

## Editorial by Axel Borsdorf and Günter Köck

The breaking news of this issue of eco.mont is the information by Thomson Reuters, dated 9 August 2012, that eco.mont – Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research and Management has been included the Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch). The editors, the editorial office and the editorial board see this development as the recognition of the academic quality and the international visibility of our journal. The backdated indexation of all previous issues is also a tribute to our authors. It is due to their high-quality contributions that eco.mont made it into the citation index in just over three years from its first publication date. We take this opportunity to also thank all reviewers involved who took a close look at the submitted texts and helped to improve them further with their remarks.

We now hope to attract additional authors who were previously reluctant to submit a manuscript to a non-indexed journal. We call up all scientists researching in protected mountain areas, as well as anyone involved in managing such protected areas, to publish in eco.mont. Our journal has a clearly defined target audience, i.e. anyone interested in developing protected areas as model regions of sustainability. Articles published in eco.mont will reach precisely this target group in countries all over the world.

The inclusion in the index does not mean, however, that editors or editorial office can just lean back now. We are currently taking steps to turn eco.mont into an open access journal without costs for the authors.

During the AlpWeek 2012 in Poschiavo, Switzerland, editors from three European journals on alpine research met and agreed on closer cooperation. These are Mountain Research and Development, Berne, Revue de Géographie Alpine, Grenoble, and eco.mont, Innsbruck. All three journals are included in the Science Citation Index. Each one has its own profile even if the target groups partly overlap. The cooperation is intended to sharpen all three profiles and facilitate sharing information.

The current eco.mont issue 2 of volume 4 continues the clear orientation of our journal on global research and management aspects in protected mountain areas. Four articles deal with protected areas in the Alps, which continue to form the geographical focus of our journal. One article expands the area of interest to another European mountain area, i.e. the Balkan, two further texts relate to a protected area in Asia and one in Africa. The Case in Point by Josef Fanningner presents the latest UNESCO-designated protected area in Austria, the Biosphere Reserve Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge, established in July 2012. Many initiatives for setting up new biosphere reserves might benefit from reading this report on how the protected area, which spans two Austria federal states, came about.

Of similar relevance is Astrid Wallner's piece on the catalogue of research topics. The persuasive concept draws the various research perspectives together under several themes, something that could well be guiding not just the Swiss National Parks but also research in protected areas across the world.

An international group of authors around Rodney Garrard looks at Sagarmatha National Park in two articles. The first presents research findings, the second the method of comparing photographs of the same area from different periods. We recommend reading these two pieces in combination.

In the Alps extensification trends at the alpine vegetation level are causing concern. Andreas Bohner, Franz Starlinger and Petr Koucky use long-term monitoring from within the LTER initiative as a basis for comparing fallow land with sheep pastures in the Styrian region of Eisenwurzen (Austria). They come to the conclusion that keeping sheep is a sustainable alternative to letting the land lie fallow. This piece is of high political relevance and we would welcome it if Austrian and European policy took note of the findings presented here.

Sustainability is the aim of all protected mountain areas. Starting from this point of view, Tiru Berihun Tessema, Michael Jungmeier and Michael Huber have studied the effects of relocating an Ethiopian village in Simien Mountains National Park, which had been suggested by UNESCO. Relocation for conservation purposes has to be seen critically in an effort to balance the protection of people and the environment. This article is also highly relevant for policy decisions.

We hope our readers will find many new insights and enjoy the new issue of eco.mont.



## Related projects according to the **European Mountain Pool**

At the editorial office of eco.mont, we maintain the **European Mountain Pool** on research in European protected mountain areas.

<http://www.alparc.org/our-actions/research-platform/european-mountain-pool>

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Related projects in the **European Mountain Pool**:

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Vegetation changes in an abandoned montane grassland, compared to changes in a habitat with low-intensity sheep grazing – a case study in Styria, Austria by *Andreas Bohner, Franz Starlinger & Petr Koucky*

**Aichhorn Katharina:** Monitoring im Sonder-schutzgebiet Piffkar 2004–2005: Positive Vegetations-entwicklung aufgrund natürlicher Sukzession nach Beendigung der Beweidung? CH-2731

**Schütz Martin:** Raum-Zeit-Modell der Vegetations-entwicklung auf subalpinen Kleinweiden im Schweiz-erischen Nationalpark, CH-1804