



Glaciers and climate change

Occupying 24% of the Earth's surface, mountains and their adjacent valleys are **home to 1.2 billion people**.

The importance of mountains as a source of fresh water justifies their reputation as **"water towers"** of the world.

They provide numerous and diverse sources of ecosystem services, with water supply one of the most critical. About **40% of the world population depends indirectly on mountain resources** for water supply, agriculture, hydroelectricity and biodiversity.

Mountains are among **the most sensitive ecosystems to climate change** and are being affected at a faster rate than other terrestrial habitats. Climate impacts form an important threat to mountain ecosystem services and the populations depending on them, and have considerable effects on water resources. Many **glaciers are retreating** under the influence of rising temperatures, making them key indicators of climate change.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/resources/communication-materials/exhibitions/climate-change-impacts-on-mountain-regions-of-the-world/>, adaptation



A comparison of the **Pizol Glacier**, in Switzerland, in 2006 and in 2018.

True or False?

1. Mountains are home to 3 billion people and occupy 8% of the Earth's surface. T F
2. Mountains are considered the "water towers" of the world. T F
3. About 40% of the world population depends indirectly on mountain resources. T F
4. Climate change represent an important threat to mountain ecosystem. T F
5. Many glaciers are increasing under the influence of rising temperatures. T F