

Mountain Protected Areas Update - December 13, 1995

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

The Meaning of the Mountains

Excerpt from a poem about the Australian High Country, by Mark O'Connor

What are the mountains about?	For me it's <i>Sturm und Drang</i> : the winds from all sides disputing a peak like bull seals around a rock. Spidery Gums in a snowstorm auditioning for the witches in <i>Macbeth</i> . Mountains glimpsed through rain like rocks in foam. Or the wind-waves that rage in chorus till one rises up supreme and your tent, like a bent bow, sees it out or doesn't...
For me they're about things felt, touched with the mind's hand more than heard or seen: The four S's - sunshine, shadows, snowgums and snow: silent mists pouring into a valley as stealthily as time itself. The old Gondwanaland breeze moving the clouds' shadows over these ancient flat mountains. Silences as if the snow had washed the particles/dust of noise out of the air...	

Mountain Conservation Corridors in Australia

To continue with the conservation corridor theme which has been developed in the previous two issues of UPDATE, a new one has come to our attention. It is being fostered by Graeme Worboys, Director for Southeast Region, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australia. Parts of it were visited by Larry Hamilton prior to the Transboundary Mountain Protected Areas Workshop in the Australian Alps last month. A recently gazetted National Park Area centered around Brown Mountain links the more northerly set of parks south of Woolongoo, to the Victoria border, along the Great Escarpment and South Coast Range. One can visualize a continuous corridor from inside the State of Victoria to Morton National Park, a distance of around 300 km. Gaps can be closed by further extensions involving State Forests and other kinds of protected areas.

Mountain Conservation Corridors in New Zealand

Bing Lucas is quick to point out to us that Kiwiland does not lag behind in consolidating large bioregions in corridors of protection. It has a splendid series of national parks in the Southern Alps, including the large World Heritage area from just south of Hokitika, to the southern end of the west coast. The New Zealand government policies of protecting rather than cutting and converting native forest in state forest holdings made parts of this conservation corridor a reality, the length of South Island.

Transboundary Mountain Protected Areas Workshop

This important Mountain Theme activity had IUCN joining with the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, with the sponsorship of Australian Assistance in International Development and the Australian Nature Conservation Agency. Twenty-six participants from 17 countries lived together in a traveling workshop that began in Canberra and finished up in Melbourne 10 days later. We were joined for periods of time by professional park management and research staff from the protected area services of New South Wales, Victoria and Australian Capital Territory. The meeting was organized by Janet Mackay (Australia) of AALC and Larry Hamilton, and had important inputs from Australian MtPA Network members Graeme Worboys, Roger Good, Greg Hays and Gregor Manson. Network members who came as participants included: Marie Guth (France), Patrizia Rossi (Italy), Harald Kromser (Austria), Merv Syrotouk (Canada), Dave Mihalic (USA), Brent Liddle (Canada), Jay Wells (USA), Ivan Voloscuk (Slovakia), Jiri Flousek (Czech Republic), Li Bosheng (China), Bing Lucas (New

Zealand), Zbig Krzan (Poland), Narayan Poudel (Nepal). Several new members were also added from the fine group of workshop participants.

The product will be a publication setting forth the benefits, problems and criteria for effective transboundary cooperation, including various formal and informal arrangements and a series of case studies. It was no mistake to select the Australian Alps as a venue since the effective collaboration of three independent government jurisdictions in managing seven different linked units is in the Vice-Chair's opinion the best in the world.

Late-Breaking News on Glacier-Waterton. World Heritage Nomination

In 1932, Glacier National Park in Montana (USA) and Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta (Canada) were united as the world's first international Peace Park. This is tangible evidence of goodwill between friends, who share a common border, history, heritage and future. Official word was just received from Jim Thorsell, that this month the joint nomination of the area as a World Heritage Site was approved by UNESCO's World Heritage Bureau. It is given the name "Crown of the Continent" since it is a tri-oceanic watershed divide (the Pacific, the Arctic via Hudson Bay, and the Atlantic via the Gulf of Mexico), probably unique in the Western Hemisphere and possibly in the world. Congratulations to superintendents Merv Syroteuk and David Mihalic.

Everest Environmental Project

This US organization of alpinists whose activities have been previously reported on in UPDATE, has awarded a \$ 1,000 grant to Qomolangma Nature Preserve in Tibet for operation and maintenance of a truck which the project donated in 1990. The truck is used on regular runs to haul rubbish from the base camp which hosts assaults on the world's highest mountain.

Natal Drakensberg Park

Geoff Cowan submitted the following information on this important park. The Natal Drakensberg, which forms part of the eastern escarpment of southern Africa, is an extremely rugged area that includes three altitudinal zones: Montane (1280-1830 m), Sub-Alpine (1830-2865 m); and Alpine (2865-3500 m). The only Afro-alpine vegetation in southern Africa is shared between Lesotho, the Eastern Cape and Natal. The Afro-alpine Belt contains extensive wetlands, which by virtue of their extremely limited distribution on the subcontinent, possess great rarity value. The most extensive and best conserved Afro-alpine wetlands in the country are conserved in the Park.

The Montane Belt is somewhat more widespread in Kwazulu-Natal than the Afro-alpine Belt. The Park contains the most extensive and some of the best conserved Montane wetlands in the country. The Natal Drakensberg is the most important high altitude watershed in southern Africa, in terms of water yield. It is the principal water source (catchment) area for the three largest rivers in Natal (the Tugela, Mkhomazi and the Mzimkulu), which are of major significance for the industrial economy of both Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal. The Tugela-Vaal Scheme (which exports water from Kwazulu-Natal to Gauteng), is totally dependent on the Tugela catchment basin. Protection is afforded by the Park which covers 242,813 ha, and it is slated to be put on the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention.

High Country of South Island. New Zealand

Paul Dingwall notes that this area is currently in the throes of a comprehensive land tenure reform. This has traditionally been pastoral farmland (extensive sheep stations), many of them run under perpetual lease from the Crown. Much of the highest altitude country is now being compulsorily retired from grazing (on account of soil erosion, weed and rabbit problems) rendering many of the stations uneconomic for farming. Many runholders are either diversifying into tourism, or selling up, --often to foreign investors. Some of the unprotected habitats will go into the conservation estate, and there is the possibility of handing over large areas to the Maori as part of the settlement of land grievances. All in all, it is a very complex and vexatious issue, with many lessons to be learned, and one which is worthy of international exposure through CNPPA.

Geo-biodiversity of the Bohemian/Bavarian Forest

Martin Price reports that September 11-14, the Czech National MAB Committee organized a conference in Prachatice, Czech Republic, on the geo-biodiversity of the Bohemian/Bavarian Forest. The conference was attended by just over 100 people, mainly from Czech Republic, but also from Austria and Germany, the other countries which share this mountain area, known in Czech as Sumava. Reflecting the subtitle of the conference, "Trilateral research, conservation and management of the frontier mountains", papers were presented on a wide range of themes in both the natural and social sciences. Remarkably for such a multidisciplinary conference, most of the participants stayed throughout, contributing to active inter-disciplinary debate. However, it was recognized that while inter-disciplinary research is highly desirable in this region, which is subject to many external pressures (from air pollution to changing agricultural policies and the construction of second homes, often by foreigners), little has been conducted or is planned. A booklet of English summaries of papers and posters presented at the conference is available from Eva Jelínková, Czech National MAB Committee, Academy of Sciences, Národní 3, 111 32 Prague 1, Czech Republic.

EUROPARC 95

Last September 28 - October 1, the small town of Bled in Slovenia, hosted the regular annual conference of the Federation of National and Nature Parks in Europe. The event held in this young state on the sunny side of the Alps was organized by Slovene Ministry of Environment and the Triglav National Park Management Office.. The program included two excursions, which focused on the topics of water and forest. Key individuals involved in hosting this meeting were Janez Bizjak, Triglav Park Director and Marija Zupacic-Vicar, Vice-Chair (Europe), CNPPA/IUCN. A future issue of UPDATE will include a summary description of Triglav's important mountain resources.

Initial Organization Committee Meeting -- The Mountain Forum

The Organizing Committee set up at the Global Mountain NGO Consultation last February in Perú, met September 21-25 at The Mountain Institute's Spruce Knob facility in West Virginia, USA. Thirty-five individuals from 5 continents met to discuss ways of implementing an on-going mechanism for exchange of information and support among NGOs working for sustainable mountain development. A Mountain Forum Information Network is to be established involving: an electronically mediated discussion forum and retrieval service; an electronically accessible "Active Mountain Archive"; a World Wide Web Mountain Forum page; an electronic quarterly magazine distributed via Internet, but downloadable to paper format for non-Internet individuals. Some regional Mountain Forum meetings are proposed (see meetings section for one in Europe). Further information is available from The Mountain Institute, P O Box 907, Franklin, West Virginia 26807 USA; fax 304 358 2400; email summit@mountain.org.

Mountain Protected Areas Network Meeting, Banff National Park, Canada

During the North American CNPPA Regional Meeting in Banff October 14-19, a workshop was held dealing with the Mountain Theme. It was co-chaired by Phil Dearden and Larry Hamilton, and Scott Slocombe served as rapporteur. Two formal presentations were made, by Larry and by Harvey Locke, and the group discussed the concept of large conservation corridors along mountain ranges, and ways of involving MtPA Network members in activities. Most attention was given to a Yellowstone to Yukon Biodiversity Strategy through linked protected areas to create a huge transboundary corridor. Harvey described the various issues of this strategy, and has described them in an article "Preserving the Wild Heart of North America" in *Borealis*, Issue 15, pp 18-24. A Workshop on mountain conservation corridors was proposed to the organizers of the World Conservation Congress in Montreal next October. Network members agreed to help seek funding for a Mountain Theme Task Force, and to put a regional meeting on Mexico's mountains high on a priority list.

Upcoming Meetings of Possible Interest

Rwenzori Scientific Conference, April 15- 16 in Kampala, Uganda.

The snow-capped "Mountains of the Moon" lie on the border between Uganda and Zaire and are a World Heritage site. The meeting theme is Towards Sustainable Land Use of the Rwenzori Mountains and Surrounding Area. It is being organized by Makerere University, Department of Geography in collaboration with the Mountain Club of Uganda, and the contact person is Joy Tukahirwa in the Department of Geography, P O Box 7062, Kampala; fax 25 64 15 30 134. Papers are invited and can be on similar problems in other mountains. One-page abstracts or notice of interest in attending is due by December 31 in order to receive second circular. The conference celebrates the 90th anniversary of the expeditions of the Duke of Abruzzi and the British Museum (Kew).

European NGO Mountain Consultation, to be held in June in France.

This is a follow-up to the establishment of a Global NGO Mountain Forum (with regional chapters), which was initiated in February 1995 at the International Mountain NGO Consultation in Perú (previously reported on). The Midi-Pyrenees Region is providing support, a European steering committee has been formed, and an organizer hired. Further details available from Monique Dejean-Servieres, AROE, 14 rue de Tivoli, 31068 Toulouse, France; fax 33 61 33 53 11.

CNPPA (EA-2) June 30 - July 5 in Kushiro, Japan.

The Second Conference on National Parks and Protected Areas of East Asia is coming up. It is hoped that MtPA Network members in the region will participate and will have a formal or informal session on mountains. I am asking Woo, Bo-Myeong and Hsu, Kuo-Shin to try to get a mountain group together. Conference Secretariat: c/a InterGroup Corp., 7-5-17 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107 Japan, fax 81 3 55 70 61 50.

Mountain Corridor Workshop at IUCN World Conservation Congress, October 10-23. During the Congress there will be workshop sessions on October 17, 18, 20 and 21. On one of those days I am organizing a day-long session on the topic Linking Mountain Protected Areas to Create Bioregional Corridors. I am hoping to solicit presentations on this topic from such areas as: Australian Alps; Carpathians; Andean bear habitats (Venezuela and northern Andes); Andean Cordillera program; Southern Appalachia; Heart of the Rockies; Apennine Green Corridor; Cascadia; Paseo Pantera; New Zealand Southern Alps, and others? The bioregional approach to planning with emphasis on the human occupied "gaps" between protected areas will be emphasized. Experience with IUCN Categories V and VI (Protected Landscapes and Managed Resource Protected Areas) will be sought, as well as lessons from non-mountain corridors such as the Niagara Escarpment. MtPA Network members interested in making a contribution are asked to drop me a line as soon as possible.

Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan Mountain Research Conference, October 14-18.

Although protected areas are not mentioned as a theme for this meeting, it is important that they be on the agenda as an institutional device for achieving conservation of the flora, fauna, water, soil, landscapes and cultures that are given as "themes". This meeting is sponsored by the AAAS and the International University of Kyrgyzstan. Abstracts are to be submitted by May 1 to Dr. Elizabeth Kirk, Director, Europe and Countries of the Former Soviet Union Project, AAAS, 1333 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20005. Some limited travel grant funding may be available.

Regional Sustainable Mountain Development Meetings The following intergovernmental meetings are scheduled as part of the Mountain Agenda follow-up on Agenda 21.

Europe (Part I) is to be held in Scotland's Cairngorms (actually in Aviemore), April 23-26. It is being expedited by IUCN's European Program and ICALPE. Coordinator is Martinez Price, Mountain Program, Environmental Change Unit, University of Oxford, la Mansfield Road, Oxford OX1 3TB, United Kingdom. The meeting will produce draft guidelines for sustainable mountain development in Europe's mountains. Zbig Karpowicz heads the IUCN European Program.

Europe (Part II) is to be held in the Italian Alps (at Trento) the week of October 7. This meeting will finalize the guidelines for national action. More information has been requested from ICALPE.

Africa will hold its meeting in April (no exact dates or firm location known at this time). IUCN is one of the several co-sponsors, and is represented by Guido Broekkoven, Forest Conservation Advisor/IUCN, P O Box 68200, Nairobi, Kenya. He will have details.

Recent Publications

~ **Mountains at Risk: Current Issues in Environmental Studies**, edited by Nigel Allan was published in September 1995 by Manohar, New Delhi. Cost is 450 Rupees, from 2/6 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002. It contains chapters by MtPA members Marlin Price, Jim Doorbell, Nigel Allan and Larry Hamilton.

~ **Karakorum Himalaya: Sourcebook for a Protected Area**, edited by Nigel Allan was published by IUCN Pakistan, 1 Bath Island Road, Karachi 75530 in October 1995. Cost is 180 Rupees, US\$6, £3 including postage. It contains 950 bibliographic items covering Ladakh, Baltistan and Gilgit and adjacent areas, and was prepared as a contribution to the Central Karakoram National Park and its proposed nomination as a World Heritage site.

~ **Atlas of the Central Rockies Ecosystem: Towards an Ecologically Sustainable Landscape**, 1995, was authored by a Central Rockies Interagency Liaison Group, with primary authors from PARKS Canada and Komex International. It is published by and available from Komex International, #100-4500 16th Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta T3B 0M6 Canada; price not known. This is a fine combination of maps, figures, photos and terse text describing this large Canadian mountain ecosystem and its resources, and laying out some strategies for its conservation. Geographically, it deals with the spine of mountains dividing Alberta from British Columbia, an area of some 40,000 km² (nearly the size of Switzerland), from Jasper National Park to Height of the Rockies Provincial Park with Banff and Yoho National Parks being the center.

~ **Cascadia Wild: Protecting an International Ecosystem**, edited by M. Friedman and P. Lindholdt has been published in 1993 by the Greater Ecosystem Alliance, P O Box 2813 Bellingham, Washington 98227 USA; no price indicated. It has only now come to my attention. The North Cascades are a rugged transfrontier mountain range, now given some degree of conservation in a number of national and provincial parks, wilderness areas in National Forests and in several recreation areas. In the last UPDATE, there was a brief description of the proposal for a Cascades International Park and Stewardship Area. A non-technical, often emotive, but research-based collection of articles in Cascadia Wild makes a case for a large bioregional conservation area, from tidewater to timberline and alpine meadows and back down to prairie. It is pointed out that as far as can be ascertained, every known species that was here before white settlement still exists. The book proposes that through an heroic conservation effort to establish such a "Greater Northern Cascades Ecosystem", there will be enough habitat for a "dance of all partners".

~ **People and the Planet special issue on People and Mountains**, January 1995. This well-illustrated special issue of 32 pages explores the growing impact of human activities on mountain eco-systems and cultures. Most of the articles were written by MtPA Network members.

Derek Denniston reviews the theme in a major overview which highlights the enormous importance of mountains as watersheds, climate regulators and centers of biological and cultural diversity, --and the need for a much more sensitive approach to the exploitation of mountain resources. Other contributors include Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, on mountains as water towers of the world, Edwin Bernbaum on sacred mountains, and Martin Price on the pressures of tourism in mountain environments.

Looking at positive developments, Jane Pratt describes progress in developing the Makulu-Barun National Park which abuts the Nepal-Tibet border, while Martin Palmer reports on efforts to save the Taoist forest reserves in the holy hills of Northern China. This issue also reports on Ann Kendall's work to restore the ancient Inca canals in the Peruvian Andes and the campaigning efforts of Juan Mayr, working with the Kogi Indians in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia, and of Sunderlal Bahaguna's latest fight against the Tehri Dam in the Central Himalayas.

People and the Planet is sponsored by IUCN, WWF, with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Annual subscription rate for 1996, including the mountains issue is US\$25 (£15 in the UK only) obtainable from Planet 21, 1 Woburn Walk, London WC1H 0JJ, United Kingdom; fax 44 017 13 88 23 98.

~ **Biosphere Reserves on the Crossroads of Central Europe** by Jan Jenik and Martin Price was published in 1994 by the Czech National Committee for UNESCO's MAB program, but has only just been received and noted here. It describes the natural and cultural values of the 5 Czech and 4 Slovak Biosphere Reserves. Five of these are mountain protected areas and two others are high hills or low mountains. Four are mountain transfrontier reserves. The conservation values and research/monitoring activities are given for each area. Published by EMPORA Publishing House, Karmelitská 6, Prague 11800, Czech Republic. No price given. There are chapters by Network members Jan Jenik, Jiri Flousek and Ivan Voloscuk.

~ **Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation** is the title of a small book resulting from a workshop held in the transfrontier mountain protected landscape area of the White Carpathians (Czech-Slovak boundary) from July 19-22, 1995. This was part of the implementation of Parks for Life, the European Action Plan. Four mountain protected areas are treated (White Carpathians, Tatras, Giant Mountains, Sumava). The book is edited by A. Arends, Jan Cerovsky; and G. Picková and produced by ECOPOINT Foundation, Kalisnická 4, Prague 3, Czech Republic.

IUCN

The World Conservation Union

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