

## **IRSTEA - Institut national de recherche en sciences et technologies pour l'environnement et l'agriculture (National Research Institute on Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture)**

### **Irstea: a research institute specialized in decision support and action**

Irstea <http://www.irstea.fr/en/home-page> is a French public scientific and technical institute in joint supervision with the Ministry of Research and the Ministry of Agriculture and is holder of an agreement with the Ministry of Ecology, the co-signatory of its constitutive decree.

### **Irstea's main missions**

Initiating, implementing, coordinating and supporting scientific and technological research in the fields of sustainable land and resource management, in the medium as well as in the long-term. The projects are either based on its own initiative or on request by e.g. governmental institutions.

### **Grenoble Center - "Territories" Department**

Research and analyses of the research unit Development of Mountain Areas operate mainly in the field of social sciences. The focus lies on characterising and facilitating the integration of environmental considerations into rural and mountain development as part of overall sustainable development.

Our research concentrates on rural and mountain territories, from rural areas on the fringes of cities to protected areas. These regions are subject to significant pressure, especially from urban factors, and their environment represents a development asset – since it offers amenities that can be harnessed – and a major vulnerability, since it must be preserved. Our teams look at various development aspects. One group is concerned with agricultural activities in mountain areas with a specific interest in sustainable agriculture that balances farming needs with those of the environment. Another group examines tourist activities, how they are organised and which consequences they have for given regions. Our sociological research seeks to improve the understanding of contemporary evolutions in 'nature policies' and environmental science policies and how these overlap. Research examines territories as study subjects and analyses the operators, practices and public policies that influence, or derive from, their development. The research is carried out with the aim to support



decision-making and the development of policies.

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