

Natural-Resource Potential of Mountainous Regions and Environmental Protection Measures

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The complex range of high zonality of nature use in mountainous regions and its peculiarities is particularly evident in the use of agro-climatic and tourist-recreational resources. Namely:

- The lowland belt has a favorable natural-resource potential for the development of agricultural areas characteristic of humid, moderately humid and arid subtropics and the continuous functioning of tourism. Erosion and landslide Prevention Measures are needed.
- In the Lower and Middle Highland (between 700 and 800 m to 1500 m a.s.l), the natural-resource potential is suitable for the development of agriculture as well as for the tourism-recreational industry. Erosion, landslide and snow avalanche protective measures is required;
- Landscape-resource potential for the Middle belts upper belt (1500-2000 m.) provides conditions for the development of horse-breeding, breeding, livestock, tourism-recreational industry, and mountain-skiing. Environmental protection measures should be directed at the eradication of landslides and snow avalanches prior to natural hazards;
- In the lower belt of the Highlands (up to 2200-3000 m) there is a favorable natural-resource potential for the development of livestock, tourism, skiing, and alpinism. Snow avalanche measures are needed to protect the environment;
- The top of the Highlands (3000 m above sea level) is only promising for Alpinism.

In all elevation zones, there is a strong potential for hydropower and building materials of particular importance is the protection and cultivation of forests.