

**The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI),
major accomplishments September 2007 to June 2009 regarding Global Change
research in mountains**

Accomplishments in respect to **paragraph 8** which is about global change and other challenges to sustainable development of mountain regions:

The Mountain Research Initiative

- was part of the steering committee of the Managing Alpine Futures Conference, held in Innsbruck in October 2007. MRI chaired the session on Culture & Identity, edited the conference proceedings and distributed conference notes via the MRI Newsflash.
- helped organize and run the COST Strategic Conference on "Global Change and Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions" on 7-9 April 2008 in Innsbruck, Austria. The conference was co-sponsored with the Institute for Mountain Research(IGF), Innsbruck, and the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), Vienna. MRI participated in the preparatory meetings, prepared and attended the preceding press conference, organized and moderated a regional session, and prepared the webcast available on the MRI website.
- contributed to the final conference of the Austrian DIAMONT (Data Infrastructure for the Alps Mountain Oriented Network Technology) project with the moderation of a panel on "Cultural differences and key issues of regional development",
- was one of the partners organizing the first Swiss Conference on Mountain Research ("Gebirgsforschung Schweiz 2008") in September 2008,
- is working with the Center for Mountain Studies, Perth College, UK to prepare the Second Open Science Conference on Global Change in Mountain Regions, to be held in Perth in 2010 as a follow-up of the 2005 GLOCHAMORE conference.

Accomplishments in respect to **paragraph 13** which encourages governments to study effects of global change on mountains:

The Mountain Research Initiative

- established the South Eastern European Mountain Research Network (SEEmore) to organize global change research in the mountain regions of the Balkans, Turkey and Greece,
- established the Science for the Carpathians (S4C) network to further global change research in the Carpathians and commissioned a paper on the state-of-knowledge on the Carpathians,
- convened the third networking meeting of MRI Europe "From the strategy to the project or Get prepared for FP7, COST and Interreg IV" in October 2008,
- organized a Swiss-South African conference on mountain observatories to initiate international collaboration, including the planned establishment of a network of permanent hydro-ecological observatories in southern African mountains,
- supported efforts of the Cordillera Forest Dynamics Network (CORFOR) to understand climate change impacts on Cordilleran forests,
- organized a workshop on climate change impacts on water resources management to determine how best to translate research results into guidance to water managers,
- is organizing a workshop on food security in mountain regions,
- proposed the NET-DYNAMO project to the European Science Foundation to develop climate change assessment tools for mountain catchments,
- organized workshops on global change in mountain regions at AGU and EGU conferences to highlight the topic within major scientific communities, and to make known who is doing what in current global change research,
- co-sponsored workshops at ICIMOD on cryosphere and hazards, and biodiversity, to promote multi-national activities in HKH-Tibet region.

Accomplishments in respect to **paragraph 34** which encourages Member States to collect and produce information and to produce databases devoted to mountains:

The Mountain Research Initiative

- co-proposed Mountain.TRIP to the EU FP7 with partners from Austria, Poland, France, Germany and UK to provide stakeholders, end-users and practitioners with readily accessible and understandable forms of research-based information relevant to sustainable development in European mountain regions,
- advised the European Environmental Agency on assessment of mountain regions in Europe,
- launched the Mountain Research Initiative Newsletter in September 2008,. containing information on global change research in mountains: scientific articles from the MRI community, news from MRI's regional networks and from partner organizations, interviews, and meeting reports.
- published workshop reports on the launching workshop on a Global Change Research Network for African Mountains (together with CDE, University of Bern), the Science for Carpathians launching workshop (together with Jagiellonian University, Poland), and Research Summaries from MRI's AGU and EGU workshops.