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
Prof. Dr. Christine Alewell
Environmental Geosciences
Department of Environmental Sciences
University of Basel
Bernoullistrasse 30
CH - 4056 Basel
Tel: 41-61-267 0477
Fax: 41-61-267 0479
Email: christine.alewell@unibas.ch

Prof. Dr. Ji-Hyung Park
Department of Environmental Science & Engineering
Ewha Womans University
Seoul 120-750
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82-2-3277-2833
Fax: +82-2-3277-3275
Email: jhp@ewha.ac.kr

* Convener
Dr. Katrin Meusburger
Environmental Geosciences
Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Basel
Bernoullistrasse 30
CH - 4056 Basel
Tel: 41-61-267 3631
Fax: 41-61-267 0479
Email: Katrin.Meusburger@unibas.ch

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.