UNECE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FORÊT 2019

EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WPMMW)

"Protective Functions of Forests in a Changing Climate: The European Experience"

Forêt2019 – Joint Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission

7 November 2019, 13.15-14.45 hrs Geneva, Switzerland

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Sustainability and Tourism

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Federal Ministry
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Sustainability and Tourism

FORÊT 2019

Welcome and Introduction

Johannes Hangler

Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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- Austria Chair of Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds 2019- 2021
- Focus on policy- science-practitioner dialogue
- Exchange best practice, transfer knowledge, foster training and border cooperation

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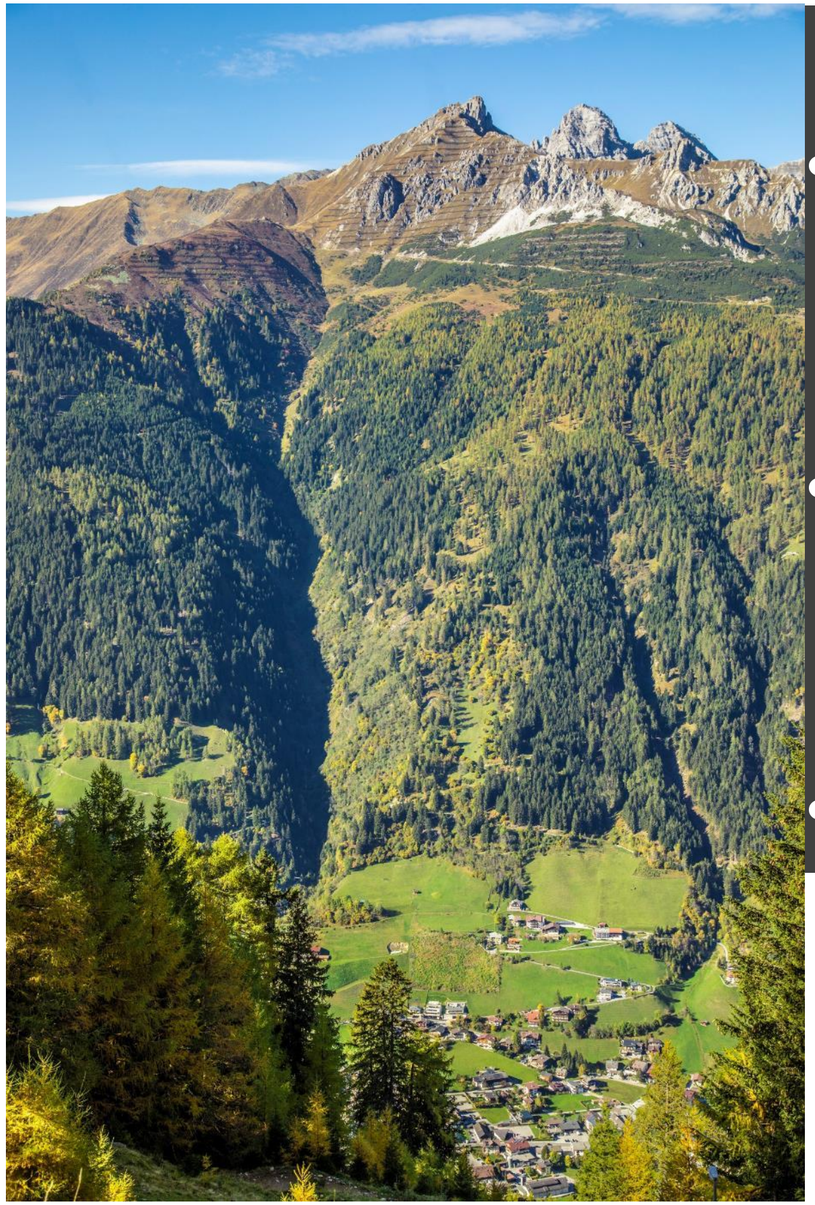

- Rich tradition in natural hazard management and DRR
- Exchange on Climate Change Impacts
- Protective Functions of Forests

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Challenges

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WPMMW
Working Group 3 “Protective Forests”

- Workshop in Traunkirchen 2020

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Program

13.15 – 13.25	**Welcome and Opening Remarks**
13.25 – 13.35	Overview of the Working Party and Working Groups
13.35 - 13.45	Science View on Protective Functions of Forests
13.45 – 14.25	Presentations of Country Reports (France, Austria, Norway)
14.25 – 14.45	Discussion and Closing Remarks

EFC WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MOUNTAIN WATERSHEDS

NOVEMBER 7, 2019
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

OVERVIEW OF THE WORKING PARTY

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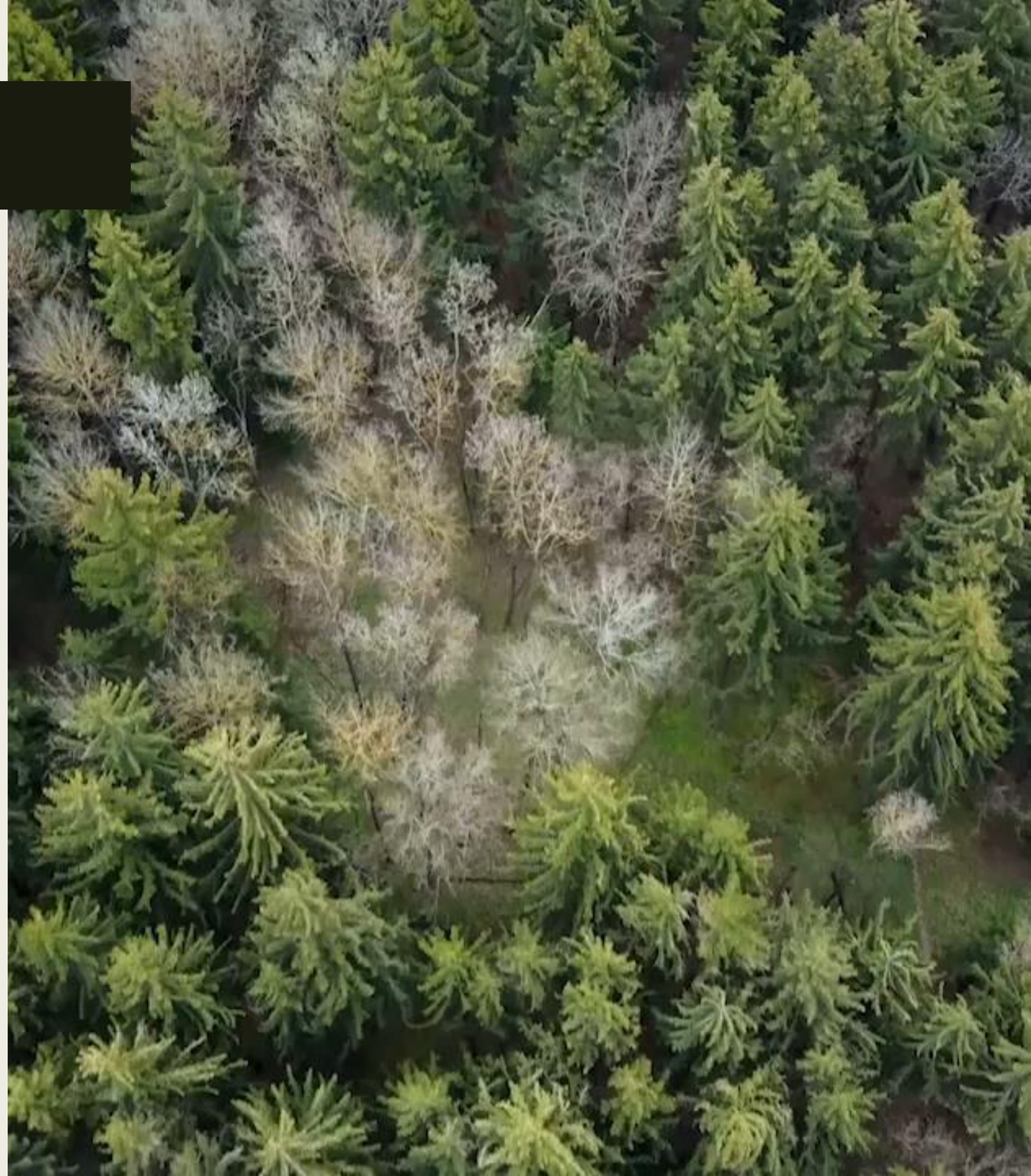
Vision

Promote sustainable development in mountain watersheds with a view to enhance resilience to climate change and natural disasters and to ensure the long-term provision of environmental services by watersheds for both upstream and downstream areas.



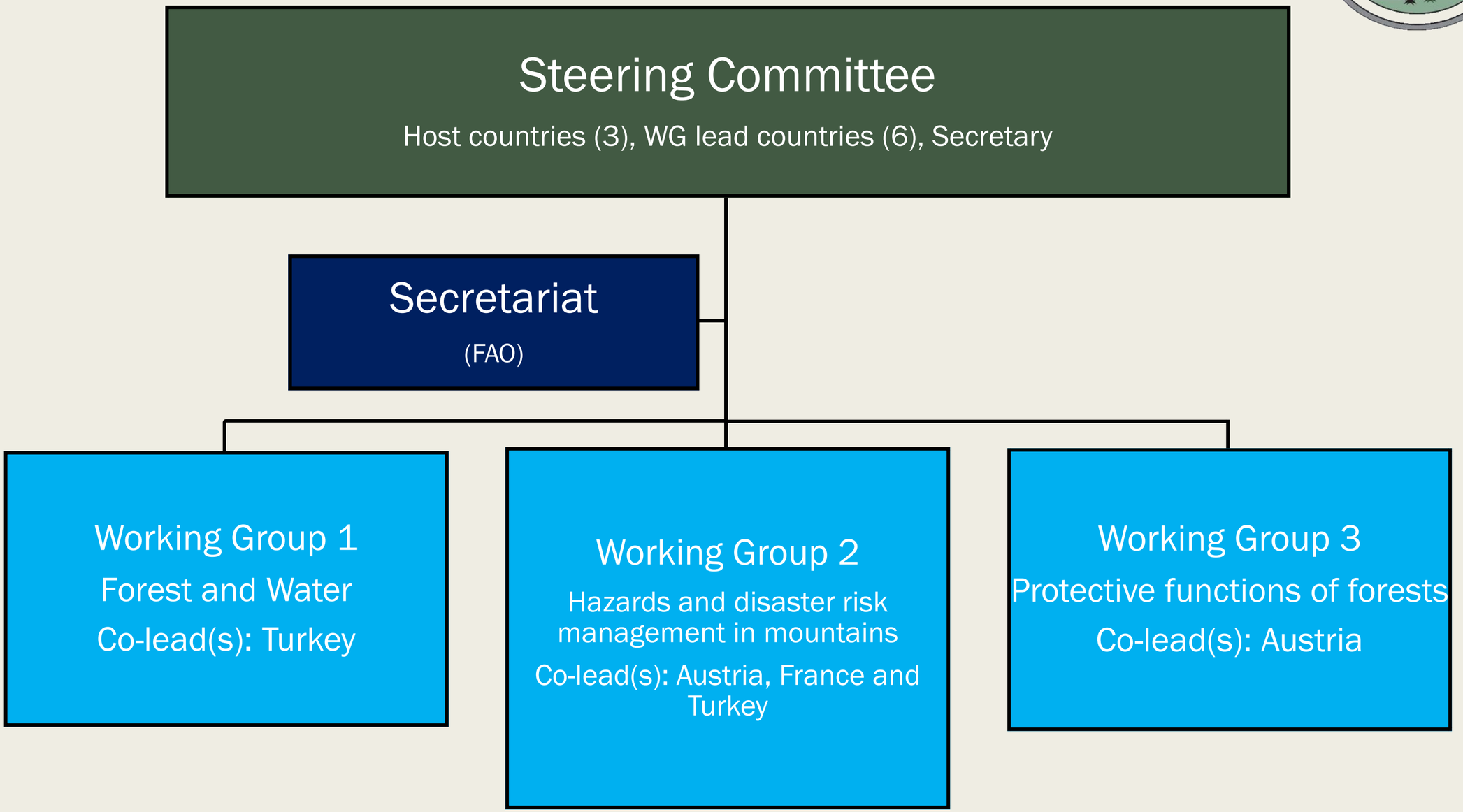
Mission

- Raise awareness, increase knowledge, enhance capacities, assess and disseminate knowledge on the management of mountain watersheds.
- Fill knowledge gaps and provide policy advice regarding an integrated approach to sustainable mountain development and conservation, watershed management and forest hydrology and link with Green Economy.
- Create bridges between science and practice concerning climate change impacts and disaster risk management, valuation of ecosystem services and promote Green Economy.
- Improve the livelihood systems in mountain areas.

Institutional Framework

- ***Country-driven, technical body*** under the umbrella of the EFC integrated into the joint work plan of UNECE/FAO.
- Member countries officially designate a ***“focal point” from a government-related agency***
- WPMMW & SC are chaired for ***2-year term by the host country of the last session***
- Implementation of Technical activities by ***thematic or regional Working Groups*** (WGs)
- ***Collaboration*** with countries of the UNECE, Mediterranean region, research institutions, NGOs, etc. & partnerships with IOs

Working Party Governance Structure



Current members of the EFC WPMMW

11 out of 20 members attended the 32nd Session

3 new members as of Nov 2019:

- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Slovenia

Albania	**Italy**
Austria	**Norway**
Belgium	**Poland**
Bulgaria*	Russian Federation
Czechia	Serbia
Finland	**Slovakia**
France	**Slovenia***
Georgia	Spain
Germany	Switzerland
Greece*	**Turkey**

WORKING GROUP 1

FOREST AND WATER

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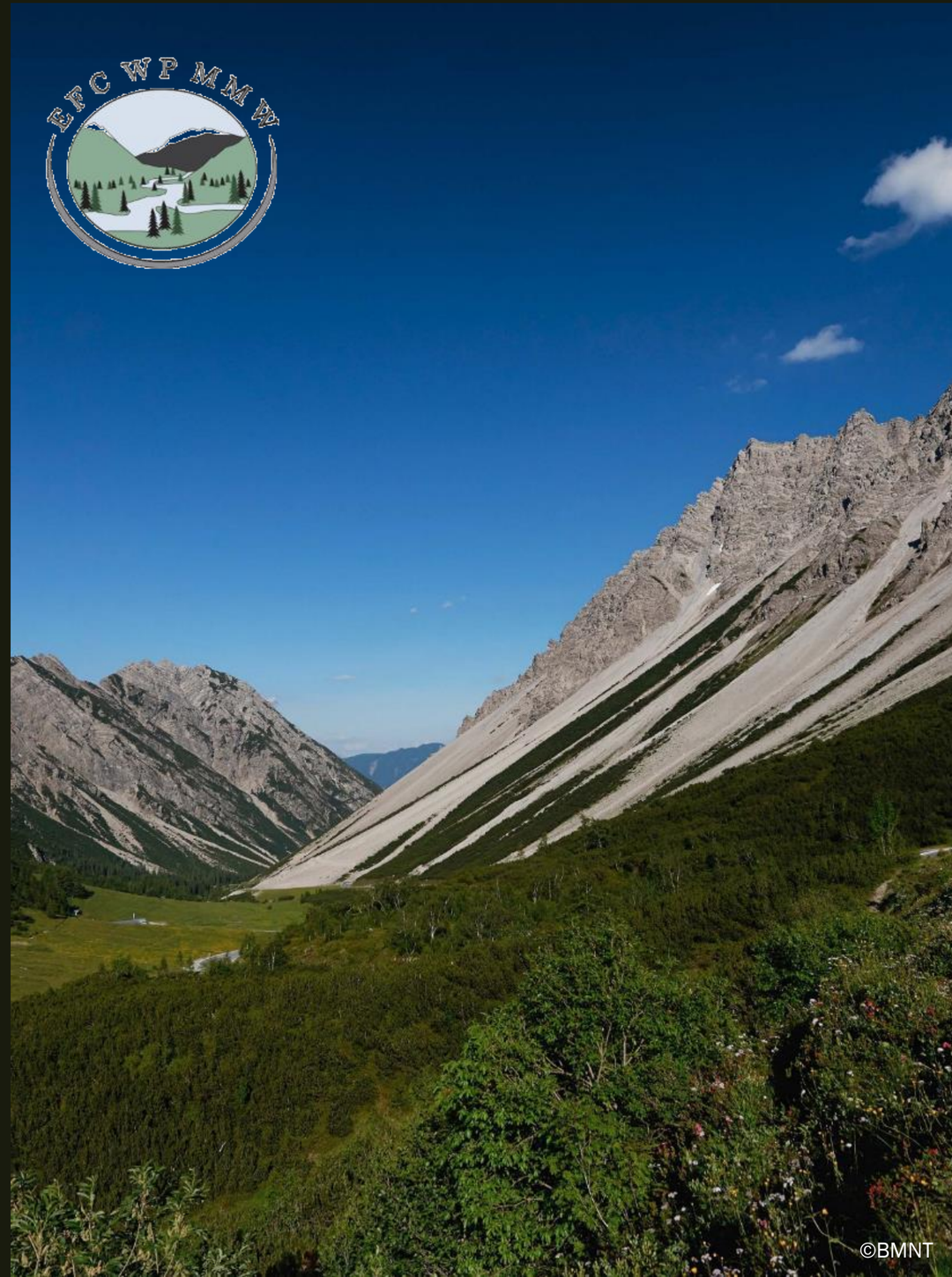
WORKING GROUP 2

HAZARDS AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN MOUNTAINS



WORKING GROUP 3

PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS

Recent activities

- 32nd session of Working Party, Innsbruck, Austria
- Working Groups' workshops
- Publication of flyers
- Website updates

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European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

send by email

Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WPMMW) is a technical body under the umbrella of the European Forestry Commission (EFC), established in 1950, that promotes sustainable development in mountain watersheds by tackling the many challenges faced in mountain watersheds and ensuring the long-term provision of environmental services by watersheds for both upstream and downstream areas.

For over five decades WPMMW has successfully established a dialogue instance among European mountain stakeholders and allowed a common vision on best practices to promote sustainable development and enhance resilience in mountain watersheds.

EFC WPMMW

Soil and biodiversity conservation, water management, restoration of degraded lands, protective forest management and torrent-control in mountain watersheds are important challenges which require the collaboration of all the actors involved in the rational utilization of soil and water resources. The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds brings European mountain stakeholders together to promote sustainable development in mountain watersheds and the rational utilization of soil and water resources.

Working Groups

The Working Party is continuously working to shape and react to emerging issues of global importance, maintaining an active reflection on the relevance and impacts of its activities. It established two Working Groups in 2011 that work on: *Forest & Water*, and *Hazards and Disaster Risk Mangement in Mountains*.

EFC WP MMW

Flyer

Governance and Strategy

History

Review report

FAO Forestry News

- Norway, FAO will boost transparency and accessibility of global forest information
- Scientists learn how to make a "big bang" for forests

32nd Session of the EFC WPMMW

- Held in Innsbruck (25 September, 2019)
- Conference on “Protective Functions of Forests in a Changing Climate” (26-27 September, 2019)
- Field trip “Multifunctional role of Sustainable Forest Management for Rural Development”.

Date	Activity	Place	Stakeholders
25-27 September 2019	32nd Session of the WPMMW; International Conference on *Protective Functions of Forests*	Innsbruck, Austria	EFC WPMMW members; FAO Secretariat; interested expert stakeholder from research, science
7 November 2019	Side-Event at EFC on Protective Functions of Forests in a Changing Climate. Presentation of planned publication.	Geneva, Switzerland	FAO Secretariat; EFC member countries; country report authors
March 2020	Steering Committee Meeting	Rome, Italy	Steering Committee Members
24-25 February 2020	Working Group 1 “30 Years of Headwater Control: Forest and Water in Changing Environment and Safety”	Prague, Czech Republic	EFC WPMMW WG1 members; interested scientific and policy community
Q1 2020	EFC Publication on *Protective Functions of Forests in a Changing Climate*	n/a	Coordination Review, Layout and Text: FAO Secretariat and Chair. Print support: Austria
May2020	EGU Session “Mountain Forests under Climate Change”	Vienna, Austria	Coordinated by University of Life Sciences BOKU – relevant esp. to WG1 and WG3 members
Q2 (June) 2020	Working Group 2 Workshop on Torrent Control	Turkey	WG2 (delegated) members and interested EFC member countries
Q3 2020	Working Group 3 Session and Workshop on Protective Forests in Europe	Traunkirchen, Austria	All EFC member countries
Q4 2020	Publication on WG2 Experience incl. Recommendations on Risk Management	n/a	France and Austria coordinate