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► **To cite this version:**

Yves Michelin, Christine Montoloy. Shaping volcanic landscapes by sheep in a World Heritage context: some reflexions about new management methods based on the adaptation of traditional grazing practices in the Chaîne des Puys (France). PECSRL Conference: Mountains, Upland, Lowlands - European landscapes from an altitudinal perspective, Sep 2016, Innsbruck & seefeld, Austria. hal-02183146

**HAL Id: hal-02183146**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02183146v1>**

Submitted on 15 Jul 2019

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## Shaping volcanic landscapes by sheep in a World Heritage context: some reflexions about new management methods based on the adaptation of traditional grazing practices in the Chaîne des Puys (France)

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Keywords: multifunctional landscape, UNESCO World Heritage, participation, Chaîne des Puys

Visitors usually perceive mountainous landscapes as natural and unchangeable and do not accept any change in their appearance. As a consequence, public policies often consider human activities a major threat and propose mandatory rules. But it is difficult to motivate locals via this top-down process to adopt practices without understanding justification for them. However, occasionally local communities are not able to manage the landscape properly through their practices, either because they don't take enough care of it or because they are too many or too few for stabilizing the vegetation even if they want to.

That is why we hypothesize that the management of mountain landscapes would be more efficient if it were designed by local people in cooperation with local authorities and all the relevant stakeholders, with the help of experts and managers in a participative way.

Based on these principles, our presentation will focus on three concrete operations in the Chaîne des Puys, which is applying for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

1. On the famous Puy de Pariou, a local common herd, kept along modernized management rules to better take into account the high landscape value, maintains the landscape open and accessible for tourists with a priority of production objectives.
2. The Puy de Combegrasse, which is owned jointly by a local community, was completely reforested after the abandonment of common grazing there in the 1970s. The village council reopened the landscape and made it accessible for tourists, but farmers may find it difficult to manage the vegetation dynamic in the future.
3. In the Puy de Vichatel, also reforested after the abandonment of grazing in the 1940s, a reopening method is being tested using sheep, but with softer methods that combine breeding expectation, landscape management, biodiversity conservation and public access. The project is supported by a private foundation and aims to develop a 'landscaping herd'.

These three projects, all of them in a participative process, supported by the regional park of volcanoes but carried by different actors and with different targets, help thinking about the conditions for preserving multifunctional mountain landscapes based on new economic functions and social organizations.

## **The interconnection of mountain and lowland landscapes in historical perspective**

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Keywords: rural landscapes, landscape history, mountain landscapes, transhumance

Most historic landscape research takes place within individual countries or even regions. However, landscapes and regions have always been interconnected and we cannot understand any landscape without taking account of its connections. This is certainly the case with mountain landscapes, which were often framed as remote, isolated and self-supporting, but in reality were always connected to the outside world and often derived income from interregional transport routes, for example. Exchange with lowland regions existed in different forms: in transhumance systems, in specialized forms of agriculture and in specific products. Over the longer term, the resilience of the mountain landscape was not connected to stability, but to creative adaptation to ever-changing eternal relations.