



MANAGING MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY FOR **better lives**



GMBA/Ch. Körner



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FAO/R. Faldutti



G. Prieto

Mountains are storehouses of biodiversity – they host about half of the global biodiversity hot spots. Mountain biodiversity ensures soil stability on steep slopes and provides fresh water, food, timber, medicine and recreation for most of us. Mountain people have developed highly diverse cultures and land use systems with a great variety of locally adapted crops and livestock.

The intensive use of resources by humans puts this unique biological and cultural heritage at risk of extinction. However, encouraging approaches for mountain biodiversity management exist, such as the establishment of protected areas, conservation landscapes and Payment for Environmental Services (PES); these serve both biodiversity conservation and human needs.

The International Mountain Day 2006 with its theme of “Managing Mountain Biodiversity for Better Lives” promotes awareness and action for the sustainable management of mountain biodiversity for the benefit of all.

