

In 2008-9, the European Environment Agency has been preparing an Integrated Assessment of Europe's mountain areas. The work is being done by the partners of the European Topic Centre for Land Use and Spatial information (Barcelona, Spain) with partners in Austria, the Netherlands and Romania, coordinated by the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI, Scotland, UK.

With funding primarily from the European Commission's Northern Periphery programme, the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI, Scotland, UK is coordinating the Clim-ATIC (Climate Change * Adapting to The Impacts, by Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions) project with partners in Finland, Greenland, Norway and Sweden. This project brings together new and existing knowledge and experiences on how rural communities can better increase their capacity to make, and implement decisions to adapt to climate change and to use this knowledge to help establish an affordable, accessible, and relevant, up to date information, training, and advice service on climate change and adaptation for community stakeholders throughout Europe's Northern Periphery. (see www.clim-atic.org)

In the UK, the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI, Scotland, UK is undertaking the first major integrated study of estates - large areas of land under single ownership - in the mountains of Scotland. The work comprises studies on the motivations of private landowners, cooperation between communities and privately-owned estates, indicators for the sustainable management of NGO-owned estates, and partnerships involving community-owned estates.

Also, in March 2009, UNESCO established a UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development, situated at the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College, UHI, Scotland, UK. The two main themes of the Chair will be to support the development of research on global change in mountain areas, including an international conference in Perth in 2010, and to share the innovative approaches initiated at the Centre for Mountain Studies in assisting institutions in Asia and Latin America to develop Masters-level courses. Partners will include both global organisations and regional organisations in Asia and Latin America. (see http://www.unesco.org.uk/UHI_Chair.htm)

In September 2010, the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI, UK, in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative, will organise an international conference on 'Global change and the world's mountains' in Perth, UK. The conference will bring together leading natural and social scientists and others working in, and concerned with, mountain areas around the world in order to present, evaluate and synthesise progress in our understanding of global change in mountain regions, particularly since 2005; and work proactively on a global agenda for research and action relating to global change and mountain regions, taking into consideration global assessment and policy processes.