



1. Title

Degradation and Sustainable Use of Mountain Soils

2. Type

Commission Symposium: Comm. 3.5-Soil Degradation Control, Remediation, Reclamation

3. Organizer(s) & Convener

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4. Rationale

Mountain soils are an often undervalued or even overlooked resource. Mountain soils deliver valuable services such as agricultural products, wood production, animal farming, hydrological services (flood prevention, drinking water supply) and last but not least recreational services. Even though mountain soils cannot compete with the economic output of arable lowland soils, the value of mountain soils for agricultural production might increase in many countries in the near future with climate and land use change becoming more dramatic.





5. Objectives

The symposium aims at getting together researchers from all over the world to discuss the main problems connected to the degradation of mountain soils as well as the possibilities and examples for their sustainable use. One focus of the workshop will be the progress in methods development to describe and predict degradation of mountain soils. We will try to set the focus of the workshop to implementation of successful method development and positive examples of sustainable use.

6. Description

We will invite speakers to cover the broad range of fields important to discuss degradation and sustainable use of mountain soils, covering the geomorphological view, the influence of winter and snow processes, influence of water, vegetation, soil carbon storage and export, and land use. We thus expect soil scientists with backgrounds ranging from geomorphology, glaciology, biogeochemistry, hydrology, botany, agriculture and forestry as well as the social sciences.

