

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



Revised No. 67 - September 2010



China Danxia is a new UNESCO World Heritage Site. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Graeme Worboys)

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*'Tis distance lends enchantment to  
the view,  
And robes the mountain in its azure  
hue.*

~ Thomas Campbell

*To those who have struggled with  
them  
the mountains reveal beauties they  
will not disclose to those*

*who make no effort. That is the reward that mountains give to effort.*

~ Sir Francis Younghusband



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UPDATE Newsletter Editor



[Dr. Larry Hamilton](#)

*The Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE is a quarterly newsletter edited by Dr. Lawrence Hamilton. It is distributed to members of our Mountain Protected Areas Network*

Note: Names of Network Members appear in ***bold italics*** in our Newsletter

IUCN - WCPA

[Dr. Graeme Worboys](#)  
Vice Chairman

## From the Editor:

**Important correction** - Please note that *Ghana Gurung* has **NOT** retired from his position as Conservation Program Director for WWF Nepal. We apologize for any unintentional misunderstanding about this information. We wish Ghana all the best!

Thanks to *Margaret Jefferies* and her book *Highest Heritage* for the two inspiring quotations. I would be very grateful to those of you who send in other quotations that may be used in UPDATE.

Friends, it is time to cull the roster of Network members again. It keeps growing, which is good, but unfortunately some members have been just coasting, non-involved, which is bad. We want to have this be a true network of interactive individuals. The UPDATE newsletter as a networking device should not be merely going out into cyberspace to passive receivers. When you joined the Mountain Protected Areas Network, you agreed to send the Editor news items, or at least some kind of a signal, or to be interacting with the Mountains and Connectivity Conservation (M and CC) Executive at least once in a period of a year and a half. That deadline is approaching for many of you. If you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, and have not been in touch for an extended period, please send a signal of some kind to your Editor at [silverfox@gmavt.net](mailto:silverfox@gmavt.net) (preferably some news for printing, but if not, even the word "Hello" to indicate that you are alive!). Culling takes place before the December 1 issue. Membership now stands at 299, and has been as high as 390.

For those of you who do not know the history of our Network... It began after an international consultation of 41 mountain PA experts in 1991, held in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. I organized it while I was working at the East West Center in Honolulu, and was ably assisted by *Jim Thorsell* of IUCN who was then a Fellow at the Center. The meeting was entitled Parks, Peaks and People, and resulted in the first IUCN/WCPA publication on *Guidelines for Mountain Protected Areas* (English, Spanish, Russian and Japanese). The participants wanted to stay in touch, and therefore I started to produce a modest newsletter. Coming up therefore in 2011 is the 20th anniversary, --a pretty good record for newsletters! Suggestions for improvement are always welcome. Enjoy this one.

Cheers for now,  
*Larry Hamilton*

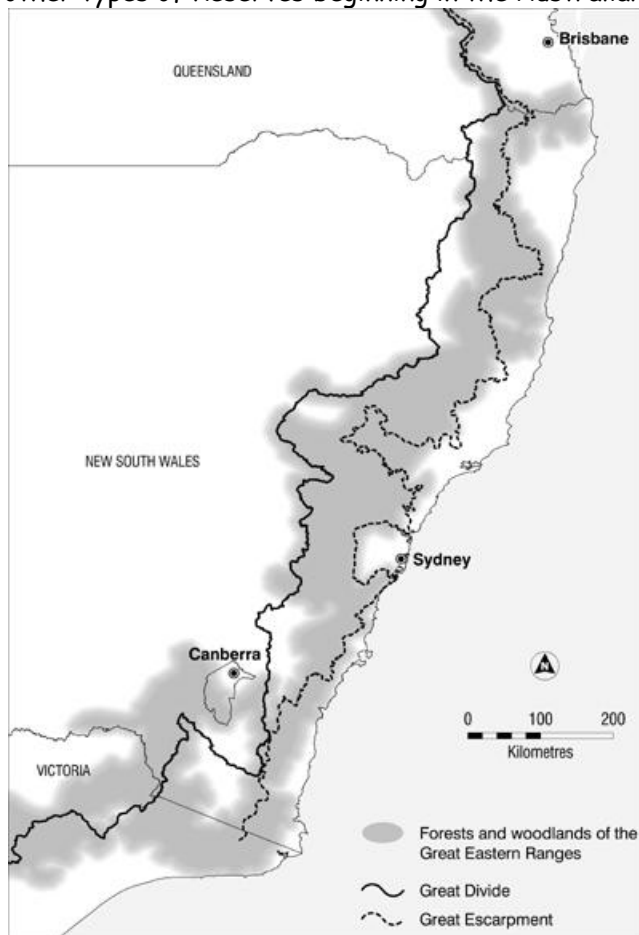
## Wind Turbines and Birds in High Places

With all of the attention being paid to green energy, the siting of wind turbines at high points or high passes in mountainous areas is of increasing concern, especially in the buffer zones or non-core areas of Mt. PAs in lower mountains. While there are many factors such as aesthetics, transmission lines, associated roads, one issue that often comes up is bird mortality. Data on more general avian mortality secured in the USA in 2003 gave the following for 2001 for the 15,000 turbines in existence then: **33,000** for wind turbines; 100 million to 1 billion for buildings and windows; 130-174 million for power lines; 60-80 million for motor vehicles; 67 million for agricultural pesticides; 40-50 million for communication towers; 39 million for feral house cats; 1-4 million for other types of human infrastructure. No data were presented on bat mortality, but put in this perspective, avian mortality from wind turbines would seem to be relatively low. Some of this can be further reduced by use of flashing lights

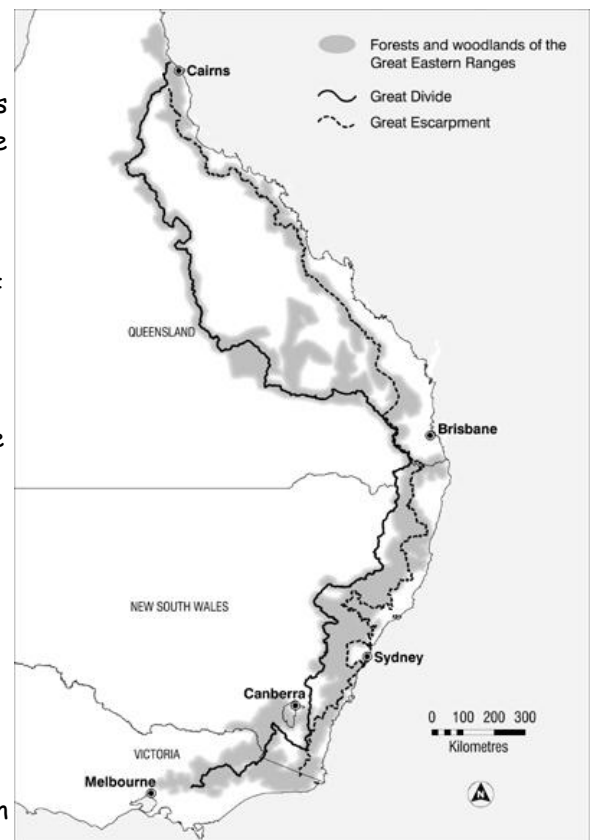
rather than steady lights. A recent study in Spain however indicated that mortality from wind turbines on an already declining population that produce few offspring (such as raptors) can be significant, *i.e.* reducing the time to extinction.

## Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Corridor (Australia)

*Ian Pulsford* has been heading an Interstate Working Group studying and advancing a 2,800 km (1,740 mile) corridor from near Melbourne to north of Cairns. This has also been referred to by us previously as the *Alps to Atherton (A to A) Corridor Initiative* (see right). It has become politically endorsed, as a response to warming climate for conserving an important portion of Australia's amazing biodiversity. The foundation concept came from New South Wales, and our own *Graeme Worboys* was a key originator of the idea of connecting existing National Parks, State Forests and other types of Reserves beginning in the Australian Alps and



extending north along the Great Escarpment. He brought this to my attention as far back as 1991 at the beginning of the WCPA program area in Mountains. He was then Regional Director of NSW Parks for the South East. I would identify him as the Father of Conservation Corridors in Australia.



According to *Ian*, the NSW section of GER is more than 1,200 km long and holds two-thirds of the State's threatened species and three quarters its plant species, and is headwaters for most of the State's water supply (see left). Almost half of this is national parks and reserves, so there is a major job with other land holdings to achieve connectivity. There is less public land within the visualized corridor in the Queensland section, so the challenges are large.

Partnerships have been established in five regional connectivity gaps. These partnerships include: Environmental NGOs, catchment management authorities, industry (coal, power), agriculturists, horse breeders, viticulturists, Aboriginal groups, local government, community groups, researchers and universities. Last May, six groups signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide leadership and governance of the initiative: Greening Australia, Nature Conservation Trust, Oz Green, National Parks Association, Bush Heritage Australia and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water of New South Wales (*Ian's* organization). This continental-scale initiative is testimony to a lot of hard work in promoting a vision of connectivity. A Report on the GER Initiative has recently been released, which will do much to support the moving forward of this vision. See Publications Section.



## **A New Mt PA in Papua New Guinea Mountain Cloud Forest**

Ninety-five percent of the land in PNG is in local community ownership and in 2009, more than 35 villages came together and agreed to establish the **YUS Conservation Area** (named after the area's three rivers: Yopno, Urawa and Som). This is the first Community Conservation Area established under the authority of a Conservation Areas Act passed way back in 1978. It protects 76,000 ha (187,000 acres) of forest, mainly cloud forest, which is habitat for several endemic birds and mammals. Among these is the Huon (Matschie's) tree kangaroo, the focus of the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program which has been working with the resident Huon community. Huon people have long hunted the animal for meat and for fur used in ceremonial headdress. But the Conservation Area establishment puts a self-imposed ban on all hunting (including birds of paradise) as well as logging and mining. Now protected are three bird of paradise species: the magnificent bird of paradise, Huon astrapia and the Wahne's parotea (listed by IUCN as very endangered). The Program is working to improve education and health care and management capacity. The PA extends from sea level to 4,000 m in the Huon Peninsula of Morobe Province. It involves Conservation International, National Geographic Society and the Woodland Park Zoo of Seattle, Washington (and others). More about the tree kangaroo at [www.zoo.org/treekangaroo](http://www.zoo.org/treekangaroo).

## **MPAs in Mexico - Economic Contribution**

The Nature Conservancy has an active program in Mexico, with Network member *Juan Bezaury* as Country Representative. It works with Mexican partners in fulfilling its mission: to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth, by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Many such lands in Mexico are in the mountains, including Mexico's first officially designated Wilderness Area. In 2009, the National Protected Areas Commission, with TNC assistance, created the **Janos Biosphere Reserve** in Chihuahua at 526,000 ha (1.3 million acres).

Recently TNC has come up with an estimate of value for all of Mexico's PAs, of nearly US\$3-4 billion per year. This includes: captured carbon (\$2.5 billion); fresh water (\$260 million); tourism (\$555 million); and more than 25,000 jobs. According to *Juan*, for every dollar invested in PAs, the country receives US\$52 in returned value.

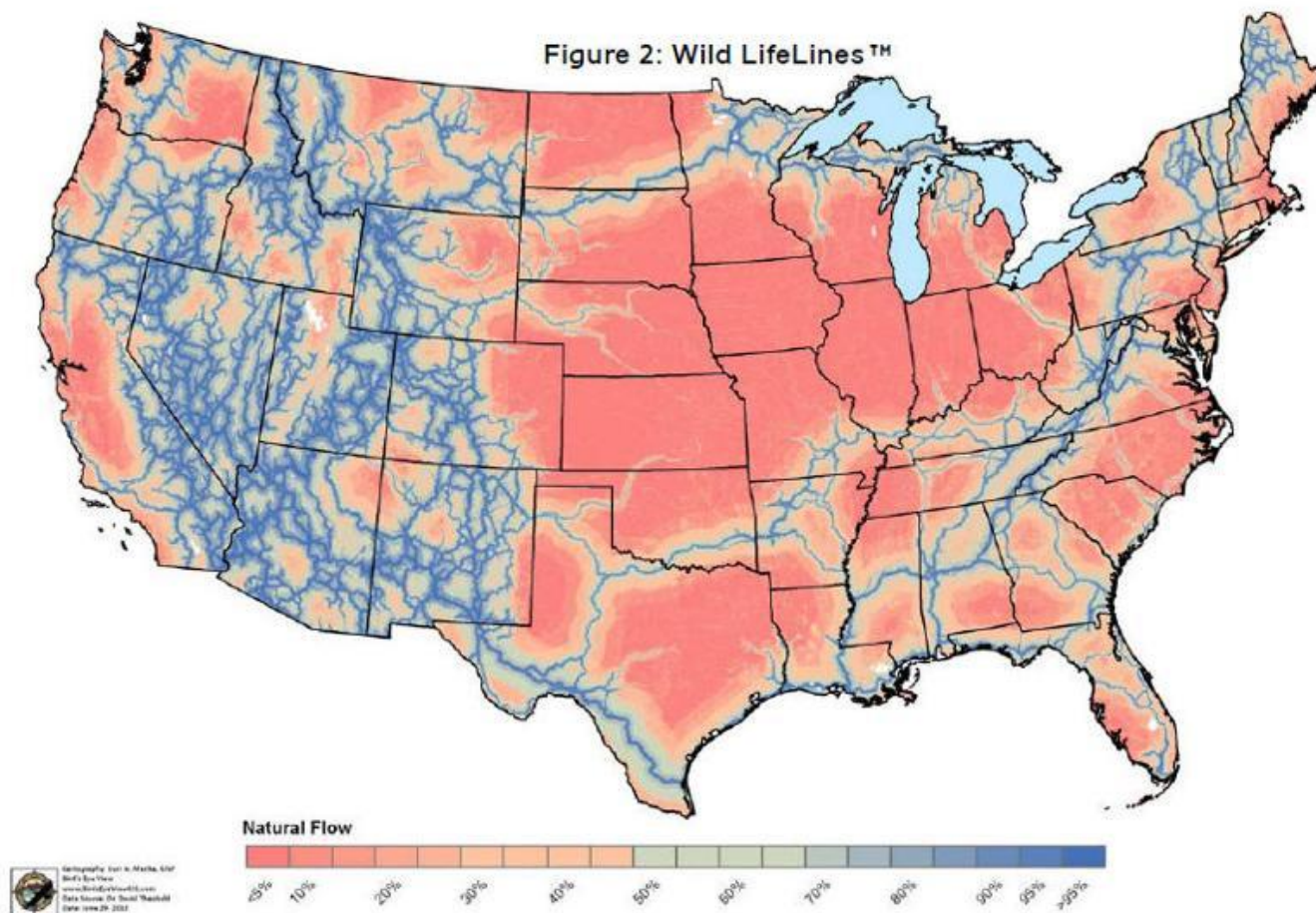
## **Diversity Surrogates for Conservation and Tourism Planning**

*Nakul Chettri* conducted an interesting study along a trekking corridor in the Sikkim Himalayas at **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**, that was reported in the *Journal of Nature Conservation*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 2010 (pp. 75-88). Mount Khangchendzonga (also spelled Kanchenjunga), at 8,586 m (22,169 ft), is the 3rd highest mountain in the world. Along this 26 km corridor from warm temperate broadleaved forest to cool temperate subalpine forest, he tested the congruence of diversity indices for three taxonomic groups: woody trees, birds and butterflies. Having surrogates that are valid reduces the heavy task of costly and detailed biodiversity inventories. Bird diversity indices are often used because of the relative wealth of existing information on bird occurrence, and because they have often been found to be such valid surrogates. *Nakul* sampled trees in both undisturbed and disturbed (wood harvesting) situations with altitude, and recorded birds and butterflies along transects that crossed each of these plots, during two seasons. He found 143 species of birds, 78 species of woody trees and 195 species of butterflies.

After data analysis, *Nakul* concluded that the three taxonomic groups showed high congruence, both in open canopy and closed canopy situations. They may therefore be used as a tool in planning and managing areas under pressure from human use of wood and tourism, to achieve biodiversity conservation. The study is available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com). Khangchendzonga is the location of efforts to create a cooperating transboundary PA with China, India and Nepal, frustratingly slow.

## Wild LifeLines™ Across the Landscape

A modeling method has been developed by the Wildlands Network and Colorado State University that depicts the easiest way for wildlife to move across the landscape. *Wild LifeLines™* depict potential movement pathways in the US between the Mexican and Canadian borders that emphasize the least human modification and highest extant connectivity for wildlife. These pathways are the result of a novel modeling approach that is based on a map of Natural Landscapes built from layers of land cover types, distance to roads, traffic volume, and housing density, and which then identifies the least fragmented connections between remaining natural areas. *Wild LifeLines™* complement identification of cores and linkages within conservation planning boundaries that might secure landscape capacity for broad-scale wildlife movement within extant high-connectivity lands.



Note that this differs from typical corridor mapping that builds from patches of protected areas or patches of focal species habitat, and computes all possible nearest-neighbor combinations. A map showing pathways between Canada and Mexico is shown herein. Note the dendritic pattern, like water flowing across the land. For further details see Research White Paper of July 24, 2010 by Fields, Theobald and Soulé from the Wildlands Network, [www.wildlandsnetwork.org](http://www.wildlandsnetwork.org). (map image courtesy of Wildlands Network). ) It bears some similarity to the "Biopermeability" method which has been developed and used in Italy by *Bernardino Romano*.

## Mining Threat Removed from New Zealand PAs

We have previously reported on the proposal by the New Zealand Department of Energy and Resources to open up exploration of mineral resources on much public protected land. At one time it seemed that there was general government backing for this (except Department of Conservation, of course). The government received 37,552 submissions on the topic, the vast majority (no numbers provided) opposing (though it was reported that 32,318 submissions were on templates provided by such organizations as Greenpeace and the Forest and Bird Society!!!). The mines Minister stated: "We heard that message loud and clear." In July, a decision was announced that all national parks and marine reserves would be exempt, and that no mining would be permitted. And on any Crown

Lands agreement from the land-holding ministry is necessary, with public notification. *Bruce Jefferies* who marshalled international comment, is delighted with this outcome, and has provided this information.

### **Mining in Protected Areas - A Continual Threat**

In spite of the recent fairly happy resolution of the major mining issue in New Zealand (just reported above), mining continues to threaten many PAs, and especially in mountainous areas. For example, on our recent vacation expedition to Scotland's northern coast and outer isles, *Bob Aitken* made my wife *Linda* and me familiar with the problem of that country's first gold mine proposal within Scotland's first national park, **Loch Lomond and the Trossachs**. It is the Coronish mine near Tyndrum, which would also be next to the West Highland Way, which attracts up to 50,000 walkers each year. The mine is opposed by Scottish Natural Heritage, and we have just learned from *Bob* that the Park's administrative Board rather narrowly refused the application. We also visited the island of Harris, where a massive quarrying operation in a National Scenic Area was halted but only after a significant public outcry.

While not a Mt PA, my favorite PA in the world, **Kakadu NP and WH Site** in Australia, has probably had a major threat to its integrity removed by political promises made by both political parties to abort the mine (Koongarra mine) and add the area to the adjacent protected area, as requested by the Aboriginal owners of the land. An important role in this was provided by *Penny Figgis* (WCPA Regional Vice Chair) and Peter Valentine (Vice Chair for Communication and Publications) with whom my wife *Linda* and I visited the Park back in about 1989. With close-call national elections coming up, it is good that commitments have been made by both parties.

**Mount Nimba World Heritage Transboundary Site** (Guinea and Cote' d'Ivoire) is still on the In Danger list due to mining. And here in the USA, mining proposals near Mt PAs, and mountain top removal continue to plague watersheds that involve PAs.

And, this just came in: Controversial plans to develop a bauxite mine on sacred tribal land in India have been cancelled by India's environment ministry. The Dongria Kondh's (an indigenous tribe of about 8,000, who have lived since time immemorial around the mountain **Niyamgiri**) demands have been met, and the area will remain wild, lush and sacred. Multi-national company Vedanta's existing aluminum refinery in the area had polluted local rivers, damaged crops and disrupted the lives of the local tribe; and will now NOT be able to expand six-fold. This is a Dongria Kondh victory first and foremost. The project had been delayed by four years because of the Dongria Kondh's intense opposition locally, including the brandishing of bows and arrows, as well as from environmental and tribal rights groups. Globally, a loosely coordinated campaign sought to persuade multi-national Vedanta's shareholders and financiers to distance themselves from the company. This is their magnificent victory as well for Survival International and Amnesty International, various celebrity activists such as Bianca Jagger and Michael Palin, and numerous other loosely affiliated affinity campaigns, including most recently from Ecological Internet working with the Rainforest Information Centre. Send us a brief account of any such current issues affecting your area.

### **Another Impact of Climate Warming in Mountains - Migration**

A recent study reported in *Science News* on elk in Yellowstone NP indicates an impact on seasonal migration. Migration to upper high elevation grasslands supposedly lets animals follow the best nutritional food as summer comes on. They return in winter to the valleys and lowlands. Satellite images have shown that the period of good grass growth at upper elevations has shrunk by 40% between 1989 and 2009. This coincides with an average increase in July temperature of 4°C, causing premature grassland brownouts. Poor forage could explain the decline in calf production of 70% among the migratory Clark's Fork herd between 1989 and 2009. No such decline has occurred in the non-migratory "couch-potatoes" portion of the herd. It is speculated that other upslope migrants worldwide may be experiencing similar problems.



## **New Connectivity in the Spine of the Continent**

A very large (526,482 ha/1,300,965 acre) Biosphere Reserve has been established in Mexico as the **Janos Biosphere Reserve**, along the US border. This is a large grassland mountain valley hosting the threatened black-tailed prairie dog. This action protects an important "stepping stone" area of grassland connecting species rich Sky Islands in both countries. It abuts New Mexico's Peloncillo Mountains, and is the result of much work by The Wildlands Network and Naturalia. The Nature Conservancy also played a role. Twenty-three genetically pure bison (free of cattle genes) have been released on the privately owned Rancho El Uno within the BR as part of a recovering grassland ecosystem. It is proposed to release 30 black-footed ferrets (an endangered species) in December. *Kim Vicariu*, the Western Director for the Wildlands Network has played a major role in this key action for building a Spine of the Continent, three-nation corridor of connectivity.

## **And, an Addition at the North End of the Corridor in Yukon, Canada**

Also adding to the Spine of the Continent, and more specifically to the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Initiative is an action by the Yukon government. It concerns the Peel Watershed of 67,000 km<sup>2</sup> (16.5 million acres), nearly the size of Austria. In a recently released plan, a Peel Watershed Commission is proposing to protect 81% of the land in Roadless Special Management Areas.

The area is north of the newly expanded **Nahanni National Park and World Heritage Site**, the world's first in 1978 (see right). The Yukon government has placed a one-year moratorium on all minerals staking (including oil, gas and coal). This vast unpopulated area could become the northern anchor for the Y2Y Conservation Initiative. The recommended plan now goes to the Yukon government and the four affected First Nations governments for their ratification. Let us hope!



## **CAKEX - Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange**

Mt PA scientists and managers may want to find out what others are doing in climate adaptation, or to share their own experiences or tests. This is facilitated in an exchange program at [ww.cakex.org](http://ww.cakex.org) provided by Island Press and EcoAdapt. As well as a forum for discussion of current issues *vis-à-vis* climate change and conservation, it provides: a virtual library, case studies, directory of members, tools. To date, members seem to be all from Canada, USA and Mexico, but there is no limitation on other members. Case studies are worldwide. Email is [info@cakex.org](mailto:info@cakex.org).

## **UIAA Mountain Protection Label (Certification)**

The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) is partnering with UNEP, Conservation International, and the World Tourism Organization to bring three key mountain stakeholder groups—science, sport, and tourism—together with land managers to create long-term mountain stewardship around the world through its new mountains-focused eco-tourism certification system, the Mountain Protection Label. Based in Bern, Switzerland the UIAA developed this system in collaboration with the International Academy of Sports Science and Technology (AISTS) in Lausanne, which supports the Label's innovative web-based information and collaboration portal (<http://aists.org>). AISTS partners with many sport organizations and companies for research, education, training, knowledge transfer and consulting, and its partners include the International Olympic Committee.

The Mountain Protection Label is designed to achieve two important goals: 1) Turning mountain stakeholders into

long-term mountain stewards, and 2) convening mountain stakeholders to continually improve mountain protection. As Label holders, guides, huts, hotels, mountain tour operations and recreation organizations of all sizes will be able to quickly and easily educate their clients and members before, during, and after their travels via the Label's web-based information portal. This will provide them with continually updated information and advice from mountain experts on how to protect the special natural and cultural resources of mountains where they operate. They will also have opportunities to involve their clients in science-based mountain stewardship projects, creating long-term attachments of both clients and tourism operators to these regions.

Label holders will also benefit by participating in their private, centralized collaboration and communications part of the information portal. This resource allows Label holders to frankly discuss with land managers and other mountain stakeholders ways to continually develop, improve, and test mountain protection guidelines and "best practices". It also allows a simple and effective way for land managers to provide Label holders and their clients with valuable and timely guidance, feedback and advice about specific mountain topics, issues, and locations. In addition, there will be periodic Label holder meetings around the world and annual prizes lauding both outstanding Label holders and outstanding new mountain protection ideas and practices.

The annual subscription price for the Mountain Protection Label will be based on a two-tier system that offers a reduced rate for Label holders in developing countries. Certification will be provided by third-party experts. The UIAA is currently seeking mountain ecotourism experts for its External Assessment Board, which will provide a neutral oversight function for the Mountain Protection Label. For more information about this and other aspects of the UIAA Mountain Protection Label, please contact Linda McMillan: [Linda@protectmountains.org](mailto:Linda@protectmountains.org)

### **Altai-Sayan EcoRegion Report**

One of the major planks in the WCPA Mountains and Connectivity Theme platform for 2010 was the planning and implementation of a key workshop in support of a **Mega Connectivity Corridor for the Altai-Sayan**. We reported on this in the June issue of UPDATE. Key players from the Network were our Chair *Graeme Worboys* plus *Yuri Badenkov* and *Tatyana Yashina*. Russia, Mongolia and Kazakhstan were involved, but China withdrew the day before the event of July 23-27. In spite of this, a draft action statement was produced for the transboundary ecoregion, and a Working Group has committed to advance this concept. Graeme will be providing more follow-up information on this initiative, which is an important part of our program of work.



### **Gap Analysis for Nepal's Protected Areas System**

Some interesting findings come from a Gap Analysis study of how well Nepal's system of protected areas covers its biodiversity and geophysical heritage. It was carried out by Uttam Babu Shrestha and three colleagues, and was published in the August 2010 issue of *Mountain Research and Development*. They found that of the PA System, more than two-thirds (67.8%) was in high mountains although this ecoregion accounts for only 23.9% of the country's area. The hills constitute 29.2% of the area, but have only 1.3% of the PAs. The ecoregions that have the highest conservation priority at a global scale are poorly represented by PAs in Nepal. PAs include 36.9% of the flowering plant species, 84.53% of the mammals, 95.7% of the birds and 70.6% of the herpetofauna.



Threatened animal species are well protected, but a large number of threatened plant species are not covered in the PA system. The implications of this study for future PA additions is self evident, but represent more difficult situations due to the greater percentage of human-occupied land and lands often intensively managed for food production in the "gaps" of representation. The paper is entitled "**How Representative is the Protected Area System in Nepal?**". I would speculate that somewhat similar results might be found in many other mountainous countries.....

## **The Sacred Himalayan Landscape (SHL)**

### **Sacred Kailash Landscape (SKL)**

"Sacred Landscapes", being promoted by the WCPA Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas, is gaining traction as exemplified by two recent initiatives in the Himalayas.

1. **SHL** has been conceived and is being pursued by WWF/US Eastern Himalayas Program (*Shubash Lohani*). It extends from Langtang NP in central Nepal through Nepal-India Kanchenjunga Complex to the Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve in western Bhutan, --some 3,903,000 ha (9,642,200 acres) in three countries. It extends from the sub-tropical lowlands to the highest peaks including Mt. Sagarmatha (Everest). The great diversity in ecosystems combines with the great diversity in cultures (over 40 languages spoken by some 5 million people). Buddhist, Hindu and animist beliefs prevail. This WWF project is committed to conserve biodiversity, recognize traditional customs and cultural rights, conserve water resources and improve livelihoods. The local governance in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (remember *Mingma Norbu Sherpa's* work), is being used as a model to apply elsewhere. Contact is [shubash.lohani@wwfus.org](mailto:shubash.lohani@wwfus.org).

2. **SKL**, more correctly the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative, has been developed at ICIMOD, beginning in June 2009 with an agreement for regional cooperation by India, Nepal and China, and UNEP under the ICIMOD program on Environmental Change and Ecosystem Services (headed by *Eklabya Sharma*). It is one of the landscape and corridor transect approaches for the Himalaya-Hindu Kush, originally proposed by *Bruno Messerli*. Our good friend *Krishna Prasad Oli* has been appointed as Regional Coordinator for **SKL**. The area is roughly 2,000,000 ha (4,942,000 acres) It is anchored by Mt. Kailash in Tibet, the most sacred mountain in the world. The Ali Kunsha airport near Mt. Kailash is expected to be operational soon, thus increasing both pilgrimage and tourism. The Mt. Kailash region is the source of the Indus, Karnali, Brahmaputra and Sutlej Rivers. Contact is *Krishna Oli* at [koli@icimod.org](mailto:koli@icimod.org).

## **Short and Sweet Research/Conference Recommendations from a Swiss Workshop**

At a recent (June) research forum in Switzerland, a short set of **research recommendations** was issued. These were so succinct and straightforward, that I thought them worth reporting here:

- Interdisciplinary research is absolutely necessary.
- There is a huge need for social science (e.g. behavioral science, management of changes, how to transform knowledge into action etc.).
- It is now time for the capitalization of what has been found. Implementation!
- "Call for needs" instead of "call for papers." Start with the challenges of a region.
- Personal contacts and relationships make the difference in a project.
- Stakeholders, authorities, politicians and local population must be included in a project team.
- In a project it is necessary to include a budget for knowledge transfer and personnel.
- Transfer of knowledge should be part of the curriculum at universities.
- Using shared knowledge is fundamental.

Note point #4, for conference organizers. It is good advice in my opinion.

## World Heritage Action Last July

The **Galapagos Islands** (we consider it a Mt PA) has been removed from the World Heritage List in Danger, in spite of IUCN's concern about the adverse impact of tourism that has been exerting increasingly harmful impacts including the increasing island's population in the tourism and fishing industries (now at 30,000). Tourism numbers per year are as many as 129,000.



New Natural Sites in mountains, approved at the July meeting of the WH Committee are **Pitons, Cirques and Ramparts of La Reunion Island** (France); **Central Highlands of Sri Lanka** and **China Danxia** (mountainous). *Graeme Worboys* was one of the field assessors for China Danxia (see banner image, courtesy of Graeme), and it was accepted for listing, even though IUCN expressed some reservations about the nomination. The Sri Lankan site includes the well-known **Peak Wilderness, Horton Plains and Knuckles Forest**. The French site covers about 40% of La Reunion Island, including two towering volcanic peaks in the core zone of **La Reunion NP** (left).

**Pirin NP** in Bulgaria, originally inscribed in 1983, was extended to 40,000 ha to cover a large area (13,000 ha) of alpine meadows, rocky scree and summits over 2,000 meters. **Monte San Giorgio** (Italy/Switzerland), a mountain rising to 1,096 m, was extended from Switzerland (WH in 2003) on the Italian side of the border into the Ticino towards Lake Lugano, making it now a transboundary WH Site.

## And Late Edition Breaking News from *Graeme Worboys*...

*Penny Figgis*, WCPA Executive Committee Member and VC Chair for Oceania, and Mark Stone CEO of Parks Victoria and member of the IUCN World Protected Areas Leadership Forum & the WCPA were announced on September 2nd as co winners of the **Inaugural Sir Edmund Hillary Parks Award** by the Parks Forum at their 4th International Biennial Parks Leadership Conference, 'Common Ground', in Sydney, Australia. The Parks Forum Awards celebrate the dedication and excellence of individuals, project teams and organisations in managing parks and communicating their extensive environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

The Sir Edmund Hillary Parks Award recognises an individual's outstanding contribution to the parks industry over a number of years or through action that has resulted in significant changes in attitude or management practice. With this name, the award recognises the role of Sir Edmund Hillary as Park Forum's inaugural Patron, as well as his lifetime of contribution to the environment, and builds upon the ongoing association with the Hillary Family. As an inaugural Patron, Sir Edmund lent his outstanding reputation and powerful voice to the Parks Forum mission. His willingness to be part of our work reminds us of the importance not only of what we do, but also of the way we do it - with the character and integrity that was a hallmark of all his endeavours. The Sir Edmund Hillary Award is proudly sponsored by Australian Geographic.

Congratulations to *Penny* and Mark!

## Bits and Pieces

**Mountain Partnership Consortium** will be probably activated at the Perth Meeting in a few weeks (see Meetings). This is a planned merger of **Mountain Forum** and **Mountain Partnership** whose governance structures were dissolved as of April 1. **MPC** is expected to become operational on January 1 2011.

In the last issue of **UPDATE**, we announced the plan to scatter some of the **ash remains of Sir Edmund Hillary** on the summit of Everest. According to *Ang Tshering Sherpa* and *Rodney Garrard*, plans were changed. Instead

a permanent memorial will be built in Khumjung that will house the ashes, and this will be dedicated in 2011 at the Golden Jubilee festival of the Khumjung school, which he founded.

*Mike Tollefson*, who serves on the WCPA Executive Committee for Connectivity and Mountains, is President of a newly created, merged organization called the **Yosemite Conservancy**. It combines the former Yosemite Fund (which *Mike* headed) with the Yosemite Association and can be more effective in supporting projects in the Park. The Conservancy will have a field office in the Park. Since 1988 the Yosemite Fund alone had supported 300 park projects to the tune of some US\$55 million.

The WCPA Chair, *Nik Lopoukhine* (with IUCN Council approval) has appointed our stalwart *Kathy MacKinnon* to the Steering Committee to cover the Convention on Biological Diversity Portfolio. *Kathy* has recently retired from The World Bank as Biodiversity Officer, and returned to England.

The ***Kinship Conservation Fellows Program*** was set up to bring together practitioners engaged in some of the world's most innovative conservation work. Eighteen Fellows from 11 countries have been brought together for a month this past summer in Bellingham, Washington to focus on market-based approaches. *Leslie Kerasinof* of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program was one of this select number of Fellows. Incidentally, the WCS Adirondack Program has just produced a fine book, ***Climate Change in the Adirondacks***, containing results of years of research by Jerry Jenkins and other WCS staff. The Program now launches an outreach program throughout the Adirondack Region. Published by Cornellpress.cornell.edu

Warm welcome to new members of the Mt PA Network. We hope to receive news from them from time to time (and from all of you other "silent" members):

*Robert Sanford*, Chair of Canadian Partnership Initiative, UN Water for Life Decade in Canmore, Alberta Canada.  
*Wayne Lotter*, International Team Leader, Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor, Sangea, Tanzania.

*Tek Jung Mahat*, Asia Pacific Mountain Network and Mountain Forum Coordinator at ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal.  
*Zoe Wilkinson*, Protected Areas Program Officer, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, who puts out the WCPA Newsletter and is still with Parks Victoria.

*Win Naing Thaw* is Director Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Ministry of Forestry in Myanmar.

And, we made renewed contact with a former valued member, *Sam Kanyamibwa* of the Albertine Rift Conservation Society in Kampala, Uganda. Welcome back, *Sam*.

Network membership now stands at 299, but we are about to drop some individuals because of not getting any signal from them for over a year and a half. If you are one of the delinquent ones, and are reading this, please take action by contacting me at [silverfox@gmavt.net](mailto:silverfox@gmavt.net).

This past spring and early summer seems to have been a particularly nasty period for **mountaineers** in some US Mt PAs. In Mount Rainier NP, 11 climbers were caught in an avalanche in June. Ten were rescued and one is presumed dead. Three climbers on Mt. McKinley (Denali NP) were killed in two separate accidents, two in an avalanche and one in a fall. This 6,194 m peak has a great attraction for climbers, with 165 climbers so far this year, 39% of whom achieved the summit. Just weeks ago a climber was killed in the White Mountain National Forest. And in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, two men died while ice climbing a frozen waterfall. Still, over the years Scotland's Ben Nevis has more deaths than Denali, Everest or K2, as several of you knew, in our mountain quiz last November. Mountain rescue continues to be a task for Mt PA managers.

A GEF project in **Jigme Dorje NP (Bhutan)** is calling *Stephan Fuller* back to the Park where he worked in 2003 at 6,500-7,500 m on the Tibet border. It consists of efforts to slowly drain a glacially dammed lake in the Lunava Valley to avoid a glacial lake outburst flood.

We have from time to time reported on the state of the mountain gorilla and on the sad situation of the death of



rangers in **Virunga NP**, Democratic Republic of the Congo. **The Green Line Foundation** has been supporting the families of these rangers financially for housing, school fees, starting sustainable businesses and the like. The number of ranger deaths is now over 150, and TGLF has been able to support 20 families. TGLF is associated with the International Ranger Federation. Any readers moved to help out should get in touch with [sean@thingreenline.info](mailto:sean@thingreenline.info). HQ is in Victoria, Australia.

A group of four mothers has climbed Mount Rainier (symbol of the State of Washington) to protest the continued operation of Washington's coal-fueled Centralia power plant. It is the State's greatest source of greenhouse gasses, mercury and other pollutants. Their climb is supported by the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, Cool Moms (based in Seattle) and the Ruckus Society (based in Oakland, California), and they trained four months for the difficult ascent in **Mt. Rainier NP**.

Although he was not involved closely with Mt. PAs, I feel impelled to call attention to the recent death of **Professor Robert Rhoades**, a friend and colleague in advancing a mountain agenda on the global stage. He may be known to many readers, due to his fine work in mountain agroecology. He was Director of the Ecological Anthropology Department at the University of Georgia (USA), and a close partner with our Deputy Vice Chair *Fausto Sarmiento* in advancing the idea of "montology" as a field of academic study. Bob, you are missed greatly.

According to the new Atlas of Global Conservation (see Publications section), the highest levels of **threatened terrestrial animals** are in mountainous Borneo and the northern Andes. The IUCN 2008 Red List indicated there are 5,966 vertebrate animal species at risk of extinction, as well as 8,457 plants. This year, the Year of Biodiversity, hopes to highlight the need for conservation to reduce this risk of loss of our planetary natural heritage. Mountains should figure large in deliberations.

The **European Environment Agency's Message for 2010** notes that the Alps experienced: average temperature increases of 2 degrees C; a significant decrease in glacier volume; less snow and more rain in winter; more runoff in winter and less in spring and summer; and a trend that more than half of mountain plant species face extinction by 2100. This occurred between the late 19th and early 21st centuries.

A number of our colleagues who worked many years in The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks (more recently called Protect the Adirondacks), have formed a new group named **Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve**. This will enable a focus, on the wild, constitutionally protected New York State Forest Preserve, the core heart of what is basically a larger biosphere reserve with buffer zone the Adirondack Park (note: not an official Biosphere Reserve). The main office is in Keene, NY. Best wishes to *Dave Gibson*, Dan Plumley, Ken Rimany, *Tom Cobb* and Peter Brinkley. [www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org)

The 10th Convention of the Parties for the **Convention on Biodiversity** is meeting in Nagoya this fall. A small committee composed of Network members and *Graeme Worboys*, *Brian Marten*, *Robert Hofstede*, *Martin Price* and *Larry Hamilton* has prepared an IUCN position on Mountain Biodiversity and sent it in to IUCN HQ for final message and presentation.

The **King Albert 1 Gold Medal** for outstanding contributions or achievements in the mountain world has just been awarded to *Christian Koerner* in large measure "for his leadership in" developing the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment. Congratulations *Christian*! The ceremony in St Moritz, Switzerland also recognized *Andreas Schild*, Director General of ICIMOD. The award is presented every 2 years, beginning in 1994. Other Network recipients honored have been *Bruno Messerli*, *Jack Ives*, *Harish Kapadia* and *Larry Hamilton*.

## Some Recent Publications of Interest

*The Hindu Kush-Himalayan Conservation Portal*. This was launched by ICIMOD as a regional repository of

biodiversity and conservation information for this mountain region. *Nakul Chettri* is one of the two developers and gatekeepers. [www.icimod.org/hkhconservationportal/](http://www.icimod.org/hkhconservationportal/)

***Formation of Glacial Lakes in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, and GLOF Risk Assessment.*** 2010. *Jack Ives*, R. Shrestha and P. Mool. ICIMOD. While this does not deal with Mt PAs, UPDATE has carried several items on glacial retreat and glacial lake outburst flood problems since they are of concern to PA managers and policy-makers. This report outlines a methodology for mapping glacial lakes and identifying those that may be dangerous. This report may be downloaded at <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/publication/692>.

***A Boy from Siklis: the Life and Times of Chandra Gurung*** by Mayushree Thapa. 2009. London: Penguin Books. 276 pp, in paperback. It is an inspirational story, and those many members of the Mt PA Network who knew *Chandra* will find this publication especially moving. The intersections of his career and life with several other Network members such as *Mingma Norbu Sherpa*, *Hemanta Mishra* and *Broughton Coburn* are set forth. An amazing story. The author's proceeds from the book go to the Chandra Gurung Conservation Foundation. [www.penguinbooksindia.com](http://www.penguinbooksindia.com).

***Arguments for Protected Areas: Multiple Benefits fro Conservation and Use.*** 2010. Eds. *Sue Stolton* and *Nigel Dudley*. Earthscan, London and Washington. 273 pp. Those two prolific writers have produced another winner for WWF. Not only editing, but they have authored or co-authored many of the book's 14 chapters. Network contributors include: *Charles Besançon*, *Larry Hamilton*, *Marc Hockings*, *Ashish Kolthari*, *Zoltan Kun*, *Nik Lopoukhine*, *Kathy MacKinnon*, *Josep-Maria Mallarach*, *Manuel Ramírez*, *Trevor Sandwith*. Five of the case studies presented concern Mt PAs. [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk). Incidentally *Sue* and *Nigel* are the principals of Equilibrium Research near Bristol, UK.

Two reports from ICIMOD on climate change themes in the Eastern Himalayas, with five more to come. [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org).

1. ***Synthesis Report: Climate change vulnerability of mountain systems in the Eastern Himalayas.*** 2010. Eds. *Karma Tse-ring*, *Eklabya Sharma*, *Nakul Chettri*, *Arun Shrestha*. 103 pp. This report contains two appendices of note, on the vulnerability of a) Protected Areas, and b) Ecological Regions, and another on knowledge gaps and research priorities.

2. ***Biodiversity in the Eastern Himalayas: Status, trends, and vulnerability to climate change.*** 2010. Eight authors including *Nakul Chettri*, *Eklabya Sharma* and *Krishna P. Oli*. 24 pp.

***Living Parks: 100 Years of National Parks in Europe.*** 2009. EUROPARC Federation. This fine paperback is a guide to more than 300 parks in 36 countries, --the first ones established in these countries. Therefore Mt PAs are well represented. The 100 years is the interval between the first NP in Sweden in 1909 to the latest one in Denmark in 2008. Brief overviews of each nation's park systems, includes maps and lovely photos. Oekom Verlag. £14.90 from EUROPARC. Major contributions from *Patrizia Rossi*, *Erika Stanciu* and *Adrian Phillips*. A travelling exhibit based on the book has been prepared by EUROPARC. [www.europarc.org/what-we-do/celebrating-100-years](http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/celebrating-100-years) or [www.oekom.de](http://www.oekom.de).

***Connectivity Conservation and the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor.*** 2010. *Brendan Mackey*, *James Watson* and *Graeme Worboys*. Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. This is a 62 page report to the Interstate Agency Working Group for the Alps to Atherton Connectivity Initiative, now officially called the Great Eastern Ranges, under Chairmanship of *Ian Pulsford*. This amazing 2,800 mile corridor is featured in a previous item in this issue of UPDATE. Available from the Department at PO Box A290, Sydney South, NSW 1232 Australia, attention Director of Landscapes and Ecosystem Conservation.

***Atlas of Biodiversity Risk.*** 2010. Eds. *Josef Settele* and 8 others. A total of 366 authors from more than 180 institutions in 43 countries contributed, though it is mostly based on the European project ALARM. It is not, in my opinion an "atlas" which for me should have mostly maps showing risky places. Rather it seems to be

summaries and analyses of major pressures, impacts and risks of biodiversity loss, with case studies. English, 280 pp. Cost 99euro hardback. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia, Bulgaria. <http://pensoft.net/newreleases/14595.htm>.

***Atlas of Global Conservation.*** 2010. Ed by J.M. Hoekstra, Jennifer Molnar and 7 others. The Editors and authors are mostly from The Nature Conservancy. The Conservancy collected information, data and maps from 70 institutions around the world. For most specific places in the world, the atlas presents the types of local habitats and species that flourish or are in danger, and the amount of conservation that has been achieved. These are all global maps, and information is presented showing country, terrestrial ecosystem and freshwater ecosystem (watershed) boundaries. Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems are covered. The Nature Conservancy and University of California Press (Berkeley). US\$45 plus shipping. 272 pp. 229 color illustrations, 79 maps.

***Mountain Research and Development.*** 30(2), May 2010. This most recently available issue of MRD contains several articles of interest to Mt PA managers. It features material from the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya Partnership in which IUCN played a role. Sagarmatha NP and Buffer Zone is the focus of most of these. Network members contributing include *Nakul Chettri, Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa, Peter Shadie* and *Nikhat Sattar*. Available through BioOne [www.bioone.org/toc/mred/3012](http://www.bioone.org/toc/mred/3012).

***Mountain Biodiversity Portal online.*** The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment makes this contribution to 2010, the Year of Biodiversity. *Eva Spehn* explains that you can now explore and download biodiversity data for the mountains of the world ([www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)) and search areas from region to global, or select by mountain life zones (e.g. treeless alpine zone) on an interactive map. Visit the Portal at [www.mountainbiodiversity.org](http://www.mountainbiodiversity.org). See the demo video on how to use it at <http://vimeo.com/1152863>.

***Biodiversity and Climate Change: Achieving the 2020 Targets.*** 2010. CBD Secretariat Technical Series No.51. This has several papers (abstracts in web version pdf) on mountain BD, with major contributions coming from ICIMOD staff: *Eklabya Sharma, Nakul Chettri* and *Krishna Prasad Oli* on Himalayas (nos. 6, 12, 26 and 55). Paper on "Planned Adaption" (no.15 is also worth checking). [www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-51.en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-51.en.pdf)

***A Good Journal for Mt PA Network Members.*** Mountain Research and Development (MRD) publishes peer-reviewed articles presenting original research on mountain environments and people, sustainable mountain development, and mountain development experiences. Coverage ranges widely, from topics in the natural sciences to anthropological, economic and sociocultural issues; many papers are in one way or another related to mountain protected areas. The target audiences are the scientific community and policy- and decision-makers. MRD is an open access journal published by the **International Mountain Society (IMS)**.

Mountain Research and Development -- <http://www.mrd-journal.org/default.asp>  
open access -- <http://www.bioone.org/loi/mred>  
International Mountain Society -- <http://www.mrd-journal.org/ims.asp>

## Some Meetings and Events of Interest

***Forum Carpaticum: Integrating Nature and Society Towards Sustainability,*** September 15-17, 2010 in Krakow, Poland. An event in the Science for the Carpathian Initiative. [www.forumcarpaticum.org](http://www.forumcarpaticum.org). Registration open until September 8.

***Exchanging on Ecological Connectivity Between the Alps and the Carpathians,*** September 22-23, 2010 in Mikulov, Czech Republic. Alpine Ecological Network. English language. Preceded on September 21 by the 6th Meeting of the Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention. Languages: German, French, Italian and



Slovenian. Information at [www.alpine-ecological-network.org](http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org).

**Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent**, September 23-24, 2010 in Waterton Lakes National Park. This transborder gathering is organized by the University of Montana's Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and is co-sponsored by Yellowstone-to-Yukon Initiative. It will consider the future of this transborder area. Information at [www.crownroundtable.org](http://www.crownroundtable.org)

**Global Change and the World's Mountains**, September 27 - October 1, 2010 in Perth, Scotland. Sponsored by Centre for Mountain Studies (Perth College); UNESCO; Mountain Research Institute; Uni Twin; and Uni Millenium Institute. Focuses on physical and biological research updates, monitoring and changing social/cultural aspects. Members of the Organizing Committee include: *Martin Price, Linda McMillan, Graeme Worboys, Thomas Schaaf, Eklabya Sharma. Fausto Sarmiento* ([fsarmiento@uga.edu](mailto:fsarmiento@uga.edu)) is organizing a session on the Americas Cordillera Transect Network. For program details: [martin.price@perth.uki.ac.uk](mailto:martin.price@perth.uki.ac.uk). General information at [www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010](http://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010).

**Advanced Course in World Heritage Conservation and Management**. Certificate Program, September 2010 - January 2011. Diploma Program September 2010 - July 2011. Put on by the WH Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific Region at Beijing University. Targeted at professionals, decision-makers and practitioners working with World Heritage. For details on funding, requirements etc. contact [whcm@whitrap.org](mailto:whcm@whitrap.org).

**VII General Assembly and International Conference of the ALPARC Network**, October 20-23, 2010 in Zernez, Switzerland. Theme: Wilderness and Biodiversity: Can we leave the natural world to its own devices? ALPARC and Swiss NP. [event@alparc.org](mailto:event@alparc.org). Register by September 15. ALPARC and Swiss NP. [info@alparc.org](mailto:info@alparc.org).

**The Role of Religious Communities in the Management of World Heritage Properties**, November 2010 (no firm dates as yet), in Kiev, Ukraine. Organized by UNESCO. While most of this will undoubtedly focus on Cultural Sites, some Cultural/Natural Sites in mountains have close ties to religious organizations, e.g. Poblet Natural Monument in Spain, Mount Athos in Greece. State Parties may send Site Managers and representatives of religious communities. Information from [a.sidorenko@unesco.org](mailto:a.sidorenko@unesco.org). The work of the WCPA Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of PAs, and their recent publication, *Sacred Natural Sites: Guidelines for PA Managers* will play a role.

**Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World**, March 14-18, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana USA. This is the 2011 George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas and Cultural Sites. Once again this annual conference is organized by *Dave Harmon*, master major domo. [www.georgewright.org/gws2011](http://www.georgewright.org/gws2011). Deadline for proposals and abstracts is September 30, 2010.

**European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change**. April 12-13, 2011., Bonn, Germany. Scientists, practitioners and policy makers invited to share information and to identify further research needs. Free of charge, but limited to 200 participants. Sponsored by German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. Contact: [katrin.krause@uni-greifswald.de](mailto:katrin.krause@uni-greifswald.de)

**Science and Management of Protected Areas Association #7**, April 17-22, 2011 in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. [conference@sampaa.org](mailto:conference@sampaa.org). To learn more about the nature of this meeting, the papers from SAMPAA #6 (held in May 2007) are available for downloading.

**VII Protected Areas International Congress**. July 4-8, 2011. Havana, Cuba. Convention Palace. Themes: Planning and management of species, habitats and ecosystems; GIS; Communities in PAs; Marine PAs; Tourism and public use. Proposals for presentations by March 31, 2011 to [convencion@ama.cu](mailto:convencion@ama.cu) For information, contact [mary@snap.cu](mailto:mary@snap.cu) An early "heads up", -no web page yet found. More details later.



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*(Photo of the spectacular arid Danxia landform of Zhangye  
Danxia in China)*

### **Useful Links**

**UPDATE Archive:** More recent editions are posted on our website <http://www.iucn.org/mtnpa-update/>

Earlier editions are hosted by The Mountain Forum: <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ol/periodicals.cfm?periodid=30>

**IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome website:** <http://ProtectMountains.org/>

**IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Theme:**

[http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa\\_what/wcpa\\_conservingd/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_what/wcpa_conservingd/)

**Connectivity Conservation website:** <http://connectivityconservation.org/>