

Why mountains matter in SDG 15 the Mountain Green Cover Index

SDG Indicator 15.4.2: Mountain Green Cover Index

- **2014/15:** Six High Level events in NY involving about 80 governments
- **2015 - Agenda 2030:** Three mountain related targets are included: **6.6**; **15.1** and **15.4**
- **2016:** Mountain Green Cover Index adopted as one of the official indicators for target 15.4:
“By 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development”
- **2017:** Mountain Green Cover Index is recognized by UNSD as a Tier I indicator:
“Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant”

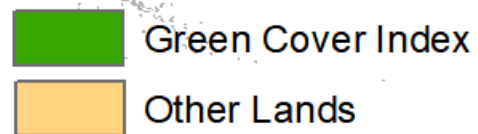
Definition

- **Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- **TARGET 15.4:** By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits essential for sustainable development
- **SDG Indicator 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index:** measures the changes of green vegetation and land cover in mountain areas - i.e. trees, shrubs, grassland, cropland, wetland, settlements, other land (IPCC) – to monitor progress on the mountain target
- **Methodology** published on scientific journal “Science”: global mapping of forests in dryland areas; used by more than 20 countries for their land use assessments for UNFCCC.
- Developed by **FAO Mountain Partnership Secretariat and ESS**

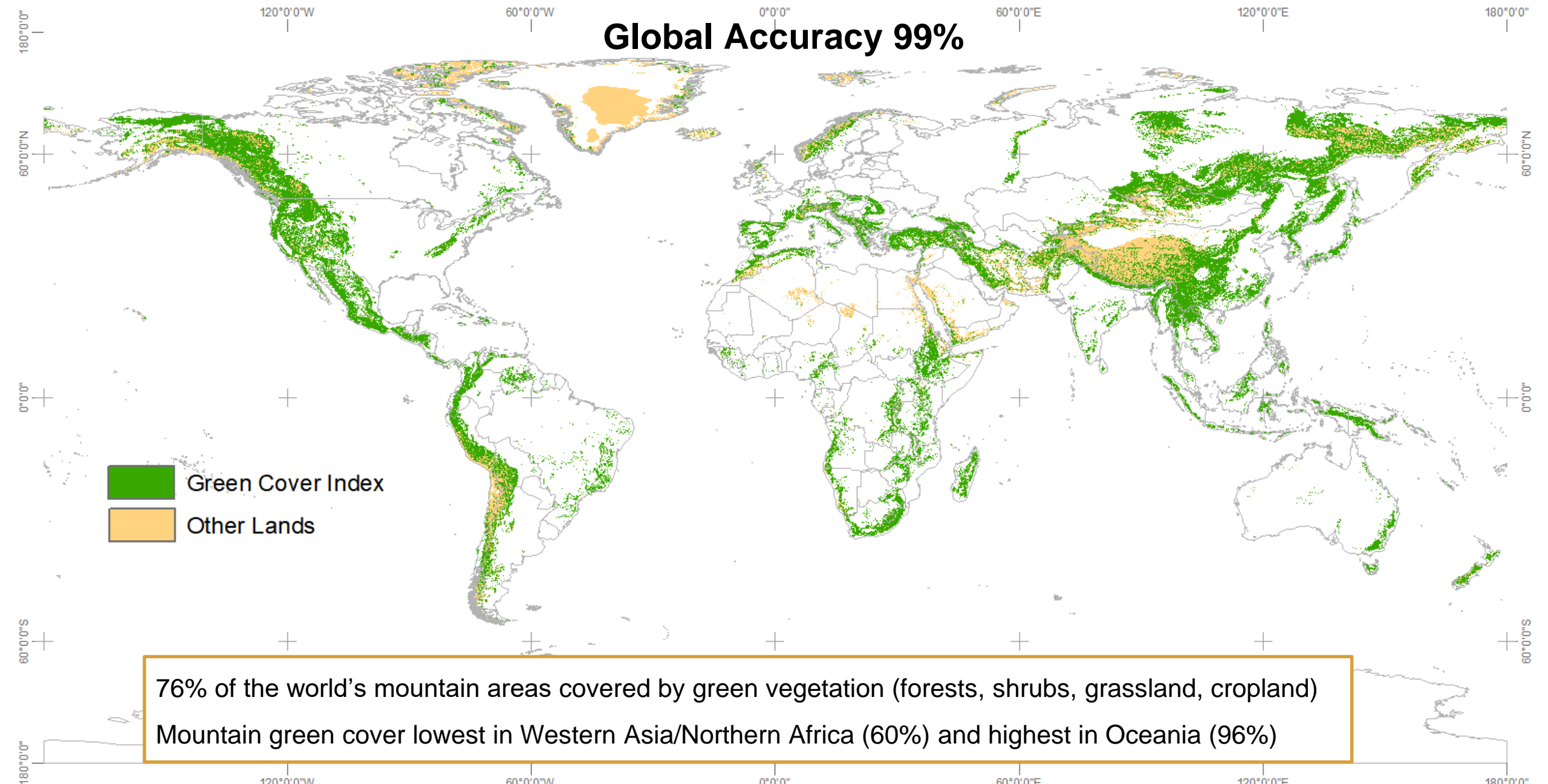


Mountain Green Cover Index (Forest + Cropland + Grassland) – baseline 2017

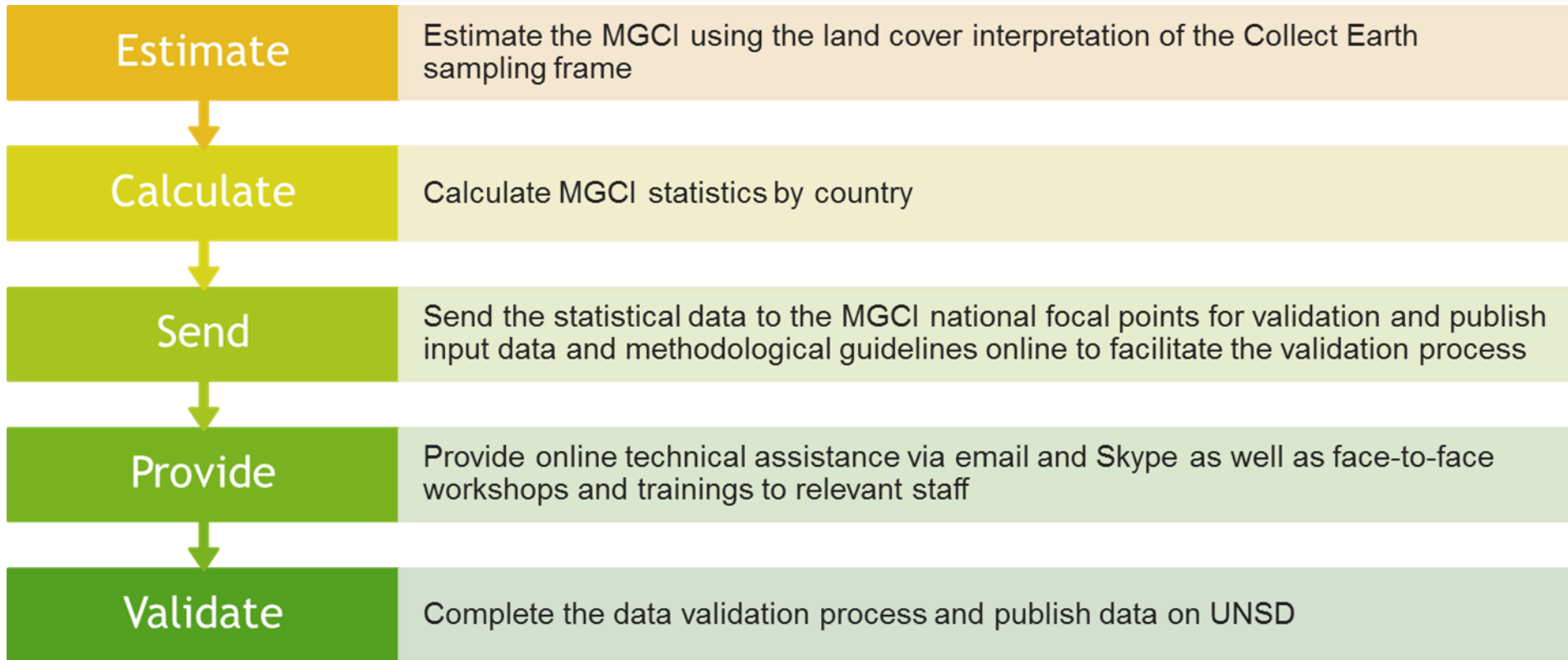
Global Accuracy 99%



76% of the world's mountain areas covered by green vegetation (forests, shrubs, grassland, cropland)
Mountain green cover lowest in Western Asia/Northern Africa (60%) and highest in Oceania (96%)



The validation process



Validated: 26 Countries

Pending Validation: 162 Countries

Capacity development

● Workshop Dec 2017:

- Organized before the validation process was started
- Target: political authorities attending the 5th MP Global Meeting
- 11 countries attended (Bolivia, **Burundi**, Cameroon, Congo, **Costa Rica**, Cuba, Jamaica, **Lesotho**, **Malawi**, Nepal, Tunisia)

● Workshop Nov 2018:

- Target: national SDG focal
- Aim: validation and collection of additional points (increasing data accuracy at national level)
- Budget: FAO allocated 57,000 USD
- Outcome: Manual drafted and tested during the course
- 17 countries attended (Armenia, **Azerbaijan**, **Brazil**, Cameroon, Chile, **Costa Rica**, Dominican Republic, India, **Iraq**, **Jamaica**, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, **Peru**, **Serbia**, Tanzania, **Turkey**)

The way forward

- **2020 - New measurement** of the MGCI in order to assess the changes
- **Cooperation with countries** in order to improve the **accuracy** of the indicator (>plots)
- **Cooperation with countries** in order to increase **data validation**
- **Further capacity development workshops**
- **Further analysis of green cover change** by altitude and land cover/use classes
- **All MP members** should lobby with relevant government's departments/units in order to increase the countries' commitment to the indicator