



# 1<sup>nd</sup> Carbomont Stakeholder workshop 24 September 2002

## Invitation

I am writing to invite you to be a participant in a decision workshop to explore the possible effects of contrasting land use policy scenarios on a sample area in the Stubai Valley. This is part of a larger project called CARBOMONT that is examining the cycling of Carbon in mountain landscapes and in relation to EU rural land use policies.

We will be examining three contrasting policy scenarios and their possible effects over the next 20 years to see how far land use would switch between land cover types and how much change in levels of management pressure might occur. The three scenarios can be summarized as:

- **Status quo** (continuation of slow decline in agricultural support and gradual introduction of rural diversification policies)
- **Rapid decline in agricultural price support** and continuing slow introduction of rural diversification
- **Strong support for rural diversification** but continuing gradual reduction in agricultural price support.

The workshop will be on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September and last from 09.30 am to 0400 pm and be based at the Department of Botany, Sternwartestrasse 15, Innsbruck. There will be about a dozen participants representing different types of land use or with a general interest in the area.

The workshop will have three stages.

1. First there will be a discussion of the effects of the scenarios on various aspects of rural land use influencing the types of land cover and the way in which they are managed. Examples include effects on agriculture, forestry, settlements, tourism and conservation. This stage is to explore the broad implications of the scenarios as they might affect land use in Stubai.
2. In the second stage we will try and quantify the effects of the scenarios in causing switches in use from one functional land cover type (such as meadow) to another (such as forestry). This will indicate broad shifts in the distribution of land cover types.
3. Finally we will examine what changes in management pressures on different types of land cover might occur. For example how far might there be changes in grazing pressures on different cover types. This will let us distinguish between heavily managed and lightly managed cover types since, for example, there are major differences in Carbon cycling between heavily grazed and lightly grazed pastures

The workshop will involve discussion, ranking the likely effects on simple numerical scales, and the use of computer software and voting keypads to see how much agreement there is between participants. The final results will allow us to build landscape models representing the possible effects of the scenarios on the appearance of the Stubai after 20 years. These will provide a contextual framework for detailed data on Carbon cycling.

I enclose some details of the workshop format, map of the area, a paper outlining the scenarios etc. More information will be provided at the workshop.

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