

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

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>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

Mountain territories have already experienced the consequences of global changes in the past: modification of the energy regime, political and demographic upheaval, new planning practices, etc. A large part of French alpine forests are municipal properties, managed as a collective resources, which have had to adapt to these changes with varying sucess rates but from which it is possible to broaden our understanding. This presentation therefore proposes to study the diversity of adaptation modes of french collective forests during the 19th and 20th centuries through the case study of the Maurienne valley in Savoie.

19th century Maurienne valley forests were shaped by domestic needs and metallurgic industry. Both demography and industrial activities reached a top from mid-19th century on. Some populous communities, guaranteed sustainability of their collective forests by focusing on internal domestic needs. While others benefited from this strong demand to finance their economy by selling wood outside the community. The change of forestry regime caused by the annexation of Savoie in 1860 by France, the sudden collapse of the wood consuming industrial activity after the mid-19th century and the progressive modification of the heating methods, led to major adaptations of the collective forest management. The aim of this presentation will be to study the nature, diversity and social-ecological outcomes of such adaptations. To do so we incorporate data extracted from French Forest Administration and Municipal archives into a Geographical Information System that allow to understand which factors influence common spaces organization. In order to reconstruct collective forest management adaptations with exhaustiveness, our study resolution is set at the parcel scale in a sample of 9 municipalities from the Maurienne valley (Savoie).

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