



WFC Korea 2022 | Side Event

PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE: 70 YEARS OF EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

TIME: Monday, 2nd May 2022

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM KST | 11:00 AM to 12:30 AM CET | 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM UTC

LOCATION: COEX, the Center of Korean Business

(<https://wfc2021korea.org/sub03/coex.html>)

HYBRID CONFERENCE: Online via ZOOM

(Link will be announced soon)

OPEN TO ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



Co-Chaired by:

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

<https://www.fao.org/forestry/37705/en/>



FAO Mountain Partnership

<https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/en/>



Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism of Austria

<https://info.bmlrt.gv.at/en/topics/forests/forest-and-natural-hazards.html>

The **European Forestry Commission (EFC) Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WPMMW)** was established in 1950 to promote sustainable development in mountain areas. Currently, Austria chairs the group and has put an emphasis on the protective functions of mountain forests in a changing climate.

Forests fulfil many crucial protective functions: They prevent erosion, foster healthy soils, act as water filter, prevent avalanche detachment, stop or slow rock fall and reduce the flood risk. These important ecosystem services have recently come under pressure, due to climate change effects and socio-demographic development. The EFC WPMMW collected 12 highly interesting and relevant country reports about protective forest policies and practices and published a comprehensive report in 2021:

(https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4464en?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social+media&utm_campaign=faoforestry).

This side event sheds light on the important protective functions of forests, the different policy approaches, commonalities and challenges to address. The speakers include representatives from governments, administration and science, fostering science-policy dialogue. Following important questions will be addressed:

- “How do we sustainably and effectively manage mountain forests?”
- “What are the responses to climate change in mountain forests?”
- “How can we value ecosystem services of forests in policy and society?”

Contact us: schutzwald@bmlrt.gv.at



Session Program

Moderator:	Florian Rudolf-Miklau Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austria	
Christoph Lainer	Forestry Expert, Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control, Linz, Austria	Protective Function of Forests in a Changing Climate: 70 Years of European Experience
Albena Bobeva	Senior Expert at Forests and Environmental protection, Sofia, Bulgaria	Protective Forest Policy and Management: National Perspective Bulgaria
Michaela Teich	Head of Unit, Austrian Research Centre for Forests, Innsbruck, Austria	GreenRisk4ALPs: Decision support for risk-based protective forest management
Ansgar Fellendorf Klaudia Kuras	Consultant - Mountain governance and climate change at UNEP, Vienna, Austria	Protective Forest Governance in the Frame of the Carpathian Convention
Thomas Hofer	Senior Forestry Officer at UN-FAO, Rome, Italy	The Functions of Forests in Mountain Environment: A Global Perspective
Florian Rudolf- Miklau	Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Vienna, Austria	Concluding remarks