



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.

Day 1 – Monday 3 October 2016

12.00 Welcome and registration

14.00 **Official opening: Welcome words addressed by Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana; the President of IPB-CIMO and the Mayor of Bragança**

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

Chair: Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana

14.20 – 14.40 **“How mountain people can adapt and mitigate climate change in mountain areas”** Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana



14.40 – 15.00 ***“COP 21: a global agreement to put climate change on the agenda of all countries”*** Laurence Toubiana, International Institute for Environment, negotiator during the COP21 (tbc)

15.00 – 15.20 ***“The EU Climate package: targets and funding tools to support adaptation and mitigation in mountain areas”*** European Commission, DG Climate (tbc)

15.20 – 15.40 ***“Ambitious national policies for fighting climate change”*** Portuguese Minister of Environment (tbc)

15.40 – 16.00 ***“Ambitious national policies for fighting climate change”*** Norwegian Minister of Environment (tbc)

16.00 – 16.20 ***“RUMRA: an intergroup at the European Parliament to put mountains at the heart of the EU agenda”*** Mercedes Bresso, MEP and President of the RUMRA (Rural, Mountain and Remote Areas) intergroup (tbc)

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

16.20 – 16.40 ***“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

16.40 – 17.00 ***“Risks and impacts of climate change at massif level – The example of the Pyrenees”*** José María Cuadrat, University of Zaragoza (tbc)

17.00 – 17.15 Questions and Answers

17.15 – 18.00: *coffee-break*

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: to be confirmed

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”** Harald Egerer, 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”**: Rosa Laura Romeo, Mountain Partnership (tbc)

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 – 12.45 Three parallel workshops to exchange good practices from the field

1. Agriculture and forestry (adjustment of crops and management systems for increase resilience, pests, diseases, provision of ecosystem services)
2. Sustainable energy and water (management of water resources – renewable energies)
3. Biodiversity and protected areas (fire prevention – diversity and conservation of species)

12.45 – 14.15 *Lunch*

14.15 – 16.15 Three parallel workshops to exchange good practices from the field

4. Tourism: from snow business to summer tourism
5. Accessibility of mountain areas: developing sustainable transport and ICT services
6. Innovation linked to the management of natural hazards

16.15 – 16.45 *Coffee break*

Chair: to be confirmed

16.45 – 17.15 Brief summary: 5 key messages from each workshop

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

17.15 – 18.15 **Reaction from policy-makers and managing authorities on how they could support these initiatives**

18.15 – 18.30 **Declaration on Euromontana’s strategy on climate change adaptation and mitigation in mountain areas and closure of main event by the President of Euromontana**

18.30 – 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”

“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 Northeastern 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)