

Mountain Research and Development (MRD): Call for Papers, MRD 35.4

Observing Mountains and Sharing Knowledge

Submission of notices of intent by **18 November 2014**; submission of full papers by **28 February 2015**

The speed, nature, and dimension of changes in mountains pose complex challenges for mountain societies and mountain ecosystems. How can these changes be observed? Drivers of change are multifaceted, often interrelated, and their effects cross spatial, temporal, and governance scales. They influence ecosystem functions and services, livelihoods, and other components of social-ecological systems. Although great progress has been made in generating new knowledge about mountain-specific conditions, challenges, and solutions, these insights and observations are often disconnected, short-term, and sector-specific; they thus fail to provide the holistic understanding of social-ecological change in mountains that is required for sustainable development in mountains.

Long-term and integrated observations and effective forms of knowledge sharing can address this gap and inform responses, e.g. new household strategies, communal initiatives, and state-level investment and regulation. With its July 2014 Global Fair and Workshop on Long-Term Observatories of Mountain Social-Ecological Systems in Reno, the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) made an important step in advancing mountain observatories and observation. To keep up this momentum, *Mountain Research and Development* is seeking submissions for its peer-reviewed sections.

Possible topics in papers for the [MountainDevelopment section](#) (transformation knowledge) could be:

- What are effective means and processes for integrating scientific, professional, local, and traditional knowledge across temporal, spatial, and governance scales?
- What observation approaches succeed in helping to advance sustainable development?
- How can the information needs of governments, communities, and other stakeholders be assessed, and how can findings from observations best be put to use for them?

Possible topics in papers for the [MountainResearch section](#) (systems knowledge) could be:

- How can mountain-specific social data be meaningfully related to, and portrayed alongside, biophysical data? And what might be the role of models in articulating data of different types?
- What new insights do we gain from observing mountains from space?
- What insights are there into causal chains that convert drivers into impacts within mountain social-ecological systems and finally into social responses?

Submission details

Please e-mail a **notice of intent** indicating the main research question and the conceptual framework and methodology applied to the Editorial Office **by 18 November 2014**: mrd-journal@cde.unibe.ch

- **Submit your full paper by 28 February 2015**
- Guidelines for authors are available at: http://www.mrd-journal.org/submission_GAuthors.asp
- For more information on the journal see: <http://www.mrd-journal.org>

Hans Hurni, David Molden, MRD Editorial Office,
with a contribution from MRI, October 2014