WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2010 - REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE IN TURIN (ITALY)

FROM 9:30 a.m. TO 4:00 p.m. International Workshop

"MANAGING WATER TO PRESERVE ALPINE ECOSYSTEM AND FORESTS", AT 12:30 PRESS CONFERENCE FOR JOURNALISTS

IN THE REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

PRESS RELEASE

MANAGING WATER TO PRESERVE ALPINE ECOSYSTEM AND FORESTS, THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IPLA AND THE PIEMONTE REGION PROMOTE AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN TURIN

The International Workshop: "River Basin Management Plans as an instrument for the safeguard of the alpine mountain ecosystem" is promoted by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea (MATTM) and the Institute for Timber Plants and the Environment (IPLA), in cooperation with the Piemonte Region, on October 13th , 2010. The meeting will be held in the building of the Regional Museum of Natural Science of Turin, in Via Giolitti 36 (Giolitti Street n. 36).

At 12:30, in the same building of the Regional Museum of Natural Science of Turin, **a press conference is scheduled** to disseminate to the journalists data and first results from the workshop's works.

The Workshop, promoted within the framework of the European project MANFRED – *Management Strategies to adapt Alpine Space forests to climate change risks* (http://www.manfredproject.eu/) , launched within the "Alpine Space Programme" 2007-2013, foresees technical and scientific speeches from the water resources management sector, from all around the Alps. The initiative is also part of the preparatory meetings towards the **Third International Conference "Water Conference in the Alps"**. In particular, it aims at illustrating and debating upon the role of the new District and River Basin Management Plans in the enhancement and conservation of Alpine ecosystems and forests.

To join the Workshop and the Water Conference register on: http://tinyurl.com/2uyeydk

Access to the Workshops is free. It is possible to register in also in the morning of the event at the desks located in the building of the Regional Museum of Natural Science of Turin.

One of the main functions of the forests is the preservation of the hydrological equilibrium, and water is a fundamental issue within the Alpine Convention activities; as a consequence, a proper management of water is a cornerstone for sustainable development of the Alpine region.

The Third International Conference "Water Conference in the Alps" – which will be held in Venice (Italy) on November 25-26, 2010, at the Venice International University (VIU), San Servolo Island, 30135, Venice – will carry on the dialogue started in Innsbruck in 2006 and implemented in Munich in 2008, and will represent a moment to meet, share and exchange the experience among the actors involved in "water management" in the Alps at different administrative levels. The Conference will also be the first moment when sharing the activities of the "Water Platform" of the Alpine Convention with the aim either of sustaining and facilitating the exchange of experiences and to elaborate further proposals on matters of common interest.

The MANFRED project (http://www.manfredproject.eu/) aims at defining strategies to adapt Alpine Space forests to the risks connected with climate change and has the two main objectives of both protecting and preserving forest ecosystems and of promoting an effective scientific and knowledge-based forest management. Final aspiration of the project is to help people and organizations involved in forest ecosystems' management through the development of instruments and guidelines and by involving local authorities, administrators, forests' owners and managers, decision makers.

Given its relevance, three preparatory workshops will be held in advance of the Conference, the second of which will be held in Turin on October 13th, 2010.