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Catherine Parks and Lisa J. Rew

Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN).

Around the globe mountain ecosystems are increasingly threatened by invasive plants, and research is urgently needed to understand this problem. Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN), an international research network is using mountains as model study systems for research into the mechanisms of plant invasions, particularly under changing climate scenarios. MIREN aims to respond to management needs to conserve the unique ecosystems of high mountains as well to general research needs to understand the mechanisms behind plant invasions. High mountains vary greatly in structure, climate and vegetation although all show strong environmental gradients that affect plant invasions. Nine core mountain regions have participated in standardized survey of non-native species richness and abundance along and away from roads in mountain ecosystems, and have commenced monitoring protocol of specific species population dynamics along an elevation gradient, plus a couple regions are performing comparative experiments of detailed population dynamics and spread also along elevational gradients. These core mountain regions cover the major climatic zones and include island and continental systems. MIREN is responding to increasing needs of managing plant invasions into mountains by

- Developing mechanistic understanding for efficient control
- Providing reference databases on mountain invasions
- Facilitating exchange of expertise, and
- Providing specific management guidelines