MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES

WHY MOUNTAINS MATTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
A CALL FOR ACTION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)
CLIMATE CHANGE AdAPTACTION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) IN MOUNTAINS: A CALL FOR ACTION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Sustainable mountain development should be a global priority given the multitude of ecosystem goods and services that mountains provide, among the most important is water. Many countries are relying on mountains to provide the essential water services needed for social and economic development. Mountains are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and other pressures such as forest fires and overgrazing. The loss of forest cover and the degradation of natural vegetation lead to reduced water quality and quantity, an important indicator of climate change and its effects on mountain communities and ecosystems.

The following actions are needed:
1. Identify and promote mountain ecosystems and sustainable management practices.
2. Increase awareness of the threats climate change and natural disasters pose to mountainous areas.
3. Develop and implement strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
4. Strengthen the role of communities in mountain areas in decision-making processes.
5. Enhance data availability and accessibility related to climate change and disaster risks.
6. Promote mountain ecosystem services and biodiversity.

`THE CHALLENGES`

- People living in mountain regions are among the world's poorest. 245 million people in the world live in poverty. The impact of climate change on mountain communities is mainly dependent on subsistence agriculture and livestock, making them especially vulnerable to changes from average climate conditions and climate extremes.
- Mountain communities are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which can lead to increased water scarcity, reduced agricultural productivity, and increased risk of natural disasters.
- The combination of climate change and other pressures such as deforestation and overgrazing can lead to increased poverty and increased risk of natural disasters.
- The sensitivity of mountain communities to climate change can lead to increased poverty and increased risk of natural disasters.

`THE OPPORTUNITIES`

- Enhancing adaptation and resilience within mountain communities can lead to increased poverty and increased risk of natural disasters.
- Mountain communities have a wealth of knowledge and strategies to adapt to climate change, including traditional knowledge and local knowledge.
- Mountain communities can adapt to climate change by developing and implementing strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

While these recommendations specifically target mountain regions, they may also apply to other regions.