

Resource Efficiency in Mountains Call for papers for MRD vol 31 no 2 (May 2011)

Papers for this issue should be submitted by 15 October 2010

Efficient use of natural resources is crucial for fostering sustainable consumption and production patterns (SCPP), as well as—ultimately—for sustainable development. *“Resources efficiency is about ensuring that natural resource use and pollution associated with the production and use of goods and services is reduced over the full life cycle. This contributes to human wellbeing by delivering more products, in a cleaner and safer way using less materials and energy,”* states the United Nations Environment Program on Resource Efficiency. “Resource efficiency” should not, however, be heralded as the solution to all problems, as it does not automatically lead to a reduction of resource use (Jevons Paradox).

Why is resource efficiency important in mountain areas? For example:

- Scarce and dispersed natural resources in mountain areas offer only a limited production base. People have had to adapt over centuries to these limitations and have developed ways of efficiently using resources, considering their full life cycles. Are there lessons to be learned and can they be applied to other regions, mountainous or not?
- Application of technologies and input of additional external resources is challenging due to topography, limited accessibility, and financial constraints. What innovative and integrative solutions are there?
- Lowland communities depend on natural resources from mountains, eg water, biodiversity, forests, and minerals. Resource efficiency in mountain areas is thus of benefit for lowland dwellers. What models of resource efficiency are there which take interactions between the highlands and lowlands into account? What are the implications of resource efficiency for actors in the highlands and lowlands?

The importance of sustainable patterns of production and consumption was also recognized at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg and was taken up as the main focus of the Marrakech Process in 2003.

With this planned issue on “Resource Efficiency”, MRD aims at contributing novel research insights and validated development experiences to the 10 Year Framework Program of the Marrakech Process that will be launched in February 2011. We assume that experiences of, and insights into, efficient use of natural resources in mountain areas will benefit an audience beyond the “mountain research and development communities”.

Manuscripts sent to MRD for the issue focusing on “Resource Efficiency” can address the above questions or focus on one of the topics below:

- Analysis of resource efficiency in agriculture and forestry;
- Validated experience of leapfrogging projects;
- Institutional arrangements in mountains promoting resource efficiency;
- Investigations into life cycle approaches in mountain areas, and evidence-based proposals for advancing them

Please submit papers for the peer-reviewed MountainDevelopment and MountainResearch sections **by 15 October 2011**, using MRD’s online submission system. The guidelines for both types of paper are available at: <http://www.mrd-journal.org/submission.asp>.

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