



The Federal Ministry of Austria, the Federal Ministry of Slovenia and the Working Group Protective Forests in Mountain Watersheds within the WPMMW invites you to the Workshop

Protective Forest Management after large-scale disturbances in Austria and Slovenia

Monday - Wednesday, October 10th – 12th 2022
Villach/Beljak (Austria) AND online via ZOOM

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia cordially invite you within the new established Working Group “Protective Forests in Mountain Watersheds” of the **Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WPMMW)** to this year’s workshop.

The Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds 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.

At this year’s workshop the Working Group “Protective Forests in Mountain Watersheds” has put a focus on the management of protective forests in general and after large-scale disturbances such as windthrow, bark beetle calamities, wild fires and more in specific. Protective forests play a major role in protecting houses, settlements and human infrastructure against natural hazard processes. The changing climate will have a substantial effect on this specific function on the forest, not only by having an effect on the forest stand, but also in having severe alterations in weather patterns and intensity as well as frequency of natural hazard processes.

We are looking forward to your participation. The access link (ZOOM) and the final program will be sent to you in due time after your registration!

Registration to the workshop open until 15th September 2022

Email with registration form filled in to

valerie.oswald@bml.gv.at

Preliminary Program

10th October

Location: Headquarter of the Torrent and Avalanche Control in Carinthia

Meister-Friedrich-Straße 2, 9500 Villach/Beljak

13:00 **Opening Session**

Moderation: Florian Rudolf-Miklau (Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management/ Directorate III/4 – Torrent and Avalanche Control and Protective Forest Policy)

Welcome and opening remarks

- **Maria Patek**
Director-General Forestry and Sustainability, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
- **Robert Režonja**
Director-General Forestry and Hunting Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Republic of Slovenia
- **FAO Secretariat representative**
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forestry Division
- **Forestry Department Carinthia representative**

13:45 **Session 1 – The protective effect of the forest under current challenges and requirements**

- **Michaela Teich**

Federal Forest Research Centre – Institute for
Natural Hazards, Department Snow and
Avalanches

14:10 Coffee break

**14:40 Session 2 – Forest & Risk Management after large scale
disturbances – international experience**

- **Italy**

Emanuele Lingua* and Enrico Tomelleri**

*University of Padova – Department of Land,
Environment, Agriculture and Forestry

**Free University Bozen-Bolzano – Faculty of
Science and Technology

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mersudin Avdibegovic

University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Forestry

15:30 Short break

**15:45 Session 3 – Forest & Risk Management after large scale
disturbances – national experience**

- **Austria**

Christoph Lainer

Protective Forest Hub/Austrian Torrent and
Avalanche Control

- **Slovenia**

Simon Poljansek

Forestry and Hunting Directorate, Ministry of
Agriculture, Forestry and Food

16:15 **Information for the excursions**

16:30 **End of the conference**

For all participants on site in Villach/Beljak

18:30 **Dinner invitation**

Please note: The exact program points as well as the days of the excursions may be changed or switched in the further preparation. This is due to the availability of the presenting experts.

11th October – Excursion to Lesach-Valley/Austria

Reforestation in the protective forest after the "Vaia" storm in October 2018

From October 28 to November 1, 2018, the storm low "Vaia" headed north from the western Mediterranean Sea. At the front of the low-pressure area, a so-called foehn weather situation formed, which led to hurricane-like storms along the southern edge of the Alps and came accompanied by heavy precipitation (about 670 mm at the Plöckenpass station between October 27 and 29). In Carinthia, the regions Lesachtal and upper Gailtal, lower Gailtal and the Faakersee area as well as the Karawanken in the area of Ferlach and Eisenkappel were particularly affected. In addition to extremely high amounts of precipitation, the strong gusts of wind along the valleys caused major damage to the forest. The storm caused large areas of trees to be uprooted and thrown along the entire Lesach Valley, most of which were protective forests. The large-scale windthrow along the Lesach Valley led to increased hazards from avalanches, snow slides and rockfalls from the newly formed bare areas.

The project of the torrent and avalanche control and the provincial forest service

The large cleared areas in the protective forest required an overall planning and restoration of the forest stands by the Torrent and Avalanche Control and the Provincial Forestry Service. In the course of a general planning a protection project with different measures was elaborated:

- Reforestation measures: Reforestation, cultural protection, cultural splicing.
- Subsidy for rope hauling for forest owners for a quantity of 52.500 fm
- Construction of 7,454 running meters of steel snow bridges to prevent avalanches from occurring
- Construction of 5,479 pieces of sliding snow blocks
- Construction of 1,590 meters of rockfall protection nets
- Clearing of root plates and brooks
- Construction of 3,755 meters of construction site access roads

The protection project will be implemented in the period 2019-2034, the total cost amounts to € 28.5 million.



Without the protective effect of the forest the municipality of Maria Luggau is endangered especially by avalanches and rockfall.

The excursion will be visited by small buses. Departure point and time will be announced on site in Villach.

12th October – Excursion to Mojstrana, Belca, Planica - Slovenia

Introduction part

9:00 – 9:15

Arrival of the workshop participants to Mojstrana (Slovenski planinski muzej (Slovenian Mountain Museum)), Triglavska cesta 49, 4281 Mojstrana

9:15 – 9:45

Welcome speeches
Director of SFS
Director-General, Forestry and Hunting *Directorate*, Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food;
Director of the Slovenian Mountain Museum
The mayor of Kranjska gora

9:45 – 10:15

Short presentation of the excursion programme, presentation of the municipality of Kranjska gora and related projects

Short presentation of management of protection forests in Slovenia



Field tour

10:15 – 10:30

Transportation to the first field stop - forest at Peričnik waterfall

10:30 – 11:30

Presentation of education programme for forest owners and other stakeholders "Safe work in protection forests"

11:30 – 12:00

Snack break

12:00 – 12:15

Transportation to the second field stop – Belca

12:15 – 12:45

Presentation of the challenges in the Belca rockfall from the forestry, geological, torrential and financial aspect

12:45 – 13:15

Transportation to the third field stop – Planica sport centre

13:15 – 13:30

Presentation of Planica sport centre

13:30 – 13:45

Presentation of best practice examples in the GreenRisk4Alps project – Pilot action region Kranjska gora

13:45 – 14:00	Natural hazards in the area around Planica sport centre
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation of solutions when building Planica sport centre on torrential area
14:30 – 15:00	Tour around Planica sport centre
15:00 – 15:10	Summary
15:10 – 15:30	Transportation to lunch
15:30 – 17:30	Lunch
17:30	Departure to Villach Austria/End of the workshop