

Editorial

First of all, there are changes in the eco.mont team. With this issue we would like to say goodbye to Mr. Martin Coy as co-editor of eco.mont, who is taking well-deserved retirement, and introduce Ms. Margreth Keiler as our new co-editor. Martin has been co-editor since 2017 and we would like to thank him for his commitment. Margreth is Professor of Geography at the Department of Geography, University of Innsbruck, Austria, and Director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW). As co-editor of eco.mont she represents the University of Innsbruck. As a researcher, Margreth deals with the long- as well as short-term natural hazards and risks in mountain regions in connection with global climate and land-use changes. She thus brings new expertise to the eco.mont team.

Extreme events and resulting disasters have focused the attention of the global community on susceptibility to natural hazards. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) needs therefore to be an integrated part of sustainable development strategies. Moreover, in the last decade the important role of ecosystem services as one key in DRR and strengthening community resilience has become increasingly recognized. It is therefore increasingly urgent that PAs develop their role in facilitating DRR within their boundaries and beyond.

Since eco.mont first appeared 15 years ago, there have been three articles on hazards. Bohner et al. (2010) present their research on avalanches as natural ecological process which are species-rich habitats, Thaler et al. (2021) write about flood risk management and Huber et al. (2021) describe the resilience of communities in protected mountain areas. In the News section of this issue, the international project MultiBios which together with biosphere reserve in Austria, Switzerland and Germany explores how affected communities and regions can better prepare for multiple climate risks is being introduced. We hope that research and publications about hazards and DRR in protected mountain areas will be increasing and communities will thus be strengthened in their response.

The current issue again covers a wide range of topics concerning protected areas globally. Geographically, the articles cover protected areas in the Alps, the Himalayas, Southern Siberia and the Italian island of Sardinia. The subjects discussed include anthropogenic sounds and their influence on outdoor recreation, sacred larch trees as cultural monuments, firewood as a natural resource, sustainable regional development in a natural park and Biosphere Reserve on Sardinia, a glimpse into the EuroMAB Conference 2022 in Carinthia, Austria, the influence of historic and current land-use changes on wetland habitats, the development of the small-mammal fauna in the Swiss National Park in the last 100 years, and the conservation of endemic species in the Yarlung Zangbo river basin in Tibet.

For the future we plan a special issue in 2025 on biodiversity change in mountain protected areas and we would particularly welcome papers on that topic. We would also welcome articles on risks and hazards in line with Margreth's area of expertise.

Margreth Keiler and Valerie Braun

Bohner, A., H. Habeler, F. Starlinger & M. Suanjak 2010. Avalanches keep habitats open and species-rich in the montane and subalpine belt. *eco.mont – Journal on protected mountain areas research and management* 2-1: 53–57.

Huber, L., E. Posch, R. Bell, K.M. Höferl, R. Steiger, R. Stotten, E. Tasser & G. Leitinger 2021. Two perspectives – one goal: resilience research in protected mountain regions. *eco.mont – Journal on protected mountain areas research and management* 13-2: 12–20.

Thaler, T., C. Clar, L. Junger & R. Nordbeck 2021. Opportunities and challenges for transdisciplinary research in flood risk management: some critical reflections and lessons learnt for research on sustainability. *eco.mont – Journal on protected mountain areas research and management* 13-2: 42–47.