

Ventoux (France) study site

Ventoux (France) is one of the five INFORMED's studies site where the integrated framework of resilience will be developed:

Ventoux, France	
Forest type	Mediterranean margin of mixed beech-fir forests, cedar, pines, oaks at low elevation.
Socio-economic asset	Multifunctional system (soil protection, wood and NWFPs, recreation, biodiversity conservation).
Global change scenario	Altitudinal gradient where climate change interferes with strong biodiversity dynamics expansion (recolonization of beech and fir, expansion of cedar) vs regression (recent drought related dieback of several tree species).
Study scale	Multi-scale (stand, landscape)



Source: INFORM ED project

Plantation of black pine recolonized by beech
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The perimeter of the study site is based on the contours of the Mont-Ventoux Regional Nature Park project covering the northeast third of the department of Vaucluse, on the edge of the Rhone corridor.



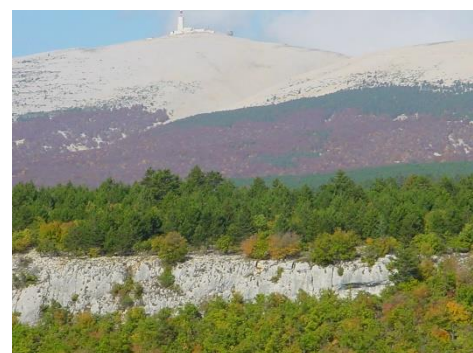
Comtat-Venaissin et Mont-Ventoux © D. Pichon

The territory in figures	
Area	91 600 ha
Land cover	8,6% urban area / 33,7 % agricultural area / 57,7% natural space
Mains cities	Carpentras, Vaison-la-Romaine, Pernes-les-Fontaines
Culminating point	Mont-Ventoux (1911m)
Forest structure	56% private forest (including 43% > 25 ha) et 44% public forest (managed by the French Forest Service : ONF)
Protection	Nature Reserve (MAB, UNESCO), Natura 2000, ZNIEFF

This study site includes forest, shrub and grassland Mediterranean ecosystems of high ecological and conservation value, arranged along a steep ecological gradient along an elevational cline.

According to exposure and elevation, they range from typical low elevation xerothermic Mediterranean systems (*Pinus halepensis*, *Quercus coccifera* shrub land and xerophytic grass lands) to high altitude Montane Mediterranean and Alpine forests (with *Fagus sylvatica*, *Abies alba* in this Mediterranean margin of mixed beech-fir forests or with *Pinus sylvestris*, *Pinus nigra*, *Pinus uncinata* or *Cedrus atlantica*, *Quercus pubescens* in middle elevation).

Forest types include a diversity of structures, from very dense to sparse, and a diversity of natural regeneration situations (within mature forests, in ecotones, within recolonizing fronts).



Vegetation gradient along south elevation cline © INRA

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Source: Evoltree ISS, <http://www.evoltree.eu/index.php/intensive-study-sites/sites/ventoux> - SMAEMV, <http://www.smaemv.fr/> - <http://www.lemontventoux.net/reserve-biosphere.htm> - Projet INFORMED: <http://www6.inra.fr/informed-foresterra/>