Sustainability for Chile's mountains — a united approach

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3 authors:

José Tomás Ibarra
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
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Julián Caviedes
Autonomous University of Barcelona
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Carla Marchant
Universidad Austral de Chile
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Open access in low-income countries — open letter on equity

As chair of the World Academy of Sciences Young Affiliates Network (TYAN), I am one of the organizers of an open letter describing the adverse impact on researchers in developing countries of article-processing charges for open-access publications (see go.nature.com/3jn1k6s). We call for a multilateral solution to the problem that will help the entire global community. By mid-May, the letter's signatory list included 17 Nobel laureates and more than 30 international organizations and academies.

Article-processing fees are deepening the inequalities between scientists from developed and developing countries in sharing scientific advances (see, for example, T. Ross-Hellauer *Nature* **603**, 363; 2022). The international community must exercise multilateral governance and academic cooperation to ensure that open-access publication models promote equal opportunities for researchers worldwide.

TYAN outlines some first steps towards achieving this goal, and suggests how they could be initiated by a purpose-built committee.

Franco M. Cabrerizo Chascomús Institute of Technology (INTECH, CONICET–UNSAM), Chascomús, Argentina.
fcabrerizo@intech.gov.ar

Sustainability for Chile's mountains — a united approach

In this International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, we call for transdisciplinary research by Chilean scientists and for concerted action among all stakeholders to address the complex factors responsible for the degradation of Chile's mountains. Mountains cover 64% of Chile's surface and are a crucial source of water, food, energy, minerals and biodiversity.

A transdisciplinary approach has facilitated actions worldwide to benefit societies (see, for example, L. Celliers *et al. Humanit. Soc. Sci. Commun.* **8**, 207 (2021) and S. E. West *et al. Humanit. Soc. Sci. Commun.* **8**, 285; 2021).

Chile's new government and the redrafting of the constitution offer opportunities to develop a policy for sustainable mountain development by 2030 (target 4 of UN Sustainable Development Goal 15). Policymakers, academia and communities, including Indigenous peoples and self-organized citizens, must work together to prevent discussions from failing as they did in 2016.

Community goals, backed by scientific evidence, should guide these plans. This collaboration promises accountability in building mountains' social and ecological resilience.

José Tomás Ibarra Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Villarrica, Chile.
jtibarra@uc.cl

Julián Caviedes Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Carla Marchant Austral University of Chile, Valdivia, Chile.

Frustration over Chinese academic database charges

The Chinese Academy of Sciences last month suspended its use of the country's largest science database — called China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI; www.cnki.net) — because of a steep rise in subscription fees. The prohibitive charges threaten to cripple the country's research programmes by hindering the dissemination and utilization of knowledge.

CNKI contains more than 95% of the academic literature that is written in Chinese. This monopoly on academic resources means that universities and research institutes could have no choice but to keep paying the subscription to download the papers they need. Moreover, to publish their papers in China's journals, scholars face compulsory charges of US$300 to $1,500 per manuscript.

We call for fundamental reform of this burdensome double-charging system and of CNKI's monopoly on data. China's research output could otherwise be seriously compromised.

Hong-Wei Xiao, **Jun Wang** China Agricultural University, Beijing, China.

Xiao-Ming Fang Institute of Apicultural Research, Beijing, China.
fxm-caas@qq.com

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