

Water-retention potential of Europe's forests



This report provides for the first time a European overview of the role of forests in water retention, based on the Water Accounts Production Database developed at the EEA. The results represent 287 sub-basins hosting more than 65 000 catchments across Europe. The impact of forests on water retention is measured according to three parameters/characteristics: forest cover (measured in hectares), forest types (coniferous, broad-leaved, mixed), and the degree of management of the forests ('protected' versus unprotected/commercial forests). The estimation of the water-retention potential is derived from the relationships between input (rainfall) and output (water run-off into rivers and lakes)

as affected by these three forest characteristics.

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Obtenir le document : The European Environmental Agency (EEA)

Diffuseur des métadonnées : Office International de l'Eau

Mots clés : FORET, RESSOURCE EN EAU, RETENTION

Thème (issu du Text Mining) : INFORMATION - INFORMATIQUE, MILIEU NATUREL, POLLUANTS

Date : 2015-09-01

Format : text/xml

Identifiant Documentaire : OIE/33653

Source : Page 46 p.

Langue : Anglais

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