

European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

Working Group: Hazards and disaster risk management in mountains



The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds operates under the umbrella of the European Forestry Commission. Its activities are organized into two main working groups: Working Group 1 addresses issues related to forests and water, and Working Group 2 focuses on hazards and disaster risk management in mountains. Working Group 2 was created in 2013 at the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party.

Objectives

- Identify and spread good practices and techniques for hazards and disaster risk management in mountain areas.
- Build capacities of technical practitioners and other human resources through joint analysis of specific issues related to natural hazards and forests.

How?

European specialists undertake case studies at annual technical workshops. Experience has shown

this to be the best format for exchanging knowledge and comparing methods. Moreover, these thematic and training workshops at times answer to specific needs on-site.

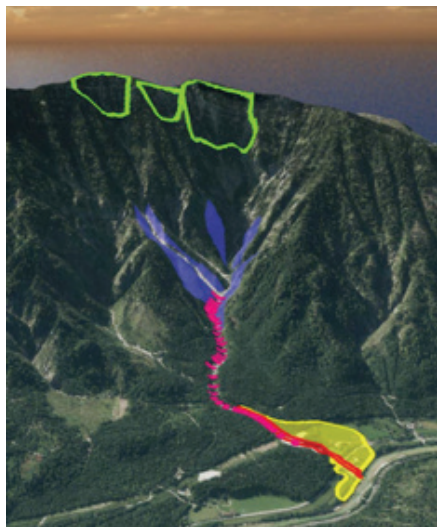
Who is involved?

All member countries of the European Forestry Commission are welcome to participate in or host the activities of the working group. Eight countries participated in the most recent workshops. Currently, Austria and France lead the working group.

Outputs

The main output of the technical workshops is the sharing of experience and capacity building. The workshops bring together a large panel of expertise. Through peer learning, participants widen their knowledge to embrace new contexts, techniques and methods.

Workshops further enable comparative analysis of national approaches on specific topics related to



From workshop 2018 in the Kesselbach catchment, Austria: avalanche starting zones (green), highly erodible torrent-slopes with high avalanche impact (blue), functional technical measures in the main channel (pink), hazard zones (yellow/red)

natural hazard management in mountains. The presentation of good practices provides countries with valuable information for enhancing national policies.

Working Group 2 intends to provide highly qualified specialists to intervene in cooperation projects related to natural hazards and the protective functions of forests.

Achievements

Thematic workshops and case studies:

- hazard zone mapping and the integration of the protective functions of forests [France, 2014]
- event documentation and hazard mapping [Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014]
- woody debris management [Austria, 2016]
- sediment and woody debris transport regulation in torrential catchments [France, 2017]
- effects of forest and check dams on water surface, bedload input and debris earth flow in Alpine watersheds [Austria, 2018; France, 2019]
- on-site training and international exchange for practitioners

For more information: www.fao.org/forestry/89331



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