

European Forestry Commission

Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds



Overview

The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds [WPMMW] addresses management of water resources, protective forests and disaster risks in mountain watersheds. It tackles challenges such as soil and biodiversity conservation, torrent control, flood mitigation, avalanche and landslide management and restoration of degraded lands. For over five decades, WPMMW has successfully established dialogue among European mountain stakeholders, such as national policy-makers, technical services, international bodies, researchers and local authorities, and helped to develop a common vision on best practices to promote sustainable development in mountain watersheds.

WPMMW is a member state-driven technical body operating under the umbrella of the European Forestry Commission (EFC), a regional commission established by FAO in 1947. A Steering Committee provides its programmatic orientation and facilitates its activities. FAO provides the Secretariat, supporting members in

terms of logistics and joint initiatives while increasing the visibility of projects. Two Working Groups, one on forests and water and one on hazards and disaster risk management in mountains, put strategic concepts of WPMMW into practice and support the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge among scientists, practitioners and decision-makers.

Vision

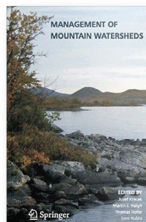
- promote sustainable development in mountain regions
- enhance the resilience of mountain regions increasingly suffering impacts from climate change, natural hazards and human pressures
- ensure the long-term provision of environmental services both upstream and downstream of watersheds

Goals

- support EFC member countries to increase knowledge, enhance capacities, disseminate best practices, implement new methods and technologies, monitor developments and exchange experiences for the sustainable management and conservation of mountain ecosystems
- exchange policy advice on integrated approaches to sustainable mountain development and conservation, watershed management, risk management and forest hydrology, and promote their linkages to the green economy
- build bridges between science and practice and track implications of global issues such as climate change, disaster risk management and the valuation of watershed ecosystem services
- provide on-site training and international exchange for practitioners
- improve mountain livelihood systems and the security of mountain ecosystems

Activities

WPMMW members share information on the policies and activities related to mountains and mountain watersheds in their countries. They exchange and advise on practices to promote sustainable development and good practices in mountain watersheds, encouraging their replication within the region and even worldwide. WPMMW reports highlighting areas for priority action are made available online for wider distribution. In 2012,



WPMMW experts published the book *Management of mountain watersheds* to provide evidence-based advice for watershed management practitioners. Annual workshops held by WPMMW contribute to capacity development for practitioners, technical experts, researchers and government representatives.

Partners

WPMMW collaborates with experts from many international organizations and processes: Forest Europe; the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) initiative Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP), led by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP); the Mountain Partnership; the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (EFIMED); the International Consortium on Landslides; UN-Water; the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

For more information read: www.fao.org/forestry/37705



Participants of the Working Party Session on Management of Municipal Watersheds in Mountain Regions. Prague, 2017.



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