

### S6. Oral

#### **Participatory mapping workshops: a methodology to obtain and validate historical information of land use changes at Sierra Nevada (Spain).**

Moreno-Llorca, R.A.<sup>1</sup>, Bonet, F.J.<sup>1</sup>, Pérez-Pérez, R.<sup>1</sup>, Pérez-Luque, A.J.<sup>1</sup>

(1) IISTA-CEAMA.

Traditional knowledge about the distribution of vegetation and the type and intensity of human intervention in the territory in the past is valuable to understand the current functioning of Mediterranean ecosystems. But it is very difficult to obtain. In this work, we present a case study that demonstrates the usefulness of traditional knowledge to analyze changes in vegetation and land use in a forest area of ??Sierra Nevada (Granada). We conducted a series of semi-structured individual interviews and joint workshops to map all the collected information.. Selected participants were retired elder whose jobs were related to the environment: farmers, shepherds and loggers. The information was collected on three thematic areas: distribution and dynamics of vegetation, land use (crops, livestock, firewood, mining and traditional activities) and relevant events (fires, forest pests, afforestation and landslide events). We present the information obtained in the workshops as well as an analysis of the evolution of vegetation and land use in the last 250 years in the southern hill of Sierra Nevada. We observed that the socioeconomic status of the studied area matches with land use changes. E.g. . e Plowing of large areas of forest when the settlers arrived after the expulsion of the Muslims in 1571 or the regeneration of holm oaks and oaks after the economic crisis of the 1950s, when the population and crops decreased.