

"Mountain Protected Areas Update - March 15, 1995" -Mtn-Forum On-Line Library Document

MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS UPDATE

Lawrence S. Hamilton, Vice-Chair for Mountains
Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas/IUCN
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WOLVES AND MOUNTAINS

In a wonderfully eloquent essay "Thinking Like a Mountains" the ecologist-ethicist Aldo Leopold writes of the relationship between mountain wilderness and wolves. "Only the ineducable tyro can fall to sense the presence or absence of wolves, or the fact that mountains have a secret opinion about them. " For areas of the mountain world where the wolf never occurred one could substitute another large predator, and have Leopold's telling remarks about the mountain's need of the wolf apply. Unfortunately, humans have extirpated wolves from most of the mountain habitat where it formerly ranged.

In mid-January this year, a program started of reintroduction of *Canis lupus* into two mountain protected areas in the North American Rocky Mountains: Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, and the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness area in Idaho. The releases occurred only after more than 150 public hearings, 160,000 public comments, intensive research and documentation, and court battles. After the capture of the wolves farther north in the Alberta Rockies, the American Farm Bureau representing opposing ranchers filed lawsuits to stop the reintroduction, and the process was halted until on January 3 a district court rejected the opposition. The wolves left Alberta a week later, but then were kept confined in their travelling cages by a legal injunction. This however was lifted by an appeals court 24 hours later, and the wolves were released both into the wild or into large acclimatization fenced areas. Barring more legal opposition, a series of annual reintroductions of 15 animals is planned for the next three to five years in each protected area.

One of the most successful projects of which I am aware to protect and restore viable populations of wolves in their mountain habitat occurred in the Central Appenines, focussed on Abruzzo National Park in Italy. Here, the Park Director (and MtPA Network member), Franco Tassi working at first with a WWF initiative called "Operazione San Francesco", began a program in 1971. Local education was commenced with the initiation of a Visitor Center for the Appenine Wolf in the park village of Civitella Alfedena. In 1974 a support group called appropriately Il Gruppo Lupo was founded. A protection decree was instituted in 1976. The story of the struggle over the two decades is full of ups and downs, for the process of debunking perhaps a century or more of horror tales of wolf monsters is not easy. But it has succeeded, and today the 44,000 ha. park (plus 60,000 ha. buffer hosts a population estimated to be 40-50 wolves. A large natural area wolf enclosure overlooked by a village street has been installed. The village has become a revitalized tourist center, aided additionally by an area on the other side of the village for captive lynx for possible reintroduction of this species; and in 1989 the local bank led Italy in terms of deposits per capita. Wolf howls may be heard from the Bar del Lupo. Elsewhere in the park protection for the threatened endemic marsican brown bear (70-100 individuals) has also been achieved, and the bear has become not only the park symbol, but has been widely adopted by the park communities as a symbol with commercial value. Lynx reintroduction awaits determination of whether or not any native lynx remain in the wild.

Protection or reintroduction of animals thought to be dangerous to humans and their domesticates is always fraught with difficulty, and it is gratifying to note that there can be successes for large mountain fauna.

NORTH AMERICAN CNPPA MEETING

A mountain protected area, Banff National Park (Canada) which is also a World Heritage Site, will be the locale for the North American CNPPA members' meeting, October 14-19, 1995. This is the first Regional meeting for North America in many a long year. Under Regional Vice-Chair Bruce Amos and the recently-appointed Regional Coordinator Antoine Leclerc, new life is being breathed into this dormant body. The meeting, which will draft an action plan for the membership, and which will review the state of protected areas in the three member countries, will also feature a case study in the field looking at management problems in the key Bow Valley within the park. This will be organized by Network member Jillian Roulet, the Associate Superintendent. MtPA Network members from North America are urged to participate. We shall try to have a get together within the framework of the larger meeting.

AGENDA 21-- MOUNTAINS

In follow-up action for Agenda 21, a Task Force (headed by FAO, and with IUCN representation) is guiding the process. Recent action in this process includes a Regional Intergovernmental conference for Asia, held at ICIMOD in Kathmandu (December) and a Global NGO Mountain Consultation held at the Centro Internacional de la Papa in Lima (February). In April there will be a Regional South American meeting, and planning is underway for a European meeting late in 1995 or early 1996. These meetings go beyond protected area concerns to look at sustainable mountain development of fragile mountain areas in all aspects. It is therefore important that support for more and better-managed protected areas of various kinds emerge from these conferences as a prominent feature.

Unfortunately at the first one, for Asia, where 20 country and 10 international agency representatives gathered, the five priority recommendations contain no mention of protected areas. Four of the recommendations deal with: poverty eradication and economic development, gender-balanced decision-making, preservation of cultural heritage, and reducing vulnerability to mountain disasters. The fifth item concerns "sustainable management of natural resources" and suggests: integration of indigenous knowledge, enhancement of local management capacity, restoration of ecologically-degraded lands, and conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity. One could read a concern for protected areas into this latter item, but it does not seem sufficient considering all of the important purposes and services of protected areas including tourism and watershed protection.

It is important therefore for members of CNPPA and the MtPA Network to seek ways of making input into the Agenda 21 process for mountains, and to get protected areas recognized as an important component of this "sustainable development" scenario. We will try to keep you informed of forthcoming activities, so that input can be made. It now appears that the European meeting will be cosponsored by the IUCN European Program and the International Centre for Alpine Environments (ICALPE), so protected areas should have their day in court, especially since there is an excellent plan of "Action for Protected Areas in Europe -Parks for Life". Network members Martin Price, Zbigniew Karpowicz, and Pier Zingari will provide details, as the planning for this meeting develops.

GLOBAL NGO MOUNTAIN AGENDA CONSULTATION IN PERU

Approximately 120 individuals from around the world gathered at the Centro Internacional de la Papa in Lima Peru February 22-27 to help shape the unfolding Agenda 21 activity with respect to sustainable mountain

development. Coorganized by The Mountain Institute (formerly Woodlands Mountain Institute) of Franklin, West Virginia, USA, and CIP/CONDESAN of Lima, its immediate task was to transmit an NGO message to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its March meeting on the Mountain Chapter of Agenda 21. Recommendations focussed on the seven themes: water resources management; biodiversity; cultural diversity; climate change; mountain hazards; production systems and alternative livelihoods; and development opportunities and challenges. The biodiversity theme paper was prepared by IUCN's Chief Biodiversity Officer Jeff McNeely and presented by the CNPPA Vice-Chair for Mountains. Twenty-nine members of the Mountain Protected Areas Network were in attendance, and protected areas were highlighted repeatedly as extremely important vehicles for achieving many of the theme objectives in sustainable development. Complete proceedings of the consultation will be distributed in April to all participants. Others interested in receiving this report can contact The Mountain Institute, Main and Dogwood Streets, Franklin, West Virginia 26807 USA.

The Consultation strongly endorsed the creation of an on-going NGO Mountain Forum (network), and an initial organizing committee was established with regional representation. The Mountain Institute will host the first meeting of the organizing committee in the near future.

PYRENEAN MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Thomas Schaaf, representing UNESCO and its Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), attended a workshop conference entitled First Pyrenean Meetings of Environment and Development which was held in Andorra La Vella November 17-19, 1994. About 300 scientists and decision-makers from Andorra, France and Spain participated in this meeting which was organized by the Communauté de Travail des Pyrénées, an interregional body representing the Pyrenean French administrative regions and Spanish autonomous communities of Aquitaine, Aragon, Catalonia, Euskadi, Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées, Navarra, as well as Andorra. The meeting benefited from the patronage of Mr. Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission. The French and Spanish National Committees for UNESCO MAB Programme have given their MAB label to the workshop conference and its follow-up activities.

In the spirit of UNCED's Agenda 21, the meeting tried to elucidate problems of the Pyrenean mountain environments and sustainable development with a view to strengthen ties among Pyrenean researchers for collaborative research over the next three years and eventually beyond. Eight parallel working sessions (each chaired by a representative from one Pyrenean political region) dealt with the following topics: landscape and natural heritage; energy and mineral resources; protected areas; land use; hydrological and atmospheric resources; agro-forestry resources; human resources; and biological diversity. Thomas Schaaf took part in the workshop on protected areas at which some 25 papers were presented. About 170 protected areas already exist in the Pyrennees which includes the Spanish Ordesa-Venamala Biosphere Reserve. All eight workshops came up with a large number of recommendations for future work. At the end of the meeting a "Declaration of Interest and Orientation" was signed by the eight political representatives of the Pyrenean regions and autonomous communities including Andorra.

SACRED MOUNTAINS/ MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ORGANIZATION

Thanks to Network member Miquel Raffia of the Mountain Protection Commission of Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme, we have more news of the activities of the International Board of Mountain Wilderness and its campaign Save Mount Olympos and a focus on Mediterranean mountains. The last UPDATE reported on the first of a series of three meetings in this campaign. The second meeting will be held in Trickle (Thessalia, Greece in the Olympus range) on September 29, 1995, and devoted to Mountains and Sacrality. The Council of Europe has endorsed the Save the Olymp Campaign as part of the 1995 European Conservation

Year. At a meeting of the Board with the Greek Vice-Minister for Environment, he announced that all of the development proposals which were threatening Olymp have been either abandoned or frozen for further study.

NEWEST WORLD HERITAGE MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS

At the December 1994 meeting in Thailand, the World Heritage Committee approved World Heritage status for four mountain protected areas: Bwindi Impenetrable NP (Uganda), Rwenzori Mountain NP Uganda, Canaima NP (Venezuela) and Tashenshini/Alsek Provincial Parks (Canada). In approving the latter (in British Columbia), when added to the adjacent Kluane NP in the Yukon and Wrangell-St. Elias and Glacier Bay NPs in Alaska (which are already World Heritage Sites), the world's largest heritage site, roughly 8.5 million hectares, has been created.

IBEX, JOURNAL OF MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY

Thanks to ICALPE, a relatively new journal has come to my attention that may be of interest to readers: IBEX, Journal of Mountain Ecology. Its first issue was Autumn 1993. It is edited by Dr. Vittorio Peracino and is published in English by Gran Paradiso National Park twice a year. Scientific articles of international interest are sought on any aspect of mountain ecology. Details of manuscript submissions and subscriptions are available from the Editor, Ente Parco Nazionale Gran Paradiso, Via delta Rocca 47, 10123 Torino, Italy.

NEWEST TRANSFRONTIER MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREA

Vice-Chair for Southeast Asia, Effendy Sumardja reports finalization of agreement between the respective governments to establish the Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (Sarawak, Malaysia) and Bentuang Karimun Nature Reserve (West Kalimantan, Indonesia) as a Transfrontier Reserve. The International Tropical Timber Organization is providing financial and technical assistance in developing a coordinated management plan. The inauguration was in October 1994.

MOUNTAIN DESERT VICTORY IN USA

In October 1994 the US Congress passed and President Clinton signed into law the California Desert Protection Act. This is the largest parks and wilderness area set aside for the lower 48 states since the 1964 Wilderness Act itself, for it includes roughly 2.8 million hectares. It gives protection to desert terrain ranging from below sea level up to 3,000 meters, with its associated flora and fauna. Many mountains and ranges are included under this mantle, e.g. Inyo Mountains, Panamint Range, Providence Mountains. The lobbying support for this legislation, led by The Sierra Club, culminated an eight-year struggle since the first desert protection law was introduced into the US Congress. It was passed in the closing minutes of what has been termed a gridlocked Congress, and represents possibly the most significant environmental victory of 1994 in the USA.

MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON - RWENZORI NATIONAL PARK

Recently inscribed on the World Heritage list (December 1994), Rwenzori National Park in Uganda was created

in 1991. The park encompasses great variety from dense lower slope forests to bogs, cloud forests, alpine vegetation and glaciers. Its peaks reach to 5,109 m. (Mount Stanley is Africa's third highest mountain.) Entirely roadless, with trails the only access, it is experiencing substantial visitation by mountaineers, hikers and other adventure tourists. Even though peak numbers per day may be only 40 visitors and additional porters, in the summer months, the sensitive bog and cloud forests ecosystems are being damaged by trails and heavy use of the huts and of vegetation around the huts. A WWF project is helping with solutions, and is providing for ranger training in mountain rescue, trail maintenance, ethnobotany and general ecology. As of January 1, 1996 the park will share 10 percent of its revenue with local communities; and although hunting is now prohibited, the project is attempting to work out permissible harvesting levels for selected non-wood forest products, to assure community support.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- Released in February is Paper No. 123 in the Worldwatch Series on High Priorities: Conserving Mountain Ecosystems and Cultures. Written by Derek Denniston, it makes a strong plea for moving mountains from the margins of public consciousness to a more central place on national and international agendas. Of particular interest is the section entitled Beyond Parks: Integrating Conservation and Development. Twelve members of the MtPA Network assisted by providing professional critiques and insights. Available in English, Spanish or French for US \$5 from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036, USA.
- Mountain Environment and Development: Constraints and Opportunities, the proceedings of the conference to mark ICIMOD's 10th anniversary is now available. The 390 page document is a bargain at US\$5 plus postage of US\$5.88 for South Asia, and for additional US\$9.40 postage for the rest of the world. Individuals and institutions in the ICIMOD region can obtain copies for postage only. Available from ICIMOD, GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Also available from ICIMOD are the proceedings of a seminar edited by Network member Jeanette Denholm Gurung on "Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Biodiversity Management". This seminar was held in April 1994 involving representatives from China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, India and Nepal. No price available for this one.
- Mountain Environments and GIS, edited by Network member Martin Price and Ian Heywood is available from Taylor and Francis, 1900 Frost Road, Suite 101, Bristol, Pennsylvania 19007 USA. 300 pages. Cost is US\$99 plus shipping of US\$4. It contains GIS methods with general application to many mountain topics including landslide hazard analysis, national park research and management, terrain modeling, and impact of climate change on mountain vegetation.
- An East West Center Working Paper by Network member Zhang Yongzu, "Protected Areas in China, With Emphasis on Conserving Mountain Biodiversity" is now available. Copies from EWC, Program on Environment, 1777 East West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96848 USA.
- Also about protected areas in China is a new English language publication, China's Biosphere Reserves '95. It is the first in a new series (in Chinese) on this topic. As well as a number of case studies, this volume contains an action plan for the China Biosphere Reserve Network and a problem/issue analysis. It is available from the Chinese National Committee for MAB, 52 Sanlihe Road, 100864 Beijing, PR China.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS OF MEMBERS

Jim (Muddy Boots) Thorsell had the good fortune in February to be able to visit and work in Parque National Torres del Paine, Chile. This spectacular area of 184,000 ha. is also a Biosphere Reserve. Jim was providing advice to the Chilean government on its possible nomination as a World Heritage Site.

One of the original Network members dating from the infamous Hawaii Volcanoes Mountain Consultation of October 1991, Wayne Lamphier is moving to Ecuador to take charge of the Latin American programs of ECOMAPA. He has been working with a Canadian company WCI, one of the partners in this joint venture in Ecuador, and involved in ecotourism, rural health, a rainforest reserve near the Ecuador/Peru border (currently a real "hot spot", but not just for biodiversity, due to the border disputes). Wayne, who worked in Huascarán National Park in Peru had good advice for your MtPA UPDATE editor in preparation for a World Heritage Monitoring Mission to Huascarán in February.

Rodney Jackson who is a program advisor to the International Snow Leopard Trust, and an associate of The Mountain Institute is involved with the impacts of an open-pit gold mine in Kyrgyzstan in the Central Tsen Shan range. He is hoping to assist in the formal establishment of the nearby proposed Sarychat nature reserve, and is seeking contact with anyone who has information on this reserve. If you do, please contact him at fax/phone 707-935-3851 or e-mail rodjackson@mountain.org.

According to Network member Jan Cerovsky the ECOPOINT Foundation working in the Czech Republic has obtained a grant from the GEF to support an international workshop on biodiversity conservation in transfrontier parks of Europe. Many of the transfrontier parks are in mountains, so this meeting is particularly significant. Jan promises to keep us informed so that details can be provided when they are available.

The gradual realization of an effective management plan for the recently established Central Karakoram National Park will have major leadership from Stephan Fuller who is IUCN Technical Advisor for the Sarhad (Pakistan) Provincial Conservation Strategy. Stephan has the lead article, "High Hopes in the Karakoram" in Pakistan's Environment and Development Quarterly "The Way Ahead" for December 1994. In this article he describes the community participation in the planning process and boundary determination for the new national park. A quote from Stephan is indicative of what is going on: "The Baltis are as much a part of the ecosystem as the mountains themselves. To ignore them would be an unforgivable act of folly, since it would set in opposition that which should be in harmony, --villagers would end up competing with their environment, rather than living as part of it. "

In the Czech language journal *Ochrana Prirody* 7, number 49, 1994, Martin Cihar has a feature article on "Importance and protection of high mountain systems in central and eastern Europe." He deals with national parks and biosphere reserves above 2,000 m. of Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria and compares some of the conservation aspects with those in Western Europe.

At the Fourth International Congress of Ethnobiology, held in Lucknow, India in November 1994, Pei Shengii was awarded the J. W. Harshberger Medal for long and distinguished service to ethnobotany. Congratulations!

New members of the MtPA Network: Professor A. N. Purohit (Director, G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, India); Jake Kosek (Program Officer, The Mountain Institute, USA); René Valencia (Jefe, Parque National Huascarán, Peru); Alvaro Torres (Director General de Areas Naturales Protegidas y Fauna Sylvestre, Peru); Narayan Poudel (Project Manager, Makalu Barun National Park and Conservation Area Project, Nepal); Professor Xianying Zhao (Secretary General, National Committee for MAB, PR China); Jim Bartle (Asociacion de Ecologia y Conservacion/ECCO, Peru); and Derek Denniston (Worldwatch Institute, USA).

HUASCARAN NATIONAL PARK- EXCEPTIONAL BIOSPHERE RESERVE AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE

MtPA UPDATE editors Larry and Linda Hamilton have just had the great privilege of visiting Huascaran National Park in Peru. The park was established in 1975, declared a Biosphere Reserve in 1977, and listed as a World Heritage Site in 1985. Roughly 180 km. long and averaging 20 km. wide, it embraces essentially all of the Cordillera Blanca, the highest range in the world's tropical zone, with 30 mountains over 6,000 m. and including Peru's highest peak, Huascaran at 6,768 m. These spectacular lofty peaks, with many glaciers and deep valleys, give the park true scenic splendor; and offer unusually easy access to mountain hiking, climbing and nature tourism. This is home to such interesting and rare species as the Andean spectacled bear, vicuña, Andean condor, and the rare plant Puya Raimondi which has the world's largest inflorescence. The park also sustains a large population of traditional mountain people who occupy the buffer zone and extensively use grazing, fuelwood and medicinal plant resources inside the park. Some overharvesting of those resources is occurring, and the small but dedicated park staff is trying to address these problems through a participatory community process involving the 40+ user groups which they have formed. The main large-scale threats to the park and its natural/cultural values come from the usual protected area enemies, --mines, roads, reservoirs and inappropriate tourism development.

At the request of World Heritage Senior Advisor Jim Thorsell, we were asked to conduct a World Heritage monitoring mission, with Peruvian counterparts Miriam Torres (Fundacion Peruana para la Conservacion de la Naturaleza) and Gustavo Suárez de Freitas (FPCN and CNPPA Regional Vice-Chair). Because of contacts through the MtPA Network, we were able to do this in conjunction with a reconnaissance trip sponsored by The Mountain Institute. That team was led by Gabriel Campbell, Alton Byers and Jake Kosek of The Mountain Institute in preparation for possible project activity in the park. They brought with them Tirtha Shrestha (IUCN, Nepal), Narayan Poudel and Li Bosheng from their Makalu Barun/Qomolangma project (Nepal-Tibet), to explore the idea of enrichment exchanges, a concept which has been promoted for several years by Alejandro Camino (Fonda Nacional para Areas Naturales Protegidas par el Estadol PROFONANPE, Peru) under the title HimalAndes. Other participants included Jim Bartle (USA/Peru) who wrote the hiking guide to Huascaran and produced a fine photographic essay on the park, and Peter Stone (Mountain Agenda, UK).

What we found was not only a stunning World Heritage Site with pressing management problems, but also a gifted Park Superintendent, René Valencia and a highly-motivated local professional staff of five, all with keen feeling for the park and good intuition about what makes for successful management of the physical and cultural resources of the park. They have a sound management plan which they are trying to implement. Only trouble is, they work with almost no financial, informational or technical support. With nature-based tourism expected to quadruple quickly to perhaps 400,000 visitors per year, and with proposals for mining, roads and reservoirs, they urgently need help from the international community. MtPA Network members may be able to assist. If you can provide materials (or at least citations) in Spanish or English on the following topics, it would be very much appreciated, and the information put to good use. Huascaran staff priorities for information are: carrying capacity and management of high altitude natural pastures; monitoring and evaluation of the environmental impact of tourism; monitoring of flora, fauna and glaciers; basic research design and organization of information for park management. Send to René Valencia, Jefe, Parque National Huascarán, Av. Centenario 905, Aptdo. 343, Huaraz, Peru; telephone/fax 722086, 724300. This is an opportunity for the MtPA Network members to help each other in specific important ways, and we hope many of you can respond.

Lawrence S. Hamilton and Linda S. Hamilton
ISLANDS AND HIGHLANDS, Environmental

Consultancy

Rue Maurerney 28

RR #1 Box 1685A

CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland Hinesburg, Vermont 05461 USA

fax 4122 999 00 02

Telephone/fax 802 425 6509

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