MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES

Sense of place, spiritual value, sport and tourism

Weather formation

Indicators of global changes

Water storage

Regulation of natural hazards, carbon storage, watershed protection

Mineral resources

Natural pastures

Hydropower potential

Water provision

Food products

Biodiversity, unique flora and fauna

Traditional knowledge and products

Genetic resources, wild fruit-nut forests

Recreation, health services (hot springs)

Contributing Organizations:

Austrian Development Cooperation

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Federal Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

UNEP

Mountain Partnership

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Sustainable mountain development should be a global priority given the multitude of services that mountains provide, among the most notable being water for half of humanity for drinking, irrigation and energy production. The pressing need to alleviate poverty in mountain regions is another reason for concerted action. Mountain people, who are among the poorest in the world – are key to maintaining these mountain ecosystems, which provide essential environmental goods and services to the global community.

Following the inclusion of mountains in Chapter 13 of Agenda 21, the action plan endorsed by the ‘Earth Summit’ in 1992, and the recent decision by the UN sustainable development commission, various stakeholders call for mountain issues to be covered by the SDGs, which will address topics relevant to mountains, such as energy.

The following actions are needed to protect fragile mountain ecosystems and communities in particular in developing countries:

- Recognize the invaluable contribution of mountains to the food, water and energy nexus;
- Recognize the potential for mountain countries to develop sustainable energy and energy efficiency solutions, which can contribute to the goals of energy security, climate resilience and economic development;
- Promote and expand sustainable energy and energy efficiency solutions in mountains including through: sustainable hydropower development, biomass, wind, solar and geothermal energy, while preventing and minimizing negative environmental and social impacts on mountain ecosystems and communities;
- Create and improve policies, frameworks and incentives to promote investments in sustainable energy solutions in mountain countries, also to spur opportunities for public-private partnerships;
- Improve access for mountain communities, in developing countries in particular, to modern, reliable and affordable sustainable energy solutions;
- Support the establishment of mountain-related targets and indicators for the.reduce specific Sustainable Development Goals related to energy.