

Mountain areas in Europe and European Mountain policies: approaches and FAO TCP experience

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Why focus on mountains?

“Mountains are an important source of water, energy and biological diversity. Furthermore, they are a source of such key resources as minerals, forest products and agricultural products, and of recreation. As a major ecosystem representing the complex and interrelated ecology of our planet, mountain environments are essential to the survival of the global ecosystem” (Agenda 21, Mountain Chapter 13)

Political and economic power is normally located in decision-making centers outside the mountains. Consequently, it is often said: Mountains are only marginal area, let them go, because they are only marginal.

But: “The fate of mountain ecosystems affect more than half the world’s population”.

(Center for Our Common Future, 1993)”

Mountain countries

10-25% - mountain areas 30 countries

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belize, Cameroon, Canada, France, Germany, India, Nicaragua, Sweden, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

20-50% mountain areas 46 countries

Bolivia, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, **Romania**, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, United States, Vietnam

50-100% mountain areas 53 countries

Afghanistan, **Albania**, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Chile, China, **Cosovo**, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, **Macedonia**, **Montenegro**, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, North Korea, Norway, **Serbia**, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey,

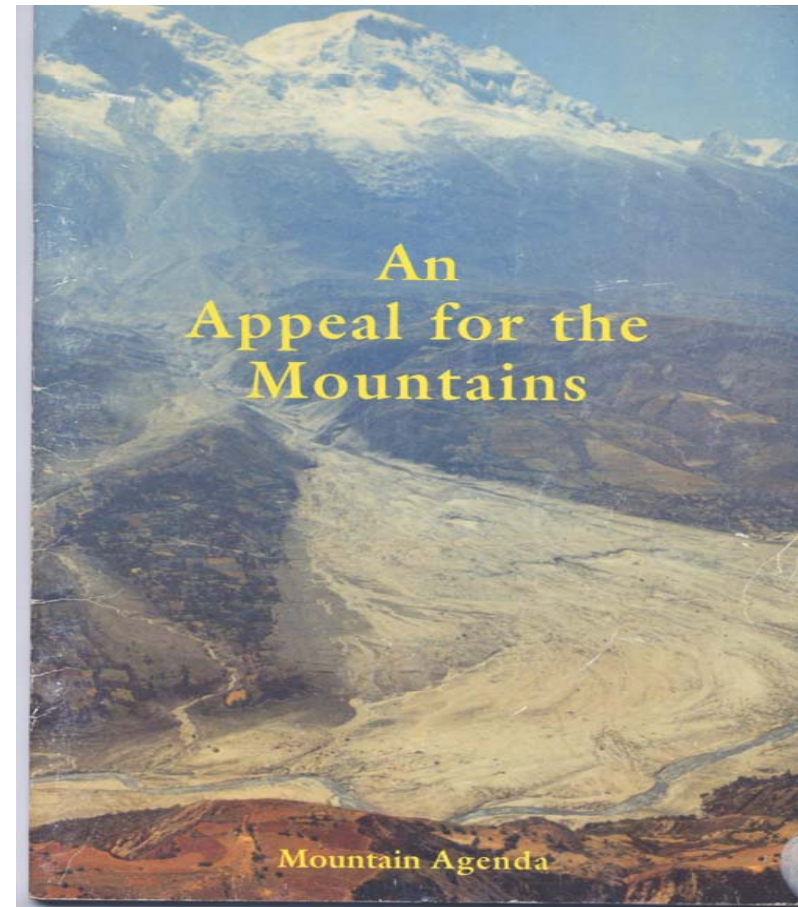


26,2% of total land area are mountains and highlands

(38 million sq. km. of total 147 million sq. km.)

UNCED Rio-1992 Agenda 21 Mountain Chapter

- First time the Mountain Chapter was included in Global Development Agenda (1992)
- Inter-Government mountain consultations had place in Asia (1994) and Europe (Inverness and Trento, 1996)
- Mountain Forum was established in 1995 (Lima, Peru)
- Mountain Section became significant component of Convention of Biodiversity.



Strategy for Sustainable Mountain Development should comprise:

“ A coordinated set of participatory and continuously improving process of analysis, debate, capacity-strengthening, planning and investment, which integrates the economic, social and environmental objectives of society, seeking trade-offs where this is not possible” (after OESD-DAC, 2001)

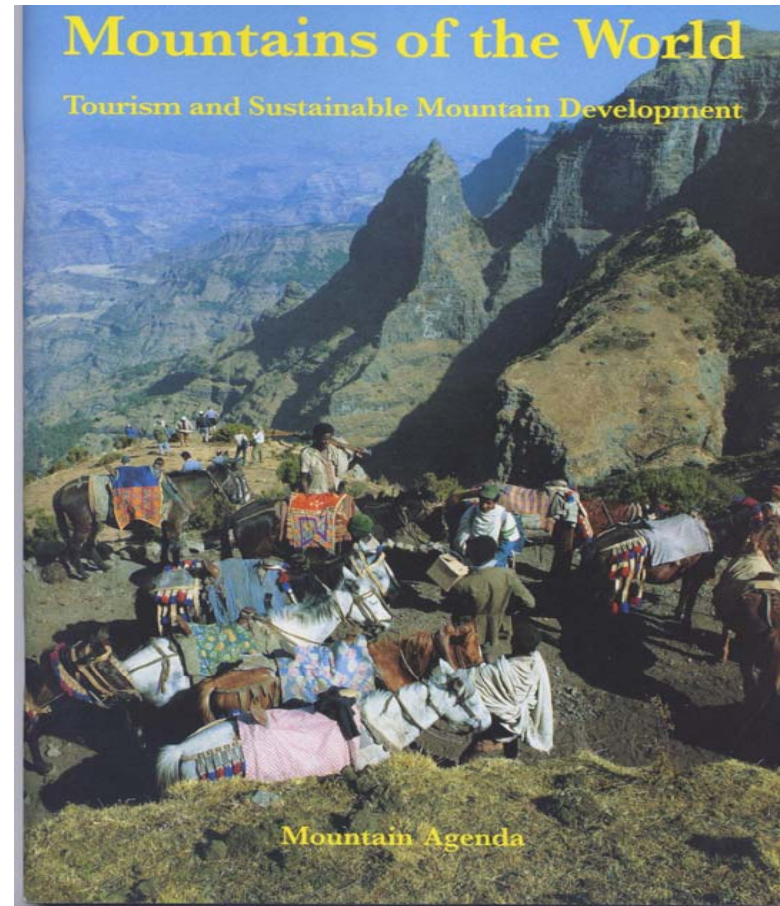
3 fundamental principles should be included in SMD concept:

- 1. Efficient utilization and management of local natural/human resources**
- 2. Regional cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders**
- 3. Political will of Central Government to support local initiatives for SMD**

(after E. Brugge, P. Messerli)

11 Principles of Participatory approach (after KFPE-CH, 2005)

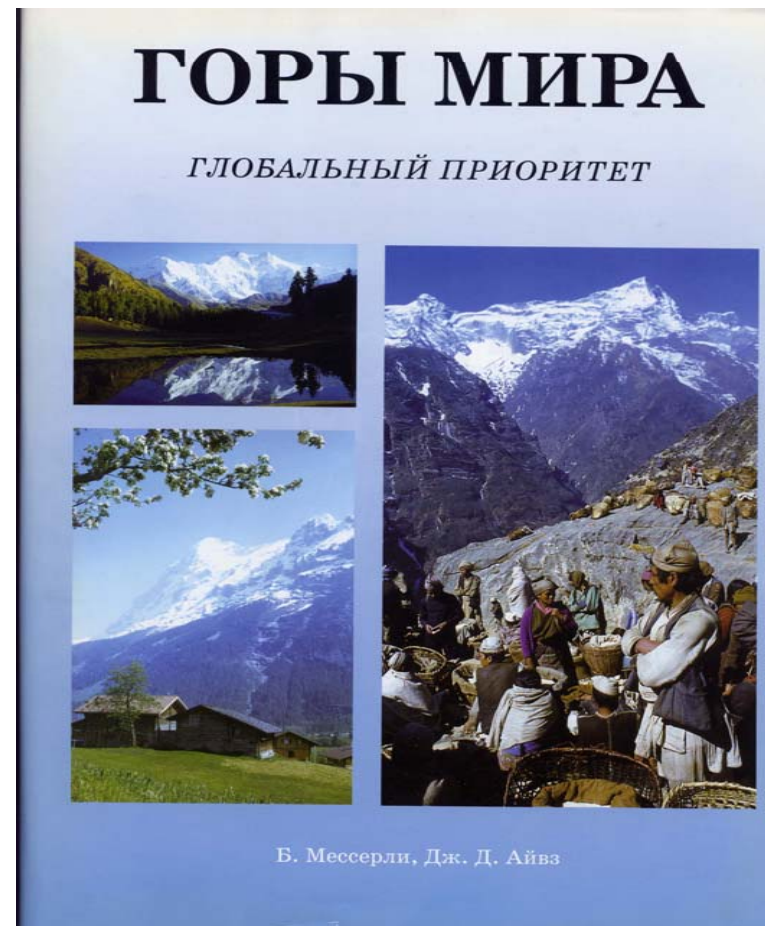
1. Formulate problems/objectives together
2. Build up mutual trust
3. Share information; develop network
4. Share responsibility
5. Create transparency
6. Monitor and evaluate collaboration
7. Disseminate the results
8. Apply the results
9. Share profit equitably
10. Increase research capacity
11. Build on the achievements



UN SD Summit 2002 in Johannesburg

Mountain Partnership

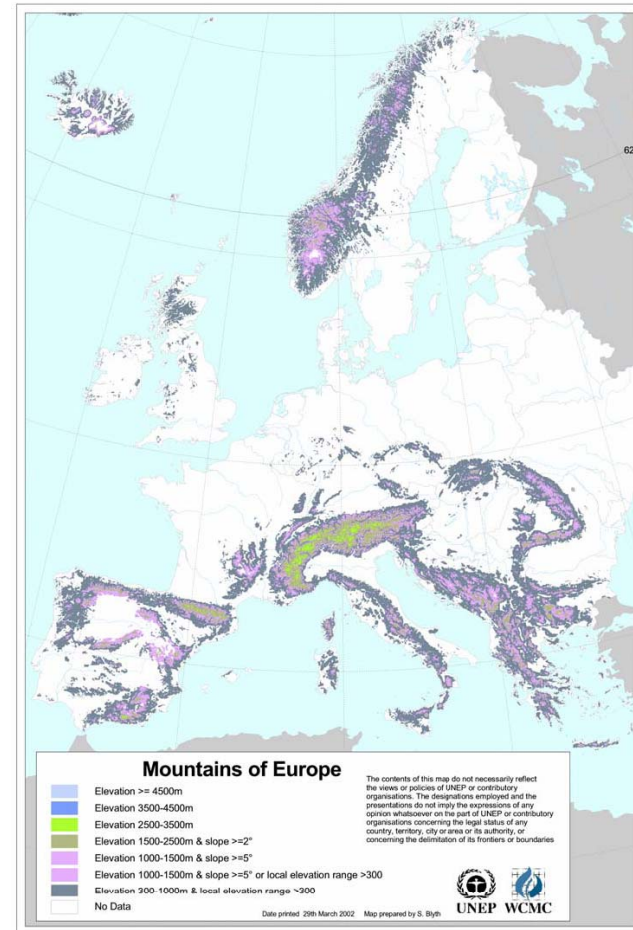
- UN International Year of mountains 2002
- Bishkek Mountain Summit 2002
- Mountain Partnership (Merano 2003, Kusco 2006)



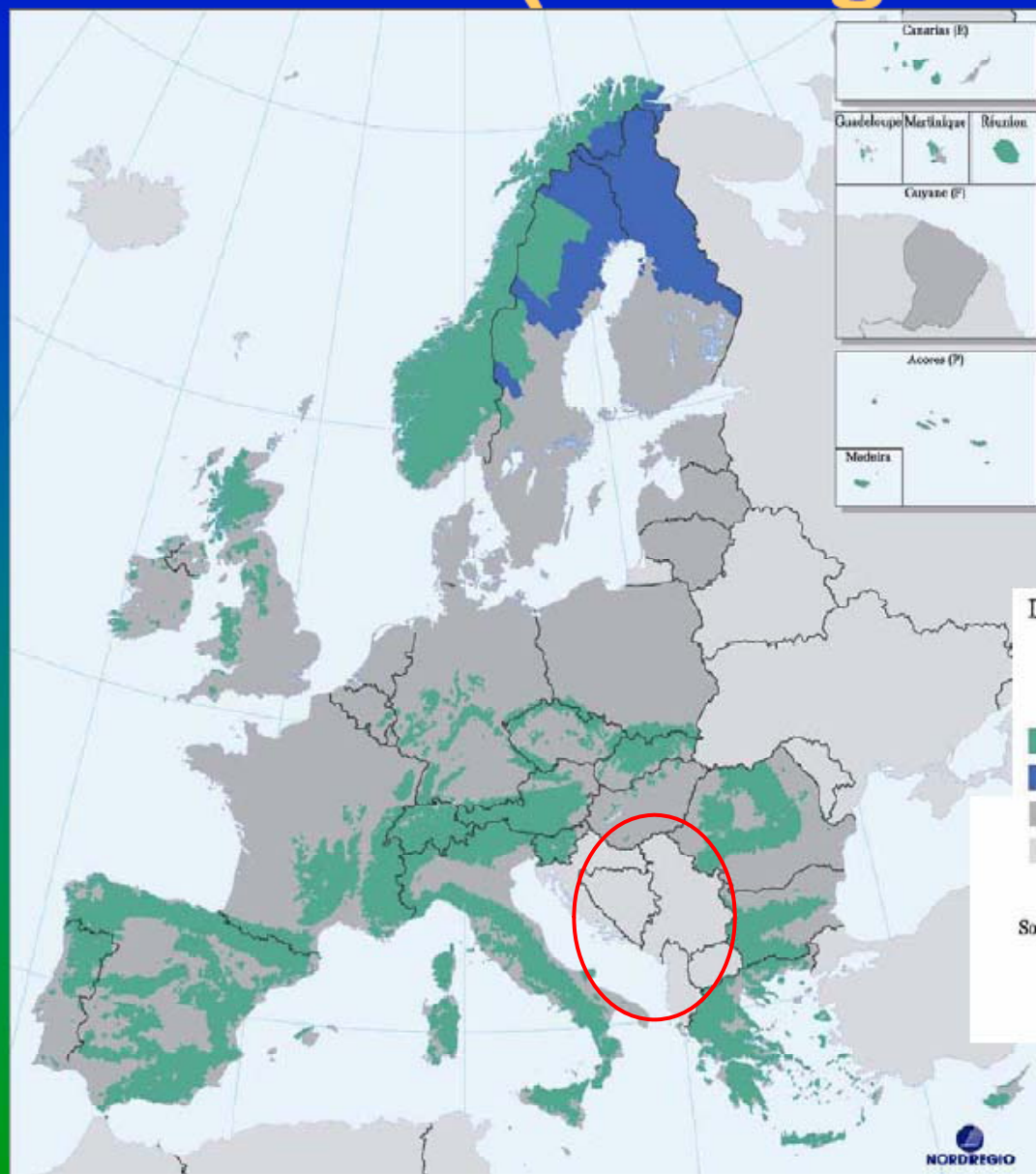
MOUNTAINS OF EUROPE

Mountains and highlands :

- Represent in the world approximately 20% of emerged surfaces.
- In the EU they occupy **30% of the territory**, with 20% of the UAA and more than 25% of the farms.
- In some European States they are even more important: Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Greece, Italy, Portugal (more than 50% of the territory). •
- Are the living area for 10% of the world population (approximately **30 million people in the EU**), but many more benefit indirectly from their resources.
- Present a large range of various cultural and physical situations.
- Thus, they are a **strategic reservoir of resources** and diversity, and include most of non-fragmented natural areas of Europe (often frontier)



Delimitation (Nordregio study)



Delimitation of mountain municipalities in Europe

- Municipalities defined as mountainous according to topographic criteria
- Municipalities defined as mountainous according to climatic criteria
- Study area
- Other countries

Source: Eurostat/GISCO

0 500Km

Administrative boundaries: EuroGeographics, ESR Romania, NORD,
Other, Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Eurostat/GISCO



Mountain policies in Europe

Countries where no mountain policies can be identified:

Greece, Norway, Slovenia, Belgium, Ireland, Luxemburg, Poland

Countries where mountain policies/measures are sectoral:

Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia (agriculture, environment, tourism)

Countries with multi-sectoral development mountain policies:

Austria, Germany, Spain

Countries with overall development mountain policies:

- *France (Mountain law with delimitation of massifs, 1985)*
- *Italy (Mountain laws 1948, 1971, 1994)*
- *Switzerland (Law on Investment in mountain regions [LIM] 1974)*

Principal national and regional sectoral policies for mountain areas in Europe

Agriculture

Mountain agriculture faced: low productivity and high production costs.

Agriculture area declining rapidly. Declining farm number and active population (last decades: Italy -22%; France -42%; Finland > -50%; Switzerland - 2,5%/year)

Mountain agriculture cannot generally compete with lowland farms

Alternative solutions focus on specific products or know-how, quality products / services/ Linked with tourism increasing.

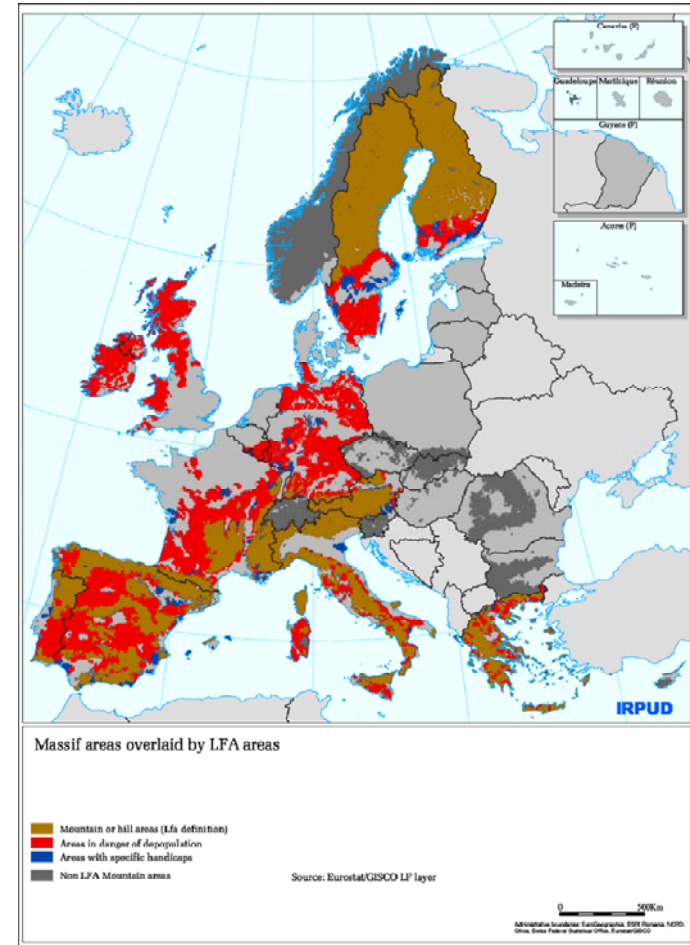
EU: Less Favorable Areas and Mountains (CAP)

Community Initiatives in mountain areas

- Mountain areas are almost completely covered by one of the LFA categories in the EU. Although the definition of mountain areas goes well beyond the one used within the LFA system, it is notable that the fringes of massif areas are often identified as being in danger of depopulation.

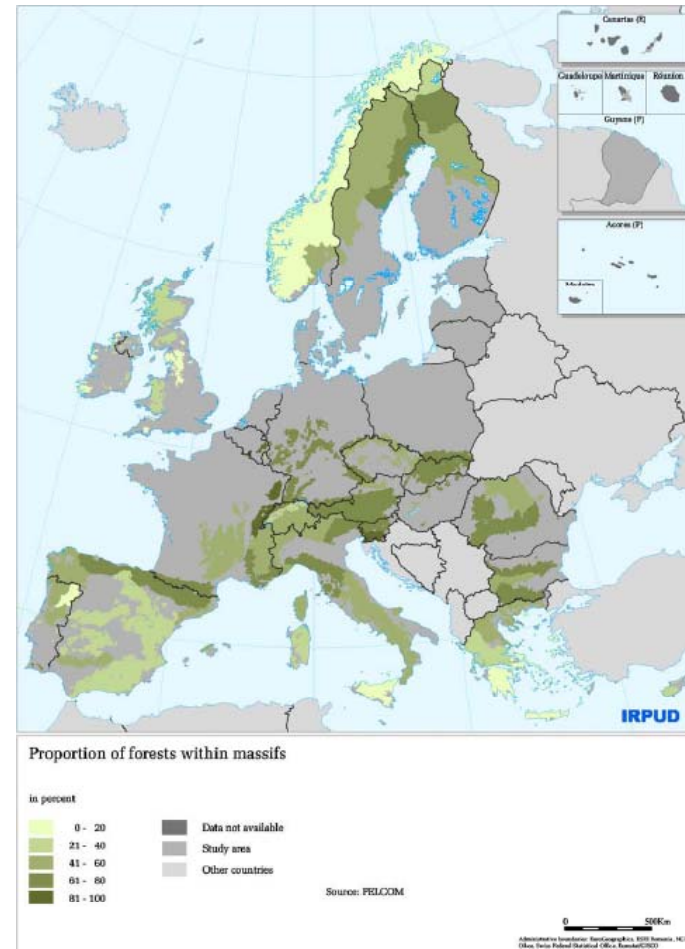
CAP provides framework of action and set of measures addressed to mountain areas (from 1975 direct payments in LFA/mountain areas)

- farm investment aids;
- direct payments to farmers;
- improvement of equipment and facilities;
- grants for retirement;
- installation grants to young people start-up in farming;
- support to maintenance of pastures;
- suppression of livestock limitation within LFA schemes;
- specific dairy quota for mountain areas;
- mountain labels for quality products;
- support to eco-farms;
- strengthening environmental considerations in mountain farming.



Forestry

- support for planting new forests;
- conservation of indigenous species and increasing the area they cover; compensatory allowances for sustainable forest management;
- coverage of afforestation costs and loss of income from reforesting agricultural land and certain maintenance costs;
- expansion of forests with protection roles (65% in Finland, 60% in Germany, 32% in Austria, 15% in Slovakia);
- improvement of wood production structures;
- diversification of activities in predominantly forested regions;
- prevention against natural damage;
- fire prevention and control.



Tourism

- improvements in the quality of accommodation;
- restructuration of thermal facilities;
- renovation of historical villages;
- modernisation of skiing infrastructure;
- improvement of local factors of attractiveness (e.g., landscape, cultural heritage, villages, leisure facilities);
- walking tourism;
- diversification of tourism products;
- support to alternative forms of tourism;
- development of information systems and education;
- extension of the tourism season;
- co-ordination of local initiatives;
- inclusion of sustainability principles;
- visitor taxes



Balancing the pros and cons of tourism in an Alpine context

- halting outmigration
- job creation
- income generation
- funds for infrastructure
- support for agriculture and sustainable land use
- improved living conditions
- stronger self-confidence

- precarious economy
- uncoordinated growth
- overconsumption of resources
- environmental impacts
- loss of autonomy
- dilution of local culture
- increased inequalities and social tension

Source: J. Krippendorf,
HR. Müller

Environment

Decrease in the total area of cultivated land is more rapid in mountain areas than in the lowlands.

Climate change having certain effect (impact on permafrost, glaciers, slopes/erosion, mudflows, etc).

Long-recognized natural risks enhanced by human interventions in different ways: changes in cultural landscapes, infrastructure and high level of tourism use, sensitivity to climate change.

Main tools:

- Spatial planning
- Risk management
- Nature conservation

Trans-national mountain policies

COTRAO (1982) Working communities of regional governments, W. Alps

Central Alps (AGRE-ALP, 1972)

Eastern Alps (ALPE-ADRIA, 1978)

Pyrenees working communities (Andorra, France, Spain, 1983)

Jura (France, Switzerland, 1985) Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Ecoregion (W. Sudety mountains, Czech Republic – Germany – Poland, 1991)

Alpine convention (9 countries)

Carpathian Convention (2003)



Balkan Convention (2005)

(Initiated by Macedonia, Cusco, 2004; FAO, Roma, 2005)

Caucasus Convention (in process?)

A map of the Central Part of North Caucasus, highlighting the regions of Adygeya, KcHR, KBR, RMO-Alania, and ChR. The map shows the Black Sea to the west, and the borders of Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. Major cities like Sochi, Grozny, Tbilisi, and Yerevan are marked. The map also shows the locations of various historical and cultural sites, including the RMO-Alania region.

KcHR

KBR

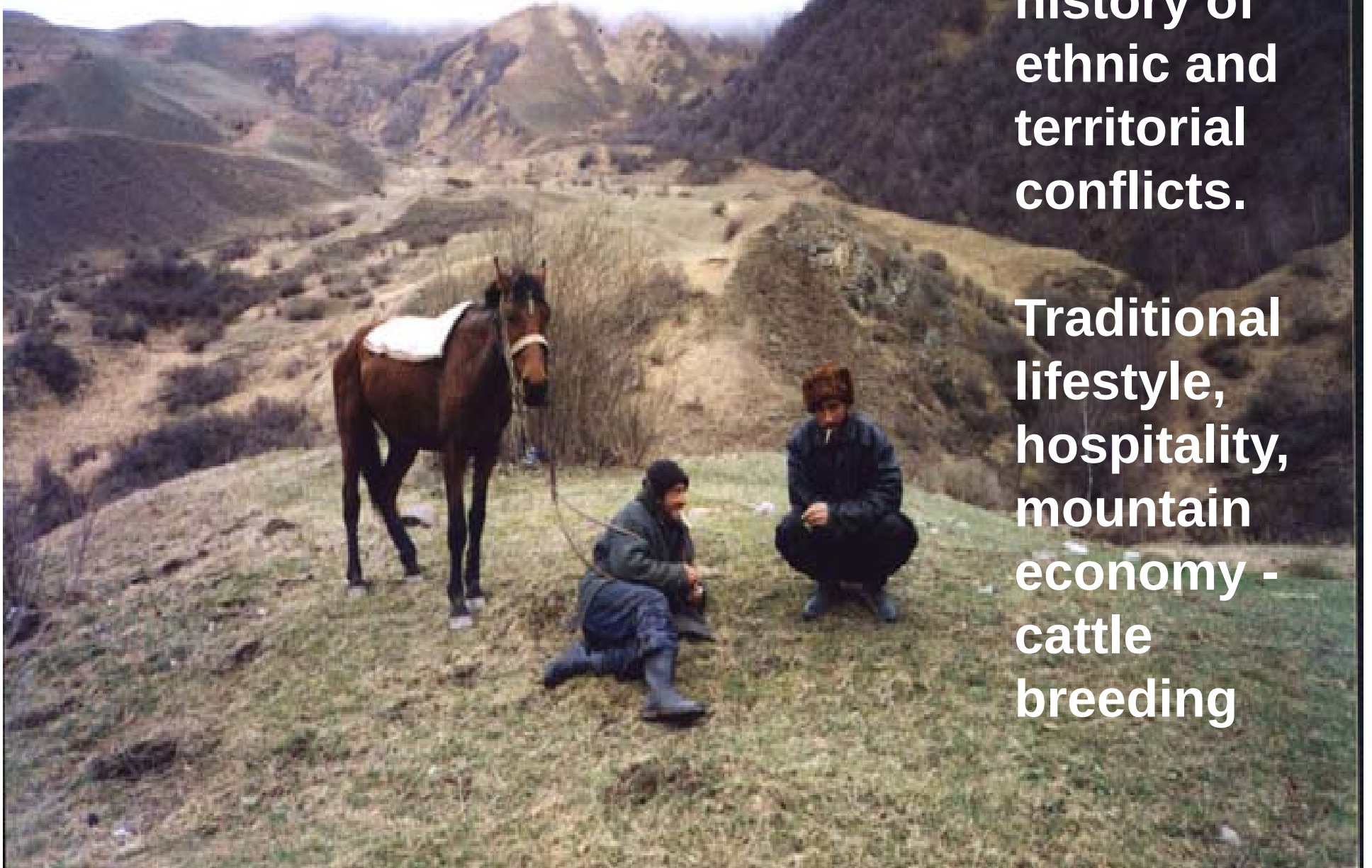
~~RNO-Alania~~

ChR

Caucasus Convention?

**Long
history of
ethnic and
territorial
conflicts.**

**Traditional
lifestyle,
hospitality,
mountain
economy -
cattle
breeding**

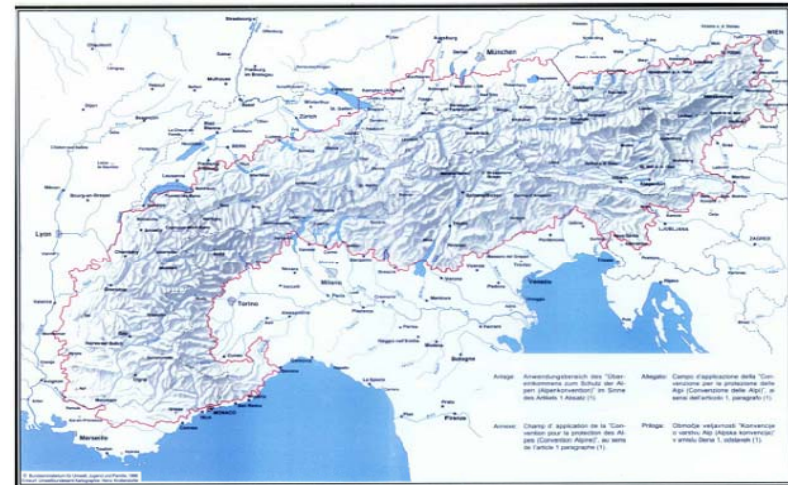


The Alps: Alpine Convention

initiated in 1953

Through a territorial and integrated approach:

- Population and culture
- Spatial development
- Air quality management
- Soil protection
- Water management
- Protection of nature and conservation of landscapes
- Mountain agriculture
- Mountain forests
- Tourism
- Transport
- Energy and waste management



EUROMONTANA



Euromontana 10 Years



*Anniversary publication
2006*

Blueprint of a Strategy Platform

A nonprofit's strategy platform outlines how the organization will fulfill its operational mission – in terms of funding, organization, client, and program development. Once the platform is in place, the nonprofit will be able to make reasoned, strategic decisions about which programs to run and how to run them.



EU: Global Change in Mountain Areas (GLOCHAMORE)

Climate

Land use change

The Cryosphere

Water System

Ecosystem function and services

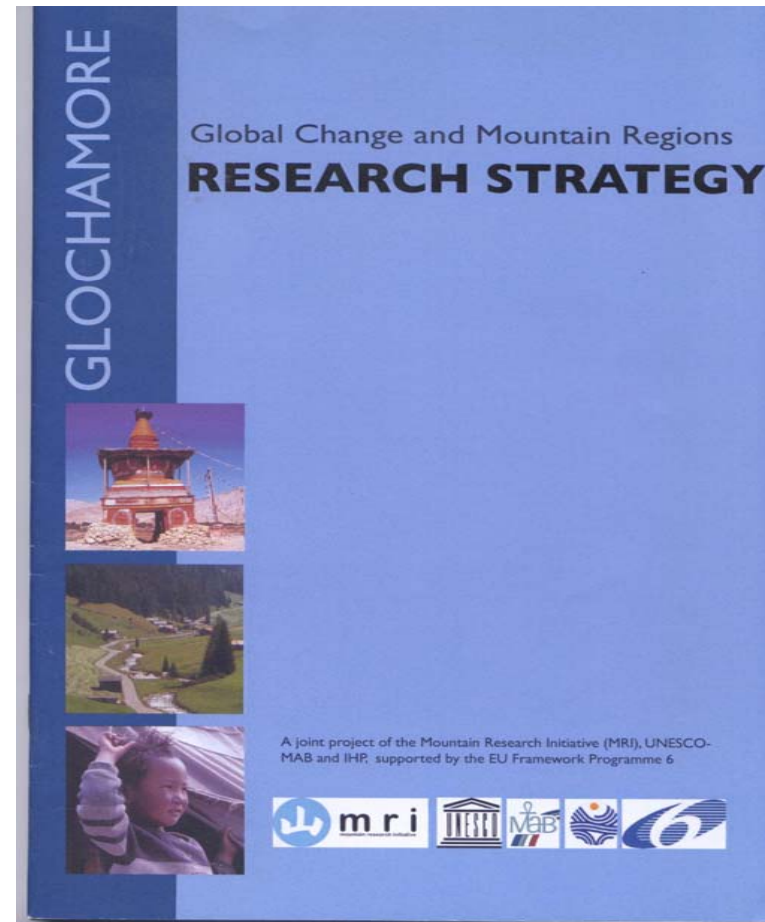
Biodiversity

Hazards

Health determinants and Outcomes
 Afflicting Humans and Livestock

Mountain economies

Society and Global Change



Why Are Mountains Important in the Context of Global Change Research?

- Future climate changes will be amplified in mountain regions
- Mountains are marginal environments, sensitive to change
- Changes affecting mountains are felt far beyond mountain regions
- Population pressures exacerbate environmental changes in mountain regions
- Significant knowledge gaps hinder our ability to assess changes in mountain regions and to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Mountains are places where global change will have important repercussions on PEOPLE.

GLOBAL
CHANGE

IGBP REPORT 49

International
Geosphere-Biosphere
Programme

GTOS

GTOS REPORT 28

Global
Terrestrial Observing
System

I H D P

IHDP REPORT 13

International Human Dimensions
Programme on Global
Environmental Change



Global Change and
Mountain Regions

The Mountain Research Initiative

GLOCHAMORE

translating “concerns” into “strategy”

establish a framework for long-term research efforts by taking advantage of the infrastructure and ongoing research activities in UNESCO MAB's Mountain Biosphere Reserves in European countries with the explicit goal of implementing the strategy in mountain UNESCO Biosphere Reserves around the world, in both developed and developing countries



Sustainable Management
of Mountains

FAO contribution

Normative work

- documenting best practices in **sustainable mountain development**.
- investigating **food insecurity** and **malnutrition** in mountain areas
- strengthening **mountain populations' livelihoods** with improved **policies** for SMD and RD
- forging **alliances** between partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world.
- devising technical guidelines, methodologies and tools for **watershed management** and **conservation**.
- charting trends in mountain legislation and improve mountain **policies and laws**.
- ensuring the sustainable management and utilization of **non-wood forest products**.

FAO contribution

- improving **forest policies** and strategies on poverty alleviation and food security.
- strengthening **communication, information and research networks**.
- promoting inland capture **fisheries** and aquaculture in mountain areas.
- encouraging **conservation agriculture** and soil **conservation practices** in mountain areas.
- developing a **global database** on **ecosystem monitoring** in mountain regions.
- promoting **technologies** for mountain agriculture.
- mainstreaming **gender** and population issues in agricultural, environmental and rural development policies, legislation, programmes and projects.
- strengthening local institutional capacities for **disaster preparedness and prevention** in high-risk areas.
- encouraging the protection and promotion of **high-quality mountain products** to improve mountain livelihoods.

The FAO Mountain Products Programme

The Mountain Products Programme -- implemented by [FAO](#) in the context of the [Mountain Partnership](#) -- aims to improve the livelihoods of mountain communities through promoting enterprise development in mountain regions that is environmentally and socially responsible and based on local high-quality, high-value products

- Mountain people typically face many obstacles to producing, marketing and selling high-quality, high-value products:
- Weak communication infrastructures
 - Lack of information, training and expertise in new agricultural technologies
 - Lack of registration, certification and labelling to protect products
 - Inadequate marketing skills
 - Lack of wider market access
 - High transport costs
 - Unfair trade

FAO/TCP/Mountains

Technical-Cooperative type projects

General approaches

1. Projects requested to FAO by States for technical assistance and cooperation. It's State's initiative and willingness!
2. Multi-level approach: national, regional, local
3. Multi-stakeholders negotiations

Outputs

1. At National level – recommendations for SMD policy development
2. At regional level – recommendations for regional authorities to form and implement investment strategy for SMD agenda
3. At local level – pilot (field) projects support to improve mountain communities livelihood, natural/cultural heritage conservation, efficient management of natural resources

At international level (if necessary) – transboundary regional cooperation



ARMENIA

Sustainable development of mountain areas

FAO TCP/ARM/3001 (2003-2005)



2004 Jan



ARMENIA

Sustainable development of mountain areas

FAO TCP/ARM/3001

INVESTMENT modules (long and mid-term):

1. Mountain communities and rural development (4 projects)
2. Institutional/legal capacity building (5)
3. Research, Environment and Development (2)
4. Education and training (2)
5. Public awareness and extension (2)

Some examples:

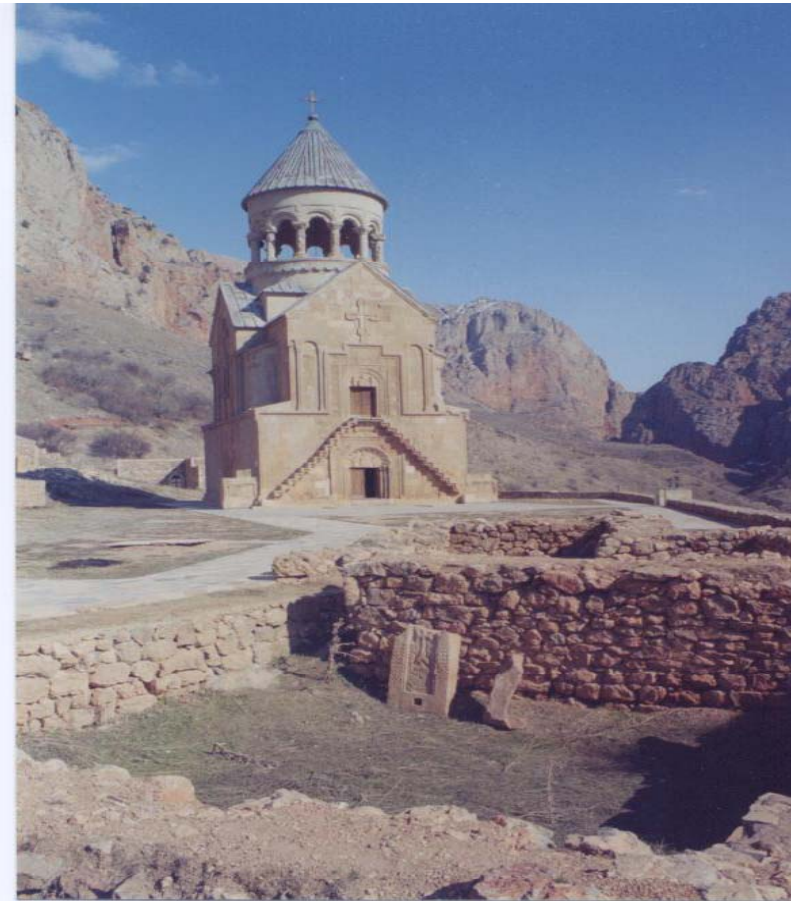
Promotion of high quality mountain products;

Community based forest management;

Law on “Associations of mountain communities”

Global change research in mountain biosphere reserve

group “Friends of Mountains” in the Parliament of Armenia



POLAND

Sustainable mountain development

FAO TCP/POL/3004 (2005-2007)

Objectives

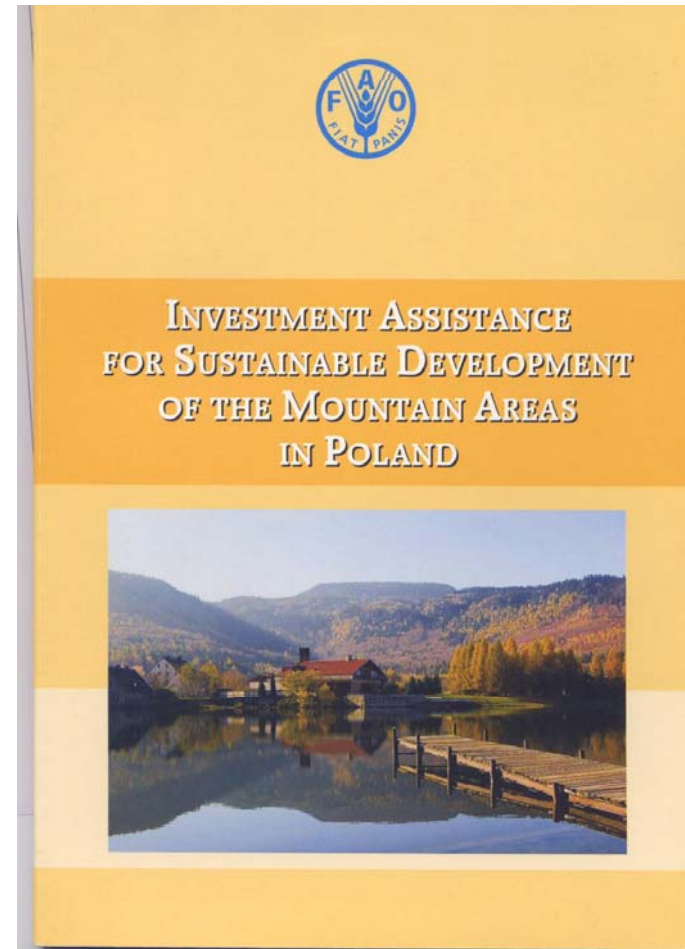
At the national level:

increase the capacity of mountain stakeholders through networking, outreach, advocacy and training to develop and implement sustainable development strategies and programmes in mountain regions;

formulate an investment programme for sustainable mountain development that would include the development of a national strategy for mountain regions as well as a regional (multi-national) component.

At field level

establish a pilot project in the Klodzko Valley in the Sudety Mountains that demonstrates an integrated approach to sustainable mountain development



POLAND

Sustainable mountain development

FAO TCP/POL/3004

Outputs

At the national level

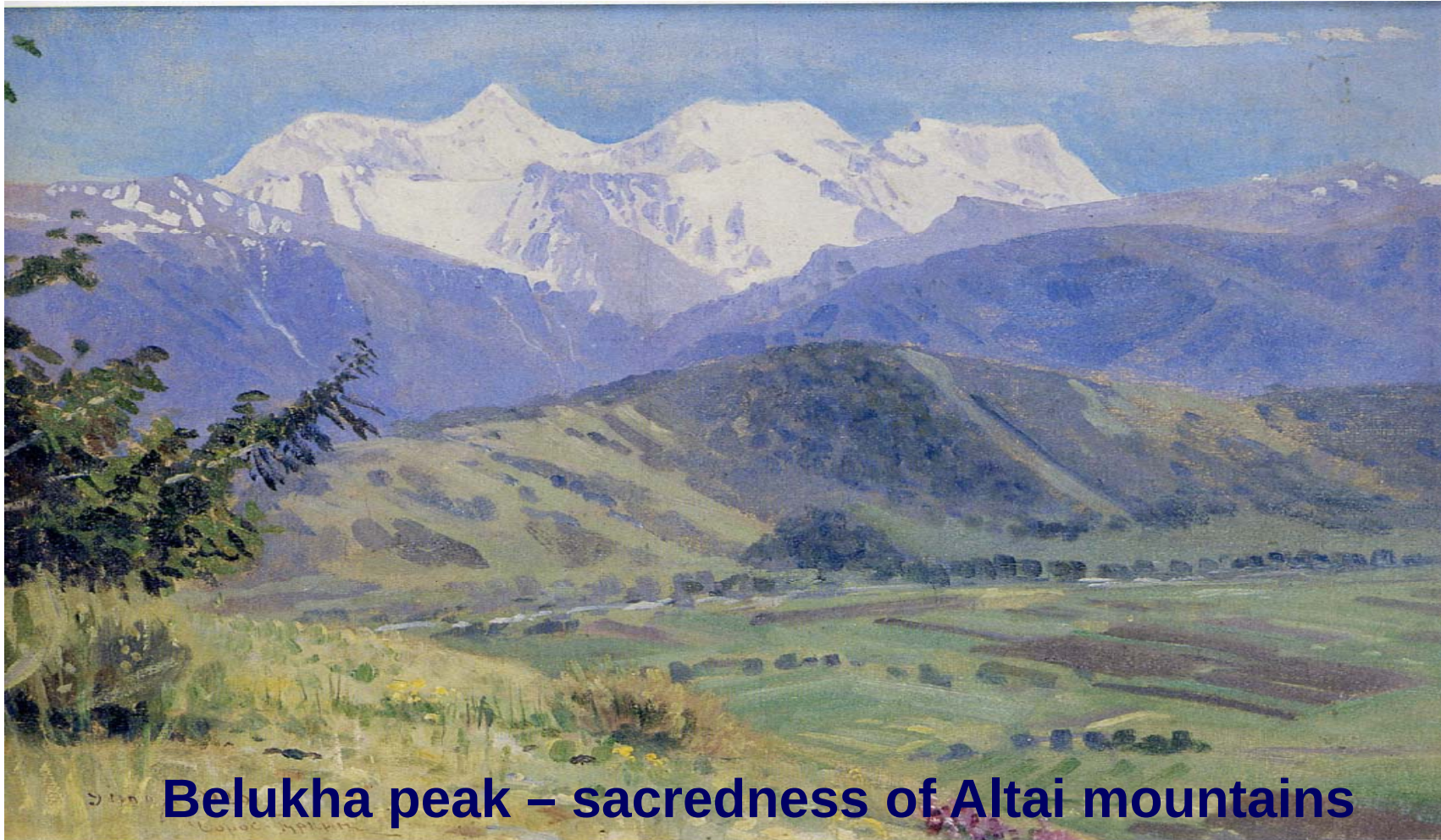
- a comprehensive investment programme on sustainable mountain development formulated, with a modular structure, for Government, EU and other donors support;
- a network of mountain stakeholders and an inventory of mountain-related projects

At field level

- integrated, participatory planning and needs assessment exercise implemented for the establishment of a framework for sustainable mountain development within the pilot project area;
- an economic analysis of the comparative advantage and competitiveness of agricultural production in the Kłodzko region



Altai Republic/Russian Federation
Strategy for Sustainable Development of Mountain areas
FAO/TCP/Altai 2008 - 2010



Belukha peak – sacredness of Altai mountains

E. Zuess: Altai – ancient crown of Asia



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Спасибо за внимание !