

# **Chambéry declaration 2002**

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## **Declaration about Europe's mountain protected areas**

**whose representatives met at the  
Conference on « Protected Areas of European Mountains »  
held in Chambéry, 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November 2002.**

The representatives of Europe's mountain protected areas, of international bodies, and of scientific institutions and other entities, all responsible for mountain conservation, assembled in Chambéry, France, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2002.

The purpose of this meeting was to reflect on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Europe's mountain protected areas. The objective was to outline the applied measures of mountain conservation, to identify common issues relevant for mountain protected areas today and to foster solid co-operation between the different protected areas in the European mountain massifs and to eventually incorporate this in a global approach.

- We act on the basis of the Alpine Convention of 1991, the Agenda 21 of 1992, the Berchtesgaden Declaration of 2002 and the process of elaboration of a convention for the Carpathians and the Caucasus.
- We underline the importance of mountain regions as a valuable but vulnerable natural and cultural heritage. As one of the last sanctuaries for numerous species, mountain regions are vast resources of biological and geological diversity, major water reserves and provide a unique rich heritage of local traditions.
- We point out that mountain regions require measures of development and conservation that are specially adapted to their characteristics. The development of such measures is a task that can be more efficiently accomplished through co-operation between the concerned stakeholders taking into consideration the surrounding urban areas.
- We acknowledge that mountain regions and their protected areas can be considered as a kind of territory of experimentation, allowing the development and optimisation of conservation measures and methods through an exemplary approach of sustainable development.
- We consider that the vitality of traditional activities can permit recreation and tourism to be the main future economic activities for many mountain communities. A responsible and sustainable development of these activities with the aim to preserve the natural and cultural heritage and support traditional activities, such as agriculture and forestry, along with the use of mountain resources like water, energy and landscape are and can be, even more than today, the main resource for most of the communities. Transboundary information and co-operation are necessary to achieve equitable development together the participation of local stakeholders and the young generation.

- We are convinced that a long-term co-operation among European mountain protected areas can contribute to the cohesion between the different regions of Europe, especially in the current enlargement process while promoting transboundary and intercultural dialogue. We therefore have the will to build up and maintain co-operative efforts. This includes common projects on particular subjects as well as informal networks of co-operation within and between the mountain regions of Europe.
- We consider intergovernmental co-operation and European Union policies dedicated to protected areas in general and mountain regions in particular as essential and urgent.

It is agreed that the protected areas will inform the concerned ministries about the Chambéry declaration:

**We propose the following concrete steps for the next three years:**

1. Promote the creation, in each European massif, of a mountain co-operation committee – especially in the massifs where a process has already been engaged (Carpathians, Caucasus Balkans). These committees should comprise the representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations and of protected areas situated in the concerned mountain ranges.
2. Carry out a first inventory of protected areas in the different European mountains regions and compare this to existing inventories (IUCN). Such an inventory is an essential base in order to obtain a general view of the situation in Europe and to define further steps. This mission and its details must be defined and carried out by a specific organisation.
3. Disseminate information about models and methods to implement nature protection and sustainable development, and transfer knowledge from research to local populations.
4. Make an inventory of the problems and solutions concerning the management of protected areas and the protection of the natural and cultural heritage of the European mountains.
5. Encourage partnerships, common projects and networks to stimulate information flow and co-operation on a European level. Strategies for active participation of populations are to be developed. We propose that the networking should be based on existing, official structures in the different nations as well as international organisations and integrated into international conventions (Carpathians, Balkans, Caucasus ...).
6. Study the possibilities of organizing a conference for the year 2005 in one of the concerned massifs. The conference should be dedicated to the analysis of the progress achieved and define the next steps to be taken with the different governmental and non-governmental partners.
7. Promote the creation of an organisation for each massif to be in charge of this co-operation and define the conditions of a minimum financing.