

Editorial

This issue once again takes readers on a journey through a wide variety of protected areas, highlighting both the challenges they face and the approaches being developed to address them. The topics covered further enrich the growing eco.mont knowledge base and contribute to a better understanding of conservation and management issues in protected mountain regions worldwide.

To facilitate access to the wealth of information published in eco.mont, we have expanded the resources available on the journal's homepage. The eco.mont database (<https://www.mountainresearch.at/ecomont/mountain-data-explorer/>) allows users to search all articles published to date by keywords and phrases, with direct links to the corresponding PDFs.

For the Alpine community, we have also integrated the ALPARC map of protected areas into the eco.mont website (<https://www.mountainresearch.at/ecomont/articles-on-protected-areas-in-the-alps/>). Protected areas that have been featured in eco.mont articles are marked on the map, making it easy to explore published research geographically.

The articles in this issue reflect the diversity of themes, regions and management challenges currently shaping research on protected areas. They range from assessments of ecological change and biodiversity conservation to questions of sustainable management and governance, offering valuable insights from mountain protected areas around the world.

In the article *Potential of Use of Remote Sensing Data as an Additional Management Tool in Biosphere Reserve Networks – A Case Study of Czech Biosphere Reserves*, Petr Cupa and Petr Vahalík explore the use of CORINE Land Cover data as a supplementary management tool. By assessing the ecological stability of biosphere reserves in the Czech Republic, the authors demonstrate how remote sensing data can support informed decision-making and strengthen collaboration between researchers and practitioners.

In *Carbon Sequestration Potential of the Dibudalan Mountain Forest Reserve, Philippines*, Afed Daiwey highlights the ecological significance of this tropical forest reserve and emphasizes the need for effective forest management strategies to enhance the protection of its biodiversity and carbon storage potential.

The Zillertal Alps High Mountain Nature Park Anchored in the Region by Dedication of All Involved by Valerie Braun, Willi Seifert, Gudrun Steger, Paul Steger, Annemarie Polderman and Katharina Weiskopf offers insights into the development and management of a protected area. The article traces the park's establishment and evolution over time and highlights the importance of local participation, inter-institutional cooperation and strategic communication in fostering acceptance and ensuring long-term success.

In *Sustainable Heritage: Protecting Jingmai Mountain's Traditional Homes for Ecotourism and Rural Development*, Chunping Xie and Erlin Tian take readers to the ancient tea landscapes of southern China. They argue that the long-term preservation of mountain heritage will increasingly depend on combining indigenous knowledge with modern sustainability standards to ensure resilience, functionality and relevance.

Sarah Balet and Nadja Urfer introduce the concept of regenerative tourism in their article *Regenerative Tourism and its Importance for Conservation Areas and Regional Nature Parks*. They discuss its potential to support both nature conservation and regional development while encouraging a more reciprocal relationship between visitors and destinations.

The Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in the Alps and Pyrenees: A Case Study from the LIFE RESQUE ALPYR Project by Teresa Buchaca, Rocco Tiberti, Eulàlia Pladevall-Izard, Lucia Bello, Giorgia Mattioli, Aaron Pérez-Haase, Quim Pou-Rovira, Claudia Rier and Marc Ventura focuses on high-mountain aquatic and semi-aquatic ecosystems in the Alpine biogeographical region. The authors demonstrate how ecological restoration, combined with stakeholder engagement, can contribute to long-term biodiversity gains while reconciling traditional land-use practices with contemporary conservation goals.

Finally, in *Biodiversity in Jingong Mountain National Nature Reserve, China*, Kang Chen, Yue Teng, Yuhua Xie, Huizhe Feng, Fengge Zhang, Ren Zhu and Kai Zhao provide an overview of the reserve's biodiversity and the pressures it faces. The article discusses threatened species, habitat degradation, invasive species and other conservation challenges, and offers recommendations for improving biodiversity protection in the reserve.

Enjoy exploring this new issue of eco.mont and discovering the new features on the eco.mont website.

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