

PARDYP: A Regional  
Project of Global Importance

# Conclusions & Recommendations

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## Abstract

During the UNCED-Conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 the mountain areas of the world received special attention: Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 is entitled "Sustaining Mountain Ecosystems—Sustainable Mountain Development". In 1993 the UN General Assembly declared 2002 as the International Year of the Mountains (IYM). FAO is Task Manager for Chapter 13 as well as the lead agency for the International Year of the Mountains. The COM/2 People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP) is highly relevant for the global mountain agenda. Through its regional work in two watersheds, the cooperative approach, the interdisciplinary concept, the large range of stakeholders involved, and the search for best practices in the utilisation and development of resources in mountain watersheds, the project is making a significant contribution to the implementation of Chapter 13 and to the preparation for the celebration of the International Year of the Mountains. The proposal to expand PARDYP into a second phase with the same number of watersheds is highly recommended.

## Chapter 13: An Introduction

### What is Chapter 13?

The international community has recognised that mountains are not only a source of water, but also a source of food, fuel, timber, and other resources. Mountains are also a source of biodiversity and are important for the cultural and spiritual well-being of many people. Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 is entitled "Sustaining Mountain Ecosystems—Sustainable Mountain Development". It calls for a global strategy for the sustainable development of mountains, based on the following principles:

The objectives of the global strategy for the sustainable development of mountains are:

- To ensure that mountains are managed in a sustainable way, taking into account the needs and interests of all stakeholders, including local communities, governments, and the international community.
- To promote the sustainable development of mountain regions, based on the principles of self-reliance, equity, and participation.
- To protect and restore mountain ecosystems, and to conserve biodiversity.
- To promote the sustainable use of mountain resources, including water, timber, and other resources.

