

Mountain Research and Development (MRD): Call for Papers

Deadlines: submission of a **working title and abstract by 28 August 2011**, full papers by **31 October 2011**.

Green Economy and Livelihoods in Mountains

The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, made the term 'sustainable development' globally acceptable, and 'sustainable mountain development' received a separate chapter in Agenda 21. However, Chapter 13 focused mainly on improving social-ecological systems and enhancing mountain research, but largely neglected economic requirements.

Today, 20 years later, global change problems are challenging the global community and its life-support systems in all contexts, including of course in mountain regions:

- Renewable natural resources are continuously degrading (water scarcity, biodiversity loss, soil degradation) and human pressure on mountains ecosystems is increasing;
- Climate change and pollution are affecting the Earth system at an unprecedented scale, with particularly strong effects in mountains;
- One-sixth of the human population still lives below the poverty line; in countries with a high share of mountains, the proportion is higher: one-fifth;
- Food security is at stake—one third of the rural mountain population is vulnerable to food insecurity;
- The global financial crisis in 2008 has radically questioned the sustainability of economic systems – also in mountain regions.

This has led the international community to promote the concept of a 'green economy' fostering—among others—'resource efficiency', 'internalization of externalities', 'valuation of ecosystem services', 'sustainable production and consumption patterns', and 'low-carbon economy'. The June 2012 Earth Summit (Rio+20, <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>) strives to embed 'green economy' in the broader context of sustainable development. However, the likelihood of achieving this goal is contested.

In this context, *Mountain Research and Development (MRD)* aims at **exploring potentials and challenges of green economy for enhancing livelihoods and alleviating poverty in mountains**. We are seeking well-validated practice- and policy-oriented insights for supporting the transition towards a greener economy capable of enhancing mountain livelihoods (MountainDevelopment papers), and sound analyses of the linkages between green economy and livelihoods in mountains (MountainResearch papers). This Focus Issue will be published in May 2012 (vol 32 no 2), in time for the Earth Summit 2012.

The following list proposes possible topics for papers in the two peer-reviewed sections of MRD. Please note that the list is not conclusive; authors may wish to bring in their own ideas and experiences.

MountainDevelopment:

- Experiences with green markets, businesses, job creation, and certification in mountain areas;
- Developing green production systems in mountains (agriculture, forestry, energy, tourism);
- Designing and implementing innovative policies and decision support for green economy in mountains;
- Adapting local to global institutional frameworks in and for mountains;
- ...

MountainResearch:

- Analyzing valuation of mountain ecosystem services and green economy, and impacts on livelihoods;
- Re-thinking green economy and social equity in and beyond mountains;
- Exploring innovative low-carbon and green consumption livelihood models in mountains;
- Analyzing green production of mountain agricultural goods for growing populations and urban areas;
- ...

Submission details

Authors interested in submitting a paper for the May 2012 issue of MRD are asked to confirm their interest by sending a **working title and abstract by 28 August 2011** to the Editorial Team (mrd-journal@cde.unibe.ch). Authors should indicate whether they aim at submitting to the "MountainResearch" or "MountainDevelopment" section of the journal; both sections are fully peer-reviewed. Guidelines for authors are available at: http://www.mrd-journal.org/submission_GAuthors.asp

The deadline for submission of **full papers is 31 October 2011**.

For more information on the journal see: <http://www.mrd-journal.org>