

UNSG report

Recent advances of research and training on mountain forests - BOKU activities from 2007 - 2009

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Mountain forests and mountain forestry are explicitly mentioned as areas of prime importance in the development plan of BOKU for research and teaching. Apart from research activities in forests of the Austrian Alps, the Department of Forest and Soil Sciences at BOKU is currently conducting forest research for development in the Himalayas with a long-term research partnership, (FORED) in Bhutan and with projects in Nepal. In East Africa, projects in Ethiopia aim at improving livelihood by forest restoration. With an international Master of Science in Mountain Forestry, BOKU acknowledges the need for formal education in mountain research and science. By 2009, more than 90 students from 20 countries have graduated from this course. More than half of the graduates are from Nepal, Bhutan and Ethiopia. In relation with this master course, an international conference on *Mountain Forests in a Changing World* was organised in 2008. The aim of the conference which had 120 participants from 30 countries was to present advances in mountain forest research in the context of sustainable management of mountain areas in the light of global change, and to evaluate the role of academic training in sustainable mountain forest management. The conference was organised by the Department of Forest and Soil Sciences at BOKU in collaboration with IUFRO, the Mountain Partnership and UNEP. A training workshop, “Mountain Forestry Development: Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy,” organized by the IUFRO SPDC program, was held just before and in connection with the conference.

List of abbreviations

BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
FORED	Forest Research for Development partnership
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
IUFRO - SPDC	IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme