

The Mountain Green Book

“Summary¹”



WHY A GREEN BOOK FOR THE MOUNTAINS?

The Mountain Green Book is the contribution of the mountains of France to the 2015 COP 21 in Paris. Written by 17 contributors and supported by 21 organisations, it features 32 pages of observations about climate imbalance in the mountains and 21 simple and clear proposals.

This Green Book reflects the commitment of all those who support it. This is a commitment that mountaineers, those who live in mountain areas and those who simply love the mountains should all share. We are all concerned. This is also the reason that we invite you to sign our petition, the Call of Mountain People for Climate on www.montagne-climat.com

We must strive together

- To ensure that mountains and their ecosystems are recognised as specific issues in the discussions and decisions of Paris COP 21,
- To change our habits in the mountains, both individually and collectively, in light of climate imbalance.

1. The full version of The Mountain Green Book is available on www.montagne-climat.com

A NEW ROUTE FORWARD FOR MOUNTAINS

Mobilisation of the mountaineering world is under way. We must all strive together to limit the causes of global warming. It is time to take action to construct a new way of mountain living and to rethink our model of society.

The momentum initiated by the "Appel pour nos montagnes" in 2011 with the ensuing "Rencontres Citoyennes de la Montagne," the signature of the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation 'Declaration on Mountains and Climate Change for COP21', the "21 Sommet(s) pour le climat", the mobilisation "Refaisons le Climat" by France Nature Environnement and "l'Appel: protéger le climat, maintenant!" by CIPRA, all demonstrate the extent to which commitment has been aroused.

Actions such as the Mountain Wilderness "Changer d'approche" campaign and Mountain Riders' "Flocon vert" label have already emerged.

Internationally, Coordination Montagne has strengthened its ties with the Mountain Partnership intergovernmental organisation which is involved in the climate issue.

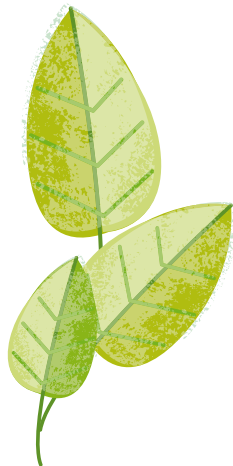
We all agree that certain human activities in mountain areas contribute to climate change and that climate change is impacting life in the mountains.

We all agree that our model is not sustainable and the stakes are universal.

We all advocate an integrated approach to nature where man is part of the whole world.

He has to realise that his actions have consequences on the balance of the world

Together, we must involve mountain communities in changing their practices. The challenge at hand is not necessarily to be perfect but to strive together to adapt to the impacts of current changes in the most positive way possible.



Global Warming:
The consequences
are already visible in
mountain regions

THE MOUNTAINS ARE SUFFERING!

The world's mountains are bearing the brunt of climate change.

Average temperatures in France have increased by 0.89° C, whereas the Alps have warmed up by 2 °C; and we can observe the same phenomenon in other mountain regions throughout the world: **mountains are warming more rapidly than the rest of the land.**

All over the world **glaciers are melting.** For example, Alpine glaciers which have already lost between 20 and 30% of their volume since 1980, could still decline by 30 to 70 % by 2050.

With an increase in temperature of just 1°C, glacier tongues have retreated in altitude by 60 to 140 metres. This progressive retreat of glaciers is one of the most visible and easy to observe signs of the effects of climate change.

With climate change, **natural hazards intensify** and multiply thus putting populations at risk. **Many different areas of activities** such as tourism and mountain recreation activities, agriculture, pastoralism, forestry, hydroelectricity and water supply **are facing a changing environment.** Both humans and ecosystems will have to adapt to climate change.

Globally, mountains are home to 30% of the world's population and supply water to 50% of humanity. The evolution of mountain environments therefore has global consequences that need to be better addressed.

Numerous and significant impacts throughout the mountains of the world.

NUMEROUS AND SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAINS OF THE WORLD

Our models of development are no longer sustainable in view of threats posed by global warming. In order to limit its effects and to better adapt to the changes underway, it is imperative that together we invent new ways of living and working in mountain regions.

It can be observed that:

Future choices for **urban planning** and the development of transport, housing, tourist and leisure facilities will directly affect the territories' response to climate change, either by strengthening their capacity to adapt or increasing their vulnerabilities.

Water is essential for life and is also needed to maintain and develop many economic activities such as agriculture, industry, energy and tourism. Water resources are widely impacted by climate change. Changes in hydrologic regimes have repercussions on many human activities as well as on aquatic environments.

Agriculture, supplier of food, which is crucial to the life of rural territories and to landscape management, will have to adapt. Climate change will have an impact on harvest dates, yields and on the quality of production.

The **quality of the air** that we breathe and **the water** that we drink could deteriorate with consequences on health.

Travelling takes large amounts of energy and causes pollution, adding to global warming. Alternative solutions have already been put forward but reflection is required on our daily, professional or tourist transport means in often isolated geographical areas.

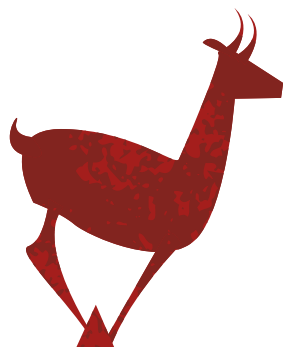
Tourism generates travel which uses resources, but it is also an economic driving force for mountain regions. Reflection on the future of both winter and summer mountain tourism is required.

Mountaineers and mountain sports enthusiasts already have to adapt to changes in the mountain environment. The jobs of mountain guides and mountain refuge keepers are particularly affected by climate change.

The economy of mountain regions is threatened by global warming. Many different sectors of activity such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and industry will have to adapt to change.

Mountain biodiversity and ecosystems have also been affected by an increase in temperatures and have to adapt or are threatened.

Most areas of human activity in the mountains contribute to climate change. All those involved in the mountain environment may be mobilised to adapt their practices and meet the challenges of climate change. However, the task is cross-cutting requiring reflections and new collective organisations with shared decision-making processes.



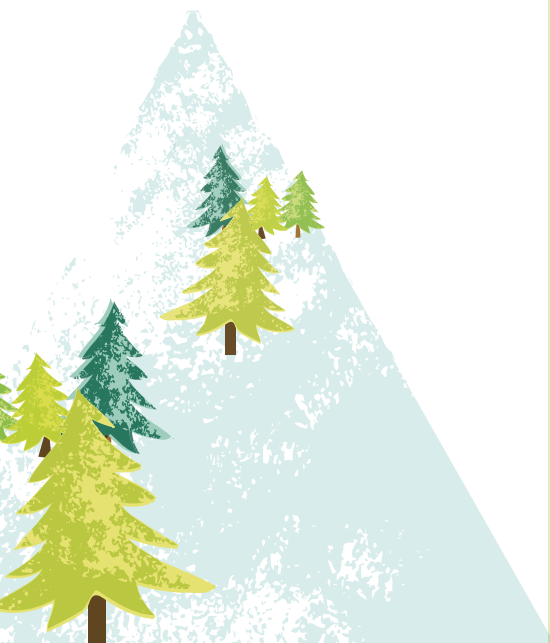
MOUNTAIN AND CLIMATE: 21 PROPOSALS



The 21 proposals aim to give meaning to the role that mountains, their inhabitants and visitors play in creating new ways forward to adapt to climate change.

- to ensure that our practices or lifestyles do not increase damage,
- to limit the effects of climate change on our territories and our practices
- to ensure that climate change is an opportunity more than a constraint, a means of rethinking the relationships between our societies and mountains,
- to raise awareness among the general public about the challenges of climate change.

You can find the proposals in detail in the full version of the Mountain Green Book on www.montagne-climat.com



Travel, visit and live in the mountains

Action 1.

Rethink our means of transportation.

Action 2.

Reinvent our approach to living in the mountains.

Action 3.

Draw new relationships between city and mountains.

Action 4.

Favour teleworking.

Action 5.

Adapt our behaviours in both leisure and professional activities (Agriculture, industry, tourism...).

Action 6.

Build a sustainable form of tourism.

Handle resources

Action 7.

Consume local mountain products in short supply chains.

Action 8.

Consider human activities and environment as interconnected and interdependent.

Action 9.

Manage natural resources transversally.

Action 10.

Rethink the way energy is both produced and consumed in mountains.

Observe, share, transmit

Action 11.

Create citizen-level observatories of global warming in mountains.

Action 12.

Share the knowledge about existing adaptations, initiated by inhabitants and professionals of the mountains.

Action 13.

Spread information about the effects of global warming.

Action 14.

Educate young people about mountains, both in and out of school.

Action 15.

Favor creativity facing climate change.

Mobilise, govern, stand together

Action 16.

Work together and federate, to increase knowledge exchange.

Action 17.

Ease the planning of action plans to make them more coherent, collaborative, cooperative.

Action 18.

Invest personally or collectively in projects on a local scale, meaningful and sustainable.

Action 19.

Cut investments involving abusive resource consumption and use of fossil energies.

Action 20.

Rethink the democratic processes (participatory governance, involving citizens, at a territory scale).

Action 21.

Think differently and independently.

**MOUNTAIN PEOPLE
ARE LAUNCHING AN
APPEAL FOR THE
CLIMATE, DISCOVER
THE 21 PROPOSALS
BELOW.**

*To make the mountains
of the world, which
are at the forefront of
climate change, a major
issue in the Paris COP 21
discussions in December.*

YOUR VOICE COUNTS, PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION ONLINE
www.montagne-climat.com



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You can also sign the international
petition "Mountains Matter" on
<http://chn.ge/1Lm8Fpk>



Coordination :



Contributeurs :



Ils soutiennent :



Le Conseil National de la Montagne et le Comité Massif des Alpes, par la voix de leur président.

Partenaires :

