

# Mountain Research and Development: Advancing Transformative Knowledge for Sustainable and Fair Futures

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Open Science as a Means to Decolonize Scientific  
Publishing and Foster Fairer Research Collaborations

KFPE Online Workshop Series – 9 May 2023

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**Mountain Research and Development**  
The leading international scientific journal specifically devoted to sustainable development in the world's mountains  
Published by the International Mountain Society (IMS)

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### Call for contributions to MountainDevelopment and MountainAgenda sections

MRD invites papers for its MountainDevelopment and MountainAgenda sections. They should provide insights on how we can achieve sustainable development or what kind of sustainable development we want.

- MountainAgenda**  
Target knowledge  
*What future do we want?*
- MountainResearch**  
Systems knowledge  
*How do current systems work?*
- MountainDevelopment**  
Transformation knowledge  
*How do we get to the desired future?*

#### Focus Topics

- Migration Trends, Impacts, and Pathways to Sustainability in Mountain Areas**  
VOL 44 | NO 1  
Call for papers open—due date extended  
How can migration contribute to sustainable development in mountains? Articles will assess...
- Restoring Mountain Systems for Social-Ecological Resilience**  
VOL 43 | NO 4  
Upcoming  
The issue will focus on restoration experiences, research on degradation, restoration, and their links to resilience, and agendas for restoration research, policy, or action.
- Weaving Together Knowledges —Collaborations in Support of the Wellbeing of Mountain Peoples and Regions**  
VOL 42 | NO 4  
November 2022  
Born from a fruitful partnership with the Canadian Mountain Network, this issue showcases examples of knowledge coproduction between mountain researchers and Indigenous Peoples...
- Addressing Challenges of Hazards, Risks, and Disaster Management in Mountain Regions**  
VOL 42 | NO 2  
May 2022  
Articles in this issue illuminate the complex links between hazards, vulnerabilities, disaster risk...



# Mountain Research and Development (MRD)



As the leading international peer-reviewed journal dedicated to mountain regions, *Mountain Research and Development* (MRD) envisions sustainable, resilient, and fair futures for mountain societies and mountain environments worldwide, supported by highest-quality knowledge, innovative ideas, impactful dialogue between science, practice, and policy, and a strong community of dedicated people.



# Measures towards open science

1. Giving full open access and keeping APCs low
2. Offering mentoring and editorial support
3. Including different knowledge systems
4. Bringing scientific knowledge into dialogue

# Giving full open access and keeping APCs low

- Published since 1981, fully online and open access since 2009
- Readership spanning academics, development practitioners, and policymakers from over 200 countries.
- Relatively low APCs (USD 750) and possibility of granting waivers
- Next step: Go diamond open access (no APCs)?
- Challenges: Funding? What business model for a not-for-profit journal? (Fees from IMS members, sponsors, etc.)

# Offering mentoring and editorial support

- Authors from the global South are strongly represented: about 40% of articles published in MRD are from the global South
- Support provided by the editorial team at preliminary review stage for promising papers
- Professional language editing offered for accepted papers
- Next step: Develop a training and mentoring program?
- Challenges: Human resources (cost, skills)



# Including different knowledge systems

- Peer-reviewed sections focusing on different types of knowledge: systems knowledge (MountainResearch), transformation knowledge (MountainDevelopment), target knowledge (MountainAgenda)
- Focus issue 42.4 on “Weaving together knowledges”: contributions by Indigenous and local knowledge holders assessed by a Peer Advisory Circle and published in the MountainViews section
- Next step: A new section for practitioners (MountainPractice)?
- Challenges: Reaching out beyond the academic community, adjusting the format to other types of knowledge, etc.

# Bringing scientific knowledge into dialogue

- New format: MRD Talks are online debates between science, practice, the private sector, and policy based on recently published MRD articles; aim is to nurture innovative and effective development and policy efforts
- Excellent reception and participation; exchange among stakeholders triggers out-of-the box thinking
- Next step: Continue the MRD Talks series beyond its pilot phase?
- Challenges: Getting authors to distill their lessons and recommendations for policy and practice, and communicate in a new way



# Thank you for your attention!

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- Website: [www.mrd-journal.org](http://www.mrd-journal.org)

