5. CONCLUSION

A discussion paper is typically a document that provides information and ideas in progress. Its contents are neither complete nor final. In the course of the project, new elements may be added and other elements will be modified. However, the paper provides some compulsory guidelines that have to be followed by each country team involved in the watershed project. In order to realise the requirements of the discussion paper, very clear and transparent data management is necessary for each step, from the measurements, through the data collection, the tasks in the field office, the data check at headquarters, the analysis and all the way to the synthesis. To a great extent, this is a question of personnel: clear responsibilities, work programmes, and deadlines have to be defined. Each single collaborator involved has to know exactly what his/her responsibilities are and has to fulfill the tasks in a very thorough and systematic way. If the tasks and ideas outlined in this discussion paper are realised successfully, then the hydrology and meteorology components will contribute in a very meaningful way to the goals of the PARDYP project. Furthermore, it is hoped that the contents of this paper will be useful for many other watershed management projects.

PARDYP is a big challenge and a great opportunity. The outputs of the project, if they are based on good quality work and innovative thinking, will be a crucial contribution to Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 for the better understanding of mountains as fragile ecosystems.