



X European Mountain Convention

Mountains' vulnerability to climate change: how can people and territories adapt and mitigate its effects?

3 to 5 October 2016
Teatro Municipal de Bragança, Bragança, Portugal

Draft programme

Mountain areas have difficult climatic and environmental conditions, but mountain people are used to adapting to these. Thanks to their great experience of innovation and adaptation, they have already started to tackle the challenge of climate change. This X European Mountain Convention will present a state-of-the-art of the situation in mountain areas and of how experience and technical knowledge have been used to provide solutions to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The focus will be on solutions not only at the policy level, but also at the practitioners' level, on different issues such as agriculture, energy, water, transport and tourism.

Context of the X European Mountain Convention:

- ❖ **Mountains are particularly vulnerable to climate change.** Critically, the intensification of the hydrological cycle, the retreat of glaciers and permafrost, losses of biodiversity, and the predicted increase in the scale and frequency of extreme events may lead to significant increases in soil erosion, floods, avalanches and landslides, with considerable effects on mountain areas. These changes are expected to have various impacts not only on mountain environments, economies and societies, but also on adjacent areas and even far downstream. Even significant actions cannot prevent but only mitigate the impacts of climate change. **Adaptation to the inevitable impacts is, therefore, vital.** This is particularly true for Europe's highly sensitive and vulnerable mountain areas.
- ❖ At the Paris climate conference (**COP21**) in **December 2015**, **195 countries** adopted a **universal global climate agreement**. This sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. The agreement is due to enter into force in 2020. Countries submitted comprehensive national climate action plans. Governments also agreed to come together every five years to set more ambitious targets as required by science, and they agreed to strengthen societies' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- ❖ **The European Union is playing a leading role on fighting climate change. It has defined key targets for the coming years.** In October 2014, in its 2030 climate and energy framework, the EU targets for 2030 were revised: at least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), at least 27% share for renewable energy, and at least 27% improvement in energy efficiency. To reach these targets, the EU is promoting adaptation and mitigation measures through EU funding schemes (e.g. Horizon 2020, Life) and climate change is a compulsory topic in the European Structural and Investment Funds, implemented at regional level.



- ❖ The reality of climate change is **recognized by stakeholders and policy makers** and demands for advice and action are growing. EU strategy has to do, on the one hand, with **mitigation** - the achievement of a global low carbon economy – and, on the other hand, and because the changes are already happening, with **adaptation**. Society has to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and local communities need to be able to understand how to manage risks to their resources under possible scenarios of change.
- ❖ Several policies exist at national level, and sometimes at massif level (e.g., through the Alpine Convention), to take specific measures to address climate change in mountain areas. But **political agreements are not always implemented and concrete support for projects to mitigate climate change is often limited**.
- ❖ **Mountains provide many ecosystem services that are endangered by climate change.** Following the X EMC, the 1st International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (ICRSDME) organised in Bragança from 6 to 7 October 2016 by the Mountain Research Centre of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (CIMO/IPB), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development at the University of Highlands and Islands, in Scotland, will consider tools, methods and results of scientific research on ecosystem services in mountain areas.

Objectives of the X European Mountain Convention:

- ❖ **Have a better understanding of the impacts of climate change in mountain areas** by reviewing evidence of climate change and its impacts (to date and projected) in different European mountain ranges.
- ❖ **Have a better overview of integrated strategies for mitigation and adaptation already adopted in different mountain ranges** by presenting some national, regional and local strategies against climate change.
- ❖ **Explore responses/actions of mountain actors to reduce impacts and benefit from opportunities, and facilitate exchange of ideas between mountain stakeholders** so that they can compare, improve and transfer good practices, and interesting adaptation and mitigation initiatives, at regional and local levels.
- ❖ **Develop a climate change strategy for Euromontana** with a lobbying strategy and an action plan to implement in the coming years at EU, national, regional and local levels.

Interpretation will be done in English and French (all sessions) and in Portuguese for the plenary sessions.



Day 1 – Monday 3 October 2016

12.00 Welcome and registration

13.30 **Official opening: Welcome words addressed by Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, João Sobrinho Teixeira, President of IPB and Hernâni Dias, President of the Municipality of Bragança**

Session 1: Opening: Climate change in European and global policies

Chair: Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana

13.50 – 14.10 ***“How mountain people can adapt and mitigate climate change in mountain areas”*** Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana

14.10 – 14.30 ***“COP 21: a global agreement to put climate change on the agenda of all countries”*** Laurence Tubiana, International Institute for Environment, negotiator during the COP21 (subject to availability)

14.50 – 15.10 ***“Ambitious national policies for fighting climate change”*** Portuguese Minister of Environment (tbc)

15.10 – 15.30 ***“Economic and food security impacts of climate change”***, Gérard Viatte, former director of agriculture in OECD and former special counsellor to the FAO

15.30 – 16.00: *coffee-break*

16.00 – 16.10 ***“RUMRA: an intergroup at the European Parliament to put mountains at the heart of the EU agenda”*** Mercedes Bresso, Member of the European Parliament and President of the RUMRA (Rural, Mountain and Remote Areas) intergroup (video)

16.10 – 16.30 ***“Towards an EU agenda for mountain areas”*** Iliana Iotova, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)

16.30 – 16.50 ***“Climate change: a key priority to strengthen territorial cohesion in mountain areas: the importance of place-based development”***, Sabrina Lucatelli, Coordinator of the National Committee for Internal Areas, Italian Ministry of Economic Development

Session 2: Scientific approaches: evidence and scenarios of climate change in mountain areas

Chair: Martin Price, University of Highlands and Islands and Vice President of Euromontana

16.50 – 17.10 ***“From the last 100 years to the next 100 years: what has changed in the climate of European mountains? Evidence and scenarios”*** Wolfgang Schöner, University of Graz

17.10 – 17.30 ***“Still planning for climate change vulnerability? Evidence from Norway on the lack of success in adapting to climate change, and suggestions on how to move from “adjustments” to “transformation” in climate change adaptation”*** Carlo Aall, Head of research at Western Norway Research Institute, Professor II in Sustainable Development at the Sogn og Fjordane University College



17.30 – 17.45 Questions and Answers



Euromontana General Assembly (18:00 - 19:30) - For Euromontana members only

Euromontana Board meeting (19.30 – 20.00) – For Euromontana Board members only

20.00 Buffet dinner followed by a concert of the ESPROARTE Symphony Orchestra at the Teatro Municipal de Bragança

Day 2 – Tuesday 4 October 2016

Session 3: Regional approaches: how are mountain ranges mobilised at political level?

Chair: Jon-Andreas Kolderup, Buskerud County Council and Vice-President of Euromontana

9.00 – 9.15 ***"The Alpine Convention: from a political protocol to the implementation of projects"***

Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

9.15 – 9.30 ***"Carpathian Region: From a Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change to practical improvements"*** Prof. Szalai, Chairman of the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change, Carpathian Convention (tbc)

9.30 – 9.45 ***"Adaptation to climate change in the Pyrenees"*** Idoia Arauzo, Observatoire Pyrénéen du Changement Climatique

9.45 – 10.00 ***"Mountain Partnership: the experience of a non-European massif"***: Martin Price, Steering Member of the Mountain Partnership

10.00 – 10.15 Questions and Answers

10.15 – 10.45 *Coffee break*

Session 4: Good Practices of adaptation and mitigation to make the best of climate change

10.45 – 12.30 Three parallel workshops to exchange good practices from the field

1. Agriculture and forestry

Moderator: Dominique Fayel, FNSEA

Initiative 1: ***Climate change and durability of vineyard in the Douro vallee***, Rui Soares, Real Companhia Velha

Initiative 2: ***Adapting Farming Practices to Climate Change (AP3C)***, Vincent Cailleux (SIDAM)

2. Sustainable energy and water





Moderator: Danut Gitan, CEFIDEC

Initiative 1: ***Use green energy for berries' processing***, Ioan Agapi, FARM DORNA (tbc)

Initiative 2: ***A new governance approach: how a local community has developed an energy policy to deal with climate change***, Miro Kristan, Soca Valley Development Centre

3. Biodiversity and protected areas

Moderator: Thierry Percie du Sert, ARPE

Initiative 1: ***Better conserving than reintroducing. Lessons from species reintroductions in mountain ecosystems and the importance of feasibility assessment: the case of the Mountain Grey Partridge***, José María Fernández-García, HAZI

Initiative 2: ***Econnect, restoring the web of life in the Alps***, Christian Hoffman, EURAC (tbc)

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.45 Three parallel workshops to exchange good practices from the field

4. Tourism: from snow business to summer tourism

Moderator: Jon-Andreas Kolderup, Buskerud County Council and Vice-President of Euromontana

Initiative 1: ***Recovering alpine pastures with quality food products action plans as new alternative to winter tourism***, Andreja Borec, University of Maribor

Initiative 2: ***CLIMALPTOUR – Climate Change and its Impact on Tourism in the Alpine Space***, EURAC (tbc)

5. Accessibility of mountain areas: developing sustainable transport and ICT services

Moderator: Laura Gascon Herrero, Province of Teruel

Initiative 1: ***Move on Green: sustainable transport in rural and mountain areas***, Beatriz or Laura

Initiative 2: ***Access2mountain: sustainable mobility in the Alps and in the Carpathians***, Anna Scutari, EURAC (tbc)

6. Innovation linked to the management of natural hazards

Moderator: Aashild Kjelsnes, Sogn of Fjordane

Initiative 1: ***Land-use planning and physical infrastructure: Planning for increased or decreased climate change vulnerability?***, Carlo Aall, Head of research at Western Norway Research Institute, Professor II in Sustainable Development at the Sogn og Fjordane University College

Initiative 2: ***FORRISK: Innovative risk management in Basque forests***, Alejandro Cantero, HAZI

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee break

Chair: to be confirmed

16.15 – 17.45 Brief summary: 5 key messages from each workshop

Session 5: Designing the way forward for adaptation and mitigation of climate change in mountain areas

16.45 – 17.45 Reaction from policy-makers and managing authorities on how they could support these initiatives



Chair: Thomas Egger, director of SAB, Board member of Euromontana

Panelists:

- Fabrice Pannekoucke, Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes Region (France)
- Roger Ryberg, Buskerud County Council (Norway)
- Navarre Region (tbc)



17.45 – 18.45 Official closure

17.45 - 18.00: **Declaration on Euromontana's strategy on climate change adaptation and mitigation in mountain areas** by the President of Euromontana

18.00 - 18.20 **Climate change: a challenge taken up by Portuguese mountain agriculture**, Luís Capoulas Santos, portuguese Minister of Agriculture (tbc)

18.20 - 18.45 **Mountains fully involved in the climate change adaptation**: Michel Barnier, former EU Commissioner, special advisor to the European Commission

18.45 – 19.45 Celebration of the XX anniversary of Euromontana

"The spirit of the pioneers": Robert Duclos, first President of Euromontana – Annie Benarous, first director of Euromontana

"Euromontana through the eyes of its presidents": Frank Gaskell – André Marcon

"20 years to advocate for living mountains: key messages from EU stakeholders and from our members": video by our members

"Our future: messages from young people in mountain areas": exhibition of drawings in the hall

19.45: *departure in bus for the restaurant*

20.00 *Banquet at Restaurant Geadas*

Day 3 – Wednesday 5 October 2016

Field trips shared with the 1st International Conference on Research for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions (ICRSDME).

1. Prehistoric Rock Art and landscape change in the Trás-os-Montes region (in English)
2. History and stories of a border land (in English)
3. Flora, vegetation and geology of the mountains of North-Eastern Portugal (in English)



4. Pastureland management and conservation in the granitic mountains of Northern Portugal (in English)
5. Adaptation to climate change in Portuguese mountains: the case of the Douro Valley wine sector (in English)
6. Mountain orchards and groves: chestnuts, olives and almonds (in English)
7. Alternative uses of mountain areas: tourism, honey, game, mushrooms and medicinal plants (in French)
8. Leaving the city, returning to the fields (in French)