Watershed Management in FAO Forestry Department

An overview

EUROPE INBO 2007
Background

• 1970s: focus on forest cover in mountain watersheds
Background

• 1980s: integrated watershed management
Background

• 1990s: participatory and integrated watershed management
30 watershed management projects in 21 countries in
⇒ Asia
⇒ Latin America
⇒ Africa
⇒ Near East
Normative work since 1990

- Follow up of Agenda 21, Chapter 13
- Mountain process and International Year of Mountains (2002)
- Launch of Mountain Partnership at WSSD (2002)
- International Year of Freshwater (2003)
Watershed management review

- State of the art and trends of watershed management in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America
- Partnership with ICIMOD, ICRAF, EOMF and REDLACH
- Four regional workshops and one global conference
- 200 participants belonging to 80 institutions
- Publication of proceedings, case studies and synthesis document
Twofold concept of watershed

As natural ecosystems...

......and as human landscapes
Twofold goal

Conserving ecological balance ..... 

.....and managing environmental threats
A broadened paradigm: means

Hydraulic works...

.....and sustainable land use
Upstream/downstream linkages

Upstream water management....

...to provide water services downstream
Participation

Involving upland people....

.....and downstream water users
Matters of scale

Working on small watersheds…

..keeping in mind that they are part of a river basin
Current agenda

• Field validation of watershed management review findings – pilot sites

• Development of methodological guides and tools

• Policy advocacy and assistance

• Global watershed management facility
Areas of collaboration with INBO

• Strengthening of the European Forestry Commission Working Party on Mountain Watersheds

• Testing of the “new generation approach” in the development of integrated/collaborative river basin plans (as per WFD)

• Workshop on climate change impacts on watersheds and adaptive/collaborative management response