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## PROJECT NO. 3

# Agritourism project 'Catogne d'En Haut'

## IN BRIEF

### An abandoned alpine pasture on the Tour du Mont-Blanc route with huge potential for the development of agritourism

From a socio-economic, geographic and tourism point of view, **the Commune of Trient** forms part of the Mont-Blanc massif region, acting as a link between Martigny district and the Chamonix Valley in France.

During the summer, the region offers numerous possibilities for **hiking and mountain biking** and in the winter attracts mountaineering, skiing and ski touring enthusiasts. It lies on the route of the famous Tour du Mont-Blanc (TMB), one of the most popular in the Alps.

The region's **vast alpine pastures** are part of an exceptional landscape, which we plan to develop with a 'gentle' tourism offer that has already proven itself – agritourism. The Commune of Trient is also determined to encourage the responsible development of its territory by **promoting agricultural activity** and its by-products.

Situated at **2010 metres above sea level** and around two hours' walk from Trient or Vallorcine, the **'Catogne d'En Haut' alpine pasture** with its eight 'chottes' (rudimentary alpine shelters), deserves rescuing from neglect. In addition, in its inventory of the architectural heritage of alpine pastures (2004), the Regional Nature Park identified 'Catogne d'En Haut' as a priority alpine pasture by highlighting the urgency of saving its outstanding architectural heritage and its **huge potential for development**.

## THE PROJECT

### Transform and renovate the existing architectural heritage /

A refreshment area with a terrace could be incorporated into the current layout of the eight 'chottes', as well as a rural gîte comprised of different types of accommodation. One of the buildings will be reserved for the farmer, one for the site manager and one for ecological and economical composting toilets. Maintaining some agricultural use of the site will ensure that the buildings' original function is continued.

**Capacity and offer /** Each of the 4 remaining 'chottes' could accommodate 4 to 6 people. The accommodation envisaged will be both exotic and cosy but also rustic and simple. It will be open for 5 months of the year in summer. A range of local produce will be available, supplied by the shepherd and farmers of the region.

**Raising awareness /** The Regional Nature Park will ensure that visitors are made aware of the natural and agricultural values attached to the pasture (info boards, flyers, books, etc), encouraging responsible behaviour towards agriculture and the conservation of the local natural environment, which is particularly rich in biodiversity.

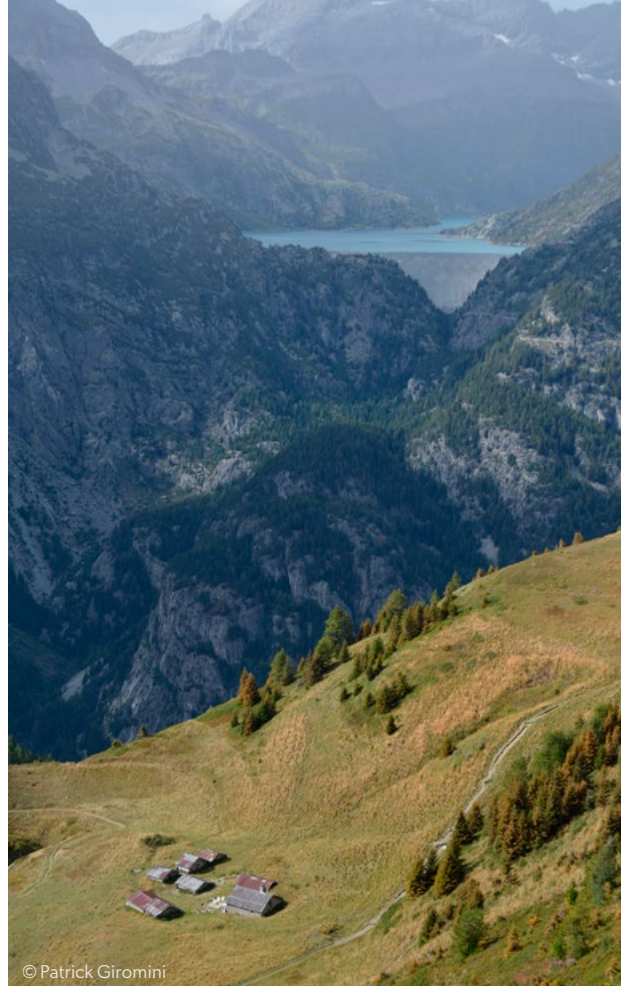
## DESCRIPTION

Our project has huge potential for the development of a complete agritourism offer:

- An intact **alpine landscape**, rich in biodiversity.
- An outstanding architectural heritage with **authentic buildings typical** of the region.
- Large visitor numbers thanks to an extended **network of hiking trails** between France and Switzerland, in particular the TMB, a variant of which passes through Catogne.
- The Commune of Trient and the site's manager have worked together on developing this agritourism project and share the wish to make it happen. Having a **single manager** will make it easier to navigate the necessary steps and procedures.
- Mountain bike enthusiasts also use this route to go **from Chamonix to Zermatt**. The spot is therefore ideal for a refreshing break.
- The project will be accompanied by the **Regional Nature Park**, which will step up communication and advertising for this agritourism project.

### Sources:

- Commune de Trient: plan d'affaires pour le projet agritouristique «Catogne d'En Haut» (Jmfcconsult - 2016).  
- Inventaire du patrimoine bâti des alpages (Patrick Giromini pour le PNR de la Vallée du Trient – 2024).



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## WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT THIS PROJECT?

- This project is in line with the vision of **'gentle' and sustainable tourism**.
- A feasibility study from 2016 shows that the 'Catogne d'En Haut' agritourism project could become a driving force and lever for the agritourism business in the valley. The proposed offer is intended to **complement** current tourism and bring real value added by meeting the demand of existing clients but also by providing quality services to new clients.
- The 'chottes' are currently in a precarious state and require **urgent conservation work**. The buildings' current state of neglect is detrimental to the site's image and is hindering agricultural work.
- The cost of investment to renovate and develop the site is estimated at **CHF 800,000**. The Commune is unable to finance this ambitious project alone.

### Contact

Bertrand Savioz  
President of the Commune of Trient  
T. 079 079 661 20  
bertrand.savioz@netplus.ch