

| le savoir vivant |



Photo: Mass Transhumance in Madrid 2019 © Pedro Alvera

9-13 December, 2024  
Geneva & Gland (Switzerland)

the european **COMMONS** & **OECM** conferences

 **IASC Europe & CIS**

The ICCA  
Consortium



[ruralcommons.eu](http://ruralcommons.eu)

*Unil*  
UNIL | Université de Lausanne  
Institut de géographie  
et durabilité

*What is missing from the policy analyst's tool kit - and from the set of accepted, well-developed theories of human organization - is an adequately specified theory of collective action whereby a group of principals can organize themselves voluntarily to retain the residuals of their own efforts.*

Elinor Ostrom, 2009 Nobel Prize (Economics)

Commons have existed since pre-Roman times in Europe, evolving over centuries to adapt to political and environmental challenges. Elinor Ostrom's groundbreaking work on these institutions earned her a Nobel Prize, highlighting their global significance.

In many countries, commons represent substantial land areas, including 35% of Switzerland's forests, 60% of Austria's Alpine pastures, and nearly 90% of those in Slovenia. They play a crucial role in various European habitats, from mountains to seas, and continue to contribute to societal and environmental challenges through the management of livestock, fish, lands, and waters.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (SELECTION)

### Concha Salguero (Spain) - Policy advisor and Community organizer

Concha is a Spanish rural policy expert specializing in commons. She has been shaping European and national policies, writing extensively on the subject, and co-organizing mass transhumance events in Madrid (see photo) to spotlight pastoralism for its ecosystem functions: biodiversity maintenance through grazing and adaptation for climate change. Currently, she is Vice President of **Landcare Europe** and works with organizations promoting wool valorization and biodiversity.



### Gaëtan Morard (Switzerland) - Conservationist and Ethnobiologist

Gaëtan is an ethnobiologist and permaculturist, dedicated to preserving the historic irrigation channels in Valais - *bisses*. Since 2015, he's been the director of the Valaisan Museum of Bisses, and in 2019 became president of the **Association of the Bisses of Valais (ABV)**. Gaëtan also contributed to the UNESCO dossier recognizing traditional irrigation as Intangible Cultural Heritage, emphasizing their cultural and environmental value.



### Tero Mustonen (Finland) - Scholar, Fisherman, and Leader

The 2023 Goldman Prize winner led the restoration of 62 severely degraded former industrial peat mining and forestry sites throughout Finland—totaling 86,000 acres—and transformed them into productive, biodiverse wetlands and habitats (highly effective carbon sinks), many of which are co-managed with local communities.

**Snowchange**, the pan-Arctic & boreal forest network of community associations led by Tero, has supported the declaration of five ICCAs in Finland in collaboration with Sámi and local communities.



# COMMONS CONFERENCE: 9-11 DECEMBER, GENEVA

## 9 December

- Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Territories of Life and Land Commons in a European Context
- Exchanges between commoners, researchers and associations

## 10 December

- Thematic discussions on Sustainable Development Goals, biodiversity conservation, mapping
- Funding the commons
- Film: *If the glaciers don't return*

## 11 December (field trip)

- Field trip to a commons overlooking Geneva
- Discussions on legal defense, communication
- Developing an applied research agenda
- Creating a commons declaration for Europe

Each evening will feature an aperitif with foods from the commons.



# OECM\* CONFERENCE: 12-13 DECEMBER, GLAND

\*Other effective area-based conservation measures

## 12 December

Discussions on the following topics:

- Applying inclusive conservation from Global to Local
- Identifying and reporting OECMs in Europe
- Community based biodiversity conservation - potential and challenges
- Exploring the OECM toolkit with potential community based cases from around Europe

## 13 December

Discussions on the following topics:

- State and Private based OECMs in Europe
- Development of a pathway to inclusive OECMs in Europe





## CONTACT : REGISTRATION & DONATIONS

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**Agenda & Fees:** <https://ruralcommons.eu/registration-html/>

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## SUPPORT THE VOICES OF THE EUROPEAN RURAL COMMONS

**Your contribution can make a world of difference!**

For many wisdom holders from commons, participation in this conference is both essential and financially challenging.

- With a donation of **350 CHF**, you can cover the **meals** for one wisdom holder.
- With **1000 CHF**, you enable them to attend by covering **transportation, lodging and meals**.

Thank you for ensuring that these vital voices are heard on the global stage. Together, we can foster a more inclusive and impactful dialogue. Donate today!

Donations are tax deductible for Swiss residents.