

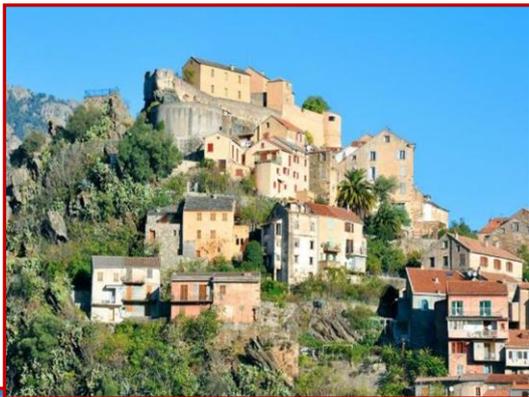
# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar of the FONCIMED

## « INHERITED FORMS OF LAND TENURE AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN MOUNTAIN AREAS »

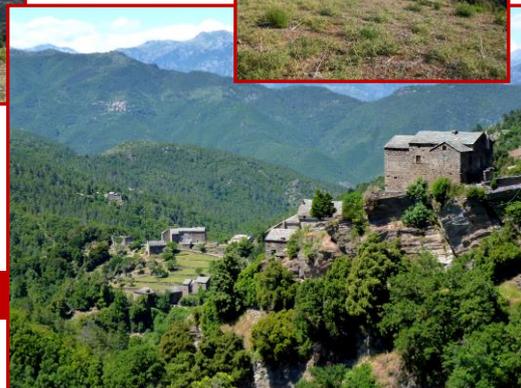
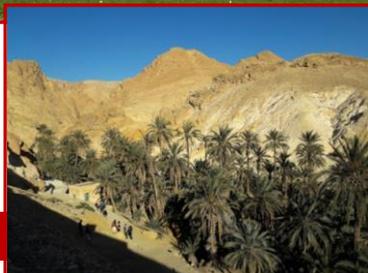
**CORTE (Corsica) 12-14 october 2020**

**« The Mediterranean is, above all, a sea ringed round by mountains. »**

F. Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, Vol. I (1949).



Geomorphology of the Mediterranean Basin. Source : *Mountains of the World*, UNEP-WCMC, 2011.



## Argument

Mountains occupy around a third of the surface of Italy, almost half of the Balkans and two thirds of Morocco. They play an important role as a reservoir (of amenities, water and biodiversity), permanent or seasonal refuge space, and are constitutive of national, regional and even ethno-linguistic identities.

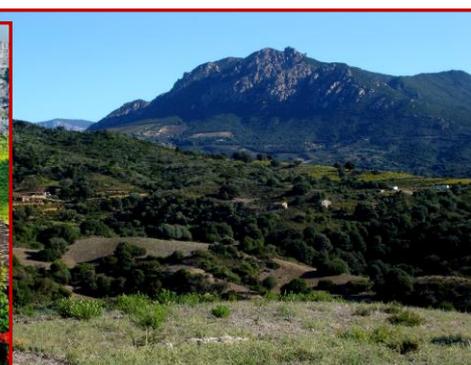
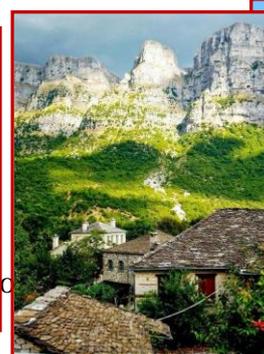
Land development in the vast mountain areas of the Mediterranean Basin contrasts sharply with the concentration of activities in the plains, which have long been central objects of public action (intensification, improvement, agrarian reform). Basically, this contradiction merely reflects a normative model of space occupancy accentuated by historical geography. Historically, Mediterranean agriculture has been established in piedmont areas and their immediate plains, much coveted by private landowners and State. Large landowners have little interest in the mountainside which is left for peasant farming and community-based pursuits.

However, leaving aside the capital and the labour required for mountain development (land-clearing, earthworks, irrigation, etc.), the use of slope areas and extra levels has resulted in very original forms of landscape and of social organization of land uses and rights. These forms have often persisted (notably the parcel structure, the distribution of private or collective property, even water rights), but social organization has been disrupted by migration and the emergence of new actors. The question is to know whether these old rights and uses which are subjected to contradictory pressures (abandonment versus tourism or urban expansion), can also represent a support for new kinds of land use or revalorization of mountain areas at a time where environmental concerns, as well as concerns about climate change, the future of tourism and food sovereignty, are at the heart of social debate.

In this context, **FONCIMED's 2020 seminar will focus on the topicality of inherited land forms in face of the contemporary challenges of Mediterranean mountain areas.** Given the primacy of the residential or tourist economy over traditional rural activities (farming, livestock, forestry), the question arises whether permanent land tenure in mountain areas is a protection for local communities or an obstacle to territorial development. Are the vast areas of collective property at altitude subject to particular tensions compared to other parts of the mountain? What are the particular realities of land ownership and territory in sloping territory? How are these taken into account by research and/ or public interventions, and by which action groups? What land tools are mobilized in mountain areas, with what objectives? Who are the actors and what are the results? How do local actors organize in the face of outside directives and pressures (development projects, private land predation, and urbanization) or in the face of the climate emergency?

**Scientific contributions** will be expected to answer questions from this non-exhaustive list, to clarify the current developments in mountain areas, and to theorize a Mediterranean specificity in past and contemporary land dynamics (transhumance, plain-mountain interactions, contemporary migrations, etc.). Geographical, historical, anthropological and economic approaches are expected, in addition to work from agronomists and pastoralists. Furthermore, regional essays will be welcome, as will comparisons with other mountain groups. Finally, localized monographs will be given preference if they include trans-disciplinary contributions.

The organizers also wish to provide ample space for **feedback from practitioners acting in mountain areas** (developers, surveyors, local authority officials).



Contributions may deal with any of the following **topics**:

- Complementarity of areas, land uses and forms of land development in Mediterranean mountain agriculture;
- Communal mountain spaces: inherited usage and new governance in the face of contemporary developments;
- Features of land organization in mountain areas: the role of local communities;
- The decline of agriculture: what land tools exist for new forms of agriculture or for new ways of recovering or upgrading land;
- Agricultural policy in mountain areas: land tenure issues, collective challenges;
- Biodiversity, environment and landscape: local landowners versus global challenges (climate, urbanization, etc.);
- Land tenure disputes: on what scale, who the actors are and the socio-environmental consequences.

## How to submit a proposal

Each proposal will be submitted in the form of an abstract of a maximum of 500 words, before the **15 May 2020** to the following address: [seminaire.foncimed.2020@gmail.com](mailto:seminaire.foncimed.2020@gmail.com).

The abstract should mention which (one or two) of the above-mentioned topics the paper addresses and whether it is a scientific contribution or feedback of practical experience in land development.

Date for notification of acceptance: 15 June 2020.

Date for registration at the seminar: from the date of acceptance of the abstract until 13 September 2020.

## Organizing Committee

**Jean-Christophe PAOLI** – National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), Corte, France.

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**Gisèle VIANEY** – University of Tours, France.

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