy of Italy in Tblisi  
 Embassy of Italy in Washington  
 Embassy of Pakistan, Rome  
*Associazione Ardito Desio*  
 Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic  
 Italian Glaciological Committee  
*Fondazione Sella*  
 Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska  
*Meridiani Società Scientifica*  
 Messner Mountain Museum Firmian  
 Ministry of the Environment, Georgia  
 Ministry of Culture, Georgia

Ministry of Defense, Georgia  
 Ministry of Internal Affairs, Georgia  
*Museo Nazionale Preistorico-Etnografico L. Pigorini*  
 National Snow and Ice Data Center  
 Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers, Rome  
 Reinhold Messner  
 Royal Geographical Society  
*Società Geografica Italiana*  
 The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library  
*Università Statale di Milano*  
*Università "La Sapienza", Rome*  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 U.S. National Archives and Records Administration  
 U.S. National Park Service  
 World Glacier Monitoring Service

## Support and Sponsorship



## Sponsors



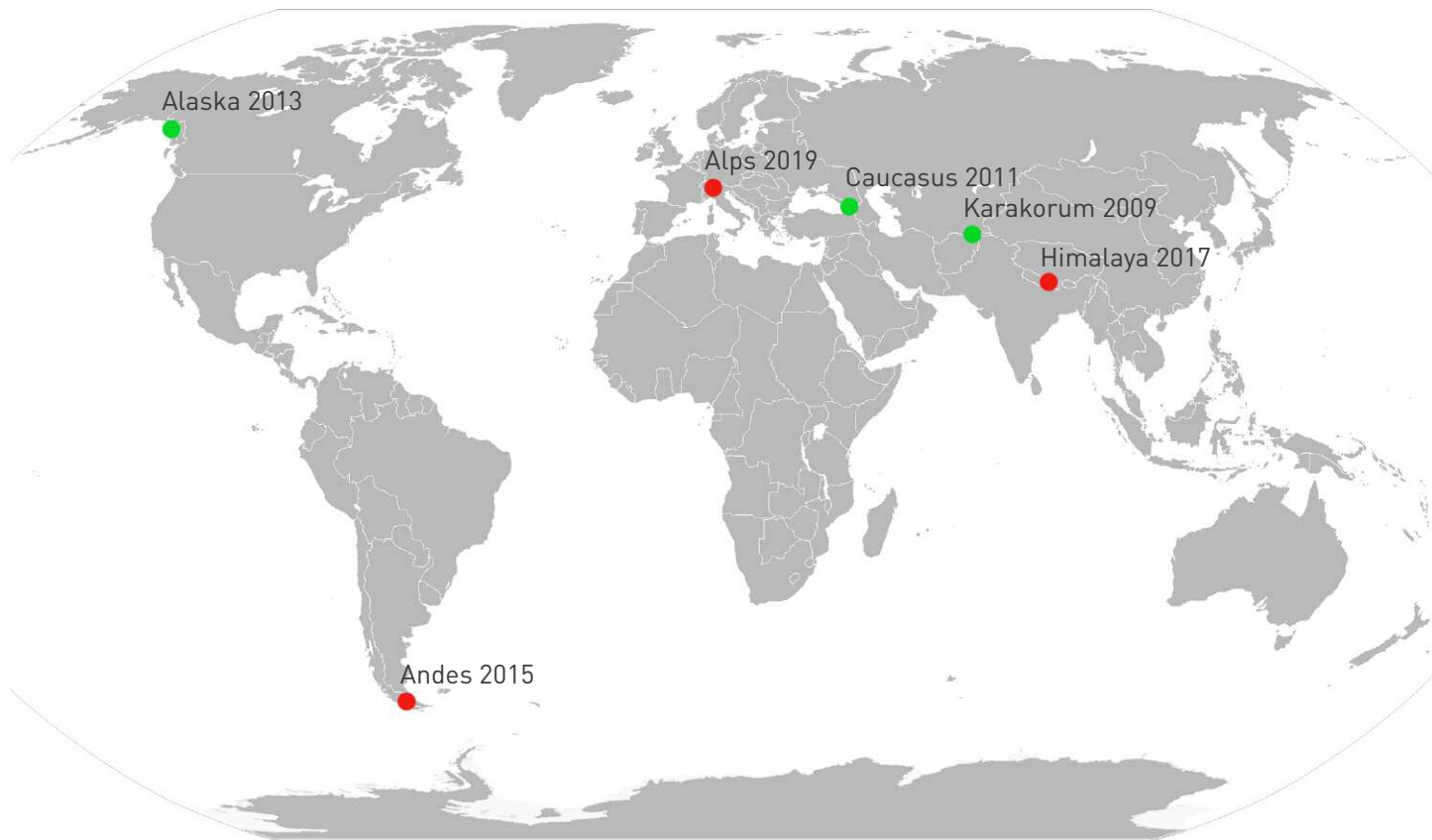
## Technical Sponsors







## The project expedition



Karakorum 2009



Caucasus 2011



Alaska 2013



Andes 2015



Himalaya 2017



Alps 2019

# On the Trails of the Glaciers

is a project by



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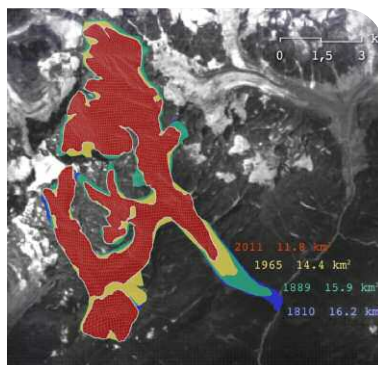
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