



Fondation pour le développement durable  
des régions de montagne

## Statutes of the Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions

### SECTION I : GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

#### ARTICLE 1

The

**"Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions",**

headquartered in Sion, was created in accordance with art. 80 ss of the Swiss civil code.

#### ARTICLE 2

##### Legal basis

The present statutes were decreed in accordance with article 5 of the Foundation Act. V of the founding act of 5 March 1999 and are aimed at completing the dispositions contained in that act and at addressing, in accordance with the wishes of the founding members, all issues inherent to the running of the Foundation.

#### ARTICLE 3

##### Goals

The "Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions" enforces the policy expressed in the Charter on sustainable development voted by the cantonal government of the canton of Valais on 26 June 1998. It seeks to enforce the principles expressed in that text.

In accordance with the above points, the Foundation pursues the following goals:

1. to promote and support projects on sustainable development in mountainous regions in Valais, Switzerland and abroad, especially projects leading to an improved quality of life for the inhabitants of these regions;



2. to foster reflection among environmentalists, economists, politicians, and social and cultural planners on the necessity of integrating the issue of sustainable development into their agendas;
3. to raise public awareness on the issue of sustainable development;
4. to monitor ongoing projects on sustainable development and to make their outcomes available;
5. to encourage research on sustainable development, notably through cooperation with specialized institutions;
6. to serve as a reference point and to encourage meetings, training and research on all activities related to the advancement of sustainable development in mountainous regions;
7. to encourage all activities leading to sustainable development in mountain regions.

## **SECTION II: ORGANISATION**

### ARTICLE 4

The "Foundation for sustainable development in mountain regions" is comprised of the following bodies :

- a. The Board of Trustees
- b. The Executive Board
- c. The Controlling Body

### ARTICLE 5

#### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is the ruling body of the Foundation. It meets twice a year. Board members are notified of meetings twenty days beforehand and are supplied with an agenda. Extraordinary meetings may be convened by the Executive Board or requested in writing by a body representing one-fifth of the Board of Trustees.

### ARTICLE 6

#### Makeup

The Board of Trustees is comprised of 9 to 17 members from the financial, social, environmental, cultural and political circles of Valais, Switzerland, as well as from other mountain regions of the world.

The cantonal government of Valais appoints the President and the members of the Board of Trustees, at the suggestion of that same government.

The municipality of Sion is represented by a Board Member.

Other bodies that participate steadily in the activities of the Foundation may be represented in its Board of Trustees.

#### ARTICLE 7

##### Appointments

Board members are appointed for four years ; their appointments may be renewed no more than twice.

Appointees ordinarily take up their posts in the month of May following the cantonal elections.

The Board of Trustees is self-constituting.

#### ARTICLE 8

##### Decisions

The Board of Trustees may legitimately arbitrate if the majority of its members are present. Its decisions may be taken by mail.

To vote, Board members simply raise their hands except in cases where the majority of Board members request a secret ballot.

The President votes and settles the voting when the nays and yeas are in equal number.

#### ARTICLE 9

##### Powers

The Board of Trustees

- a) appoints the members of its Executive board: a president, two members, a treasury and a secretary
- b) appoints a controlling body;
- c) defines the criteria, conditions and modes of financing of the projects subsidized by the Foundation;**
- d) votes an annual program of activities;
- e) votes the budget and expenses;
- f) decides upon the propositions of the Executive board or its members;
- g) gives a verdict on the revision of the statues within the limits fixed by art. 84 ss of the Swiss Civil Code and on the conditions mentioned at art. 15 of the present statutes.

## ARTICLE 10

### Executive Board

The Executive Board is appointed by the Board of Trustees for four years and may be renewed. The canton of Valais and the municipality of Sion each have at least one of their representatives sitting on the Executive Board.

The Executive Board may delegate part of its powers to its members.

The President liaises with the Board of Trustees regularly.

## ARTICLE 11

### Powers

The Executive Board is convened by its President.

It implements the objectives of the Foundation, fulfils its administrative and financial duties and writes up the reports of yearly activities.

## ARTICLE 12

### Secretary and Treasurer

A mission statement defines the duties of the secretary and the treasurer.

## ARTICLE 13

### Representation

The Foundation is validly represented by the signature of the President (or of a member of the Executive Board) and of that of the secretary (or of the treasurer).

## ARTICLE 14

### Controlling Body

The Department of the Treasury of the Canton du Valais reviews the accounts of the Foundation.

The Controlling Body hands in its report to the Board of Trustees at their financial meeting.

Statements are made up annually on 31 December.

### **SECTION III: FINANCES**

#### ARTICLE 15

##### Financial resources

The financial resources of the Foundation come notably from:

- a) public subsidies;
- b) its own proceeds;
- c) its own revenues;
- d) donations;
- e) contributions and sponsoring from other organizations.

### **SECTION IV: MODIFICATIONS OF THE STATUTES**

#### ARTICLE 16

The statutes of the Foundation may be modified at any time by the Board of Trustees. Revisions must be accepted by the majority of the two-thirds of Board Members and communicated without delay to the Department of the Treasury.

### **SECTION V: DISSOLUTION**

#### ARTICLE 17

The Foundation is dissolved if its goal can no longer be realized or reached (art. 88 CCS). With a two-third majority, the Board of Trustees may require the Department of the Treasury to disband the Foundation.

The dissolution of the Foundation must be performed in accordance with the law and the Department of the Treasury. In case of dissolution, the Foundation will be required to discharge its ongoing obligations. Its assets will be handed to an organisation pursuing a goal similar to that of the dissolved Foundation.

*Statutes voted on 5 March 1999 and modified by the Board of Trustees on 7 June 1999 and 19 January 2001.*