

## Editorial by the editors and the editorial board

The year 2018 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *eco.mont – Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research and Management*. Since protected areas in mountain regions want not only to preserve valuable natural assets but also to promote and to develop strategies for sustainable development, it was the journal's goal from the outset to provide insights into ecological, cultural and economic diversity in mountain protected areas. This aim is achieved by publishing research on mountain protected areas globally to managers of protected areas, scientists, politicians and the interested public, and may provide the basis for decision-making processes. Becoming an open access journal helped us to reach out further.

The journal was founded in 2008 as a joint initiative of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR), the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Innsbruck. Since then, the journal has been jointly funded by the Austrian Academy of Science and the University of Innsbruck, and published online by the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press and in print by innsbruck university press.

In 2006, ISCAR and ALPARC joined forces, establishing a common working group for Alpine Protected Area Research (ISCAR-P), which comprises scientists and professionals working in, with and / or for protected areas. ISCAR-P supports research activities by cooperating in the organization of the Symposium for Research in Protected Areas, maintaining the database on research in mountain protected areas, and organizing workshops on current topics. *eco.mont* also recruits to its editorial board from among members of ISCAR-P.

The journal's first issue was published after a year of preparatory work by the editors, the editorial office and the editorial board. Since then, *eco.mont* has been published biannually, presenting research results, case studies, reports on management and policy issues, news and book reviews. Altogether, 210 articles in 20 issues have so far been published. A special issue was dedicated to socio-economic issues concerning large protected areas in the Alps.

The topics covered and the specific protected areas examined during the 10 years since the journal's first issue are illustrated in Table 1. We have also added missing topics to the table, which were identified by looking at the subjects presented at the International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas (November 2017) and through an on-line survey we conducted in December 2017. Absent topics include biogeography, economics, geomorphology and hydrology. The most frequently covered topics concern management and tourism, followed by natural science. We would be especially interested to receive submissions by new and known authors in those subject areas that we have identified as absent from the journal's content.

Altogether, 86 protected areas in 33 countries have been discussed. The precise protected statuses of these areas are: wilderness areas (IUCN I category), national parks (IUCN II category), protected landscapes (IUCN category V), UNESCO World Heritage Sites, UNESCO biosphere reserves, Natura 2000 areas, protected areas with a specific local protection status, private protected areas, Europarcs and Geoparks.

The first issues covered mainly Alpine protected areas, but in time *eco.mont* became more global, examining protected areas from mountain ranges including the Carpathians and the Andes, and in countries such as Turkey and China. We have twice published articles from non-mountain protected areas when the topic was also of interest for mountain protected areas. These papers concerned ecosystem services and urbanization.

The journal is cited with increasing frequency and has a current impact factor of 0.333. It has been on open access since 2015 and is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

An on-line survey conducted in December 2017 amongst 1938 readers and authors of *eco.mont* yielded 136 responses from 36 countries, mostly from Europe, but also from South and North America, Africa and Asia. Although the response rate of 7% is not very high, the answers provide us with general information on how *eco.mont* is perceived.

The expertise of the respondents is as far ranging as the topics in Table 1. Most of the respondents are academics working at a university or in a research institute (63%); only 15% work in management or as scientists in PAs (Figure 1).

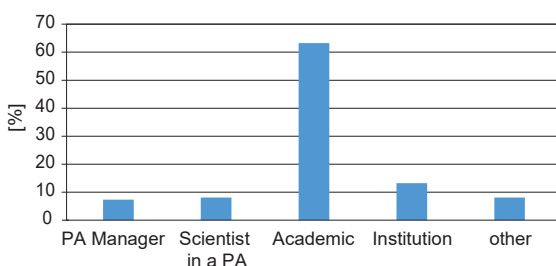


Figure 1 – Work environment of the respondents. PA – protected area, N= 136

Most of the respondents have been actively involved in the management of, or research in, protected areas for more than 5 years (Figure 2), and for 79% of the respondents, *eco.mont* is an important asset for their work. While the ratings for the quality of the articles are satisfactory, we can certainly strive for better (Figure 3).

53% of the respondents would like to read more scientific articles in future, and 42% would like more articles on management and policy issues. 46% of the respondents want to read more articles about mountain protected areas anywhere, compared to 33% who

Table 1 – Topics and sub-topics covered by *eco.mont* in the last 10 years (issues 1-1 to 10-1, including one special issue). We have also identified subjects which have not yet been covered (in italics) by going through topics presented at the International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas (November 2017) and through an on-line survey conducted in December 2017. NaP – National Park, BR – UNESCO biosphere reserves, WH – UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Topic	Sub-topic	Sub-topics which haven't yet been covered	
Biodiversity	climate change, conservation, health, management, perception of change, visitors, inventory		
Biogeography	<i>not yet covered</i>		
Botany	botany, conservation, land-use change, monitoring, succession, ethnobotany, health benefits	<i>ethnobotany, colonization, dispersal, CO<sub>2</sub> flux</i>	
Citizen science	monitoring		
Climate change	adaptation, management, monitoring	<i>vulnerability, neobiota</i>	
Conservation	conflicts, history, management, regional development, transborder		
Economy	<i>not yet covered</i>	<i>landscape economy in mountain regions</i>	
Ecological network			
Ecosystem services		<i>resilience</i>	
Geoinformation	GIS and information management	<i>remote sensing, information technology</i>	
Geology	geodiversity, geology, karst	<i>geomorphology, erosion dynamics</i>	
Governance	environmental governance, civil society organizations, participatory approach, stakeholder involvement	<i>best practice, governance and ecosystem services</i>	
Hydrology	<i>not yet covered</i>	<i>catchment and stream network management, flood risk</i>	
Limnology	climate change, limnology, river		
Management	conservation, education, human impact, hydropower, land-use changes, mapping, monitoring, renewable energy, research, residents, urbanization, World Heritage Sites	<i>hunting, perspectives, policies and strategies</i>	
Mobility	sustainability		
Monitoring	Alpine waters, botany, climate change, zoology		
Nomination of protected areas			
Parks and people		<i>acceptance, parks objectives in transformation, reconciling park management with local and regional development</i>	
Private mountain protected areas			
Programmes	Alpine Convention, EuroMAB Conference, Europarc, LTSER, MAB Programme, National Parks Austria, Working Group UNESCO World Heritage of the Alpine Convention		
Regional development	agriculture, recreational landscapes, sustainable development	<i>sustainable agriculture</i>	
Research	societal research, biosphere reserve research		
Social media	science communication		
Social tensions			
Soil science			
Tourism	appropriate behaviour, crowding, crowding & monitoring, environmental behaviour, impact, infrastructure, monitoring, perception, regional development, spatial behaviour, sustainable tourism, trail management, visitor segmentation, visitor profiling, wastewater, winter sport & wildlife		
Training & education	advanced studies, summer school, school initiative, art & science convergence		
Zoology	climate change, climate change & endemism, colonization, endemism & human impact, habitat conservation, landscape management, succession, zoology	<i>colonization, dispersal</i>	

	Scientific orientation	No. of articles covering this topic in eco.mont	Protected areas and country
	Natural & social sciences	7	Gesäuse NaP (AT), Großes Walsertal BR (AT), Mercantour NaP (FR), Orobie Bergamasche Regional Park (IT)
	Natural sciences	8	Gurgler Kamm BR (AT), Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (NP), LTER site Eisenwurz (AT), Parco dell'Adamello (IT), Pelister NaP (MK), Swiss NaP (CH)
	Social sciences	1	
	Natural & social sciences	8	Berchtesgaden NaP (DE), Cinturón Andino BR (CO), Erins NaP (FR), Hohe Tauern NaP (AT), Huascarán NaP (PE), Katunskiy BR (RU), Pirin NaP (BG), Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta BR (CO)
	Social sciences	9	Hohe Tauern NaP (AT), Kastamonu-Bartın Küre Mountains NaP (TR), Mercantour NaP (FR), Munessa Shashamene Forest (ET), National Reserve Praded (CZ), Wienerwald BR (AT)
		0	
	Natural & social sciences	3	Berchtesgaden NaP (DE), Gesäuse NaP (AT)
	Natural sciences	2	Lake Neusiedl / Fertő Hanság NaP (AT / HU), Muránska Planina NaP (SK)
	Technical sciences	1	
	Natural sciences	3	Berchtesgaden NaP (DE), Les Contamines-Montjoie Natural Reserve (FR), Una NaP (BA)
	Social sciences	9	Carpathian BR (UA), Großes Walsertal BR (AT), Montseny Natural Park (ES), Samothraki BR (GR), Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch WH (CH), Tusheti Protected Areas (GE), Xinjiang Tianshan WH (CN)
		0	
	Natural sciences	5	Makira Protected Area (RM), Swiss NaP (CH)
	Natural & social sciences	29	Berchtesgaden NaP (DE), Dadia NaP (GR), Dürrenstein Wilderness Area (AT), Gesäuse NaP (AT), Hohe Tauern NaP (AT), Ilgaz Mountain NaP (TR), Jiu River Gorge (RO), Kalkalpen NaP (AT), Kakamega Forest (KE), La Campana-Peñuelas BR (CL), Mont Avic Nature Park (IT), Rhön BR (DE), Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge BR (AT), Schwäbische Alb BR (DE), Santuario de la Naturaleza del Campo Dunar de la Punta de Concón (CL), Simien Mountain NaP (ET), Swiss NaP (CH)
	Social sciences	2	Dolomites WH (IT)
	Natural sciences	4	Aigner Park (AT), Entlebuch BR (CH), Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch WH (CH)
	Social sciences	3	Dolomites WH (IT), Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge BR (AT)
		4	Stilfserjoch NaP (IT), Val Müstair BR (CH), Vanoise NaP (FR)
	Social sciences	2	
		9	
	Social sciences	6	Riding Mountain BR (CA), Triglav NaP (SI)
		3	
	Social sciences	1	
	Social sciences	3	Kavkazki Zapovednik WH (RS), Nanda Devi BR (IND), Rwenzori Mountains NaP (UG)
	Natural sciences	2	Hohe Tauern NaP (AT), Sabalan National Natural Monument (IR)
	Social sciences	30	Alpine Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurz (AT), Berchtesgaden NaP (DE), Entlebuch BR (CH), Gesäuse NaP (AT), Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area (US), Huilo Huilo Biological Reserve (CL), Köprülü Canyon NaP (TR), Mt Kenya WH (KE), Mt Kilimanjaro WH (TZ), Mount Taibai National Nature Reserve (CN), Natura 2000 Allgäuer Hochalpen (DE), Pieniny Mts NaP (PL), Saxon Switzerland NaP (DE), Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta BR, Swiss NaP (CO), Tatra NaP (SK), Triglav NaP (SLI), Tunca Valley Natural Park (TR), Val Müstair BR (CH), Wienerwald BR (AT)
	Social sciences	6	Beverin Nature Park (CH), Salzburger Lungau BR (AT)
	Natural sciences	14	Gesäuse NaP (AT), Jangganshan National Nature Reserve (CN), Kalkalpen NaP (AT), Monte Barro Regional Park (IT), Mount Nemrut NaP (TR), Natura 2000 Kirchfeld plateau (AT), Swiss NaP (CH), Wienerwald BR (AT), Valsán River valley (RO)

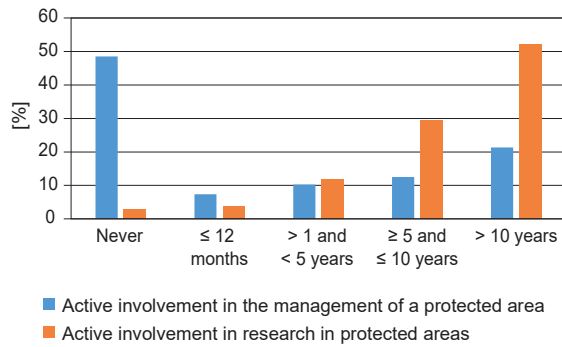


Figure 2 – Active involvement in the management of, or research in, protected areas. N = 136



Figure 3 – Ratings of the quality of the articles. N = 136

are interested in reading articles about mountain protected areas in the Alps specifically. The results show that it was, by and large, participants who appreciate *eco.mont* who took part in the survey, and so we must work harder to become visible outside of this community.

We will be striving hard in the future to increase the journal's impact factor, and for an enhanced visibility in the community. We hope that the research findings that we publish in *eco.mont* will help evidence-informed decision making processes.

We would like to thank our partners in the scientific community especially for their continued submissions and their work in the peer review process.

To celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invited authors to write reports on mountain research in their country, a mountain region or a National Park. In a special section of this issue, therefore, we are pleased to publish an article by *Morten Clemetsen & Knut Bjørn Stokke* on Norway, one that focuses on the Carpathians by *Juraj Švajda*, and a paper by *Christian Komposch & Daniel Kreiner* on research in the Gesäuse National Park (Austria). In addition, the *editorial team of the journal Mountain Research and Development (MRD)* provide an overview of areas of research covered in academic journals that focus on mountain areas.

Other than for these additions, the issue is arranged in the usual way. *Hu et al.* write about fish species abundance and distribution in mountain streams in the Wuyishan National Nature Reserve (China). *Tommaso Sitzia et al.* discuss how abandoning traditional forest activities favours beech at the expense of silver fir in their study area in Northern Italy. *Adelheid Humer-Gruber* identifies farmers' willingness to participate in Alpine biosphere reserves and their attitudes towards biosphere reserves and nature conservation. *Armin Kratzer* provides an overview of publications and major topics in Biosphere Reserve research and its international research network. *Agata Warchalska-Troll* examines whether the presence of Natura 2000 sites affects spatial development at the local level.

A report written by *Andreas Haller & Hildegardo Córdova-Aguilar* underlines the need to integrate cities and protected areas in planning and policy making in the Andes. We move to Austria with *Anna-Sophie Pirtscher*, who tells us about the implementation of specific management measures and monitoring to improve Natura 2000 habitats for aquatic creatures and amphibians. *Siegrist et al.* give an account of a hiking study across the Alps made between June and September 2017 and show how the image of the Alps had changed since 1992, when they hiked a similar route. Finally, *Andrés Moreira-Muñoz et al.* report from Chile on the 1<sup>st</sup> symposium on *Biosphere Reserves in transition towards sustainability*, held in October 2017.

Last but not least, we would like to say good bye to Kristina Bauch who has to leave the Editorial Board of *eco.mont*. She was a member of the Editorial Board from the very beginning. She has also put her extraordinary expertise and experience into organizing the Symposium for Research in Protected Areas. This symposium goes back to an idea of Kristina Bauch's and was held for the first time in 1996. Since then Kristina has organized it five more times. She will monitor the further development of *eco.mont* as a private senior consultant. Thank you Kristina for your continued support.

Now we wish you all a pleasant reading of this milestone issue and hope for fruitful future collaboration.

## Authors

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is a biologist and works at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research and is managing editor of *eco.mont*.

### Martin Coy

is a professor of Applied Geography at the University of Innsbruck. He studied in Frankfurt / Main and Paris and holds a PhD from Tübingen University. His main research is on resource conflicts, sustainable regional and urban development and biosphere reserves with a focus on Brazil. In 2016, he became co-editor of *eco.mont*.

### Massimo Bocca

has been the Director of Mont Avic Natural Park since 1991 and is a member of ALPARC. He has a degree in agronomic sciences and a doctoral thesis in entomology. He is the author or co-author of more than 40 scientific zoological papers on entomology, herpetology, and especially ornithology.

### Jean-Jacques Brun

has an MSc in ecology and a PhD in soil ecology. He is currently a research professor at Irstea-Grenoble Alpes University, researching on the role of various forms of humus, organic matter and soil fauna as indicators of the impacts of global change on mountain ecosystems. He has worked as the French co-delegate at ISCAR.

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### Günter Köck

is Secretary-General of the Austrian MAB National Committee, former Vice-Chair of the UNESCO MAB Programme, and the Austrian delegate to the European Alliance of Global Change Research Committees. He is also a member of the Scientific Board of Hohe Tauern National Park, as well as one of the Austrian delegates to the International Scientific Committee for Research in the Alps (ISCAR). In 2009, he became co-editor of *eco.mont*.

### Guido Plassmann

has been studying, living and working in the Alps since 1985. His studies in Alpine geography, economics and history have given him a solid appreciation for complex Alpine nature conservation processes. He has led and coordinated the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) since 1995. Over a period of 25 years, he has realized numerous projects dealing with the management of protected areas, ecological connectivity, sustainable regional development and broad public communication in the Alps and Carpathians.

### Roland Psenner

is a professor of Limnology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. He is an expert in eutrophication and phosphorus cycling, the biogeochemistry of acidification, the effects of global change on lakes. He is also an expert in aquatic microbial food webs and ice ecosystems. He has served as Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Vice Rector at the University of Innsbruck. He is currently president of Eurac Research in Bolzano (Italy).

### Thomas Scheurer

is the executive secretary of the Swiss Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies (ICAS), the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR), and the Research Council of the Swiss National Park, all located at the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

### Dominik Siegrist

is a landscape planner and geographer who works for the HSR Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil in Switzerland.

### Astrid Wallner

is the coordinator for research on Swiss parks. She studied social anthropology and geography at the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and has worked on the local acceptance of protected areas in Switzerland and Ukraine.

### Herbert Wölger

received his academic education in Vienna at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (Forestry and Wood Technology). After some years in the forestry and wood industry, he worked for a development project in a Biosphere Reserve in Argentina. He is currently the Managing Director of Gesäuse National Park.

## 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](http://4dweb.proclim.ch/4dcgi/ProtAreas/en/BuildSearch_ProtArea)

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*Fish species abundance and distribution in Wuyishan National Nature Reserve, Jiangxi Province, China*  
by Maolin Hu, Chaoyang Wang, Xiangyu Zhang, Rongbin Yuan, Aifang Zhang, Liuzheng Wu & Shaoqing Jian

*Where farmers see their role – Influence on sustainable regional development approaches in Alpine biosphere reserves* by Adelheid Humer-Gruber

*Natura 2000 sites in the Polish Carpathians vs local development: inevitable conflict?* by Agata Warchalska-Troll

*Urbanization and the advent of regional conservation: Huancayo and the Cordillera Huayta-pallana, Peru* by Andreas Haller & Hildegardo Córdova-Aguilar

*A strangely-shaped protection area* by Anna-Sophie Pirtscher

## Related projects in the **European Mountain Pool** and **eco.mont**

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

**Brigitte Alex:** Einstellung der lokalen Bevölkerung zum Biosphärenpark Wienerwald. CH-6159

**Fedir Hamor:** Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine): Towards Participatory Management. CH-5496

**Michael Huber:** Opponents, waverers or supporters: the influence of place-attachment dimensions on local residents' acceptance of a planned biosphere reserve in Austria. CH-6206

**Adelheid Humer-Gruber:** Biosphärenparks – Innovationsmotor oder Hindernis. Wahrnehmung und Sichtweise von Bäuerinnen und Bauern in Biosphärenparks. CH-5410

**Florian Knaus:** Akzeptanz, Identifikation und Engagement: Ansichten und Mitwirkung der Bevölkerung in UNESCO Biosphärenreservaten. CH-5986

**Gerhard Weiss:** The implementation of Natura 2000 in Austria – A European policy in a federal system. CH-6184

**Andres Moreira-Munoz:** Threats and challenges in a peri-urban transition zone. CH-5378

**Filippo Favilli:** The Carpathian Ecological Network - GIS approach to detect the landscape permeability for particular umbrella species. CH-5082

**Barbara Dillinger:** Strategies of wetland restoration in the Waasen/Hanság (northern Burgenland). CH-5073

**Günter Gollmann:** Frogs in the city: problems of research and conservation of amphibians in Lobau (Vienna, Donau-Auen National Park). CH-5088