



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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Mountain sustainability

Building capacity to promote the sustainable development of mountain communities and ecosystems

Partnership with the University of Torino

Mountains are crucial for the sustainability of our planet. They provide freshwater, energy, food and biodiversity to at least half of the entire world's population. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat at FAO has signed two cooperation agreements with the University of Torino, Italy – in 2008 with the Department of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (DISAFA), and then in 2019 with the Interdepartmental Centre on Natural Hazards in Hilly and Mountain Areas (NatRisk) – to provide training on themes linked to sustainable mountain development and to build on the university's expertise.

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITIES:

- The main activities of these agreements focus on capacity development. The International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) – a joint effort of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat at FAO and the University of Torino – offers training to practitioners, technicians and officers of governmental institutions, and public, private and non-governmental organizations on the sustainable management of mountain areas. Courses available over the summer months teach participants how to assess the potential ecological and social impacts of different management policies.

Beneficiary countries



Source: United Nations Map No. 4170 Rev. 18.1, February 2020

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PARTNERSHIP MILESTONES

- 2008** Partnership established with the University of Torino (DISAFA)
- 2008** Implementation of the first IPROMO course
- 2019** Partnership established with the University of Torino (NatRisk)

CONTRIBUTING TO



KEY RESULTS

01

Since the beginning of the collaboration in 2008, IPROMO has offered training to hundreds of professionals mostly from mountainous developing countries through a two-week full immersion summer school on sustainable mountain development in Ormea, a mountain town in northern Italy.

02

The course trains practitioners, technicians and officers from governmental institutions and NGOs on the sustainable management of mountain areas characterized by high ecological, social and economic complexity.

03

The course also provides participants with an opportunity to better understand the potential ecological and social impacts of different management policies. Particular emphasis is placed on involving local communities in the management of mountain ecosystems and economies, learning from experiences, and accessing innovations and traditional knowledge.

04

The collaboration between the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the University of Torino has produced a joint publication on mountain soils as a contribution to the International Year of Soils (2015).

05

In 2017, the University of Tuscia joined the partnership. The course now takes place in both Piemonte and Trentino, where the new partner has a training facility in Pieve Tesino.

LOOKING FORWARD

A comprehensive survey carried out after 10 years provided positive results and feedback for the improvement and scaling up of the course:

- 90 percent of participants said their career has benefited from participating in the IPROMO course.
- 95 percent of participants shared the IPROMO presentations with their colleagues.
- 85 percent of participants remain in contact with other participants and have developed joint activities.
- Current plans include the publication of a technical manual for the sustainable management of mountain soils.

CONTACT

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AREAS OF COLLABORATION

FAO and the University of Torino work in partnership to develop capacities for the sustainable management of mountain areas with high ecological, social and economic complexity.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF TORINO

The University of Torino was founded in 1404 and currently has about 70 000 students, 4 000 academic, administrative and technical staff. The campus of the Department of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences, located in Grugliasco, Italy, is well equipped with laboratories and field research sites, and is renowned for its excellence in both fundamental and applied research. A high-elevation laboratory for snow and alpine soil research is located on the Monte Rosa Massif, 2 901 metres above the sea level. The department cooperates with many international research centres, universities, governmental and non-governmental institutions around the world. DISAFA and NatRisk's in-depth knowledge of mountain soils, forest, agriculture and alpine glaciers make the University of Torino an ideal partner for research and education in these fields.



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