FLUXPYR: A new research network in the Pyrenees on climate and land use changes

We would like to announce the set up of a new research and knowledge-transfer network on energy, water and carbon fluxes in grassland and other agricultural ecosystems in the Pyrenees under land use and climate change conditions. The FLUXPYR network includes researchers from the three Pyrenean countries, and will operate through an EU project from the INTERREG IV-A programme and additional funding from the Catalan government and various French institutions. The network will use remote sensing techniques, aerial platform imagery and flux measurement techniques (eddy-covariance flux towers, tall towers, flight platforms…) to establish observatories of climate and land use changes in the Pyrenees. FLUXPYR aims at increasing the number of energy, water and carbon flux infrastructures in the Pyrenees as well as developing predictive land use, productivity, carbon distribution and snow cover maps. The use of these techniques, together with empirical and process-based modelling, as well as assessment of ecosystem patterns and processes, will be used for establishing guidelines for sustainable management in the Pyrenean region, including the use of fire through the development of controlled burning experiments. The network is open to collaboration with other interested researchers and seeks links with other similar networks.

The institutions involved in the FLUXPYR project are: Forest Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC, coordinator); Institut Català de Ciències del Clima (IC·3); Institut de Geomàtica (IG); Institut Jaime Almera - Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IJA-CSIC); Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - Escola Universitària d'Enginyeria Tècnica Industrial de Barcelona (UPC-EUETIB); Universidad Pública de Navarra - Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingeniería Agraria (UPNA), from Spain; Centre d'Estudis de la Neu i la Montanya d'Andorra (CENMA), from Andorra; Centre d'Etudes Spatiales de la Biosphère (CESBIO); Laboratoire d'Aérologie (LA); Université Toulouse III Paul Sabatier; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS); Centre National des Etudes Spatiales (CNES); Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD); Météo-France; Ecole Nationale de Formation Agronomique (ENFA); Laboratoire Géographie de l'environnement (GEODE); Université Toulouse II Le Mirail, from France. And through participation in the Advisory Board: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Zurich, Switzerland); CEFE Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive (France); Agence Régionale Pour l'Environnement de Midi-Pyrénées (ARPE, France); and Assemblée Pyrénéenne d'Economie Montagnarde (APEM, France); and IPE Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología (Spain).

More information can be requested to the project's coordinator, Prof. M.-Teresa Sebastià, from CTFC-UdL, at teresa.sebastia@ctfc.cat, and the website http//:eco.ctfc.es/fluxpyr.

Project: Trans-border network for the assessment and management of water, carbon and energy fluxes under climate change conditions in agricultural and grassland systems in the Pyrenees (FLUXPYR)