

## **Towards indicators for sustainable mountain development – synthesizing from recent projects on environmental change**

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The UN's 193 Member States jointly agreed in September 2015 to reach 17 global goals with specific targets for sustainable development by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs). The foundations of the goals as well as their review mechanisms are both inscribed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SDGs are based on the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental sustainability) and contain elements of peace, justice and effective institutions. They are a logic follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals, but with stronger elements of monitoring and reviewing. Therefore, in order to achieve the targets set by the SDGs, progress towards the targets requires close monitoring and evaluation. In this presentation, we address the issue of measuring progress towards sustainable development in selected projects located in mountain areas around the world. The projects are in the field of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, which are priority targets enshrined in the SDGs. We give examples of how successful implementation of these projects can be understood in terms of measuring sustainable mountain development and we make a first attempt at defining a robust set of quantitative indicators of sustainable mountain development. Finally, we discuss how these indicators can be used by national and international environmental agencies and organizations to serve the needs of sustainable (mountain) development, and to meet the SDG targets. In line with the idea of the goals, our projects have a global focus including both developing and developed countries.