Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Territori

The Catalan Law of the High Mountain (*preliminary*)

**A new governance for the territory,
from the territory and
with the territory**

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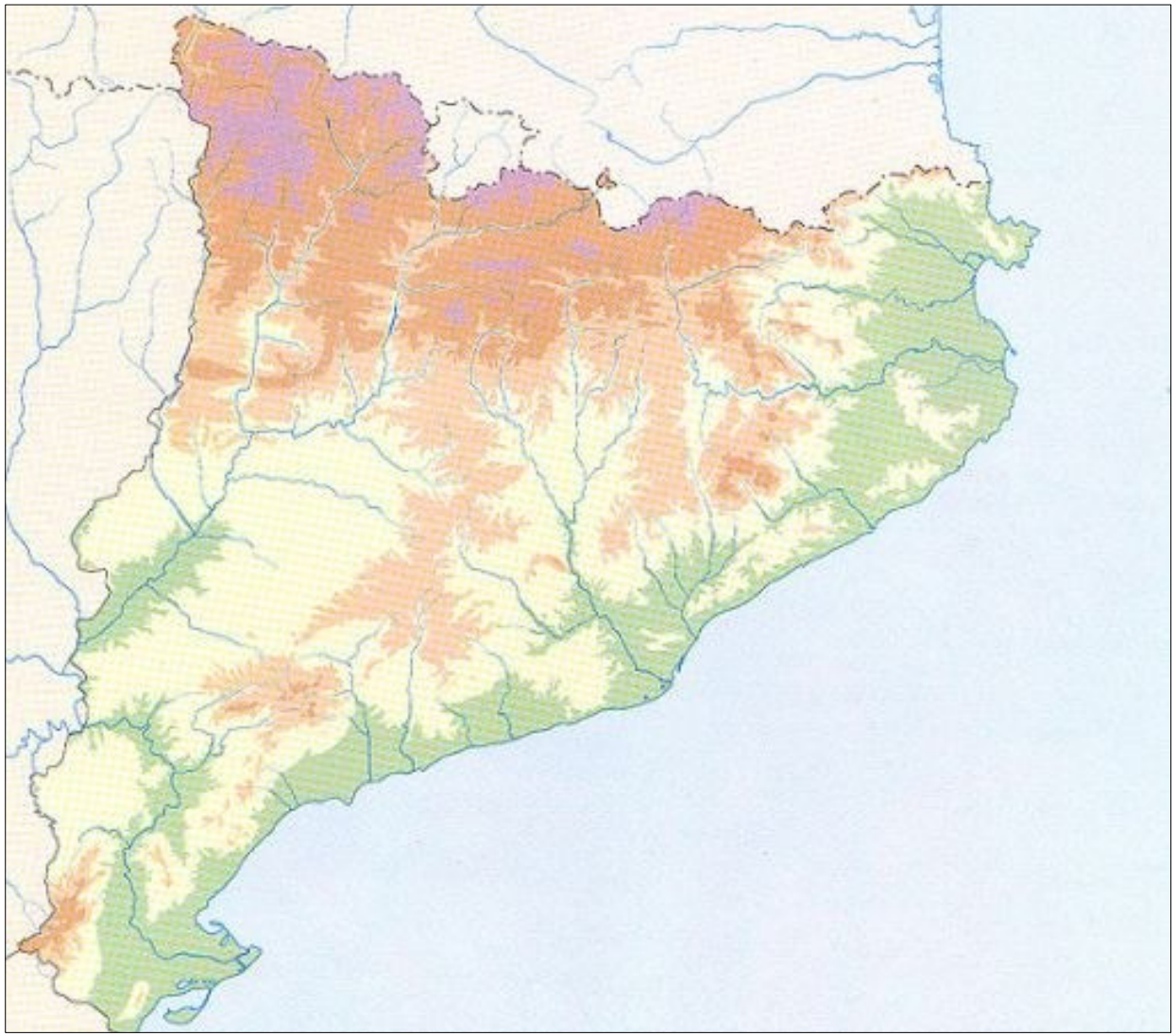
Catalonia, a mountainous country

- 32.106 km^2
- 7.970.433 inhabitants (2023)
- 947 municipalities
- 43 counties-“*comarques*”
- 50.5% with slope >20%



The Catalan Mountain Law 9/1983

Motivations for the Law 2/1983

State of the mountain areas before 1983

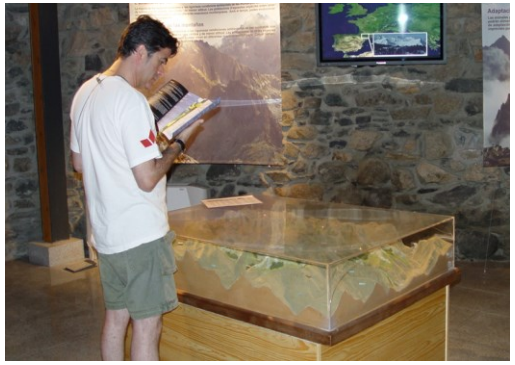
Hardness of the geography and the climate

INFRASTRUCTURAL

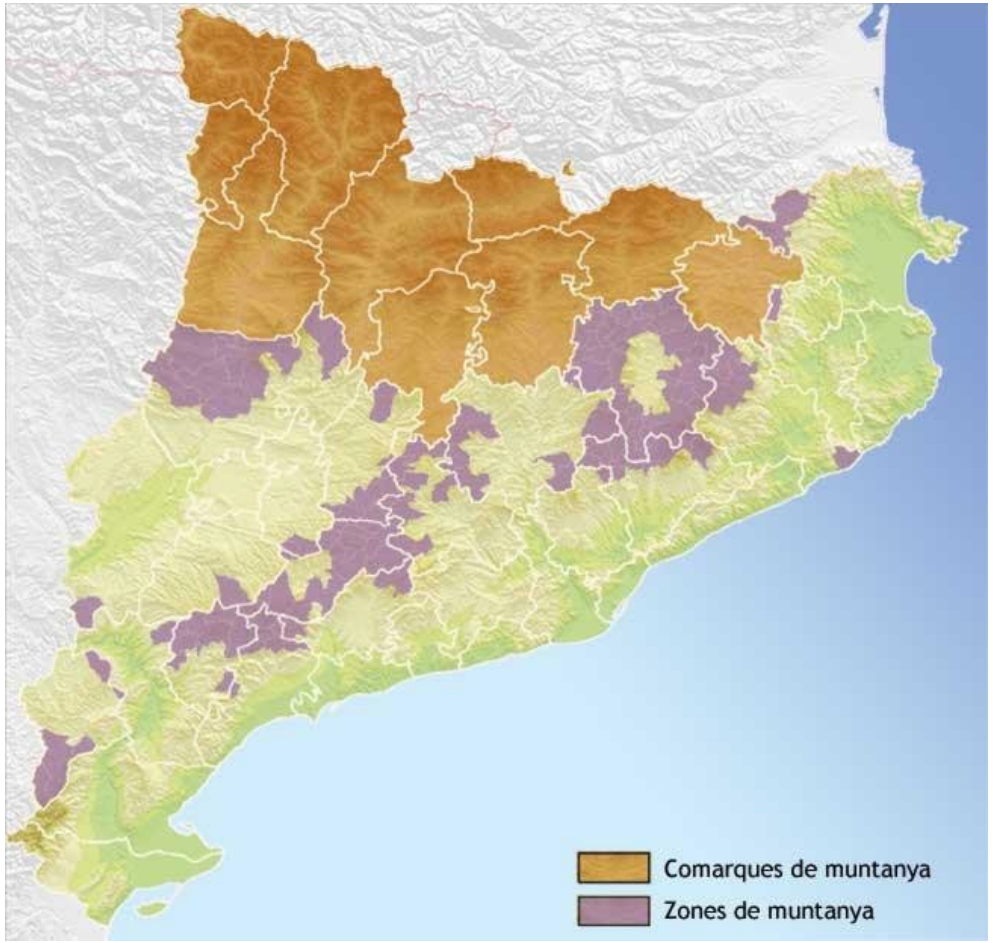
- Insufficiency of communication infrastructures
- Deficiencies in or lacks of collective equipments

DEMOGRAPHIC & ECONOMIC &SOCIAL

- Strong demographic regression
- Low degree of socioeconomic development
- Low level of rent
- Economic activity focused in the primary sector
- Human and cultural impoverishment



The area of application of Catalan mountain Law 9/1983.



- The mountain **counties** (brown), representing 30% of the area of Catalonia, with only 3% of its population

- The mountainous **areas** (violet), including 135 municipalities, representing 16% of the area of Catalonia and 1.7% of its population

Objectives of the Law 2/1983

- ➔ To **balance the wellbeing** of the inhabitants in mountain areas with those of the rest of Catalonia
- ➔ To guarantee the level of and access to the **basic services**
- ➔ To **stop the demographic decrease** and look for the harmonic development of the mountain territories
- ➔ To make the **touristic and economic development compatible** with the preservation of the **natural and cultural heritage**
- ➔ To **compensate the physical and socioeconomic disadvantages** through the valorization of the mountain functions that would revert in the benefit to the rest of the society.

Tools of the Law 2/1983

The Local Plans

➔ Plans of socioeconomic development focused on **specific areas**

➔ Establishment of an integral planning (territorial and **sectorial issues**)

➔ Coordination of the actions of the Catalan Government

➔ Plans validity period and revision: **five years**

➔ **Alignment** between the **diagnosis** and the **proposed actions**

➔ **Participation** of the local institutions and the local population

Tools of the Law 2/1983

Specific Action Programs - Lines of **financial assistances** addressed to promote the local economic development and the improvement of the quality of life.

Tools of the Law 2/1983

Specific Action Programs

- **Communications improvement.** Actions in the local network of rural roads to improve the accessibility to the small population sites and isolated settlements, to the agricultural exploitations and to touristic places.

Tools of the Law 2/1983

Specific Action Programs

- **Programs** to clear/clean the roads affected by the snowfalls during the winter season.
-

Tools of the Law 2/1983

Specific Action Programs

- **Improvement of the services and local public transport**: maintenance of the network of public transport arriving to the small sites and promotion of the transport on demand.

1983 -----> 2023

European Commission

1983 -----> 2023

Sustainablity

Environmental policies

Landscape management

Strategic and territorial planning

Governance

Citizen participation

Diversity

Digitalization

Transparency

Decarbonization

A new law for the Catalan High Mountain areas?

Why do we need a new law of the high mountain?

- ➔ New diagnosis of the **current problems** in the high mountain areas
- ➔ A **new** region of application?
- ➔ **More** and amplified economic **sources**
- ➔ **New** administrative and working **tools** to secure the success and guarantee the financing of the public policies
- ➔ The **definition of the strategic actions** and a six-year term plan to get over the ordinary agenda of the departments in Catalan Government
- ➔ **New governance model** ttat includes the participation of the local representatives

The new Law of the High Mountain

Objective

Establish a **normative framework** for the high mountain areas considering the **specificities of each county**

Main purposes

- Guarantee the **adaptation to climate change**
- **Guarantee** the management, the innovation and the **quality of services**
- **Ensure** the maintenance of the **local roads network**
- **Adjust** the public policies to the territories **specificities**
- Give **support** to the **mountain-ski stations**
- **Guarantee** to the mountain municipalities the needed **technical assistance**
- Put in **value** the strategic **territorial assets**
- Promote the **digitization** and the **innovation**, applied to work and social issues
- Establish public policies for the **attraction** of the **economic promotion**
- Attract human capital and **fix the existing population** in the territory

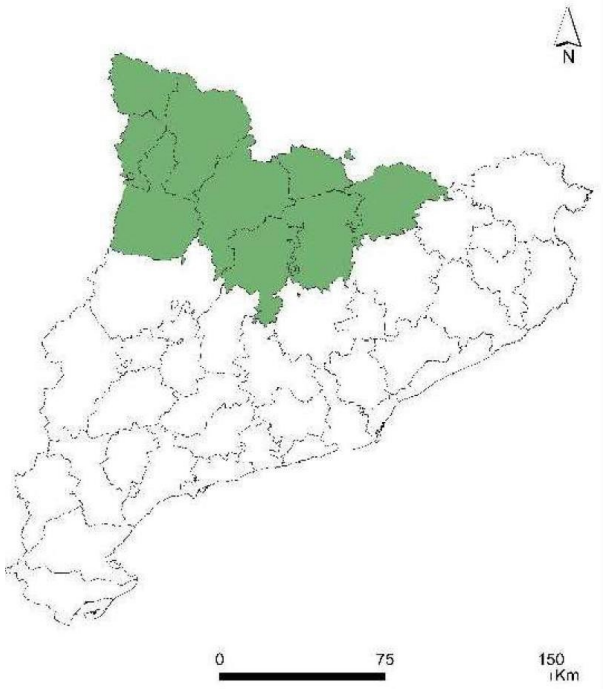
Application area. Focusing in a restricted area.

High Mountain Territories

- Aran and the counties of Alta Ribagorça, Pallars Sobirà, Pallars Jussà, Alt Urgell, Cerdanya, Ripollès, Solsonès, and Berguedà.

- **Physical criteria**:
  - minimum of 60% of its surface over the altitudinal height of 700 metres
  - an average slope up to 30%
  - being homogeneous territorial units

- **Demographic criteria**:
  - more than 40% of the population at elevations higher than 750 metres
  - more than 40% of very small sites, and with populations under 50 inhabitants
  - isolation and strong atomization of its demographic structure.



The new Law of high mountain (*to be approved*)

Operational strategies

1) Create the **Institute for the Development of the High Mountain (IDAM)**, an Autonomous administrative organization.
    1) Establish the **function of IDAM** at the high mountain territories
    2) Establish the function of the **technical project office**
    3) Create the administrative tool of the **Plan of strategic actions** in six-year term planning

1) Establish a new **governance structure** with the territories and their administrations. Collaboration, coordination and support.

2. A new governance model

Direct communication with and within the territory

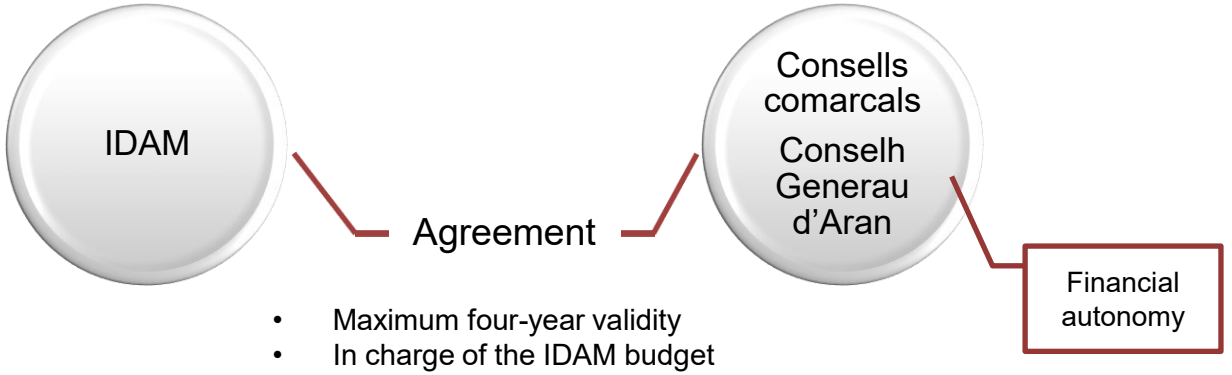
- Local "*consells*" of high mountain
- Conselh Generau d'Aran

They **report the needs** of the inhabitants and local sites (counties)
They **promote** the development of **actions** presumed to have strategic character

New tool for the governance 🡺 Specific agreement with each local board "*Consell Comarcal*"

Also for the development of NON strategic actions or any other considered suitable

- ✓ According to the specificity of each territory (counties)
- ✓ Based on local impulse
- ✓ Always with a proved public interest



27 Strategic Actions

Six strategic objectives

Participation, services, decisions, rural agenda...

Pillar 1

People & Governance

Pillar 2

Environment & Sustainability

Seven strategic objectives

Natural resources, forests, agriculture, protected areas, sust. Tourism...

Nine strategic objectives

Culture, smart develop., technology, innovation, policies,...

Pillar 3

Economic develpment & Innovation

Pillar 4

Mobility & Connectivity

Five strategic objectives

Physical and digital infrastructures, public transport ....

Pillar 1. People and governance

- SO 1.1. People at the center of decisions
- SO 1.2. Quality of life and vital project. Housing for the ones who live there
- SO 1.3. Special attention to care services for people
- SO 1.4. Decisions from the territory and for the territory
- SO 1.5. Application of the Rural Agenda and the Urban Agenda of Catalonia in Pyrenean areas
- SO 1.6. Legislation that empowers and reinforces mountain uniqueness

Pillar 2. Environment and Sustainability

- SO 2.1. Pioneer territory in developing SDG
- SO 2.2. Natural resources as a territorial value
- SO 2.3. The management of forests and agricultural land as an environmental and economic engine
- SO 2.4. The natural parks as a gateway to the Pyrenees
- SO 2.5. Pioneer territory in energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources
- SO 2.6. Decarbonized mobility
- SO 2.7. Sustainable touristic destination

Pillar 3. Economic development and innovation

- SO 3.1. The Pyrenees in the world
- SO 3.2. Culture as a source of transmission of values, history and authenticity
- SO 3.3. Smart Region
- SO 3.4. Towards a 4.0 economy. Industry and technology
- SO 3.5. Training as a driver of attraction, innovation and creativity
- SO 3.6. Label of quality for products made in the Pyrenees. Agri-food sector and wood industry
- SO 3.7. Internationalization of mountain policies
- SO 3.8. Natural parks and 365 mountain resorts
- SO 3.9. Sport as a generator of values and opportunities

Pillar 4. Mobility and Connectivity

- SO 4.1. The physical infrastructures of the 21st century. Safety, comfort and mobility
- SO 4.2. Digital infrastructures: fiber as a window of openness to the world
- SO 4.3. Connected and integrated public transport
- SO 4.4. Deployment of the H24 public heliport network
- SO 4.5. The added value of local airports

Generalitat de Catalunya
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EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN CONVENTION 2024

Smart Economy

15 – 18 October, 2024
Puigcerdà

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