

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



The Mountain Research Initiative

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photos front page:

left: Musala peak and Ledeno ezero (Icy Lake), Rila mountains, Bulgaria by Emil Gachev, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

centre: Prayer wheels, Nam Co Lake, Tibet by Greg Greenwood, MRI

right: Dry terraces in Capuna, in the Andean Plateau by Alonso Barros

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MRI moves to the next step

For hurried readers, I can summarize MRI's Annual Report 2009 in five points:

- 1) The project «Mountain Sustainable Development. Transforming Research Into Practice» (mountain.TRIP) proposed by MRI, IGF and four other partners to the 2009 EU FP7 call was funded and began on 1 December 2009. Mountain.TRIP will render EU-funded mountain relevant research results available to practitioners in forms that they can easily access and use.
- 2) The Swiss National Science Foundation and the South Africa National Research Foundation funded the joint Swiss-South African scientific seminar "Toward Sustainable Fine Resolution Hydro-Ecological Observatories in Southern African Mountains". The seminar took place in November 2009 in Switzerland and was first a step towards comprehensive monitoring of climate, hydrology and biodiversity, and integrated environmental data delivery for South African mountains.
- 3) In September 2009 MRI hosted a Synthesis Workshop with water resource experts from around the world to assess the current scientific and managerial capacities in their regions for responding to climate change and to explore how results of climate change research can be made more useful to water resource managers. Results will be published in a special issue of Hydrology and Earth System Sciences.
- 4) MRI Europe developed a new network "SEEmore: the South Eastern European Mountain Research Network" and has given the S4C - Science for the Carpathians - network a firm basis by establishing an official Scientific Steering Committee.
- 5) In November 2009, a consortium of 22 institutions, half from Europe, half from Africa, and coordinated by MRI submitted the African Applied Land System Science (FINESSE) proposal to the FP7 2010 Africa call "Integrated Management of Water and Other Natural Resources in Africa". The project, which seeks 3.5 million € from the EU, joins three key threads - ecosystem modelling, institutional analysis and collaboration with stakeholders - to create an approach to integrated natural resource management in diverse African ecosystems.

In this editorial I could just thank Gregory Greenwood and his MRI team for the extraordinary performance they have accomplished in 2009, and then express my hope that their efforts and success may be continued. But this wouldn't be sufficient, because an important message would be missing: The MRI has changed a lot in 2009 and has made a crucial step into a future that will be different from what MRI has done in the past. This step includes both an greater range of tasks and a broader financial basis.

Why has this happened? Thanks to its solid work and commitment in the last few years, MRI has established itself within the scientific community as shown by the nearly 4'000 subscribers to the newsletter, and, even more, by the successful collaborations with partner organizations, resulting in common funding proposals, such as mountain.TRIP and FINESSE. By making the outcomes of scientific studies accessible to practitioners MRI is fulfilling its mandate, as outlined by Alfred Becker and Harald Bugmann in 2001, to making important scientific findings in Global Change Research relevant to the sustainable development of mountain regions.

A. Advancing the Global Change Research Agenda in Mountains

1. Global Initiatives

The MRI ran two global networking workshops, the first on 14 Dec 2008 in Berkeley, California in conjunction with the American Geophysical Union meeting, and the second on 18 April 2009 in Vienna in association with the European Geophysical Union meeting and with the support of the Austrian Academy of Science. The workshops provided researchers the opportunity to explain their research projects to the community and to create new working relationships. Each meeting produced a Catalog of Research Summaries available at <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/events/mri-events/>

The MRI co-sponsored a side event with GermanWatch and the German Umweltbundesamt at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bonn on June 11, 2009 on Adaptation in Mountain Regions with presentations on Nepal, Bolivia and the Alps: Current directions and research needs for adaptation to climate change in mountain regions.

See: "Adaptation in Mountain Regions" on Thursday, 11.06.09 at http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/reports/archive.html?session_id=SB30

The MRI chaired a side event at the World Climate Conference in Geneva on 2 September 2009 on Integrating local and global perspectives in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

With the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Mountain Partnership, MRI organized a side event at the UNFCCC COP15 to highlight the importance of mountain regions in both adaptation to and mitigation of global warming.

See: <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/COP15.html>

With the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College, Scotland, MRI is planning for the Perth 2010 conference on Global Change and the World's Mountains. This conference, occurring five years after the first Perth Conference at the conclusion of the GLOCHAMORE (GLObal CHange in MOUNTain REgions) program, funded under the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union (FP6), is the major scientific conference for the global change in mountain regions research community.

See: <http://www.perth.ac.uk/specialistcentres/cms/Conferences/Perth2010/Pages/default.aspx>

In May 2009, MRI submitted a proposal with multiple Swiss signatories and support from USA, Russia, Columbia, Peru to ProClim for a chapter in the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report 5 on mountain regions for eventual incorporation in Swiss advice to the IPCC.



2. Regional Networks

2.1. Global Change Research Network for African Mountains (GCRN_AM)

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-africa/>

In May 2009 the Swiss National Science Foundation and the South Africa National Research Foundation agreed to fund the joint Swiss-South African scientific conference Toward Sustainable Fine Resolution Hydro-Ecological Observatories in Southern African Mountains proposed by Dr. Hannes Rautenbach of the University of Pretoria and Dr. Michael Lehning of the Swiss Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF).

The seminar ran from 2 to 6 November 2009 at the Swiss National Park in Zerne, at the Federal Office for the Environment in Bern, and at the University of Lausanne. The program covered observing systems related to climate, hydrology, and biodiversity, and benefited from the participation of researchers at the Swiss National Park, at MeteoSwiss, from two programs within the Federal Office of Hydrology, from all four entities of the ETH domain, and the Universities of Basel, Bern and Lausanne. The visiting delegations included researchers from the South African Environmental Observing Network (SAEON), the KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Service, the Sneeuwberg Nature Reserve, and the Universities of Pretoria, Witwatersrand, KwaZulu-Natal, Stellenbosch and Lesotho.

The outcomes of the seminar can be grouped under the headings of:

1. Fine spatial resolution monitoring of catchments in South African mountains
2. Monitoring invasive species along altitudinal gradients in South African mountains
3. Understanding climate gradients in South African mountains and their role in vegetation distribution
4. Creating GLORIA sites on South African mountains
5. Developing predictive models of plant and animal species modeling
6. Developing an integrated environmental data platform for South African mountains

For more information and to read the final report go to:

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/events/mri-events/-swiss-south-africa-joint-scientific-conference-on-mountain-observatories-2-6-nov.-2009.html>

The GCRN_AM seized the opportunity offered by the 2010 FP7 call, ENV.2010.2.1.1-1 to submit a proposal focusing on the integrated management of water and natural resources in Africa. The call focused on building long-term lasting human and social capacity for integrated natural resources management, particularly a toolbox for the evaluation of future scenarios as well as of proposed policies and programs. It does so by combining earth system modeling, institutional analysis and collaborative processes. In November 2009 MRI invited researchers to a proposal development workshop for a proposal named "FINESSE": AFRICA Applied Land System Science. The FINESSE consortium of 11 African and an equal number of European partners finalized the proposal under the lead of MRI and submitted the proposal on 14 January 2010. The proposal is for a three year, 3.5 million € project covering both highland and lowland sites across Africa.





2.2. American Cordillera Transect (ACT)

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-american-cordillera>

ACT coordinator Dr. Fausto Sarmiento has contacted several scientists to prepare workshops and sessions on research done in the Americas Cordillera. The principal target is the Global Change and the World's Mountains Conference, taking place in Perth, UK, from 27 September to 1 October 2010. Researchers from the ACT network will present current social science research projects to understand global change in the mountains of the Americas. Dr. Sarmiento is also organizing a special session on the ACT network's activities on mountain landscape transformation under global environmental change at the yearly meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) to be held in Washington, DC in April 2010.

During the reporting period the ACT coordinator continued to collect and edit information for distribution in the bilingual newflash produced bimonthly. The news items include information from ACT members sent either to MRI in Switzerland or to Fausto Sarmiento in the USA, news from other list servers and information the network coordinator collected by other means.

Dr. Sarmiento arranged for publication of the papers presented at the CONCORD conference (Climate Change: Organizing the Science for the American Cordillera Mendoza, AR, 4-6 April 2006) on the human dimensions of global change in the Andes in PIRINEOS, the Journal of Mountain Ecology (<http://pirineos.revistas.csic.es/index.php/pirineos>) in 2009.

The topic of "Farmscape Transformation and Global Change in the Tropical Mountains of the Americas" (see Publications) continues to attract interest and prospective collaborators. Fausto Sarmiento (University of Georgia, USA), Ricardo Russo (EARTH University, Costa Rica) and Jeffrey Jones (Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Ensenanza, CATIE) are developing a research proposal on mountain agriculture and livelihood strategies for adaptation to change with a seed grant from the Exposition Foundation of Atlanta. The envisioned project will include nodes in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, with the participation of ACT members Gerardo Bocco, David Ortega-Pacheco, Luis Ortega, Juan Gonzalez and Alejandro Leon. The goal is to receive funding from the US National Science Foundation NSF for regional work on coupled human-natural systems.

2.3. Collaboration with partners in Asia

MRI participated on the Steering Committee of the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Biodiversity Conference in Kathmandu from 16-18 November 2008 (see <http://www.icimod.org/?page=222>).

MRI presented a keynote at the Chinese Academy of Sciences Workshop on the Third Pole Environment (TPE) held in Beijing and Lhasa from 15-20 August 2009, which launched a multi-nation project focused on environmental conditions and dynamics in Hindu Kush-Karakorum-Himalaya-Tibet region. A meeting report has been submitted to EOS, the newspaper of the American Geophysical Union (see: <http://www.tpe.ac.cn/en/node/11>).

MRI's Director has been invited to serve on the TPE Science Committee.

2.4. MRI Europe

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-europe/>
<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-carpathians/>
<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-europe/south-eastern-europe/>

MRI participated in an Expert Consultation on 26 March 2009 in Brussels for the European Environment Agency European Mountain Assessment.

Beginning in July 2009, MRI has collaborated with the Interacademic Commission on Alpine Research (ICAS) on a conference on Swiss participation in global mountain research to be held in June 2010. Several departments of the Swiss federal administration have joined MRI and ICAS as partners for the conference (Federal Office of the Environment, Federal Office for Spatial Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, State Secretariat for Education and Research).

Cooperation with the Institut für Gebirgsforschung: Mensch und Umwelt (IGF) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences on MRI Europe (see section C.1) led to the following activities, funded principally by the Austrian Academy of Sciences:

- A proposal development workshop on 9 June 2009 at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava, SK, Securing the Sustainable Provision of Ecosystem Services in the Alps and the Carpathians, to exchange relevant research results on Ecosystem Services of Alpine and Carpathians landscapes and to develop proposals for specific interdisciplinary research and education projects. The Humboldt University zu Berlin and the ETH Zürich centre for Planning of Landscape and Urban Systems (PLUS) were the main partners in this endeavor.
- The second Science for the Carpathians (S4C) planning meeting on 10 June 2009, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia aimed at securing long-term funding for an S4C coordination office within the Carpathian region, establishing an official S4C Steering Committee, and planning the first Forum Carpaticum scheduled for 15-17 September 2010 in Kraków, Poland. An Interim Scientific Steering Committee was nominated for the period from June 2009 until September 2010. Astrid Bjørnsen has been elected as Co-Chair of the S4C initiative. A S4C Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for 12-13 March 2010 in Kraków.
- On-going participation on the Organizing Committee of the first Forum Carpaticum 2010 Integrating Nature and Society towards Sustainability to be held on 15-17 September 2010, at the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland. The Forum Carpaticum will assemble scientists and stakeholders working in the Carpathian countries to (i) link research and practice related to coupled human-environmental systems in this mountain ecosystem, (ii) support actions leading to its sustainability, and (iii) increase the visibility of Carpathian region in research agendas. Cooperation is sought with the organizers of the Forum Alpinum (6-9 October 2010, Munich, Germany) to facilitate the exchange of Alpine and Carpathian expertise.
- A conference, Identifying the Research Basis for Sustainable Development of the Mountain Regions in South-eastern Europe, was held in Borovets, Bulgaria on 24-26 April 2009 during which the 54 participating scientists agreed to launch a new mountain science network (SEEmore) for the Balkan region. The build-up of the SEEmore network was attempted primarily through established communication tools such as the SEEmore website, as well as a bi-monthly regional Newsflash for the SEEmore network. In 2010, network development in the SEEmore region needs to be supported through real meetings and activities.

MRI published and distributed Newsflashes of MRI-Europe, SEEmore and S4C every second month. Past issues can be found at the website (http://mri.scnatweb.ch/index.php?option=com_docman&Itemid=43).



MRI has given the three European networks visual identities: logos, websites, and Newsflashes have been developed and are maintained by MRI.

B. Identifying and Addressing Key Research Questions

1. Glacier Hazards, Permafrost Hazards and GLOFs in Mountain Areas: Processes, Assessment, Prevention, Mitigation

MRI was a co-sponsor of the conference Glacier Hazards, Permafrost Hazards, and Glacial Lake Outbursts Floods (GLOPs) held on 10-13 November 2009, Vienna, Austria and contributed to developing a political economy keynote and poster session (see <http://www.baunat.boku.ac.at/workshop09.html>).

2. Climate Change and Water Resource Management in Mountains

In conjunction with Dr. Daniel Viviroli of the University of Bern, MRI brought together water resource experts working in the Pacific North West, the Tropical Andes, Mediterranean and Alpine Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, Pakistan, China and New Zealand in Göschenen on 16-19 September 2009 to assess the current scientific and managerial capacities in their regions for responding to climate change and to explore how results of climate change research can be made more useful to water resource managers. The conference will result in a special issue of Hydrology and Earth System Science.

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/events/mri-events/climate-change-and-water-resources-management-in-mountains-16-18-sept.-2009-goschenen-ch.html>

3. Key Drivers of Food Security in Mountain Regions

Beginning in September 2008 MRI has been working with Dr. Thomas Kohler, Markus Giger and Susanne Wymann of the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern to develop a workshop to be held at Aeschi ob Spiez on 22-27 March 2010. The workshop will use a comparative analysis of selected case studies focused primarily on the analysis of the 2007-2008 price surge for food to provide insights on the key drivers influencing food security in mountain regions. The case studies come from the Andes, Eastern and Southern Africa, Central Asia, India and China. The workshop will result in a synthesis paper.

4. Cordillera Forest Dynamics Network (CORFOR)

In May 2009, the participants in CORFOR outlined their commitments to the development of papers on climate

change impacts on forests across elevational gradients in the American Cordillera. A sub group met at the Ecological Society of America meeting in August and refined their approaches. MRI continues to support the CORFOR website.

5. New Proposals for Workshops

In July 2009 MRI launched a call for proposals of workshops oriented around critical topics in global change research in mountain regions. By 4 September 2009, MRI had received 30 new proposed topics, which will be evaluated for inclusion in MRI's next three-year program.



CORFOR: scientific fieldworkers measuring trees on one of the permanent plots in the Colombian Andes (photo by Alvaro Duque) <http://www.corfor.com/>

C. PROPOSALS AND FUNDING

1. Collaboration with IGF, the Institute for Mountain Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences)

<http://www.uibk.ac.at/igf/index.html.en>



In December 2008 MRI signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the Institut für Gebirgsforschung: Mensch und Umwelt (IGF) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences whereby IGF assumed the management of MRI Europe from October 2008 to December 2010. IGF agreed to pay the salary and expenses of the Swiss network coordinator through the end of March 2009.

Funding from the Austrian Academy became quite uncertain after March 2009, and MRI undertook a campaign to locate additional funding from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research, the Swiss Academy of Sciences, and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). With the apparent restoration of some funding from the Austrian Academy and a supplemental grant from SNF, MRI Europe appears to have sufficient funding to operate through September 2010.

2. Mountain.TRIP



In January 2009 a consortium of 6 partners submitted the «Mountain Sustainable Development. Transforming Research Into Practice» (Mountain.TRIP) proposal to the 2009 EU FP7 call. The partners include the Institut für Gebirgsforschung: Mensch und Umwelt (IGF) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College, UK, Euromontana in Brussels, Belgium, the Ecologic Institute in Berlin, Germany, the Institute of Geography and Spatial Management of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and the MRI.

Mountain.TRIP was approved for funding in June 2009, started on 1 December 2009 and will run through November 2011. Mountain.TRIP will render EU-funded mountain relevant research results available to practitioners in forms that they can easily access and use.

<http://www.mountaintrip.eu>

3. AFRICA Applied Land System Science (FINESSE)

MRI coordinates a consortium that responds to the 2010 EU FP7 call on integrated management of water and other natural resources in Africa. The consortium includes both European and African institutions, such as the Global Land Project and the African Highlands Initiative. The University of Bern provided seed money for proposal development. The consortium met in Switzerland on 17-19 November 2009 and submitted the proposal on 14 January 2010.

4. Lobbying for the inclusion of mountain themes in future FP7 calls

In both February and August 2009 MRI sent four suggested themes to the Swiss delegate to FP7 Environment committee for respectively the 2010 and 2011 calls.



Mariepskop's mountain, South Africa (photo by Willem Ferguson)
Mariepskop long term environmental observatory: <http://mariepskop.org.za>

D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. MRI Website <http://mri.scnatweb.ch>

The Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) continues to host MRI's website as a contribution to MRI's program.

In 2009 MRI set up a webpage for the South Eastern European Mountain Research Network (SEEmore). The MRI communication manager expanded the Events and Media sections of the website considerably in 2009.

2. MRI Experts Database

The size of MRI as measured by the number of people within its database continues to grow:

	October 2008	October 2009
MRI records in total:	6738	7047
MRI_Europe	1075	1311
MRI_Africa	409	428
MRI_American Cordillera	157	183
MRI_Carpathians	254	352
SEE_More	-	205

3. Event Management

MRI's event manager handled the registrations and the mailings for the Science for the Carpathians workshop on Ecosystem Services and the Science for the Carpathians Planning Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, June 2009. She further supported MRI's Director in organizing the logistics of the Swiss-South African scientific seminar „Toward Sustainable Fine Resolution Hydro-Ecological Observatories in Southern African Mountains“ and of the FINESSE Workshop (AFrIcaN AppliEd Land System ScienceE).

For the conference on Swiss participation in global mountain research to be held in March 2010 in collaboration with the Interacademic Commission on Alpine Research (ICAS) MRI took the lead in developing the program and in bringing together the partners for the conference (Federal Office of the Environment, Federal Office for Spatial Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, State Secretariat for Education and Research).

4. Publications

4.1. Newsletter of the Mountain Research Initiative

Drexler, C., and Greenwood, G. (eds), 2009. Newsletter of the Mountain Research Initiative "MRI news", no.2, April 2009. http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_News_no2-April2009.pdf

Drexler, C., and Greenwood, G. (eds), 2009. Newsletter of the Mountain Research Initiative "MRI news", no.3, October 2009. http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_news_no3_web.pdf

MRI launched its Newsletter in September 2008. A strong interest from the MRI community in this product has made the Newsletter grow in size. The Newsletter features the sections Director's Notes, MRI Interview, Science Peaks, Notes, Workshop Reports, and a Book Review.

The October 2009 edition included the following Science Peaks:

- Impacts of Global Change on the Dynamics of Snow, Glaciers and Runoff over the Himalayan Mountains and their Consequences for Highland and Downstream Regions
- Valuing the Arc – a Programme to Map and Value Ecosystem Services in Tanzania
- Recent Environmental Changes in the Tatra National Park in Poland
- Mountains as Model Systems for Understanding Drivers of Plant Invasion
- Water Rights and Irrigation for Indigenous Communities in the Chilean Altiplano
- Canadian Climate Research Networks Focus on Mountain Research in Western Canada

4.2. Papers

Björnsen Gurung, A. et al. 2009. Global Change Research in the Carpathian Mountain Region. *Mountain Research and Development*. 29(3):282-288. doi: 10.1659/mrd.1105 (MRI-Europe product <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.1659/mrd.1105>).

van Mantgem, Ph., et al. 2009. Widespread Increase of Tree Mortality Rates in the Western United States. *Science* Vol. 323 no. 5913: 521 – 524 (CORFOR network product, <http://science.samxxzy.ns02.info/cgi/reprint/sci;323/5913/521.pdf>).

4.3. Abstract volumes and workshop reports

Björnsen Gurung A., Baron J., Böhni R., Braun V., Clivaz Ch., de Jong C., Drexler C., Erzinger P., Gantner U., Greenwood G., Rigling A., Schulz T., Wiesmann U. (2009). Interdisciplinarity in Mountain Research: Analysis of the potentials and challenges based on case studies. Proceedings of the Conference on „Gebirgsforschung Schweiz“, ICAS, Bern.

Drexler, C., Greenwood, G. (eds), 2009. Workshop on Global Change Research in Mountainous Regions. Catalog of Research Summaries resulting from the Workshop on April 2009 in Vienna, Austria http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Catalog_ResearchSummaries_MRI-EGU2009.pdf

Drexler, C., Greenwood, G. (eds), 2009. Workshop on Global Change Research in Mountainous Regions. Catalog of Research Summaries resulting from the Workshop on 14 December 2008, Berkeley, California, USA http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Catalog_ResearchSummaries_MRI-AGU_2008.pdf

Drexler, C., Greenwood, G., and Björnson Gurung, A. 2009. Global Change and Mountain Regions: The Mountain Research Initiative. In Sharma, E. Proceedings of the International Conference on Mountain Biodiversity, Kathmandu 16-18 November 2008. ICIMOD. pp. 265-269.

Greenwood, G. 2009. The Global Change in Mountain Regions Research Strategy and its Implementation. In Sharma, E. Proceedings of the International Conference on Mountain Biodiversity, Kathmandu 16-18 November 2008. ICIMOD. pp. 110-119.

Ostopowicz, K., Sitko, I, (eds), 2009. Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Workshop Report of the S4C Strategy Development and Networking Meeting, 27-28 May 2008, Kraków, Poland. MRI, Bern. http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_workshop_report.pdf

Sarmiento, F. (ed) 2008. Farmscape Transformation and Global Change in the Andes. Special Issue. Pirineos. Volume 163. Jaca, Spain. ISSN: 0373-2568. Open Access Journal: <http://pirineos.revistas.csic.es/index.php/pirineos>

4.4. Newsflashes

Newsflash of the Global Change Research Network for African Mountains (digital publication)

http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Newsflash_GCRNAfrica_January09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Newsflash_GCRNAfrica_March09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Newsflash_GCRNAfrica_May09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Newsflash_GCRNAfrica_July09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/Newsflash_GCRNAfrica_Sept09.pdf

Newsflash: El Transecto Cordillera de las Américas para la Investigación del Cambio Climático (digital publication)

http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/ACT_NewsFlash_January2009.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/ACT_NewsFlash_May2009.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/ACT_NewsFlash_July2009.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/ACT_NewsFlash_Oct2009.pdf

Newsflash of MRI Europe (digital publication)

http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_October08.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_December08.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_February09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_April09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_June09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_August09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_October09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/MRI_Europe_Flash_December09.pdf

Newsflash of S4C – Science for the Carpathians (digital publication)

http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_Nov08.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_Jan09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_March09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_May09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_July09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_Sept09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/S4C_Flash_Nov09.pdf

Newsflash of SEEmore - South Eastern European Mountain Research Network (digital publication)

http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/SEEmore_Newsflash_June09.pdf http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/SEEmore_Newsflash_August09.pdf
http://mri.scnatweb.ch/dmdocuments/SEEmore_Newsflash_October09.pdf

4.5. Contributions to Newsletters of other organizations

Björnsen Gurung, A. 2009. Persönliches: Neue Mitarbeiterin stellt sich vor. IGF Newsletter 2: 1.

Björnsen Gurung, A. 2009. Kooperationsvertrag mit MRI. IGF Newsletter 2: 3.

Björnsen Gurung, A. 2009. Das Europäische Programm der Mountain Research Initiative: Netzwerkentwicklung in den Karpaten und den Ländern Südosteuropas. IGF Newsletter 3: 1-2.

Kueffer, Ch., et al. 2008. The Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN). MRI News no. 1 September 2008, pp 11-13. Reprinted in Mountain Views February 2009, CIRMOUNT's biannual newsletter, pp. 28-30

Drexler, C., 2009. Global Change in Mountain Regions: The Mountain Research Initiative. Mountain Forum Bulletin July 2009: 34-36.

Mountain Forum Bulletin, July 2009. Mountain Biodiversity: Lifeline for the Future. Available online at <http://www.mtnforum.org/rsmfnews.cfm?newsid=52>. This edition is a joint product of the Mountain Forum, GMBA and the Mountain Research Initiative with support from ICIMOD

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E. The people at MRI

1. Project-oriented Activities by SAB Members

Prof. Harald Bugmann, Chair of Forest Ecology, ETHZ, Zürich, Switzerland
<http://www.fe.ethz.ch/>



- Participates and has partly a leading role in several new large-scale projects of the European Union and the European Science Foundation, including ACQWA (mountain waters), MOTIVE (models for adaptive forest management), BACCARA (forest biodiversity) and others. Throughout these projects, mountain case studies are conducted by his group in the European Alps and other European mountain ranges such as the Black Forest and the Carpathians,
- has co-organized a major workshop for managers of Swiss mountain forests to address the issue of adaptive management in forests that have a key role for the protection against gravitational natural hazards,
- participated in meetings of the MRI co-PIs at the Geographical Institute of University of Bern to discuss strategic MRI issues, and to prepare the writing of the proposal for the next grant application to the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Dr. Narpat Jodha, Senior Research Associate, Integrated Centre for Mountain Development, Kathmandu, Nepal

<http://www.icimod.org>



- Held informal lectures to (interactions with) visiting mountain researchers / NGOs and some donors on place-based micro level approaches to help evolve adaptation strategies against climate change in mountain agricultural context).
- Interacted and discussed with MRI professionals and others visiting ICIMOD regarding the Mountain Wetland workshop.
- Contributed to ICIMOD's work on disaster management in the Himalayan context.
- Delivered the President's address to the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics on "Mountain Agriculture: Development Policies and Perspectives". (Published in Ind. Jr. of Agril. Economics vol.64 No.1, Jan-March 2009).

2. Coordination office personnel



Dr. Gregory Greenwood,
Executive Director



Dr. Björnsen Gurung,
MRI Europe Programme
Manager



Sandra Liechti, Communica-
tion and Event Manager



Claudia Drexler,
mountain.TRIP
product development



Lukas Vonlanthen,
Student Assistant

Annex: List of acronyms

ACQWA	Assessing Climate Impacts on the Quantity and quality of Water
ACT	American Cordilleras Transect for Global Change Research
AAG	American Association of Geographers
BACCARA	
CDE	Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern
CIRMOUNT	Consortium for Integrated Climate Research in Western Mountains
CORFOR	Cordillera Forest Dynamics Network
ETHZ	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
EU FP7	7th Framework Programme of the European Union
FINESSE	African Applied Land System Science
GCRN_AM	Global Change Research Network in African mountains
GLOCHAMORE	Global Change in Mountain Regions
GLOFs	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
GLORIA	Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments
GLP	Global Land Project
GMBA	Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment
ICAS	Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IGF	Institute for Mountain Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MIREN	Mountain Invasion Research Network
MRI	Mountain Research Initiative
NSF	US National Science Foundation
proClim	Forum for Global and Climate change
SCNAT	Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences
S4C	Science for the Carpathians
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEEmore	South East European mountain research network
SNF	Swiss National Science Foundation
SLF	Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research
TPE	Third Pole Environment
UNFCCC COP15	15th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference



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