

Editorial by Axel Borsdorf and Brigitte Scott



This issue of eco.mont is the last one for me, Axel Borsdorf, as one of the two founding editors of our journal. My directorship of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research ends this year. The January 2017 issue of eco.mont will probably appear with my successor at the institute as co-editor. At the end of the first quarter of 2017, Brigitte Scott will follow me into retirement. Her greatly appreciated work for the journal as administrator and English language editor will be a hard act to follow.

So let us look back. In the eight years that eco.mont has been around, we have achieved much: we published 71 peer-reviewed articles about research in and on protected mountain areas and 58 reports and presented 10 protected mountain areas as Case in Point. Our journal gained a listing in the Web-of-Science Index, awarded for all back issues as well, and we enjoy a decent impact ranking for such a young journal. Even more important for us is the fact that eco.mont has become one of the key places to publish research on protected mountain areas. We were able to offer many young authors an opportunity for a first publication and at the same time have published articles by renowned scientists with good citation rates.

We entertain amicable cooperation with our sister journals RGA (Revue de Géographie Alpine / Journal of Alpine Studies) and MRD (Mountain Research and Development) and have developed contacts with the Journal of Mountain Science, allowing us to assist authors even if their topic does not fit so well into our journal.

This is also a good time to express thanks, first and foremost to our co-editors Günter Köck and Valerie Braun and to the Editorial Board. Originally this board was made up of the members of the Protected Areas working group of the International Scientific Committee of Alpine Research (ISCAR) and has since been expanded. We thank all reviewers who agreed to take a critical (and unpaid) look at the submitted articles.

Thanks are also due to the funding bodies of the journal, the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Innsbruck, plus the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research. Its Innsbruck team, especially the Dept. of Communication and Transformation, ensures a professional image of the journal with cartographer Kati Heinrich and experienced layouter Valerie Braun. We are grateful for the good collaboration with the publishers Austrian Academy of Sciences Press (e-journal) und Innsbruck University Press (printed edition).

For the future we wish our journal a continued *vivat, crescat, floreat* (live, grow and flourish) to the benefit of the protected mountain area research community as an important research sector.

The current issue of eco.mont has an emphasis on articles with a comparative approach. Peter Strasser takes a closer look at the many types of protection found in the Alpine Convention area. Chiao Yin et al. examine fish diversity across 14 nature reserves in Jiangxi Province, China. Isabelle Arpin et al. look at the role and diverse composition, organization, activities and formation of scientific councils in protected areas in the Alps. Eduard Inglès Yuba et al. analyse governance in conflict situations triggered by sports practice in two protected mountain areas in Catalonia, Spain.

Daniel Kreiner and Alexander Mairinger look back on ten years of published research in Gesäuse National Park, with a thematic focus on management-relevant research as well as on vertebrates and higher plants within the forests. Joanna Siwek reports on the effect of wastewater from tourist lodges on the streams in Tatra National Park in Poland. Axel Borsdorf et al. track the encroachment of real estate activities on the Dunes of Concón, Chile. Michael Duda summarizes landscape management measures to support land snails in Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve. Several book reviews complement this issue.

Axel Borsdorf & Brigitte Scott

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://4dweb.proclim.ch/4dcgi/ProtAreas/en/BuildSearch_ProtArea

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The scientific councils of Alpine protected areas: an overview and analysis of their contribution to linking science and management by Isabelle Arpin, Gaëlle Ronsin, Thomas Scheurer, Astrid Wallner, Fabien Hobléa, Olga Churakova (Sidorova), Dominik Cremer-Schulte & Valerie Braun

The efficiency of landscape management on selected thermophilous land snails – a small-scale case report from the vineyard area in northern Vienna by Michael Duda

Fish diversity in nature reserves of Jiangxi Province, China by Chao Yin, Liangliang Huang, Li Xu, Jian Huang & Minghui Gao

Related projects in the **European Mountain Pool**

Isabelle Arpin: Recommendations for establishing or renewing scientific councils in protected areas. CH-5719

Bruno Baur: Change in the altitudinal distribution of snail species in the Swiss national park: A comparison over the last 95 years (pilot study). CH-4473

Michael Duda: Habitat requirements of the pulmonate land snails *Trochulus oreinos oreinos* and *Cylindrus obtusus* endemic to the Northern Calcareous Alps, Austria. CH-5472

Helmut Sattmann: Arianta IV - Report on the Workshop Alpine Land Snails 2014. CH-5618

Hu Maolin: Freshwater fish species richness and conservation of mountain streams in the Jinggangshan National Nature Reserve, China. CH-5384

Rey Peter: Monitoring of fish stocks in the Swiss National Park (Macun). CH-3855

Nikolaus Medgyesy: Monitoring of autochthonous brown trout (*Salmo trutta* f. *fario* L.) populations in different brooks of the National Park Hohe Tauern. CH-5550