

UNITWIN UNESCO Chairs Programme

UNESCO Chair Annual Progress Report

UNESCO Chair:	Sustainable Mountain Development www.unesco.org.uk/UHIChair
Institution:	UHI Millennium Institute Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College UHI, Crieff Road, Perth PH1 2NX, United Kingdom www.uhi.ac.uk
Date Chair Established: (mm, yyyy)	February 2009
Period of Activity Under Report: (mm, yyyy - mm, yyyy)	August 2009 – July 2010
Report Established By: (name, position)	Professor Martin Price: Chairholder Email: martin.price@perth.uhi.ac.uk ; Tel : +44 (0) 1738 877217 www.perth.ac.uk/specialistcentres/cms/Pages/default.aspx ;

1. Executive Summary:

*Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO)
(Not exceeding 500 words)*

Primary emphases are on research (development and meetings) and teaching

- Facilitate further development and implementation of the Global Change and Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE) Research Strategy and Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and 2) organize and contribute to international meetings that facilitate understanding of, and action towards, sustainable mountain development, taking into account the effects of global change; and to publish the outcomes:
- An international conference on 'Global Change and the World's Mountains' will take place in Perth, Scotland on 26-30 September 2010. This is being planned jointly with the MRI; a special session will consider implementation of the GLOCHAMORE Research Strategy, and keynote speakers have been asked to address progress with research since 2005, when this strategy was prepared. Over 600 abstracts were received; over 400 individuals from around the world have agreed to give presentations.
- The Chair is involved in a two-year Support Action project funded through the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme: mountain.TRIP (Transforming Research Into Practice). Beginning with the outcomes of completed projects funded by the EC, its goal is to provide stakeholders, end-users and practitioners with readily accessible and understandable forms of research-based information relevant to sustainable development in mountain regions.

Foster and support the development and delivery of Masters-level courses that support sustainable mountain development

- Delivery of the MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain Development has continued at the UHI Millennium Institute.
- Discussions on Master-level curriculum development with other members of the Himalayan University Consortium have not yet led to a meeting or any other action.
- Institutions in Iran have expressed interest in curriculum development.

2) Activities:
Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair in the reporting period

a) Education/Training/Research
(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair in the reporting period)

i) Education	<p>1) Within the MSc Sustainable Mountain Development at the UHI Millennium Institute, 7 students, all from the UK (5 male, 2 female) will graduate with an MSc. There are 10 new students - 5 female (UK), 1 female (France), 4 male (UK) - for academic year 2009-10. Continuing students: 9 female (UK), 1 female (Bulgaria), 12 male (UK), 1 male (France). The Chairholder was recognised as the 'Most innovative lecturer' in the UHI Millennium Institute by the UHI Students Association for his module on 'Environmental and societal issue in mountain areas'</p> <p>2) The small working group on Masters-level curriculum development of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC), established at the meeting in February 2009 has communicated by email, but no further action has taken place.</p> <p>3) Institutions in Iran have expressed interest in having the Chair assist them in curriculum development, with regard to Masters-level courses on sustainable mountain development.</p>
ii) Training	N/A
iii) Research	<p>1) There was a very good response to the call for papers for the international conference on 'Global Change and the World's Mountains', to be held in Perth, Scotland on 26-30 September 2010 (see www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010): over 600 abstracts were received with regard to a wide range of themes from the natural and social sciences. From these, after evaluation by the 32 theme organisers, 330 papers were invited for oral presentation (in 42 parallel sessions) and 100 for poster presentation. Twelve globally-recognised experts have agreed to give plenary presentations, and the conference will be opened by the Scottish Minister for the Environment. The major sources of funding are the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (USD\$30k), UNESCO-MAB (USD17.5k – for a session on Mountain Biosphere Reserves as learning sites for research, adaptation, and mitigation in the context of global change), the Austrian Academy of Sciences (€20k), and Perth and Kinross Council (£10k). Other funds are being provided by the Scottish Government, the Mountain Research Initiative, and The British Council. Over 400 individuals are expected to participate. The final session of the conference will provide direct input to both the future research strategy of the Mountain Research Initiative and the process leading up to the Rio+20 global meeting in 2012.</p> <p>2) Since November 2009, the Chair has been involved in a two-year Support Action project funded through the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme: mountain.TRIP (Transforming Research Into Practice). Beginning with the outcomes of completed projects funded by the EC, its goal is to provide stakeholders, end-users and practitioners with readily accessible and understandable forms of research-based information relevant to sustainable development in mountain regions. The Chair was primarily responsible for the first stage of the project: identifying relevant projects and compiling their results. A total of 110 relevant projects were identified, but useful results could only be found for 54. It is anticipated that this project will inform the future research policy of the European Commission, particularly with regard to mountain areas.</p>

b) Conferences/Meetings*(key conferences and meetings organised by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)*The Chairholder participated in the following meetings (*specific roles indicated in italics*):

- University of the Arctic Council meeting, Kiruna, Sweden, August 2009: *workshop organiser*
- EuroMARC seminar on the development of mountain quality food products : Consumption, Production, Distribution, Brussels, October 2009
- Conference on positive externalities: Europe's mountain bonus: how communities and land management provide positive externalities for European society, and the related policies and opportunities, Arantzazu, Spain, October 2009: *session chair*
- EuroMAB conference 'Doing together-Learning together', Tatra Lesna, Slovakia, October 2009: *facilitator*
- EuroMARC final conference, Maribor, Slovenia, December 2009: *session chair*
- Advisory Committee on Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO, Paris, January 2010: *chair*

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships*(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions)*

Partnership: Himalayan University Consortium: members of working group on Masters-level courses are Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai, India), HNB Garhwal University (Srinagar, India), Centre for Geoinformatics (Z_GIS), Salzburg University (Austria)

No exchanges.

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials*(major publications and teaching/learning materials)**tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:*

	[tick]	[no.]
Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Books (edited)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Books (chapters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Monographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research Reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Journal Articles (refereed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
Conference Proceedings & Occasional Papers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
Teaching/Learning Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (Video)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.

Reed MS, Bonn A, Slee W, Beharry-Borg N, Birch J, Brown I, Burt TP, Chapman D, Chapman PJ, Clay G, Cornell SJ, Fraser EDG, **Glass J**, Holden J, Hodgson JA, Hubacek K, Irvine B, Jin N, Kirkby MJ, Kunin WE, Moore O, Moseley D, Prell C, **Price MF**, Quinn C, Redpath S, Reid C, Stagl S, Stringer LC, Termansen M, Thorp S, Towers W, Worrall F (2009) The future of the uplands. *Land Use Policy* 26 Supplement 1: S204-216.

e) Other*(any other activities to report)*

N/A

3. Available Resources

Overview of resources placed at the disposal of the Chair in the reporting period

a) Human Resources

Prof. Martin Price, Chairholder, Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies (CMS), Perth College UHI

Dr. Calum Macleod, Deputy Director, CMA, and responsible for MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain Development from March 2010

Angela Paterson: Part-time administrator at the CMS

Catalina Munteanu: Knowledge Exchange Associate working on mountain.TRIP project

Dr Robert McMorran, Dr Jin Park: CMS Research fellows delivering modules on the MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain Development

Jim Chalmers, Donna Clark, Roddy Murray, Melanie Smith, Michael Smith: other full-time UHI staff delivering modules on the MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain Development

+ 3 PhD students and Researcher/Knowledge Exchange Associate who are assisting with the conference

b) Other Resources

tick sources of financial contribution

	[tick]
Host Institution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partner Institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Body	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UNESCO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other UN Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>
IGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Private	<input type="checkbox"/>

Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.

- Salaries of Chairholder and administrator
- Office space, IT equipment and support, etc.
- Travel and subsistence for attending meetings
- Overall budget for the September 2010 conference will be reported in next year's annual report

4. Future Plans and Development Prospects:

Outline of action plan for the next biennium. And short/medium and long term development prospects. Please feel free to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced (Not exceeding 500 words)

- 1) The International conference on 'Global Change and the World's Mountains' will take place on 26-30 September 2010 in Perth, UK. A CD of extended abstracts of all presentations will be provided to all participants, and all oral presentations will be available through the website of the Mountain Research Initiative. Despite initial difficulties in raising funds for the conference, registration fees from the large number of participants mean that the conference should at least break even. It is anticipated that this conference, as well as the mountain.TRIP project, will lead to further development and implementation of research on sustainable development and global change. The conference will also inform mountain-related activities in the process leading to the Rio+20 meeting in 2012, in which it is expected that the Chair will be directly involved.
- 2) MSc Managing Sustainable Mountain Development at UHI Millennium Institute: this will be widely marketed across Europe, to increase enrolment from outside the UK.
- 3) It is anticipated that the working group of the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) will meet in 2011 to take forward curriculum development on Masters-level courses on sustainable mountain development and to develop and deliver a short course. To date, progress in this process has been limited by lack of time and resources among the respective members of the HUC (and for the HUC as a whole). The Chairholder will explore the possibility of funding from The British Council for this process.
- 4) The Chairholder will explore the possibility of Masters-level curriculum development with interested institutions in Iran.