

Integrated approaches to
research and management in
mountain areas:
Some key principles

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Context

- International conference on Interdisciplinary Research and Management in Mountain Areas (Banff, Canada, 2004)
 - book published in 2007
- Guidelines for Research in Partnership with Developing Countries (Swiss Commission for Research Partnership with Developing Countries [KFPE], 2003)

Build up mutual trust

Cooperation requires trust

- Build on existing positive interactions
- Need to systematically look for + develop new contacts and relationships
- Hard work
- Time
- Patience
- Empathy with all stakeholders

Decide on objectives together

Include all involved (cf. 'Stakeholders'):

- 'Experts'
- All others directly or indirectly affected or concerned

Incorporate traditional ecological &/or local knowledge

- Project design
- Project implementation

Share information and develop networks

Communication strategy

- Based on needs (and limitations) of audiences
- Facilitates cooperation
- Fosters support

Share responsibility

Empowerment

- Involvement and belonging
- Introduction of new perspectives
- Development of capacity & experience

Create transparency

- Monetary and in-kind contributions
- Decisions on allocations of staff and resources

Monitor and evaluate collaboration

Information exchange

➤ Commitment to address issues as they arise

- Management
- Communication
- Decision-making
- Implementation
- Capacity development

Disseminate the results

Open access

- Involve all in dissemination
- Disseminate widely
- Research community / managers
- ‘Communities’
- Government staff
- Business people
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Apply the results

Benefits to stakeholders

- Extension
- Farmer-to-farmer activities
- ...

Integrate legislation and policy

Integrated research can support L&P and its implementation:

- Address / minimise creation of problems deriving from L&P
- Identify shortfalls in L&P
- Suggest ways to amend L&P
- Identify problems that current L&P does not effectively address

Share profits equitably

Intellectual and commercial value

- Recognise all contributions

Increase capacity

Individual and institutional growth

- Strengths and weaknesses
- Mutual support

Build on the achievements

Think long-term

- Knowledge and understanding
- Improved capacities
 - Continued operation of institutions
 - Continued involvement of key people