

MOUNTAIN FOREST GOVERNANCE

Johannes Hangler

Leonardo da Vinci

- „Water gnaws at mountains, and fills valleys. If it could, it would reduce the earth to a perfect sphere.”

Content

- Introduction mountain areas
- Development of mountain and forest policy and governance
 - Global level
 - Pan-European level
 - EU level
 - National level
- Conclusions

Mountain Areas

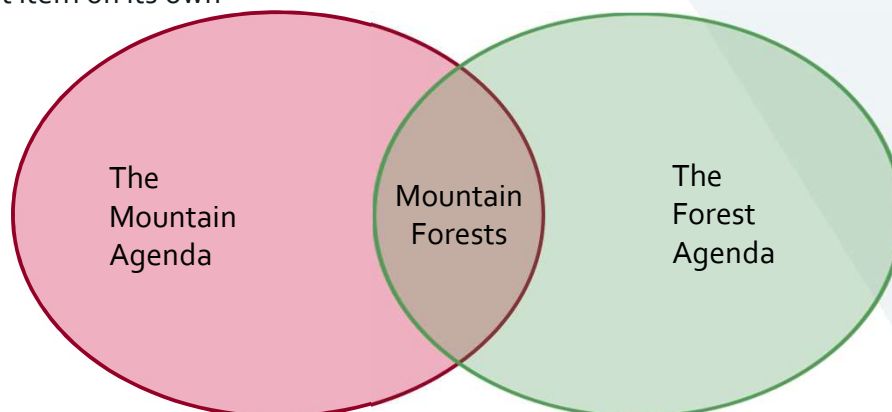
- Usually places where climate and topography hamper economic development
- Settlement area and retreat area
- Trade routes
- Dividing and connecting at the same time
- Places of mining and progress
- Constant repair of lability
- Methods of sustainability had to be developed early, in agriculture, but also in forestry

Mountain Forests in the Alpine Region

- First impairments in the Middle Ages
- A lot of wood was needed for iron and salt production
- The forest was cleared for new settlements and grazing land
- In the 19th century the mountain forest was already decimated
- The frequency of floods increased
- In response, state measures to preserve the protection forest were introduced (e.g. Reichsforstgesetz 1852 in the Habsburg Empire, Swiss Forstpolizeigesetz 1876)
- From these regulations developed today's national forest legislations

Mountain Forests in International Agreements and Processes

- International agenda: fragmented, respects mountain forests only sparsely as a distinct item on its own





The Mountain Agenda

- Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992: Agenda 21, Chapter 13 “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development”
 - Starting point of a series of mountain issues
- First UN resolution on the theme of mountains (1998): International Year of the Mountains 2002
- Rio+10: World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, para 42 on mountains
- Rio+20 (2012): The Future We Want, paras 210, 211, 212
- Sustainable Development Summit (2015): Agenda 2030 – 17 SDGs for 2015-2030
 - No specific goal, but mountains are explicitly mentioned several times



The Mountain Agenda

- Mountain Partnership: founded in 2002, 60 Governments (e.g. AT, FL, CH, IT, SI, SK, SP, FR, TR), 8 subnational authorities, 16 Intergovernmental Organizations (e.g. FAO, Alpine and Carpathian Convention, CBD), 293 Major Groups
- World Mountain Forum (WMF): 4 events so far. Last Forum in Bishkek 2018.
- The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI): connects more than 10,000 researchers
- Euromontana – European association of mountain areas: non-profit and scientific organization, 75 member organizations (20 countries)
- EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP): AT, FR, DE, IT, SI, LI, CH + 48 regions



Alpine Convention, 1991 In force since 1995, 8 member states + EU

- **Mountain Forests Protocol, 1991**

- In force in AT, DE, LI (since 2002), SI (2004), FR (2005), IT (2013).
- Only signed: MC (1996), CH (1998). Not signed by the EU.

- Article 6 - Protective functions of the mountain forests

"1. For the mountain forests that have a highly protective function for their locations and, especially, for the inhabited areas, for the transport infrastructures, for the farmed lands, etc., the Contracting Parties undertake to give priority to that protective function, focusing the forest's management to that purpose. These forests must be conserved on site.

2. The measures necessary must be planned and implemented with technical expertise with respect to management plans and improvement plans of the forests that provide protective functions, taking into account the objectives of conserving nature and the landscape."



Carpathian Convention, 2003

- In force since 2006, 7 member states

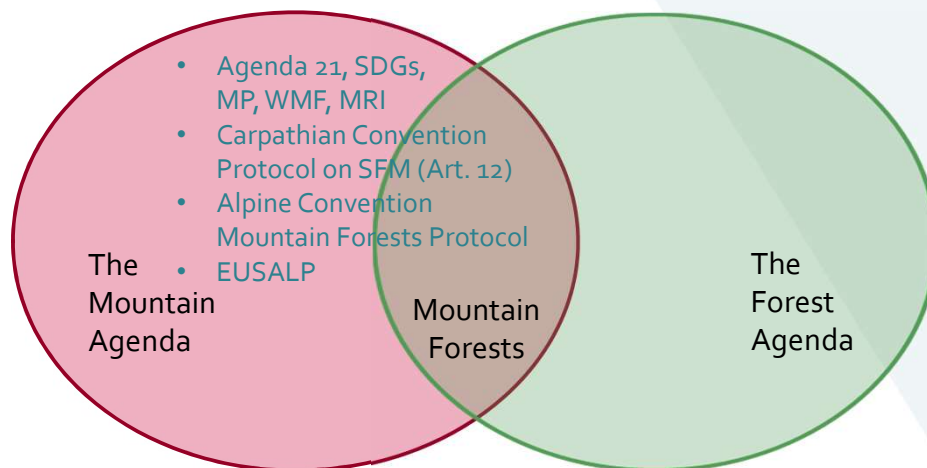
- **Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, 2011**

- In force in CZ, HU, RO, SK, UA (since 2013), RS (2015). Only signed: PL (2011)

- Article 12 – Improvement of the protective forest function

"Each Party shall take measures in its national territory with the objective to ensure the protective functions of the forests such as better preventing floods, soil erosion, landslides, avalanches and rock falls by promoting sustainable forest management methods, that enhance stability and resistance to natural and anthropogenic disturbances."

Mountain Forests in International Agreements and Processes



The Forest Agenda

- Rio Summit in 1992
 - Forest issue was one of the most conflicting areas. CA, EU and others worked towards a LBI, US and developing countries like BR against => no global forest convention
 - Outcomes: Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 "Combating Deforestation" and the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests
- Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) 1995-1997
- Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) 1997-2000
- International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), 2000: soft law, 2 main elements:
 - UN Forum on Forest (UNFF)
 - Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)



The Forest Agenda

- Rio+10: WSSD 2002: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, para 43 on forests
- UNFF6, 2006: 4 Global Objectives on Forests
- UNFF7, 2007: Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument)
 - incl. the seven thematic elements as a “reference framework” for SFM

The seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management

- Developed by regional/international processes on criteria and indicators for SFM
- Acknowledged by FAO member countries and the UNFF
- Used as the reference framework for SFM
 1. Extent of forest resources
 2. Biological diversity
 3. Forest health and vitality
 4. Productive functions of forest resources
 5. Protective functions of forest resources
 6. Socio-economic functions
 7. Legal, policy and institutional framework





The Forest Agenda

- Rio+10: WSSD 2002: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, para 43 on forests
- UNFF6, 2006: 4 Global Objectives on Forests
- UNFF7, 2007: Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument)
 - incl. the seven thematic elements as a “reference framework” for SFM
- UNFF, 2017: United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF)
 - features a set of 6 Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal
 - includes a target to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030
 - strong references to SDGs
 - indicative thematic areas for action



UNSPF Indicative Thematic Areas for Action

A non-exhaustive list of indicative thematic areas for action is contained in the appendix of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030:

- Global Forest Goal 2 - Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits
 - (h) Protective functions of forests (soil and water management)

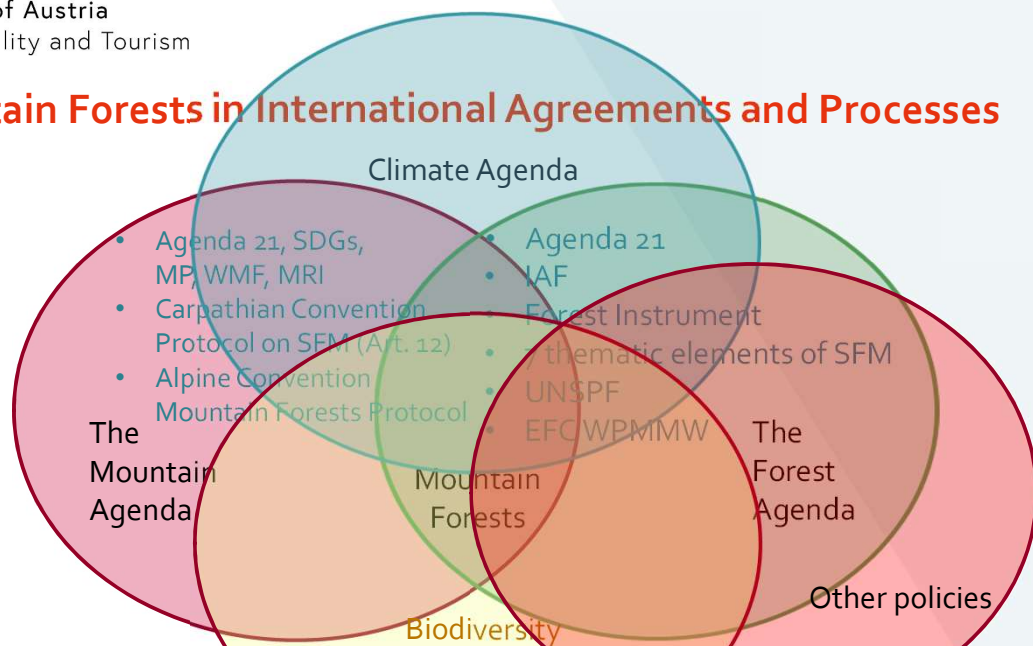


The Forest Agenda

- FAO European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (EFC WPMW)
- International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
 - 1.01.05 Mountain forest management
 - 3.06.00 Forest operations in mountainous conditions
 - 8.01.06 Boreal and Alpine Forest Ecosystems
 - 8.03.00 Natural hazards and risk management



Mountain Forests in International Agreements and Processes





Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forest in Europe

RESOLUTION S4 – Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions (1990)

- Improving of mountain forest, continuity and stability of stands
- Based on a deeper knowledge
- Long term sustainable resource management, silvicultural works, financing
- Joint projects:
 - International working party could pool expertise (e.g. EFC WPMMW + EC)
 - Coordinated research programme (IUFRO, WPMMW, EC)
 - Exchange of information and experience



European Union

EU Forestry Strategy

- Mountain forests not directly mentioned

"3.3.4 Protecting forests and enhancing ecosystem services

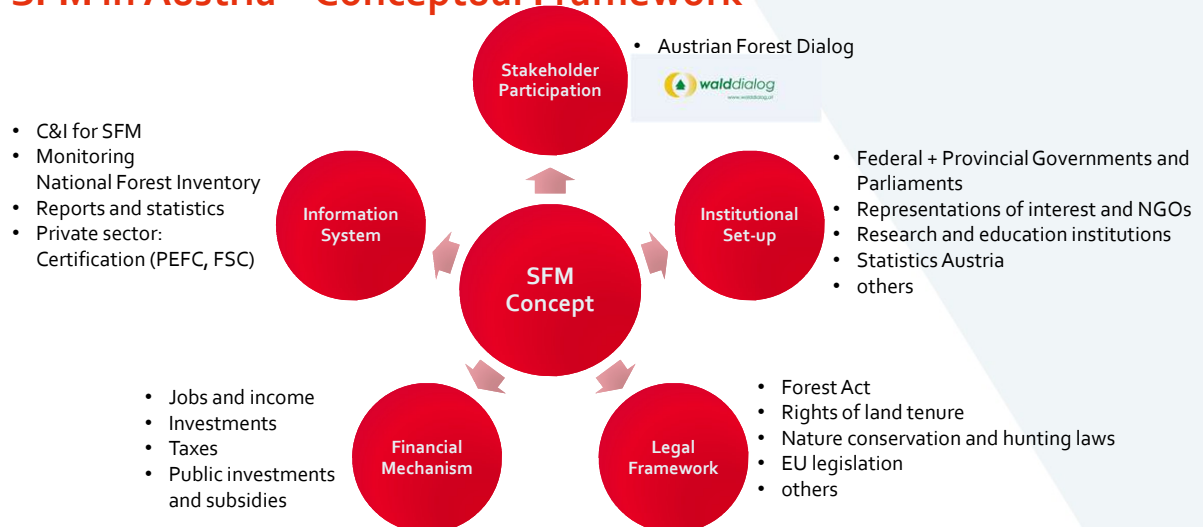
... Member States ... should maintain and enhance forest cover to ensure soil protection, water quality and quantity regulation by integrating sustainable forestry practices in the Programme of Measures of River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive and in the Rural Development Programmes; ..."

Rural Development

- National Programmes allow special emphasis of mountain forests and their protective function.



SFM in Austria – Conceptual Framework



Multifunctionality and Sustainable Forest Management



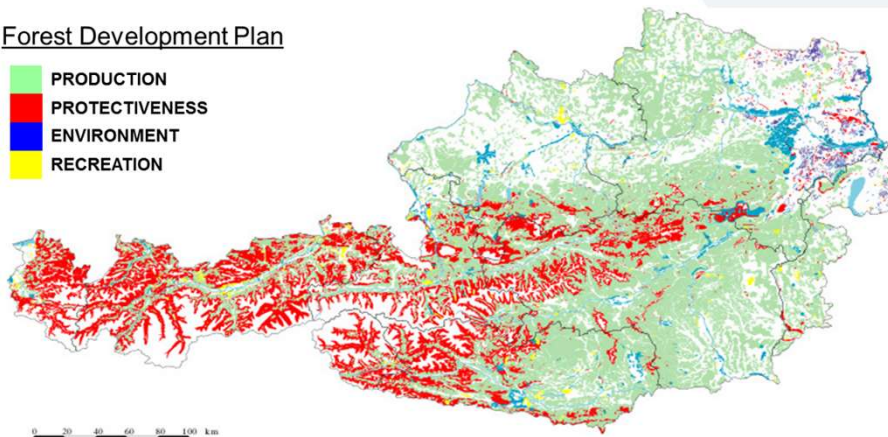
... are the basic principles.
All forests should cover all
functions.



Priority Functions of Forests

Forest Development Plan

- PRODUCTION
- PROTECTIVENESS
- ENVIRONMENT
- RECREATION



Source: BFW



Austrian Forestry Strategy 2020+ (2016)

Field of Action 5: Protective Functions of Austria's Forests with 7 strategic goals

1. Conservation and development of resilient forest ecosystems with functioning buffer, storage and filter capacities
2. Creation of the framework conditions for the natural and sufficient regeneration of the forest with tree species of the potentially natural forest ecosystem
3. Strengthening of the forests so that they can make the maximum possible contribution to property and location protection in and outside of forest areas
4. Creation of framework conditions for the sustainable protection of the sufficient quality and quantity of forest water resources
5. Provision, further development and application of efficient, integrative and participatory planning and management instruments for protection from natural hazards
6. Raised awareness of society for the importance of management related to forestry; natural hazards and hydrological regime
7. Strengthening of risk governance approaches and their implementation in the field of forestry; natural hazards and hydrological regime



Protective Forest Action Programme (2019)

- Vision 2050
- Only a strong protective forest can protect: What is required
- 4 Target corridors with 10 flagship measures
 1. *Making protective forests fit for the future*
 2. *Achieving more together for protective forests*
 3. *Strengthening the awareness for protective forests*
 4. *Making protective forests attractive*
- Path to realize the vision



Austrian Rural Development Programme

- Forestry is an integral part of rural development.
- Specific measures for protective forests
- Annual sum of subsidies (EU + Federal + Länder): 1.1 billion euros
 - of which for forestry: 40 million euros
 - of which for protective forest management: 15 million euros

Conclusions

- Every forest fulfills a variety of functions.
- In mountain areas, protection from the forests is a prerequisite for life.
- Mountain forests are vulnerable to climate change.
- Adaptation measures are necessary for the survival of the mountain forests.
- Adaptation is only possible through active forest management.
- The management of mountain forests is not only an endeavour of forest experts, but needs the inclusion of different land users.

Conclusions (cont.)

- Political or legal regulations and strategies for mountain forest are present at all levels.
- The landscape for mountain forest research is diverse.
- There are financing possibilities (EU, national) for mountain forest.
- International exchange and cooperation are helpful.
- Constant agenda setting is necessary.

Use the available facilities and offers! Set priorities! Go on!

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Sustainability and Tourism

bmnt.gv.at

Thank you!

Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism
Directorate-General III - Forestry and Sustainability
Directorate III/1 - Forest Policy, Forest Economy and Forest Information

Johannes Hangler
Deputy Head of Directorate

+43 1 71100 607309
Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna
johannes.hangler@bmnt.gv.at
bmnt.gv.at

“We need the protective forest – the protective forest needs us!”

(Austrian Protective Forest Action Programme, 2019)