



FOR A CHARTER OF TERRITORIES The WMPA's Actions and Projects

Since its creation in Quito in 2002, the WMPA has been calling for proactive public support policies to be put into place by way of an International Mountain Program. The goal is to create institutions and action plans in order to:

1. Reinforce and modernize the abilities and skills of local authorities so that mountain populations can once again sustainably manage their territories.
2. Give other parts of society negotiated and regulated access to territorial resources.
3. Develop production activities that value the skills and resources of mountain people within their territories:
"To promote income-generating activities, such as sustainable tourism, fisheries and environmentally sound mining, and to improve infrastructure and social services, in particular to protect the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous people" (Chapter 13)
4. Develop health and education services, particularly by adapting to the cultural specificities (beginning with the language) and production systems of mountain populations.
5. Establish institutions and techniques for zoning and preventing risks, warning systems, evacuation plans, and emergency supplies for countries at risk.
6. Establish **REGIONAL CENTRES FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS**, which will be run by key players in mountain territories. The main objective of these centres is to conserve, develop, adapt, spread, and promote the technical, social, and managerial know-how of mountain communities. Additionally, the centres will work to reinforce these communities' ability to make proposals and negotiate with public authorities. They will also identify objectives and implement development projects with the help of international donors:
"There is, however, a lack of knowledge of mountain societies and their production and territory management techniques, of their production systems and their complementary natures, and of their mountain territories and ecosystems. The creation of a global mountain database is therefore vital to launch programmes that would contribute to the sustainable development of mountain regions." (Chapter 13)
7. Create an **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN OBSERVATORY**:
Many mountain communities do not know that others face the same problems, possess very similar cultures, and have the same types of aspirations. Given our globalized world, the WMPA's goal is bring these territories together so that they can benefit from the rich diversity they represent, strengthen their own abilities through mutual exchange, and together construct collective values.
Communication technology makes such interaction possible.
Using the network of Regional Centres for Cooperation and Exchange, different populations will share their experiences in order to develop solidarity, exchange knowledge, discuss proposals and plans, and reinforce their common identity.

In 2010, the WMPA organised its third World Meeting of Mountain People in Oloron Sainte-Marie, located in the Béarn department in the French Pyrenees. The main topic of discussion centred on mountain territories and their coveted natural resources, which have been the source of many difficulties for communities. After several days of debates between participants representing all of the world's large mountain chains, the Oloron Manifesto was drawn up to outline the principles that must be respected when exploiting and managing natural mountain resources.

Although all this was done with mountain regions in mind, the WMPA realizes that mountain communities are not the only ones confronted with the exploitation of their natural resources. Maritime communities, forest communities, and others also manage territories with natural resources vital to their own survival and that of other societies.

This is why the WMPA has committed to working alongside other communities from different environmental backgrounds to draw up a Charter for the Sustainable Earth Alliance. Each group of communities will elaborate a charter of natural resources according to their type of territory. The resulting documents will then be brought together to create a common Charter based on the universally recognized principles governing the management of heritage and common resources.

We propose to the United Nations the creation of an Alliance between Territories whose first task will consist of drawing up a "CHARTER OF TERRITORIES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES" and presenting it during the Intergovernmental Conference. This bottom-up, participative Alliance must be linked to the creation of a cross-cutting World Environmental Organization in order to shape an inclusive and participative understanding of production activities, the environment, and how to fit together within specific ecosystems.