

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 69 - March 2011



We can all admire the exquisite view from the Hunza View Hotel in Pakistan, courtesy of our Network member Stephan Fuller

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**UPDATE Newsletter
 Editor**



Dr. Larry Hamilton
 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
italics

...to myself, mountains are the beginning and end of
 all natural scenery...

~John Ruskin, 1843

Never more, however weary, should one faint by the
 way who gains the blessings of one mountain day;
 whatever his fate, long life, short life, stormy or calm,
 he is rich forever.

~John Muir, 1869



Notes from the Editor

Surprise!!!! I accumulated so much material that *Linda McMillan* and I thought it
 suitable to send out early. I apologize if the length makes it overwhelming or if print
 size makes it too difficult to read. Adverse or supportive comments are welcome.

I am fated to make some errors as I write and edit this M+PA UPDATE quarterly. I
 appreciate having these called to my attention. Rather than overload your system with
 slightly revised issues, or a News Flash from *Linda McMillan*, we will make corrections
 in the subsequent issue if the item is not urgent. The faults are entirely mine, and
 escape both my editing eyes, and those of Linda, when she puts in her magic touch in
 preparing and formatting it for electronic transmission.

It is hard for me to believe that I have been writing and editing this communication
 tool since our Network was founded back in 1992. Next year will mark our 20th
 anniversary. From that first formative group in Hawai'i Volcanoes NP, we still have in
 our membership the following: *Yuri Badenkov, Alton Byers, Anvar Buzurkov, Pat Devlin,*
Stephan Fuller, Larry Hamilton, John Mackay, John Peine, Martin Price, Lhakpa Sherpa,
Stan Stevens, Jim Thorsell, Dan Taylor, Miriam Torres, John Watson and Graeme
Worboys.

The last issue of UPDATE went out to 324 members, located in 58 countries.
 We welcome the following who have joined the M+PA Network since then:
Shannon Fox, Regional Planner, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Australia.
Bill Weber, Director, 2 Countries 1 Forest (formerly 20 years with WCS) USA
Danny Hunter, Senior Scientist, Biodiversity International, Italy.
Morwenna Parkyn, EUROPARC Federation, Germany.
Anthony Evans, Program Manager, Australian Alps National Parks, Australia.
Astrid Bjoernsen (Gurung) Program Manager, Mountain Research Initiative, Switzerland.
Bob Moseley, Director of Conservation, TNC (Illinois), but working in China/Tibet
 border area. USA. Welcome back Bob.
Jordi Palau, Director, Parc Natural de l'Alt Pireneu, Spain
Hernán Torres, Torres Asociados Limitada, Chile. Another welcome back to you Hernán.

Note: 2011 is the International Year of Forests. There is new emphasis on forests
 sequestering carbon, as well as sustaining livelihoods. Mountain forests have a
 particularly important role in these, as well as in headwaters watershed protection.
 Also the UN has declared the decade 2011-2020 to be the **Decade of Biodiversity** and
 has agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem
 Services (IPBES). See www.ipbes.net

Mountaintop Removal Mining--Hot Off the Press

The weekend this Newsletter was being assembled, a significant blow against mountaintop removal in the Appalachian Mountains was struck. One of America's foremost and most eloquent philosopher writers, (and a farmer/steward of the land), Wendell Berry, along with some of his friends, occupied the office of the Governor of the State of Kentucky. They called for a ban on mountaintop removal mining. This destructive practice not only totally devastates mountains, but destroys mountain forests, fills low places with overburden and mining tailings and pollutes streams and rivers. It is estimated that it has affected 1.4 million acres (5,700 sq km) of land in Appalachian States (most intensively in Kentucky and West Virginia), and buried 2000 miles (3200 km) of streams. And, on February 14, a March for the Mountains is taking place in the Kentucky State capitol even as I write this.

Earlier this year, another event occurred that was directed toward the same end,-this one in Nashville, Tennessee, home of the Grand Ole Opry. There, country music icon Emmy Lou Harris organized a "Music Saves Mountains" concert. This subsequently was held in Washington.

This momentum must continue if this destructive practice is to be halted. Poets, artists, priests, philosophers and clowns are great allies, and often more effective than natural scientists in changing policy. This is true in the arena of climate change policy, where facts and logical arguments are not affecting the entrenched political process.

An Appeal for Help from the Carpathians

The Carpathian Forest and Protected area Leader, *Erika Stanciu* sends a request with regard to **wilderness** promotion and management in a scenario involving support from local communities. An initiative was launched in 2010 to establish Europe's largest wilderness area in the Carpathian Mountains by the Carpathian WWF International Danube Carpathian Program. In February last year a feasibility study was initiated toward a 60,000 ha (148,200 acre) wilderness area with a "coherent" core zone, surrounded by large areas of responsible use of natural resources. *Erika* who is based in Romania,would welcome information and/or case studies where this kind of scenario has been carried out. Any Network members having such experience or knowing of such, please get in touch with her at estanciu@wwfdcp.ro

Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas

Our WCPA Chair, *Nik Lopoukhine* along with Species Survival Commission Chair Simon Stuart have launched a Joint Task Force.

The task force has two objectives:

- 1) To conduct a meta-study to elucidate which factors increase the probability of protected area success in safeguarding biodiversity, especially of threatened species. This will require compilation and comparison of time series population and status data for species inside compared to outside protected areas.
- 2) To facilitate a process to consolidate the global standards and criteria for the identification of sites of biodiversity conservation significance, as targets for protected area expansion and management, building on nearly three decades of work in systematic conservation planning and practice, and drawing on IUCN's power to convene scientific stakeholders to generate conservation standards (as demonstrated by e.g., the IUCN Red List, the PA management categories).

The Terms of Reference of the joint task force is posted on

http://www.iucn.org/biodiversity_and_protected_areas_taskforce in the three official IUCN languages. The summary workplan can be found at the following link

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ssc_wcpa_summary_workplan.pdf as well as on the page

above.<http://groups.google.com/group/wcpassc-joint-task-force/about>, where you can register to join the task force, stating what contributions you are particularly interested in making.

Some New Mountain Data Analysis Results

David Rodríguez-Rodríguez and *Bastian Bomhard* of UNEP-WCMC have recently completed an analysis of protected area mountain data. Some key results from their work have been made available to the Mountain Theme program, and are offered below.

- Mountain areas cover 26.5% (39.3 million km²) of the world's terrestrial area.
- Nationally designated protected areas cover 16.9% (5.6 million km²) of the world's mountain areas outside Antarctica by the end of 2009.
- Mountain protected areas thus make up 32.5% of the world's total terrestrial protected area.
- Mountain protected area has increased globally by 21% since 1990.
- 9.1% (18) of the 198 countries with mountains have more than 50% of their mountain area protected; however, 43.9% (87) have less than 10% of their mountain area protected.

12% (87) of the 727 ecoregions with mountains have more than 50% of their mountain area protected; however, 45.6% (331) have less than 10% of their mountain area protected.

The Umgano Project - Promoting Sustainable Land Uses in the Mountains of SW KwaZulu-Natal, Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Area, South Africa

W.R. Bainbridge (Bainbridge Resource Management)

The Umgano Project is an initiative of the Mabandla people who live in a remote mountainous corner of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province, South Africa. This rural community has been investigating appropriate sustainable land-use opportunities that will enhance business and employment opportunities to improve their local economy. The project area is approximately 7000 ha in extent, located on the slopes of Umgano Mountain, at altitudes of between 1100 and 2045 m amsl. The land was previously privately-owned, and was allocated to them some 20 years ago by the authorities. Their traditional leader, Chief Sidoi, appointed advisors, including myself, to assist in assessing the potential of the area and in the selection of the most suitable land-uses. Between Chief Sidoi and his son and successor.

The project area is noteworthy in several respects. It has outstanding scenic beauty, with distant views of the Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg Park (UDP) World heritage Site and the adjacent Ntsikeni Nature Reserve. It is well-watered, and it forms a part of the catchments of two perennial rivers, the Ngwangwane and Gungunu Rivers. The area lies at the interface between two internationally recognized biodiversity hotspots, the Drakensberg Alpine and Maputaland-Pondoland Regions (CPD Sites Af. 89 and 59 respectively), and contains vegetation communities of high nature conservation value, including high altitude grasslands and associated wetlands, Southern Mistbelt (*Podocarpus*) Forest, Protea and Drakensberg Cycad savanna. It has been recognized as candidate birding destination on the Sisonke Birding Route, by virtue of the rare and threatened species resident in the area. Included are such resident "specials" as Cape Parrot and Southern Ground Hornbill, as well as high altitude seasonal migrants from the High Drakensberg Mountains, which overwinter in the area, such as Gurney's Sugarbird, Yellow-breasted Pipit and Drakensberg Rock-jumper, as well as other migrant species such as White-winged Flufftail.

The nature conservation authority for KZN Province is Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The Biodiversity Programme staff of this organization recently evaluated the biodiversity of the project area, and concluded not only that the proposed Umgano Nature Reserve is essential for achieving provincial biodiversity targets, but that it qualifies as a nature reserve, the highest status within the KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme. The programme has also awarded Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement status to the Livestock Grazing Zone.

Several forms of community-based tourism are planned for the area, especially the proposed nature reserve. Included are bird watching, mountain biking (throughout the comprehensive road access system present) and fly fishing, for both indigenous Natal Yellowfish, or Scaly, and alien Rainbow Trout. Overseas visitors might find the Zulu Home-stay experience of interest. Visitors are accommodated in the homes of selected host families, who provide a unique ethnic experience which provides insights into local customs, cuisine and history, and guided visits into the area.

Visitors to the area will have the privilege of not only being hosted by this unique community, but also of seeing for themselves, the magnificence of the exciting new mountain protected area.

(Ed. Note: *Bill* is very enthusiastic about this future Mt PA. Makes one want to go.)

Borjomi-Kharayauli NP (Georgia)

PANPARKS has completed its assessment of this Mt PA as a wilderness PA, and has renewed its certification (first in 2006), reaffirming the quality of the wilderness protection regime and improvements made. This 85,000 ha (210,000 acre) PA in the Lesser Caucasus (highest peak in the PA is 2,842 m, 9,322 ft), is mostly forested, with a wilderness area of 50,000 ha (124,000 acres), 59% of its total area. Home to brown bear, lynx and wolf. There are 9 hiking trails and some new simple mountain huts. The number of visitors annually is only 3,300 but the surrounding area has health resorts (mineral springs), ancient fortresses and medieval cave cities. www.borjomi-kharagauli-np.ge/.



Plateau Perspectives: From the Tibetan Plateau to the Mountain National Parks of Western Canada

In September 2010, Plateau Perspectives organized and co-hosted with Parks Canada a study tour to visit and learn from the experiences of four national parks in Alberta and British Columbia, as well as from several First Nations communities, local ranchers, Thompson Rivers University, and local tourism operations. Delegates included leaders from China's recently established Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve (153,000 km²), the Government of Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Region in southwest Qinghai Province (near the centre of the Tibetan Plateau), a couple of Tibetan university researchers, and one community representative. The main focus of the study tour was to learn and apply to the Tibetan Plateau context -- with its high grasslands and mountains, new protected areas, and sparsely populated landscape -- key lessons about protected area management, conservation research, community-based tourism, and relations with indigenous communities (cf. multi-stakeholder engagement).

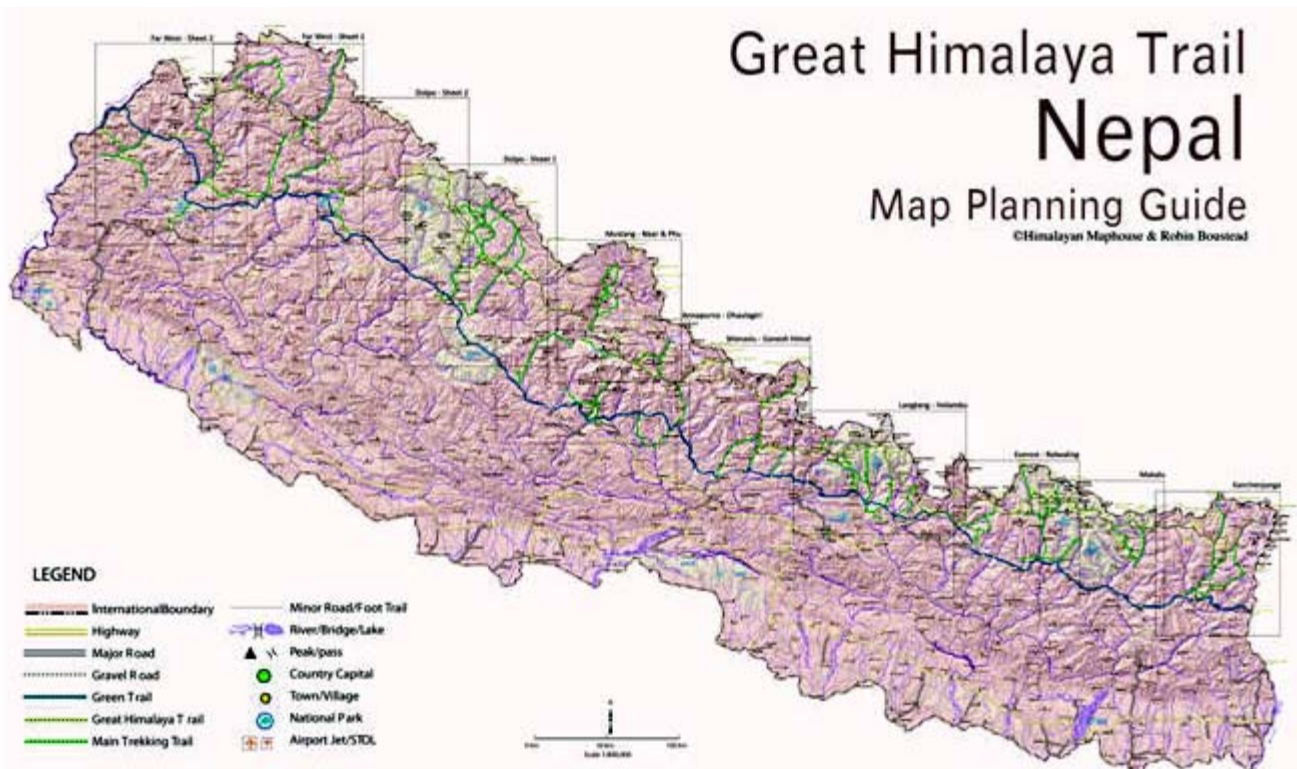
The study tour was followed by a strategic *Yushu International Ecotourism Workshop* in November 2010 in Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province, to promote regional tourism that benefits local Tibetan communities in Yushu prefecture, both in and outside of the nature reserve. Active participants in the meeting included delegates from Tibetan herding communities, local tour operators, the tourism bureau, and colleagues from Qinghai Normal University. Special advice and experience was also gained from two invited delegates from Mongolia (from PCC Mongolia, and a herding community in South Gobi) and another from the United Kingdom (from Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology, University of Kent). These projects were led by Plateau Perspectives, an international non-profit organization that has worked in the Tibetan Plateau region for more than a decade. Funders included the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) through a Norwegian partner organization, the Ford Foundation, and the Swiss Embassy and Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

More information about Plateau Perspectives work and the Tibetan Plateau region can be found on its website: <http://www.plateauperspectives.org>.

Great Himalaya Trail Nepal

Map Planning Guide

©Himalayan Maphouse & Robin Boocock



The 'Green Hiker' Walks The Great Himalaya Trail

Legendary mountaineer **Apa Sherpa**, who has climbed Everest 20 times, and **Dawa Steven Sherpa**, Mt. Everest Summiteer and Environment Activist, will walk the entire Nepal Section of the Great Himalaya Trail which is about 1,600 km taking some 150 days starting from Kangchenjunga, the eastern most border of Nepal. Apa's heroic walk (mid-January through mid-June 2011) will promote the [Great Himalaya Trail](#) internationally as an iconic new multi-day walk in Nepal that will highlight new trek areas and bring tourism benefits to local communities along the trail. Nepal Tourism Board, NTY 2011 and WWF, with national and international partners, will promote this event as a key part of Nepal TourismYear 2011 celebrations. Global and regional celebrities will join Apa on different sections of the Great Himalaya Trail for a couple of weeks to ensure greater media coverage around the world.

The overall Great Himalaya Trail is one of the longest and highest alpine walking tracks in the world, connecting five Asian countries of Bhutan, China, India, Nepal and Pakistan, the 4,500km route winds beneath the world's highest peaks and visiting some of the most remote communities earth. The Nepal Great Himalaya Trail has 10 sections stretching 1,600km comprising a network of upper and lower routes. (See map). It was first recognized as a major new tourism product in **National Ecotourism Strategy and Marketing Programme of Nepal** published by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and Nepal Tourism Board in 2001 and 2004. (www.thegreathimalayatrail.org).

Most of the trekking routes in Nepal are of north-south orientation with 94% of all trekkers visiting the famous Annapurna and Everest circuits. The Great Himalaya Trail comprises a network of trade routes and footpaths traversing the entire length of Nepal east to west- giving a unique experience to the trekker. Already the trail is getting rave reviews in international travel and nature-related magazines. The entire Nepal Great Himalaya Trail can be completed in ten sections- encouraging avid trekkers to repeat visits. Any Network "takers"? Asian Trekking will be offering packages for those interested to join Dawa Steven and Apa during their great walk. (contact *Ang Tshering Sherpa* at angtshering@asian-trekking.com)

WWF's projects in Nepal are spread over the Terai and Mountains of Nepal. As a credible partner of Government of Nepal, it signed an MOU with Nepal Tourism Board in April 2009 to collaborate with the Board in the promotion of Nepal's tourism products, and to work with the Board to formulate and execute a responsible tourism framework for Nepal. **WWF's Green Hiker** campaign which is going to be part of this event promotes wise use of resources, and responsible tourism practices.

Network member *Elizabeth Fox* is promoting this venture, and is hoping to participate in part of the trail excursion, volunteering her services. Securing support funds will determine whether this is possible. She

would be a valuable reporter and ambassador for WCPA/IUCN. She has journalism experience. Any Network member having ideas on financial aid, please contact her at elyfox@hotmail.com.

[Dawa Steven Sherpa](#) has rightfully gained recognition as a spokesperson for the environment in Nepal and the Himalaya, particularly on the issue of climate change. In association with WWF, Dawa plans to walk from West to East with a team from [Asian Trekking](#), the family company that he runs in Kathmandu. His team will follow the lower GHT route which he has termed the cultural route. Many more communities live along the interface of the mid-hills of the Himalaya rather than in the high mountains themselves. In an interview with the [Himalayan Times](#), Dawa's father, *Ang Tshering Sherpa* said, "a small trekking group in these regions can make a real difference to the lives that are barely above subsistence."

After the Volcanic Eruptions in Iceland

Many MT PA managers have active or dormant volcanoes under their purview, and moreover many readers may have been affected in their travel by the eruption of last April/May. We therefore print an article sent to us by *Roger Croft*, which I find personally to be of considerable interest. *Roger* formerly was European Regional Vice-Chair, WCPA, and visits Iceland often on work.

Icelanders have been brought up on the stories of eruptions with devastating effects on the lives of their forebears. So you might think that they would be well prepared. In a mechanical way they were. But the effects on emotions, on mental health and on human relationships were far more significant than had been expected. Contingency plans based on simulations of the likely levels of flooding from the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull and Katla had been produced, consulted upon, and evacuations practiced on a number of occasions in recent years. The floods on this occasion were relatively small, but the precaution was taken to inform everyone in the likely affected area by phone to evacuate to designated central points. This was done on two occasions. The operation was relatively smooth, but not everyone got the message and improved calling systems need to be put in place.

Great concern remains about the longer term mental health of residents in the directly affected area. Two farmers had already left the area and did not intend to return such had been the trauma. They had sent their stock to farms of relatives elsewhere in Iceland. Another two farmers were seriously thinking of leaving. Those remaining were concerned that their livestock, which had been removed from the area to avoid ingestion of noxious fluoride on the vegetation and find new pastures, considered that there was insufficient action by government agencies and a great deal of buck passing.

Massive amounts of ash were spread across Europe, but much has landed locally around Eyjafjallajökull and Fimmvörðuhals. The ice cap is black with the ash to a depth of almost a metre. The snow beyond the glacier is covered with ash giving beautiful circular patterns as the snow slowly melts. The highland grazing areas have largely disappeared under the ash and above 600m there are virtually no signs of growth. Below that the grass is beginning to show through following a long warm spell. But there is a very significant reduction in the area of land for sheep to graze and alternative sources of feed have had to be found. It is very difficult to reseed these areas because they are not accessible for machinery so the traditional pattern of taking the sheep to the highlands in June and gathering them in September will be a very small show this year.

Connectivity Conservation Activity in Australia

We have previously reported on the **Great Eastern Ranges** concept and program that has resulted from the fine work of our fearless leader *Graeme Worboys*, and of *Ian Pulsford*. This is becoming a national Linking Landscapes movement and is being promoted by them and *Penny Figgis* and other Australians. The group includes scientists, government officials, politicians and landowners.

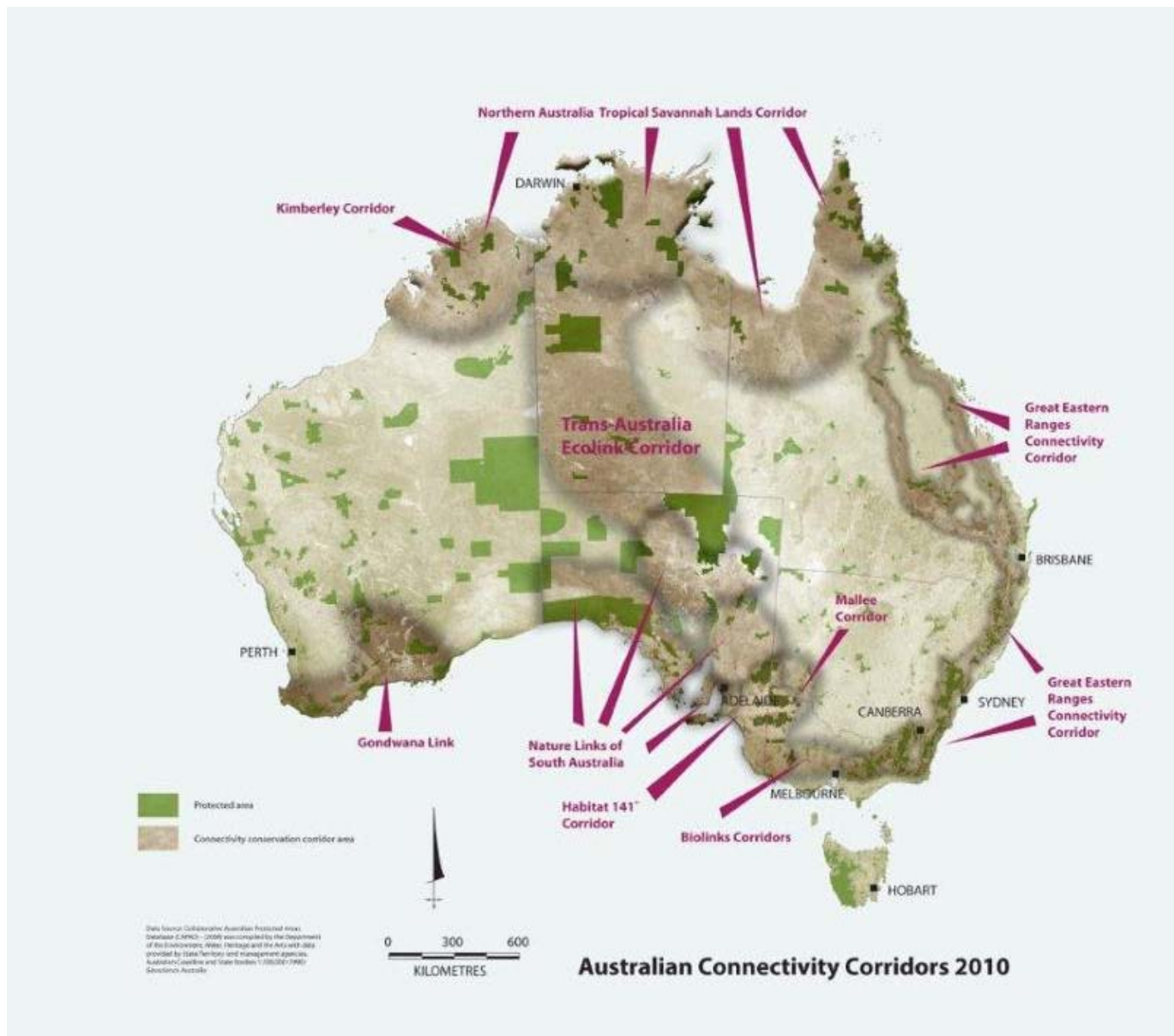
A message coming out of a preliminary "wake-up" meeting in Kingscliff, New South Wales in October 2009 is clear in its clarion call for action, and worth repeating here:

Building on vital core protected areas and national parks we call for landscape scale conservation corridors across all land tenures, which will include and honour the culture, knowledge and experience of all Australians. We call for all sectors to inspire, encourage and promote interaction of conservation and sustainable land management to secure the future of our economy, community wellbeing and our unique rich variety of ecosystems, plants and animals. We believe this is nothing less than a National Defense Strategy for Australia.

Linking Landscapes Collaboration grew out of this meeting, and identified 5 other continental scale corridors

in addition to the Great Eastern Ranges (2,800 km from Australian Alps parallel the coast to Atherton in Queensland), shown below.

The collaboration received endorsement, clear purpose and structure at a meeting December 15, 2010 near Melbourne organized by *Graeme, Ian, Penny* and others. At it, various tasks were apportioned out, such as: research, communication, a conference/expo for November 2011, a knowledge exchange hub, measurable target. It would appear that this initiative is well under way.



Grazing Re-introduced in Victoria Alpine National Park (Australia)

Our mighty leader, *Graeme Worboys* and *Penny Figgis* are much disturbed and leading a charge to try to reverse a decision to re-introduce cattle into the Victorian Alpine NP. It took years of struggle to eliminate this practice in important watershed and recreation area in this superb area within the Australian Alps system. Last year a change in government occurred, which is yielding to pressure from the grazing industry. It is being rationalized as an experiment to see if grazing will reduce the severity of effects of wildfires which occurred in 2009 in Victoria. However, as *Graeme* points out the reasoning is faulty and the water catchment values of these upper watersheds which are so high will be adversely affected. The Park has National Heritage status, and important native ecological communities would be seriously damaged by grazing. This is particularly the case with alpine wetlands.

On behalf of WCPA, Chair *Nik Lopoukhine* is supportive of involvement in this precedent-setting political

action, which is counter to most science.

Buffering Glacier NP (USA)

Dave Mihalic, former Superintendent of Glacier NP joined five other former Superintendents and two from sister park Waterton Lakes (Canada), in an open letter to US Congress urging the banning of new fossil fuel development in the adjacent Flathead Valley, a large part of the Park's watershed, but outside the Park itself. Such a prohibition is supported by both Montana Senators, in a Senate Bill, but it has been stalled by Republican opposition. As we previously reported, buffer zone steps already taken included retiring more than 200,000 acres (80,000 ha) of oil and gas leases in the Montana North Fork drainage, and a mining ban in the British Columbia portion of the watershed. The Senate bill would protect the Middle Fork of the Flathead River corridor, a Wild and Scenic River that forms Glacier's southwestern boundary.

The International Peace park protects 2.2 million acres (450,000 ha). Efforts to expand Waterton Lakes NP into British Columbia's Flathead Valley also remain in limbo, as does the push to develop a conservation corridor between Waterton-Glacier north to Banff NP.



TrekEast for Connectivity

An extremely ambitious TrekEast adventure will be undertaken by Network member *John Davis* to highlight the need for connectivity from Everglades NP in Florida to Canada's Gaspé Peninsula. John, a founder of the Wildlands Project and Wildlands Network, will hike, paddle and cycle this route (see map) which is mainly mountainous, passing through various kinds of PAs. John is a good friend who lives in the nearby Adirondack Mountains and has been Conservation Director of the Adirondack Council. Through blogs, website, video and in-person appearances, and his unique style of storytelling, *John* will convey the need for "room to roam" and conservation of biodiversity. The **Wildlands Network** is seeking supporters for this TrekEast venture through donations of money (\$25 by 10,000 donors?), equipment, media coverage, videography and the like. Go to www.trek-east.org for details, and follow the adventure on www.wildlandsnetwork.org. John is in top physical condition, and if anyone can pull this off, he can. The trek started on February 2 and is expected to take 10 months.

This is part of Wildlands Network four visualized Wildways - Eastern, Western (along Western spine of the Continent), Pacific, and a Northern joining of the two through the Boreal

Forest. Also see Recent Publications *Assessing and Creating Linkages Within and Beyond Protected Areas* which is available on their website.

Hunting in Core Zone of Proposed Mt PA Adula NP (Switzerland)

From the **ALPARC network** comes an appeal for information for the proposed **Adula NP** in Switzerland. MtPA members with experience in this arena are urged to assist.

The planned Adula Park is interested in your experiences of managing hunting in the core zone. Work is currently underway to set up the Adula Park, a project for a park with national importance in the Graubünden and Ticino Cantons in southern Switzerland. A number of controversial issues need to be resolved during the implementation phase, such as how to deal with hunting within the protected area. Under the Swiss Parks Ordinance, hunting is prohibited in the core zone, other than for the purpose of population management in order to limit damage caused by game animals. The core zone of the proposed Adula Park is home to sizable game populations, which the Graubünden Office for Hunting and Fishing says must be managed by hunting in order to prevent excessive population growth and damage to woodland. Hunting is a long-established tradition in the area. A decision to ban hunting and bring in professional rangers to manage game numbers would seriously diminish public support for the new national park. Staff working on the park project are therefore keen to hear from other parks where hunting is permitted in the core zone. More specifically, they would like to know: Is it always best to ban hunting within the core zone of a national park? And are any other national

parks, either in Europe or further afield, where hunting is permitted in the core zone?
Send any helpful experience to dunja.meyer@parcadula.ch.

China, India and Nepal Draft Regional Cooperation Framework for Conservation in the Kailash Sacred Landscape

Representatives from China, India and Nepal have developed a draft Regional Cooperation Framework for conservation and sustainable development of the **Kailash Sacred Landscape**. The Landscape spreads across all three countries and covers the area linked culturally and geographically to the sacred mountain, also known as Kang Rinpoche, Gangrenboq Feng, and Kailasa Parvata. Its 3.1 million ha (7,657,000 acres) are 42% in Nepal, 23% in India and 35% in China. The representatives met at the Third Regional Workshop on the Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative held in Nagarkot, Nepal last December. The workshop was organized by ICIMOD, supported by UNEP and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The Regional Cooperation Framework focuses on enhancing biodiversity and cultural conservation, ecosystem management, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. The Framework is expected to facilitate transboundary biodiversity, environmental, and cultural conservation through scientific and technical cooperation. It will enhance information exchange among the member countries and help in the development and management of knowledge bases. The Framework is based on principles of participatory management, equitability, sustainability, partnerships, ecosystem management, transboundary cooperation, and national sovereignty. According to *Eklabya Sharma* the document will be shared with authorities in the three countries, with a start up phase in February 2011. The planning horizon is 2023.

Huichol Sacred Site Threatened by Mining

One of Mexico's most distinctive and enduring indigenous groups, the Huichol, inhabit the remoter areas of the Sierra Madre Occidental in the north of the State of Jalisco. Each year a group leaves their homeland to make a pilgrimage of about 300 km to a sacred site where they obtain mescal cactus buttons for ceremonial use. Several shrines and sacred sites occur along this route, including Mount Leunar (also known as Cerro el Quemado), -- "where the sun first rises." One of our Network, *Stephan Doemke* (of People and Nature), working at that time with the Huichol helped to set up a Huiricuta Ecological and Spiritual Reserve just west of the mountain where there is the highest diversity of cactus species in Mexico.



Stephan Doemke with Huichol shaman at Mount Leunar

Now comes a warning from Cultural Survival that a Canadian mining company (First Majestic Silver Corporation) has purchased concessions to mine silver in these ecologically and spiritually valuable lands. Seventy percent of the proposed mining area is within the Reserve, and the impacts here and Mount Leunar include use of cyanide, tailings, dust, noise, erosion and water use plus water pollution. The Huichol are seeking support with their appeal to the Mexican government to stop the mining.

Pamir-Alai Transboundary Land Management (Tajikistan/Kyrgyzstan)

Michelle Lim

The GEF/UNEP/UNU Project, "Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains" (PALM Project) is located in the transboundary mountain ecosystem shared between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The project was established to alleviate poverty, control land degradation and develop ways to rehabilitate ecosystems in the Pamirs. The University of New England's (UNE's) Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law is the Project's lead agency working to provide an improved legal and regulatory framework to enable sustainable land management in the Pamir-Alai Mountains of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Ian Hannamis leading UNE's development of the legal and institutional component of the project. Network Member *Michelle Lim*'s PhD research explores the legal and institutional requirements for effective transboundary conservation of mountain biodiversity. This project is the main case study for *Michelle's* PhD work.

Ian and *Michelle* have been working closely with National Legal Tasks Forces in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. A transboundary-legal institutions approach is being used, with the intention of enabling mountain communities to take primary responsibility for the productive and sustainable management of mountain resources. The legal and institutional component of the project has provided an excellent opportunity for Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to improve their understanding of their legislative and policy systems for Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir Alai Mountains. Many of the principles, procedures and lessons learned from the analysis carried out in this component of the Project can be extrapolated to other parts of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and to other mountain regions of the world.

Aletsch Glacier (Switzerland)

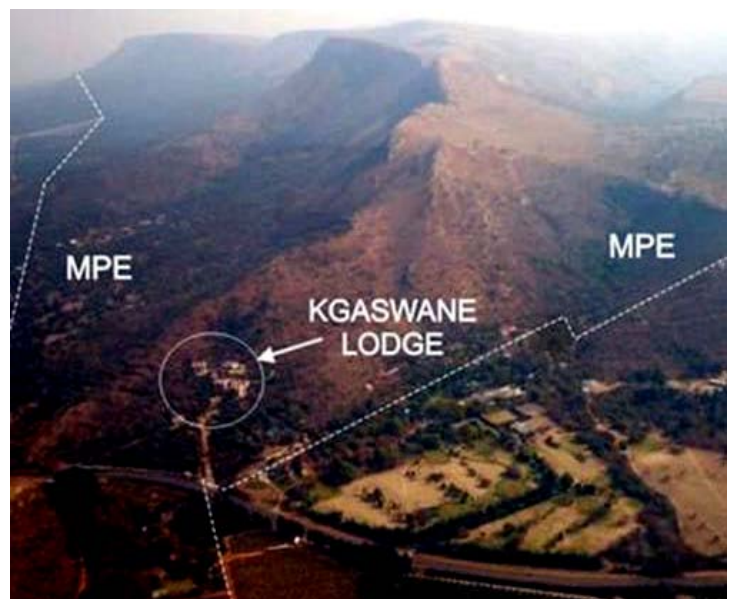
The Aletsch Glacier is one of the most important features of the **Aletsch-Jungfrau-Bietschhorn World Heritage Site**. It is the largest glacier in Eurasia. Scientists are monitoring, and much concerned, about what is happening to this glacier under a global warming scenario. A dispatch from the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (alpmedia@cipra.org) shows that local folk are also much concerned:

The Aletsch Glacier has been the cause of many natural catastrophes for the people living in the valley of Fieschertal. Time and time again ice fell into the lake of Märjelensee on the glacier's edge. The lake was unable to contain the water, and so water, scree and rubble would come thundering down the valley, on occasion submerging a village. The population was at a loss as to how it could protect itself. So in 1678 it took a solemn vow: in an annual procession they would henceforth pray for the Aletsch Glacier to shrink. Today the whole situation has changed dramatically: the Aletsch Glacier is shrinking too much. Since 1870 it has lost just under 3 km in length and as much as 75 m in thickness. So the devout parish community of the Fieschertal now wants to reverse the situation through prayer. Two years ago it petitioned Pope Benedict XVI, asking for an amendment to the Glacier Vow. The petition was recently approved. So as of next summer the people of the Fieschertal will be able to pray for the Glacier to grow again. Perhaps they can be persuaded to work on saving all the glaciers of the Alps...

Hotel/Resort Threat in Kgswane Mountain Reserve (South Africa)

The Magaliesbergs is a range of low mountains extending south from near Pretoria. The highest point is 1,852 m (6,075 ft). It is both an important water catchment area for surrounding dry lands, and a major nature haven in a largely agricultural area, and not far from Johannesburg population. The Magaliesberg Biosphere Initiative Group is pressing the South African government to seek UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status for the area. Its core was proclaimed a Protected Natural Environment (PNE) in 1977.

Just two years ago, members of the Magaliesberg Protection Association (MPA) noticed the beginnings of a very large development, Kgaswane Lodge, taking place in the PNE. The MPA has



taken a lawsuit to the High Court, to halt this development, and has been joined by the Mountain Club of South Africa and others. There is a very popular Kgaswane Mountain Reserve on the summit area, known for its bird and animal life. The upscale hotel development threatens the integrity of this area, and if allowed will set a precedent for more development. It appears however, that without prior government approval the developer has started construction, so some damage has already been done. Professor L. Paul Fatti reports that although one court case has been dismissed because environmental damage had already occurred, a further case is being pursued, which halts further construction until it can be adjudicated. The mountain groups are bringing suit against the provincial Ministry of Environmental Conservation for post hoc authorization of illegal development. This kind of thing happens all too often around the world.

Transboundary Conservation in Canada/Northeastern USA

We announced too soon (early last year) the demise of the **Two Countries-One Forest (2C/1F)**, the conservation connectivity program in my own region. To the cheers of all concerned, *Justina Ray* (Executive Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada), who is also Chair of the 2C/1F Board of Directors, has announced the re-birth of the program, with a new strategic plan, and new funding. It had been serving an umbrella and coordinating function for the host of local, state, provincial and national NGOs with similar, though more geographically limited mandates, in promoting a Northern Appalachians-Acadian transboundary conservation landscape.

The world renowned conservation leader *Bill Weber* will serve as Director of 2C/1F. Bill has spent over 30 years with WCS, and may be best known for his work with gorillas in Eastern Africa. He was most recently WCS Director for North America. Bill lives just across the lake from me in the Adirondack mountains. Wearing my WCPA mountain hat, that of the Vermont TNC (Trustee), and Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats hats, it will be a pleasure to work with him.

Bits and Pieces

Each year in Europe the **Danilo Meet** is conducted under the auspices of ALPARC. This years event, in late January was in Triglav NP (Slovenia), and involved 42 teams of Rangers from the Alps and two teams from the Carpathians (Serbia and Romania). The activities consisted of cross country skiing, giant salom, ski mountaineering and shooting. Rangers from Swiss NP took first place, followed by Gran Paradiso and then Berchtesgaden. The sporting event is followed by seminars, entertainment and much interchange of experience.

Wilderness in Europe received some impetus last November when high level European Union officials met in Brussels at a European Presidency conference called **Restoring the Natural Heart of Europe**. The meeting confirmed that wilderness should play a role in the EU's Post 2010 Biodiversity Strategy. The PANPARKS Foundation was one of the co-organizers of the event.

Karen Taylor-Goodrich has departed US National Park Headquarters to become Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Back to the mountains of the West, from Washington DC, well done!

Jonathan Putnam (Office of International Affairs of US National Park Service) advises us that NPS is seeking public comment on possible future US nominations to the **World Heritage Tentative List**. Such a call has not been issued for many years since international designations or overlays became unpopular with Republican administrations, starting back in the 1980s. We received notice of the January 12 deadline well after the December issue of UPDATE went out and it was too late to solicit suggestions from the Network. For more information on WH in the USA, see www.nps.gov/oia/topics/worldheritage/worldheritage.htm.

Olivier Chassot of our Executive Committee has left the University of International Cooperation (whose President is *Eduard Muller*), where he headed the School of Latin American PAs, to become Scientific Coordinator at the Topical Science Centre, also in San Jose', Costa Rica.

Italian National Parks are suffering badly in the economic austerity being effected in Italy. It has been called "a crisis in parks", with a cut of 50 percent, and even deeper cuts in research in the parks. Italy committed to achieve 20 percent of land in PAs by 2020, at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, but it is

difficult to envision how this can be accomplished with such severe cuts in 2011. *Michelle Ottino*, Director of Gran Paradiso NP is one of the key spokespersons in attempting to have some restoration in funding.

It has been decided that **Stelvio National Park** (Italy) will be run directly by local authorities together: Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and the Region Lombardy, in collaboration with the municipalities concerned. Is this positive?

The project in Europe called **ECONNECT: Restoring the Web of Life** is coming to an end. The final conference will be held May 18-20 in Berchtesgaden NP. It has produced much fine material which we have reported on from time to time. The **Ecological Continuum Initiative** is taking steps to assure that some of the best projects are carried forward.

The impact of barriers (including fragmentation) to connectivity was dramatically brought home to many European citizens when the **Ecological Continuum Initiative** constructed (temporary) walls blocking pedestrian traffic in six Alpine cities: Zurich, Vienna, Munich, Ljubljana, Milan and Lyon. **Fewer barriers, --more life!** As of 2007, the number of **Transboundary Conservation Areas of Complexes** was 227 (3,043 sites) covering some 460 million ha (1,136.2 million acres), according to an article by *Trevor Sandwith*, which appears in the current issue (20/2) of ITTO's *Tropical Forest Update*.

From our intrepid wilderness advocate in Italy, *Franco Zunio*, comes an update on the extent of wilderness areas. As of the end of 2010, he reports that there are 64 separate areas embracing some 40,086 ha. During the year, several areas were expanded, and some relatively small ones were declared and recognized by the Italian Wilderness Association. He states that the Association has issued Wilderness Area Guidelines for Italy that are applicable for Europe. Available at wilderness_italia@alice.it

John Davis (see article on Trek East) has left the Adirondack Council and returned to **The Wildlands Network**, an organization he helped found under the name of The Wildlands Project. The new Director of the Adirondack Council is *Allison Buckley*, who has become a member of our MtPA Network.

Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains is a new mountain organization started by *Jane Pratt* (founder and former head of The Mountain Forum and former CEO of The Mountain Institute). FBRM will be working on a conservation corridor that can be a key link in eventually joining the Southern and Northern Appalachian Mountain Corridors. It involves the National Wildlife Federation, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and five other NGOs. *Jane* will keep us updated.

Penny Figgis the WCPA Regional Vice-Chair for Oceania has been appointed as Director of the Australian Committee for IUCN.

An October monitoring World Heritage mission to the **Virgin Komi Forests** in the Ural Mountains included that indomitable "mountain woman" *Marija Zupancic-Vicar*. *Marija* served for many years on the WCPA Steering Committee for the European Region, and was formerly the Director of Triglav NP (Slovenia).

The Global Tourism Industry Review of the world's **Top 10 National Parks** has just been released, and includes the following MtPAs: Sagarmatha (Nepal), Fiordland (New Zealand), Galapagos (Ecuador), Yellow Dragon Scenic Area (China), Kakadu (Australia), Swiss (Switzerland) and Machu Picchu (Peru). The other three are: Iguazu (Argentina), Tikal (Guatemala) and Kruger (South Africa).

In November *Linda McMillan* was invited to attend and speak in Prague, Czech Republic at the large annual **Alpinismus Festival**. She gave a presentation "Leading into the Future: How Alpinists can Protect our Mountain World". She had a valuable conversation with Dr. Pavel Bem, Lord Mayor of Prague, who has climbed the Seven Summits. She encouraged him to connect with the IUCN to promote mountain protection in his city, country and Eastern European region. *Linda* has been invited back to speak at the 2011 Alpinismus Festival.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Assessing and Creating Linkages Within and Beyond Protected Areas, a Quick Guide for Protected Area Practitioners. 2008. *Nigel Dudley* and *M. Rao*. 28 pp. The Nature Conservancy. Arlington Virginia. (with Wildlife Conservation Society and Convention on Biological Diversity) This is one of the Quick Guide Series of TNC, edited by *Jamie Ervin*. It is available at www.protectedareatools.org or from the Wildlands Network

website (wildlandsnetwork.org/resources/quick-guide-creating-linkages). This is a very useful manual, in spite of the fact that only one of the six case studies is a mountain range. Highly recommended.

Atlas of Our Changing Environments. 2010. UNEP (in collaboration with Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean). The Atlas is divided into three parts and covers all of Latin America and the Caribbean: the first two bring together regional information, while the third outlines relevant environmental issues in each country, analysing 65 specific national cases. There are more than 200 satellite images plus maps and graphs. The images highlight the region's rich diversity of environments, ecosystems, species and landscapes. Available online at www.cathalac.org/lac_atlas

Experiences from the Carpathians: a manual on creation of ecological corridors. 2010. This is based on a pilot project on the establishment of ecological corridors connecting protected areas in Ukraine, Romania and Poland. The pdf in English may be downloaded at www.carpathianconvention.org/NR/rdonlyres/9.

Creation of Ecological Corridors in the Ukraine: a manual on stakeholder involvement and landscape ecological modelling to connect protected areas, based on a pilot in the Carpathians. 2010. Ed by F.D. Deodatus and L. Protsenko. Ukrainian State Agency for Protected Areas, Kyiv, Ukraine. 140pp.

Framework for Cooperative Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation for the Southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains, Volume 1. A 100-page report sponsored by Audubon California, TNC, Sequoia Riverlands Trust and Sierra Business Council. It provides a regional context for federal, state and local agencies, districts and organizations that are focused on individual parks or preserves and watersheds in the Southern Sierras. Information at adaptation@tnc.org.

Transcending Boundaries: Perspectives from Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. This is a video production from the Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security, of the University of Vermont and the Collaborative, in partnership with International Peace Parks Expeditions. It can be watched at <http://vimeo.com/18399334>. It is well done, and features the Blackfoot Indian heritage, as well as the history of the Park.

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World. March 14-18, 2011 in New Orleans, USA. This is the 2011 George Wright Society conference, once again organized by *David Harmon* master major domo. www.georgewright.org/gws2011.

International Peace Parks Expeditions, March 7-26, 2011 is offering a field course on **La Amistad International Peace Park** (Costa Rica and Panama) in cooperation with the University for Peace and the George Mason University Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. As well as the academic side, it offers trekking through the Park, crossing border and living among local people. Executive Director is Todd Walters, PO Box 284, West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985; <http://peaceparkexpeditions.org>

European Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy. April 12-13, 2011 in Bonn, Germany (Research Centre Caesar). Free. Limited to 200 participants. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. Katrin.kraus@uni-greifswald.de.

Science and Management for Protected Areas Association #7, April 17-24, 2011 in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. conference@sampaa.org To learn more about the nature of these meetings, the papers from SAMPAA #6 held in 2007 are available for downloading.

- **International Mother Earth Day**. April 22, 2011. At the suggestion of Bolivia the UN General Assembly approved a resolution to convene a meeting on **Harmony with Nature**. Hopefully this will contribute to the preparatory process for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. (Recall conferences in 1992 and 2002.)

Balkans Peace Park. May 28 - June 13, 2011. Under the same umbrella as La Amistad International Peace Park expedition described above, this is a 16-day academic course for 3 credits. It is led by Todd Walters and Professor *Saleem Ali* of University of Vermont, and focuses on an arrangement between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. The course title is **Conservation Beyond Borders: A Field experience in the Balkans**

exploring prospects of peace parks. Information at <http://learn.uvm.edu/studyabroad/balkans/>.

VII Protected areas International Congress (Latin America). July 4-8, 2011 in Havana Cuba. Convention Palace. (Spanish). Proposals for presentations due March 31 to convencion@ama.cu. For information contact mary@snap.cu

Protected Area Management Course. July 6 - August 6, 2011. The 20th year this well-known course has been offered at Colorado State University for participants from Latin America. It is offered in Spanish to 22 PA managers. Co-hosted by the US Forest Service. Network member *Jim Barborak* is one of the course coordinators. Scholarships are available for participants from Colombia, Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia through World Wildlife Fund.

2nd World Biodiversity Congress, September 8-12, 2011. Kuching. Sarawak, Malaysia. More information www.worldbiodiversity2011.com/. Organized by Century Foundation of Bangalore, India.

EUROPARC CONFERENCE 2011 September 21-25, 2011. in Schwabische Alb Biosphere Reserve, Bad Urach, Germany. Theme: Quality Counts-Benefits for Nature and People. www.europarc.org/conference-2011/

Protected Areas as Tools for Regional Development-Perspectives for Research and Management. October 13-15. Parc Naturel Regional de la Chartreuse (near Grenoble, France). International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR) and Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) are supporting this research workshop organized by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Neue Regionalentwicklung in Grossschutzgebieten. www.iscar-alpineresearch.org.

International Conference on East African Mountains. November 21-23, 2011. Mbale Resort Hotel, Uganda. Focus on mountains and highlands of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Submit abstracts and get information at www.iceam2011.org Several organizing bodies, including four universities.

Managing Alpine Future: Inspire and drive sustainable adaptation. November 21-23, 2011. Innsbruck, Austria. For representatives from scientific community, industry and public authorities. Organized by University of Innsbruck, Institut für Gerbirgsforschung and ALP*S www.alpinefuture.com

25th International Congress for Conservation Biology. November 28 - December 2, 2011 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Theme focuses on biodiversity around the world. Title is Engaging Society in Conservation. Deadline for proposals is past. Details at www.conbio.org/activities/meetings/2011.

World Conservation Congress 2012. Jeju Island, South Korea: http://www.wcc2012.org/jejuisland_02.php

Useful Links

UPDATE Archive: More recent editions are posted on our website: <http://protectmountains.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 website:

http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_what/wcpa_conservingds/

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

Production Editor

*Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE
News Flash & [Mountains Biome Blog](#)*

Linda McMillan



**Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications
WCPA Mountains Biome**

*In winter, the trail to Half Dome in
Yosemite National Park offers complete
solitude, great snowshoeing and dazzling
views*

IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome | Professor Lawrence S. Hamilton | Senior Advisor, Mountain Biome | World Commission on Protected Areas/IUCN
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