

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 70 - June 2011 revised



The beautiful Siberian Ibex is an important, charismatic, and threatened species in the Karakoram,
Photo courtesy of Network member Stephan Fuller

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On Antarctica's Mount Erebus

(sent by Paul Dingwall)

I have seen Fuji, the most dainty and graceful of all mountains; and also Kinchinjunga: only Michael Angelo among men could have conceived such grandeur. But give me Erebus for my friend. Whoever made Erebus knew all the charm of horizontal lines, and the lines of Erebus are for the most part nearer the horizontal than the vertical.

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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*

[Dr. Graeme Worboys](#)

Vice Chairman, IUCN-WCPA
 Mountains Biome and
 Connectivity Conservation

And so he is the most restful mountain in the world, and I was glad when I knew that our hut would lie at its feet.

From Apsley Cherry-Garrard,
The Worst Journey in the World.



Mount Erebus is on Ross Island, Antarctica

Notes from the Editor

By now, most of you will have known of the death of *Kenton Miller* and perhaps seen some of the many, many tributes that have been transmitted from the multitude of individuals and organizations that have benefitted from his tireless and long work for nature conservation. As a Chair of WCPA for a productive term of office (in spite of his coping with cancer) he was extremely supportive of the Mountain Biome program, and of this Network of which he was a strong member. His contributions and leadership are in part recounted on our web page and that of WCPA. Plans are being made currently for a fitting memorial, including secure funding for the *Kenton Miller Award for Innovation*. Another "giant", a true conservation statesman, has fallen, but the torch has been passed through his influence. He was a great good friend, as well as a valued colleague.

I wish to send public congratulations to *Sue Stolton* and *Nigel Dudley*, the great team who received WCPA's 2011 **Kenton Miller Award for Innovation**. This was presented at the March meeting of the *George Wright Society* in New Orleans. This prolific consulting team, operating under the label *Equilibrium*, have done much work for IUCN, and WCPA in particular, mainly in communicating science and policy with regard to PAs. This includes their recent series *Arguments for Protection*. Well done, *Sue* and *Nigel*, --extremely appropriate recognition.

And, now UPDATE is 70 issues old,-which is a bit of a record for quarterly Newsletters, which seem to have a relatively short life span. And, of course an error crept into the previous issue. Not arriving in time to make a change, the dates of the *Great Himalayan Trail* trek changed to

September 2011-late January 2012. The lead coordinator will be the Himalayan Climate Initiative. No other glaring errors have been called to our attention.

Well, we received no negative feedback over the unusual length of the last issue. Consequently we will not worry about the length of UPDATE. I thank those of you who have sent in items which provided some of the fodder for this issue.

We welcome as new MtPA Network members:

Allison Buckley, Conservation Director, The Adirondack Council (USA)

Bill Carmean, Executive Director, The Mountain Institute (USA)

Jesús Delgado, Professor, University of Bahia (Brasil). (This is really a welcome home to someone we had lost touch with for a while.)

And, another welcome back to Professor *José M. García-Riuz* of the Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología (Spain)

And, a contact re-established with *Jorge Recharte*, Director of South American Program of The Mountain Institute (Perú)

We have renewed contact with *Eva Selin*, a Swedish mountaineer who is at the Gotland Museum.

We welcome *Alejandro Velázquez* of the Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental (Universidad Nacional Autónoma), Mexico. He was a member several years ago.

Also, a welcome to *Elaine Thomas*, Secretary of the International Ranger Federation, Australia.

Rebecca Lloyd has just been appointed as US Science and Stewardship Director for Yellowstone-to-Yukon (Y2Y). She is a specialist in Ecohydrology and will work out of Missoula, Montana. We welcome her.

Dr. *Wade Vagias* is a Natural Resource Specialist in the US National Park Service Wilderness Stewardship Division. He will be currently in Yellowstone NP as Acting Management Assistant. Welcome *Wade*.

Please do not forget your commitment when you joined this Network, to send items of interest on your or other MtPAs from time to time. Only in this way can we maintain the relevance of UPDATE, and have this an inter-acting Network. Send items to silverfox@gmavt.net

And to close ...

Question: What do mountains talk about?

Answer: A RANGE of things. (Ouch!)

An Update from "Cycling Silk"

Kate Harris, one of the intrepid twosome who are bicycling the Silk Road, and visiting for study and write-up purposes, several Transboundary Mt PAs en route.(WCPA is a co-sponsor) sends the following message of progress, which is printed verbatim. Please check out the links she has given,-they are really fine stuff:



"Just wanted to update you on the latest from the Silk Road! Mel and I are just about to launch for Central Asia, leaving the South Caucasus region behind. We had a couple weeks off in Baku, Azerbaijan while we applied for visas for the next leg, so we edited together a 4-minute movie "promo trailer" highlighting our adventures so far exploring conservation across borders along the Silk Road: <http://vimeo.com/22191493> Please share it wide and far! We want everyone possible to know about transboundary conservation and the trip. We also updated the blog with a post about our time exploring a few different case studies for borderland conservation in Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan: <http://www.cyclingsilk.com/blog/?p=1548>. As always, feel free to use and promote this material in any way the "Protect Mountains" group can! Soon we start riding into the deserts of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, heading for our next case study region: the western Tian Shans...let the real adventure begin!"

We all wish them well.....

Grazing Stopped in Victoria's Alpine NP (Australia)

In our last issue (No. 69) we reported on a decision by the Victorian government to re-introduce cattle grazing into Victoria's Alpine NP, a National Heritage Area, and part of the great transboundary complex of the Australian Alps National Parks. Now, the Federal Environment Minister has given Victoria a demand to have the cattle removed by April 8, and to reinstitute the ban which has excluded cattle since 2005.

Graeme Worboys and Penny Figgis were instrumental in getting IUCN/WCPA to weigh in on the issue. The message from WCPA, together with those of many Australian groups and individuals undoubtedly helped the Federal Minister in his action in protecting these alpine ecosystem communities and key upper water catchments. Linda McMillan did post this on the Alerts page of our website (<http://protectmountains.org/alerts/>) and on the Mountain Biome Blog (<http://protectmountains.org/mountains-blog/>), but it seems worthwhile to include it here since "good news" items like this are all too rare.

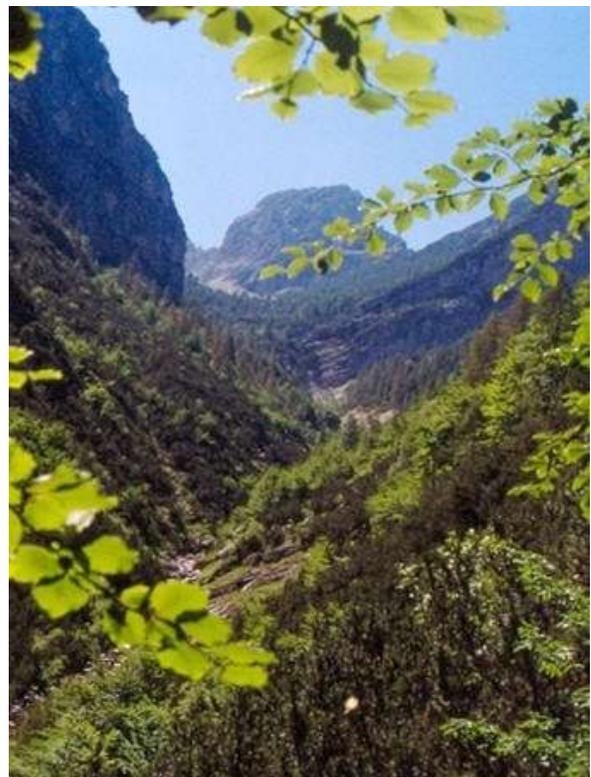
Eco-tourism in Tibet and Trees for Tibet

While the term "eco-tourism" is often applied loosely and inappropriately to some enterprises, the **Tibetan Eco-Tours** is hitting the nail on the head with its **Tree Planting Tour**. Tibet Eco-Tours in addition offer a Bird Watching Tour, Holy Sites Tour and River Source Tour, and 10% of the tour fees go directly to Trees for Tibet. The guides are all English-speaking Tibetans, working for Tibetan-owned tour companies, and stays are in Tibetan-owned hotels. Participants in the Tree Planting Tour buy trees from nurseries in the city and plant them on a sand and grassland preserve in Guannan County of 4,283 acres (1,733 ha). So far roughly 800,000 trees have been planted since 2000. This is an effort of the **Tibetan Ecology Foundation**, about which we have already written, thanks to Network member *Gene Reetz*, who is on the Board.

Wilderness Guidelines from Italy

As indicated in our last issue, *Franco Zunio* of the Italian Association for the Wilderness was producing some *Guidelines for Designation and Recognition of Wilderness*. He suggests that these are not only applicable to Italy, but for south-central and western Europe where there are similar landscapes and high levels of human settlement. *Zunio* is of the opinion that the term "wilderness" is being applied inappropriately in projects that focus on biodiversity and nature conservation but as well on ecotourism and sustainable development.

The *Guidelines* are based on the concept and criteria that are used in the United States as embodied in its Wilderness Act and policies flowing from that landmark bill. Such areas easily meet the criteria for IUCN Category 1a. Some controversy has arisen with other European organizations, such as PANParks, which have a somewhat less rigorous interpretation of what constitutes a Wilderness Area (see next article). Copies of the *Guidelines* may be obtained at www.wilderness.it/atti.asp.



Valmontina Wilderness Area, Italy - Photo by *Franco Zunio*

Wilderness Management Guidelines in Europe- Another Approach

Following upon the special wilderness report of the European Parliament, the European Commission aims to develop a guidance document on the management of wilderness and wild areas within the Natura 2000 network. The EC commissioned the consortium formed by Alterra, Eurosite and PAN Parks Foundation to support the development of the guidance document. The

guidance document will help interpret the framework that the EU nature legislation sets for the management of wilderness and wild areas. It will also present best practice examples for setting objectives for wilderness in Natura 2000 sites, consider the role of specific structures and functions of natural habitats and also how to reach their most favourable conservation status. The benefits of wilderness and wild areas and possible conflicts caused by this selected management approach will also be presented. The document is principally designed for use by national and local authorities, site managers and other experts involved in the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives.

Collecting examples from site managers is essential part of the process. Therefore the consortium will first circulate a questionnaire among protected area managers throughout Europe. Based on the replies, the drafting of the document will start probably around the end of May. The supporting evidence to the guidance document should be submitted to the European Commission by the end of December 2011.

More information: Zoltan Kun, PAN Parks Foundation, zkun@panparks.org, www.panparks.org

Man and the Biosphere

MAB, the research and Biosphere Reserve Program that had a major mountain component, did much to foment interest in mountains back in the 1970s. See mab40@unesco.org. In highlighting the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (564 in 109 countries) in preparation for the 40th anniversary, the MAB Secretariat has sent out a request for photos, short videos or audio recordings that illustrate the program's accomplishments. Details and specifications are available at the web site. Network members are encouraged to participate. The exact date of the International Day of Biosphere Reserves has not been announced but it could well be in October 2011. Biosphere Reserve managers will undoubtedly be arranging their own site celebrations, and are encouraged to do so.

Sacred Mount Kailas (Tibet)

We have often mentioned Mount Kailas (or Kailash) in these pages, the mountain that *Ed Bernbaum* calls the most sacred mountain in the world (revered by Buddhists, Hindus, Jains and Bon, --well over half a billion people). It is the source not only of spiritual inspiration but of four major rivers of the Indian sub-continent (Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej and Karnali), and for Hindus, the holy source of the Ganges.



Mount Kailas, Tibet - Photo by Ed Bernbaum

At roughly 22,000 ft (6,700 m) it is a high point of the Tibetan Plateau, hidden behind the main range of the Himalayas. Circumambulation of Kailas is the ultimate in gaining merit, and a pilgrimage to it is a supreme act. Ed writes extensively on the wonders of this sacred place in his fine book *Sacred Mountains of the World*. Not far from the peak is the holy Lake Manasarovar (Lake of the Mind) where hardy pilgrims bathe in its icy blue waters. Hindus view the mountain as the dwelling place of the god Shiva and his wife Parvati.

A new book has just appeared (2011) in a thoughtful, discerning travel series by Colin Thubron, entitled *To a Mountain in Tibet*. It is a secular pilgrimage by Thubron, on foot with a cook, a guide and a horseman. Published by Harper Collins, US\$25, 223 pp.

Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites

This joint initiative of 68 biodiversity conservation organizations, which formed in 2003, has identified 587 site-scale areas where 920 endangered species reside (IUCN Red List species). Some 43% of these are fully contained and 15% are partially contained within legally defined PAs. Of the remaining sites, 43% lack any protection and for 8%, the status is not known. This identification is helpful in promoting the expansion of existing PAs (for the 15% partially contained) and in location of new sites for protection in a global network that attempts to prevent biodiversity loss. An AZE site must: 1) be the sole area where an endangered species occurs, or 2) contain an overwhelming (95%) of the global population of the species, or 3) contain the overwhelmingly significant known population for one segment of the life history of the species. The official website for AZE includes a database of sites on a Google Map interface. There is no explicit size criterion for sites, and some may be quite small, but the median size is 12,060 ha (29,800 acres).

Tribute to a Park Pioneer in United Kingdom

One of our distinguished elders of the Network, and possibly the oldest is *Dr. John Foster*, of Crieff, Scotland. I take Editorial privilege in excerpting and presenting the following from a web document sent by *Erik Hauge*, to honor this fine man who was very active in IUCN and who introduced me to proper treatment of good single malt Scotch whisky...

In 1949 the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act was passed and 10 National Parks were created over the following decade. The first - on April 17, 1951 was the **Peak District**. One man who is delighted to see the Peak District National Park thrive as a place of natural beauty, leisure and pleasure is John Foster, CBE, a man who was there at its

inception. John was the Peak's deputy planning officer in 1951 and was promoted to director and planning officer (chief executive) in 1953. He stayed in office until 1968. Now aged 90, John lives with his wife in Scotland, in the house they named Birchover as a happy reminder of their Peak District home. He said:

I formed a great attachment to the Peak District during my years there. I'd say it was the most enjoyable period of my career as it was such a productive time - everything we did was new. We had the opportunity to try things that had never been done before.

In the 50s my colleagues and I were national park pioneers. We were breaking in new legislation that had never been used before. Rural car parks, picnic sites and information booths were all new and important. People-management, as it was called, had never been used before in the countryside. We take it for granted now and expect certain facilities.

John gained inspiration for providing information to the public about the Peak District National Park while visiting America's national parks. He said:

In the USA, I realized that interpretation was the way forward - telling people the story of the place. I appointed Don Aldridge as the first ever information officer. He won a Churchill Fellowship Grant that enabled him to go to America and learn from their established national park system. He translated this experience into the British national park context and so the Peak District was the first British national park to help people understand and enjoy the place. It's become the way things are done.

Another first for the Peak District was the introduction of wardens. John said: *One of my proudest moments was Easter Monday in 1954 when Tom Tomlinson was inaugurated as the first and only paid warden. The wardens evolved to become the ranger service we know today.*

John is proud of the way British national parks have developed. He said:

The Peak District National Park has lasted well and developed positively over the 60 years and I hope it will go on developing in a positive, national park way in the future. It is a very special place. ... Working with local people and businesses is an essential part of the role of national parks. National parks have turned out to have been well worthwhile establishing and managing over the years for protecting the environment, supporting local communities and helping millions of visitors enjoy them every year.

Wildlife and Noise Pollution in Protected Areas

A topic which appears frequently in UPDATE is noise pollution. An article in the last issue of Park Science (from US National Park Service-Editor-*Jeff Selleck*) has a good treatment of the impacts that noise can have on the wildlife of PAs. Some of these are new to me, and therefore may be new to others of you readers. It states that animal behaviour and possibly populations are altered by anthropogenic sound in such factors as:

- predator footfalls being masked;
- interruption of and competition with male songbird vocalizations for attracting mates;

- owls and bats not being able to efficiently locate prey because of sounds in a certain spectrum;
- prey not being able to detect incoming wingbeats of predators;
- sounds masking deliberate call and response soundings that help maintain community structure.

The article asks whether animals directly perceive human sound as such, and associate it with threat of predation. What about dog barking in PAs where they are permitted? In previous articles we have reported on the difficult search for one square meter of total silence (except natural sound) in US National Parks (one found in Olympic NP). As humans struggle to converse in a noisy restaurant, so may animals experience difficulty. And just as humans adapt by speaking more loudly, or smiling in uncertain agreement, some, but not all, animals can adapt.



Taulliraju is one of the many beautiful peaks in the Cordillera Blanca

Cordillera Blanca, Perú

This mountain range part of the Andes includes 33 major peaks over 5,500 m (18,040 ft) in an area 21 km wide and 180 km long, --really densely packed with peaks. This is the site of **Huascarán NP, Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site**, whose centerpiece is the 6,768 m Huascarán Sur. There are 80 glaciers, all showing major diminution and retreat, feeding 120 glacial lakes. The Cordillera provides irrigation and domestic water and much of Perú's electricity.

A fine example of mountaineer citizen scientists (*Linda McMillan's* forte) working on behalf of mountain people starts on June 26 when a group of climbers from the American Alpine Club joins with Peruvian climber-scientists and environmental experts from USA, Canada and Mexico in a 17-member team, for studies in some of the 4,500-6,300 m mountains of the Cordillera. Collecting samples and installing monitoring equipment (which will be left behind) will permit some assessment of climate change impacts on water supplies and human health and wellbeing (air pollution effects). Data will be shared not only with Peruvian government, but with The Mountain Institute (*Jorge Recharte, Alton Byers, Miriam Torres, Bill Carmean*).

Huascarán NP contains sub-alpine páramo and cloud forest, as well as humid montane forest. These ecosystems are home to spectacled bear, mountain tapir, mountain cat, vicuña, huemul, cordillera hawk, Andean condor and giant hummingbird. There are both current settlements around the park and remains of ancient cultural settlements within the park. Park neighbors are able to graze herds of native vicuña and llama on Park grasslands, and to fish for trout in at least some of the lakes.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Peru, south of Cusco at the face of the glacier of Mount Ausengate thousands of Quechua and Aymara gather in late May in the annual *El Señor de Qoyllur Rit'i* (Lord of Star Snow) ceremony. This ritual included having the *ukukus* dancers harvest large blocks of ice from the glacier and distribute pieces to the assembly to assure water for an abundant harvest. This practice is now only symbolic due to concern for the retreating glacier. The Andean tropical glaciers are losing mass faster than most of the world's glaciers due to their location close to the equator. It spells serious trouble for not only farming, but for the urban centers of the Andes, and even lowland cities such as Lima. The glaciated *apus* have long been sacred to Andean peoples. Our global warming is disrupting the physical planet, and also the cosmology of many peoples.

The Mountain Research Initiative

(From *Astrid Bjørnsen Gurung*)

The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) is "the mountain program" of the Global Land Program. It promotes and coordinates research on global change in mountain regions around the world. Since its launch in 2001 it has facilitated the design of an international research agenda for mountains. The Global Change and Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE) Research Strategy, for instance, is the product of a 2-years negotiation between 250 scientists and managers of mountain Biosphere Reserves ([Bjørnsen 2005](#)). The dialogue between researchers and potential beneficiaries of the proposed research activities was meant to pave the way to implementation. The GLOCHAMORE Research Strategy is still at the core of the MRI, yet its implementation turned out to be more challenging than anticipated, in particular in regard to bridging the gaps between research and practice. How did the MRI approach this task?

In 2006, the MRI started initiating and supporting regional networks. At the outset, these networks targeted at the GLOCHAMORE clients, both practitioners and scientists. As the latter appeared to take stronger leadership for research implementation, today, researchers make up the majority of the network members.

Networks are a means but not the purpose of the MRI. Four program activities are at MRI's core:

1. MRI strives to enlist key scientists promoting **inter- and transdisciplinary research** through their national or multinational research funding agencies.
2. MRI supports the formation of new research partnerships and catalyzes groups and individuals to develop **project proposals** to funding agencies.
3. MRI facilitates the development of **peer-reviewed papers** on specific key scientific issues.
4. MRI distributes relevant **information** on global change in mountains.

Although the focus is mainly on the science community, the MRI pursues its commitment to facilitate the dialogue between science and practice, as has already been described in the [MRI Founding Report](#) (Becker and Bugmann, 2001: 14): "The overall objective of this initiative is to evaluate and enhance sustainable land, water, and resource management strategies for mountain regions".

Today, the MRI connects more than 7000 global change researchers who are organized in regional networks in [North- and South-America](#), [Africa](#), [Asia](#) and [Europe](#), with regional networks in the [Carpathians](#) and [South Eastern Europe](#). The transfer between science and practice is currently promoted through the recent EU-project "MountainTRIP" (www.mountaintrip.eu), which translates research findings into useful and easily accessible information.

The electronic [Newsflashes](#) sent out to the regional networks are open to both representatives from academic organizations but also from protected areas, National Parks, education or politics. The dialogue between scientists and potential end-users of scientific information is also fostered through the [Forum Carpaticum](#), a conference targeting at the sustainable development of the Carpathian region organized in 2010.

Even though the MRI networks have progressed since their launch, the implementation of the agreed research activities is still at the beginning. The degree to which the aims are achieved will not only depend on national research agendas and available funding instruments, but to a high degree on the ability of the research community to join forces, to prioritize activities and to advocate for mountain topics relevant for both, science and practice.

The MRI welcomes UPDATE members to share their views on sustainable mountain development and research needs with the regional networks. To learn more please consult the [MRI webpage](#) or contact us: astrid.bjoernsen@giub.unibe.ch or mri@giub.unibe.ch

Khunjerab National Park (Pakistan) - A Lesson Learned?

(From *Ashiq Ahmad*)

Ed. Note: Khunjerab NP during the late 70's and 80's had the unenviable reputation of a model of PA establishment and management NOT to use (little or no consultation with local community of traditional users). Ashiq Ahmad has provided the following material of interest on subsequent developments in the Park.

I have long been involved in the Karakorum, especially in one of its National Parks, called Khunjerab (KNP). This park is situated along the Pakistan-China border and, interestingly, there is a Chinese PA across the border called, Taxkorgan Nature Reserve (TNR). The Chinese Reserve is almost 4 times bigger than the one we have in Pakistan.

Created in 1974, the KNP remained for more than a decade virtually without any scientific management, and in fact, without a management plan. The people from the surrounding villages had centuries old rights and concessions of grazing over the pastures, now included in the boundaries of the KNP. The area had a few populations of Marco Polo's sheep that used to roam across the political boundaries and were often hunted by people on either side of the border. It was primarily for the protection of this species that the NP was created.

It was in 1989 that the concerned Government, in association with IUCN and international conservation organizations, a workshop reviewed the status of KNP as a national park and found that there was no information at all about the status of species or their habitats (even the Marco Polo sheep). Representing the Forestry Institute of Pakistan at that time, I was given the responsibility to ascertain the status of endangered species. While undertaking the surveys, the people started feeling the threat that the time was approaching fast when their grazing concessions would be withdrawn, affecting almost every one in that area. This ignited a strong opposition for the park, which got more serious and threatening with each passing day. According to some reports, the people started killing the native animals of the park to eradicate any reason for the existence of the National Park. The park authorities and law maintaining agencies, on the other hand, started driving the livestock out of the park and even confiscating it. They were planning to put some of the community leaders behind the bars.



Marco Polo sheep (*Ovis ammon polii*)

This was the time (1994) that I volunteered to resolve the conflict, the first ever and the most serious in the history of our Pakistan national parks. Since as a researcher, I was familiar with the resources of the park; and also with the local sociology, and being a Government servant for a long time, had knowledge about the rules and regulations and the flexibilities that might help in resolving the conflict, my role was accepted both by the Provincial government as well as the local communities.



Further investigations revealed that almost 85% of the pastures were degraded, while the wildlife populations had been reduced to just small scattered groups. The snow leopards, already few in the area had no natural prey and thus had to feed on domestic livestock and in return, were killed by the communities. The park to me, was just a

combination of denuded mountains, silent and with very little wild life. Given the number of supervisory staff, it was totally impossible to guard the animals against poaching in the rugged terrain. Under the circumstances, I proposed a formula for managing the park under a floating management system, shifting focus of management according to the outcomes of different interventions. With this major goal in mind, I developed a formula that allowed grazing till there were alternate grazing areas for the herders, or they have enough income from other sources and are less dependent on livestock as a source of their livelihood. In return for this concession, the people were given the responsibility of wildlife protection and reducing the number of livestock on pastures that were ranked as degraded; and on pastures that were shared between livestock and wild ungulates to avoid the spread of diseases. After much negotiation, the formula was accepted and was used as a basis for the development of the management plan for the park.

Now looking at the park in 2011, the wild ungulates are seen in herds of hundreds, roaming along the Karakorum Highway and seen with naked eyes. 60% of the livestock population has already been reduced, Marco Polo sheep are coming back while the snow leopard has now the highest density in the park as compared to rest of its habitats in Pakistan.

With the success of the above, I tried to extend this kind of management to the Nature Reserve of China, thus bringing the Karakorum and Pamirs under one management regime, though done independently by the park authorities on either side of the border. The idea though agreed in principle by scientists in both countries and discussed in several meetings held in Pakistan and China, couldn't get materialized to the extent that it deserves.

In order to manage the entire Karakorum landscape in a manner that ensures the protection of natural resources, as well as improves the local economy, ICIMOD is helping to come up with a draft process document that will be discussed for needed improvement by stakeholders in Pakistan and China and translated to a strategic document at some point in time, hopefully next July/August. The study has just been started, only in mid-February, but will explore various management options for the management of the entire Karakorum through its range in Pakistan as well as China. I will be in the Karakorum from mid March to explore some of this.

**Further Ed. Note: Jim (Muddy Boots) Thorsell was recently in these mountains, in Taxkorgan, on the Chinese side, looking at World Heritage possibilities, which included a series of superb high elevation alpine lakes, which China would like to put forward.*

Eight New Plants Discovered in Madidi National Park, Bolivia

Researchers have described 8 new species of plant from in and near Madidi National Park in the Bolivian Andes and upper Amazon rainforest. Described in the journal *Novon* by botanists with the Missouri Botanical Garden and the National Herbarium in La Paz, Bolivia, seven of the eight plants were found as part of the **Proyecto Madidi**, a ten year effort to describe the plant

species of three inter-connecting protected areas in Bolivia - Madidi National Park, Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Communal Lands, and Apolobamba Integrated Management Natural Area. "Before we started this project in 2000, this botanically rich area was essentially a white area on the map, almost unexplored," says Dr. Peter Jørgensen, associate curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden, in a press release. "There has been very little general collecting in this area. Over the course of a decade we have documented more than 7,000 species, which is about a third of what you can find in North America." Of these 7,000 species, researchers with the project have found 132 that were unknown to science, only 32 of which have so far been formally described. The protected areas spread over 100,000 square kilometers and cover habitats from high glacial peaks to the Amazon rainforest. Although protected, portions of these areas are threatened by new roads and expanding cattle ranching and farming.



Madidi National Park offers a diverse range of landscapes from glacier-covered peaks to tropical rainforests

MtPAs in Canada's Far North

Canada has many very large national parks, many of them in more remote mountain areas. While its largest park, and World Heritage Site, Wood Buffalo NP at 44,800 km² (17,293 mi²) is not a MtPA, the second and third largest are both mountainous. We have previously written up material on Nahanni NP Reserve, the first World Heritage Site to be designated following the Convention. In the Mackenzie Mountains, at 30,000 km², it is Canada's third largest. These two aforementioned PAs are rather well known internationally.



The British Empire Range shown here is one of the many spectacular mountain groups in the vast Arctic landscapes of Quttinirpaaq NP

Not well recognized is the second in size, Quttinirpaaq NP. It is Canada's most northerly NP and consists of 37,775 km² (14,583 mi²) of high mountains, deeply cut plateaux, polar desert and Arctic tundra. It was established under an agreement with the local aboriginal people, and has a cooperative management board. The Park is on the northeastern corner of Ellesmere Island and is over a third glacier-covered, and was first designated as Ellesmere Island National Park Reserve in 1988.

The Alpine Ecosystems Research Centre (CREA)

This French NGO located in Chamonix is specialized in alpine environments (plant and animal ecology, impacts of climate change and human activities). Since 2004, CREA has developed various research programs focusing on the impact of climate change on the timing of seasonal events (i.e. phenology).

PhenoAlp is a French-Italian Interreg project aiming at developing protocols to measure phenology of alpine grasslands, forests, and some animal taxa (birds and amphibians). The main objective is to determine which events (egg laying, offspring development, leaf growing, flowering) and which species are the most relevant to be used in long term study of phenological changes due to climate change in the Alps.

The main phenology program launched by CREA in 2004 is Phenoclim. Tree phenology is measured all over the Alps by involving the general public in the observations through a scientific and educational program. At the present time 190 sites are studied in France, Italy and Switzerland. CREA hopes to extend this program over the entire Alps.

For details contact: *Floriane Macian*, (floriane@crea.hautesavoie.net)

Supporting PAs While Eating at Restaurants

A new program of paying for environmental services (PES) being rendered by Costa Rica's PAs in the Central Volcanic Cordillera has been instituted. This could help pay for restoration of infrastructure and equipment supply for park rangers in PAs Poas, Irazú, Turrialba, Braulio Carrillo and National Monument Guayabo. The program is called *Negocios Sostenibles* and is instituted by the Foundation for the Development of the Central Volcanic Cordillera and the National System of Conservation Areas. One recent example involved diners and guests at the Ramada Plaza Herradura adding US\$1 to the cost of their restaurant meals, with the hotel adding US\$100 more each month. Since October US\$ 3,015 has been accumulated to benefit nearby Braulio Carrillo National Park.

TREK EAST Continues

The plan by *John Davis* to cover a 5,000 mile (8,000 km) route by muscle power (hike, bike or paddle) through the wild places in the Eastern US Wildway was reported in the last issue of UPDATE. This trek is to further the mission of The Wildlands Network in connectivity. John, after wandering the wilder places of the lowlands and coastal areas of Southeastern USA, now is hiking the Appalachian Mountains, a fitting environment for a mountain man. He has completed over 38% of the length. His progress and comments can be followed at

www.twitter.com/trekeast. We hope to connect with *John* in person when he reaches the Green Mountains of Vermont.

mountain.TRIP

With the full title of Mountain Sustainability: Transforming Research Into Practice, this recently-formed partnership has the goal of translating research findings into useful and accessible information for practitioners. With support from the European Commission, the partners include: EcoLogic, Euromontana, Mountain Research



Institute, Center for Mountain Studies of University of the Highlands and Islands, Institute of Mountain Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IGF), Jagiellonian University (Poland). It provides maps, databases, results and holds workshops. In 2011, workshops include: Innsbruck (Austria) May 25, Granada (Spain) June 7, Krakow (Poland) June 8, and Sighisoara (Romania) October 9, and Brussels (Belgium) November 9. Information and registration in Mountain TRIP at www.mountaintrip.eu.

The Green Line Foundation (TGLF)

We have previously mentioned the fine charitable work of TGLF in assisting the families of Rangers killed in the line of duty, and urged our members to support TGLF financially. A wonderful example of the practical, on-the-ground type of activity it carries out has come to my attention. In Cambodia, the widow of killed ranger Kol Soi, was given a buffalo to ease the work with the rice crop, a sugar juice machine, and support for her two young children to go back to school. TGLF is benefitting from a transfer of the funds in the International Ranger Federation's Rangers' Dependents Fund, but individual contributions are needed and welcome. Contact Dana at dmdierkes@verizon.net.

Bits and Pieces

On and around 24 May this year the **International Day of Parks** occurred, with its focus on **Green Volunteers**. Over 500 events took place in 185 PAs in 17 countries!!

Virunga NP (Republic of the Congo) has been facing the threat of oil exploration by the British company **SOCO International**. The Environment Ministry has announced a halt in this activity pending a "comprehensive, transparent and inclusive" environmental assessment. Meanwhile, there have been additional deaths and injuries to Park Rangers striving to protect the Park's resources, particularly the mountain gorillas. According to the March issue of the International Ranger Federation Newsletter there have now been 7 deaths of Park staff since mid-January, plus 5 soldiers who assist in Park patrols.

The Nature Conservancy, which posts many items of interest to the Network now has a Spanish

language website, www.espanol.tnc.org.

In early April, park leaders from around the world attended the second annual "**National Parks Institute Executive Leadership Seminar**" offered by the University of California-Merced and the US National Park Service. We are pleased to report that one of our Network members, *Per Wallsten*, who is Superintendent of Tyresta National Park and Nature Reserve in Sweden, was among the selected group of attendees this year! The multi-day seminar offered instruction in the San Francisco area, Yosemite National Park, and the city of Merced in California's Central Valley. Discussions focused on helping the participants, who are responsible for protecting important parts of the world's natural and cultural heritage, to develop world-class leadership skills. Pulitzer Prize-winning scientist E.O. Wilson and the Director of the US National Park Service, Jon Jarvis, were among those giving presentations during the seminar. You can view a video report of this year's seminar at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8sdySfUu6g>

The **Sierra de Lacandón NP** in Guatemala is part of the great Mayan Forest (10.3 million ha) stretching from Belize, northern Guatemala and into Mexico's Yucatán. The Park contains many species of conservation interest, including some endangered wildlife. Among the wildlife species are jaguar, mountain lion, tapir, and ocelot. The **Defensores de la Naturaleza**, working with The Nature Conservancy and local communities have acquired two key private land properties of 32,000 ha to be added to the Park.

In mid-January, the US Environmental Protection Agency decided to cancel a massive mountain top removal permit in the Appalachian Mountains that had already been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. The **Spruce Coal Mine** would have destroyed 2,300 acres (930 ha) of forest, and buried nearly 7 miles of streams. This decision seems to be the result of a 12-year opposition of most local residents, and a massive outpouring of national opposition coordinated by the **Center for Biological Diversity**. This is on National Forest lands (Category IV).

Snow leopards disappeared from Nepal's Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) in the late 1960s/early 1970s, but have managed to return to the mountain area in the early 2000s. Protection efforts, for instance by the Snow Leopard Conservancy, seemed to have worked. *Som Ale*, of SLC has been instrumental in holding a Snow Leopard Environmental Camp last year, in cooperation with the Sagarmatha Buffer Zone Management Committee. SLC has just produced a book of children's drawings of snow leopards and their habitat by kids who attended the camp. www.snowleopardconservancy.org.

Speaking of snow leopards, a quote from *George Schaller's* book ***Stones of Silence*** seems fitting: *The snow leopard represented not just a rare and beautiful cat whose habits I wanted to study, but also the symbol of a search for something intangible that seemed forever elusive.*

A recent study in California's coastal mountains, reported in *Science* (331 No. 6015) documents

that plant species do not universally move upslope to higher elevations as a response to global warming. **Downhill shifts of plants** are occurring also, as species seek a better ecological niche. This is due to the fact that water availability may be more significant than temperature in determining species occurrence, and water relationships are changing, along with temperature. Message: it is not just temperature affecting plant distribution.

Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany are cooperating to link the Carpathian Beech Primeval Forests and the Ancient Beech Forest of Germany, according to *Ivan Voloscuk* as a possible Tri-national World Heritage Site. *Ivan* will keep us apprised of any progress.

A recent UNDP report on biodiversity points out that more than **40% of the Earth's biodiversity** resides in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Perú and Venezuela.

We are lax in reporting that *Marie-Eve Marchand* left her position with the Quebec Chapter of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and has become associated with The WILD Foundation, in Boulder, Colorado, where she works on the Nature Needs Half project, and she is Coordinator of "Bison Belong in Banff NP".

Also we are tardy in not mentioning that *Sam Pearsall* resigned as Project Director for The Nature Conservancy's Roanoke River Project to become Southeastern Regional Manager for Land, Water and Wildlife for the Environmental Defense Fund.

Last year US President Obama announced **America's Great Outdoors Initiative**, and the official document and report came out in February of this year (too late to mention in March UPDATE). It seeks to coordinate and strengthen the government's programs and actions with work being done by NGOs that are working to protect and restore natural landscapes where people can get close to nature and enjoy it. **Yellowstone-to-Yukon (Y2Y)** was singled out for special mention of valuable action taking place.

The new coordinator of the **Mountain Partnership**, spearheaded by FAO is Olman Serrano, of Costa Rica. www.mountainpartnership.org.

The first **Dinaric Conference**, involving Ministers of Slovenia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania occurred in March in Brdo pri Kranju (Slovenia). It was held in conjunction with the Eleventh Alpine Conference held under the Alpine Convention. This bodes well for transnational cooperation in this important mountain range.

New and expanded ski resorts are posing threats to some of Bulgaria's PAs, *e.g.* **Rila NP**, and **Pirin NP** which is also a World Heritage Site. Similar threats are posed in Romania, Ukraine and Slovakia, as countries try to improve their economies through tourism. In the light of climate

change, and the somewhat lower elevation of these (reliance on snow-making technology) these harms to PAs seem very risky. We understand that in the Alps, Swiss banks now consider loans to resorts under 5,000 ft (1,525 m) to be losing propositions.

We previously reported on Ecuador's landmark legislation acknowledging the legal right of Nature to exist, persist and regenerate. Now comes even stronger Bolivian government recognition called the **Law of Mother Earth**. It is based in the indigenous Andean spiritual world view represented by Pachamama, the Mother of creation and the universal life force. Hopefully this will make it easier to regulate developments such as mining even though mining is so important to Bolivia's economy. Part of the push for recognition and respect comes from a concern over climate change, particularly reduction of glaciers whose water supply is so critical to food production and municipal water supply.

Peter Shadie has moved from a position with IUCN in Bangkok to home country Australia, where he operates Odonata House Consulting.

Another career shift involves *Thomas Scheurer*, who was formerly Coordinator of the Research Council of Swiss National Parks, and is now with the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR) in Switzerland.

Kevan Zunckel has left the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Area and has set up a private business in Hilton, South Africa called Zunckel Ecological and Environmental Services. We wish him good fortune.

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ALPARC reports that **otters** are naturally re-colonizing rivers in the Alps, so far in Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland. They were on the brink of extinction in the 19th century and had survived in only a few locations in the Austrian Tyrol, in the Alsace (France) and in Lombardy (Italy). Surprised scientists are hoping that there may be repopulation throughout the Alps.

The **wolverine** (*Gulo gulo*) is a powerful predator inhabiting higher elevations in the Rocky Mountains of the American West. With fewer than 300 individuals (mostly in MtPAs) in the lower 48 states, it has finally been approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Endangered Species status. An important adverse pressure on the population is climate warming in the mountains. However, it may not be officially soon listed, thus triggering special protection measures, due to a backlog of 251 other species in the queue. Higher summer temperatures and reduced spring snow cover are pushing wolverines higher up the mountains.

Meanwhile, in England, to safeguard the endangered fish **vendace** from global warming, the Environment Agency transported 25,000 young fish from a hatchery in the **Lake District NP** at Derwentwater to a cooler lake higher up in the Lake District highlands by llama transport (due to rough terrain) and released them in Sprinkling Tarn where temperatures are lower. An example of assisted migration to adapt to global warming.

Congratulations to **Parks Canada** which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Established in 1911, Canada became the first country to create a **national parks agency**. There are now in the system 40 parks, 165 national sites, 4 marine conservation areas, including 10 World Heritage Sites (including the world's first).

Celebrate **World Ranger Day** on July 31. Create or join in activities that recognize the work of Park Rangers around the globe. It especially commemorates the many Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty. Incidentally, the South American Region of the International Ranger Federation has a new webpage at www.guardaparquesenaccion.org.

Network member *David Mabunda*, Chief Executive Officer of South African national Parks is targeting the crime which has been occurring in **Table Mountain NP**. Armed Rangers have been authorized and 50 new Rangers will be added to the existing 43 plus visitor safety officers. SAN Parks will also expand the number of dogs used in the Park. (Source: Guadaparques Newsletter by *Daniel Paz Barreto*.)

Feeling keenly that **noise** is a serious pollutant in MtPAs (and everywhere else), we try to bring interesting noise items to the attention of readers. International Noise Awareness Day passed many of us by without recognition. But the European Environment Agency announced a new **Soundscape Award** that will recognize European initiatives (product, campaign or scheme) that will help to solve the issue of unwanted/obtrusive sound. Awards in November 2011.

www.eea.europa.eu/themes/noise/the-european-soundscape-award.

Ken Kimball, Research Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club was the 2011 recipient of the **Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award** for his long-term commitment to protecting the spiritual and physical qualities of the Northeast mountain wilderness. Congratulations, *Ken*.

ALPARC has developed a map of the European Alps showing **Hypothetical Barriers and Priority Conservation Areas** as a product of the Ecological Continuum project. It appears to be an excellent planning tool for connectivity the whole length of the Alps.

Well, he has done it again! Apa Sherpa reached the **summit of Everest for the 21st time** on May 11. He was Climbing Leader for the 2011 EcoEverest Expedition organized by Network member *Dawa Steven Sherpa*. The expedition's purpose was to bring awareness to the world community about climate change, and to bring down old garbage and trash from the slopes in Sagarmatha NP. Since 2008, expeditions have brought down more than 12,000 kilos of trash and more than 300 kilos of human waste. Four dead bodies have also been brought down. As previously reported in UPDATE, Apa Sherpa and *Dawa Steven Sherpa* will walk the 1,600 km length of the Nepal Section of the **Great Himalayan Trail**, starting in mid-September. *Elizabeth Fox* is planning to join in for at least part of the 150 day trek. Any other Network members tackling this?

ALPES magazine has just featured member and good friend *Barbara Ehringhaus* in a spread containing five photos of her, and a lengthy article documenting her long struggle to give tri-national protection to Mont Blanc. It is a splendid and well-deserved recognition of her work. We congratulate this indomitable mountain woman. We have posted a copy of this article on the Mountains Biome Blog: <http://protectmountains.org/mountains-blog/>

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Safe Passages. 2010 by Jon P. Beckman *et al.*, including *Jodi Hilty*. Island Press. 383 pp. This is subtitled Highways, Wildlife, and Habitat Connectivity, covering such species as salamanders, salmon and grizzly bears. Focus is on North America. Paperback US\$40. www.islandpress.com.

Siachen Glacier: The Battle of Roses. 2011 by *Harish Kapadia*. Siachen seems like the

ultimate potential Peace Park, toward which many of us have worked at various times. Located on a disputed Himalayan border between Pakistan and India, it remains unresolved. No one has worked more tirelessly for a Peace Park than network member *Harish Kapadia*. It seems worthwhile to give a longer than usual summary of the book's content. This from *Harish*...

Siachen, the longest glacier in the world outside the polar regions, is a virtual high altitude paradise. Roses are found on the glacier giving its name - Sia, the rose. However for the past 26 years it has seen bloody warfare on its heights. Indian and Pakistan armies have been battling it out for its control, paying a heavy price in terms of human lives, financial resources and environmental devastation. The glacier, being part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir has defied all attempts at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. The book narrates the history of exploration of the Siachen, the political developments, stories of battles, state of the environment and plight of soldiers living at heights above 20,000 ft where temperatures drop to -40° in winter. During his several visits to the Siachen glacier for climbing peaks and exploring different valleys, the author had the opportunity to interact with simple soldiers, officers and local people, and witness the conflict first hand. He speaks of those encounters too. The Battle of Roses, between two neighbors locked in a long-lasting violent conflict with constant one-upmanship has led to unprecedented destruction of the finest mountain area. The book offers a suggestion to establish the Siachen Peace Park to end this war and allow Nature to regenerate. Order directly with the publishers at www.rupapublications.com.

Benefits for European Wilderness. 2011. A publication of PANParks. 26 pages showcasing its wilderness protection work. Can be viewed at www.panparks.org/newsroom/news/2011/benefits-wilderness.

Responding to Climate Change on National Forests: a Guidebook for Developing Adaptation Options, 2011, by David Peterson and six others. US Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest. 179 pages. Science-based principles, processes and tools needed to develop adaptation options on National Forests. This is also relevant to National Parks, and includes some NP case studies from mountain areas.

<http://northcascadia.org/pdf/Peterson%20et%20al.%20%28Adaptation%20Guidebook%29%20%28Feb.%202011%29.pdf>

The Future of Winter Use in Yellowstone National Park. 2011. A draft environmental impact statement on seven prospective ways to manage this iconic PA in its most unique and challenging season. Should be of interest to other MTPAs where winter use presents problems. One major topic deals with the use of snowcoaches and snowmobiles to bring users into the Park. US National Park Service. www.nps.gov/yell/planyouvisit/winteruse.htm.

Natural Solutions - Protected Areas; helping people cope with climate change. 2011. This IUCN publication is now available in Spanish. It was first published in 2009. Authors from the

Network include *Nigel Didley, Sue Stonton, Nik Lopoukhine, Kathy McKinnon and Trevor Sandwith*. Contributions by many other Network members. IUCN, TNC, UNDP, WCS, WWF and World Bank.

Biodiversity in Time of Climate Change: management or wilderness? 2010. ALPARC Publication under direction of *Guido Plassmann*. Highlights the work of the Task Force Protected Areas of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. Now in English.
www.alparc.org

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

VII Protected Areas International Congress (Latin America), July 4-8, 2011 in Havana Cuba. Convention Palace. (Spanish) Proposals for presentations were 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 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. More information at www.worldbiodiversity2011.com/. Organized by Century Foundation of Bangalore, India.

EUROPARK 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/.

Caribbean Learning Symposium: Biodiversity, Adaption, Development - A Formula for Resiliency, September 20-21, 2011 in the Virgin Islands. Organized by IUCN Regional Office to focus on effective PA management. This will be followed immediately by an IUCN Regional Forum of members that will help shape program priorities for 2012-16. Details from *Joseph Smith Abbot* director@bvinpt.org.

European Ecological Foundation EEF/AEET Congress, Spetember 25-29, 2011 in Ávila, Spain. Of particular interest to Network Members is a session sponsored by the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment and convened by Lazlo Nagy entitled: Climate Change, Extreme Events and Alpine Ecosystem Responses. *Christian Koerner* is one of the confirmed presenters.

Deadline for submissions closed April 30, but participants are welcome. Information and registration at www.eefcongress2011.eu/. It is preceded (on September 25) by a workshop on **Global Change Research in Mountains** organized by the Mountain Research Initiative and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment. Contact *Astrid Bjoernsen* at astrid.bjoernsen@giub.unibe.ch.

The Call of the Mountains: What contribution has mountain tourism made to our cultural heritage? October 6-9, 2011 in Pieniny Mountains NP (100 km south of Krakow) on Polish/Slovak border. English language. *Piotr Dabrowski* calls our attention to this, the Fifth International Seminar on Mountain Tourism. Contact dabrowski@eko-tourist.krakow.pl. Papers and posters solicited. Deadline for registration is September 16. Registration form and announcement at www.eco-tours.pl.

Protected Areas as Tools for Regional Development - Perspectives for Research and Management, October 13-15, 2011 in 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 in 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 in Innsbruck, Austria. For representatives from scientific community, industry and public authorities. Organized by University of Innsbruck, Institut fur Gerbingsforschung 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.

VII World Conservation Congress (IUCN). September 6-15 2012. Jeju Island, South Korea. Contributions to Forum sessions (Sept. 7-11) are solicited, and suggestions for events are open until October 2011. File proposals and check on updates at http://www.iucn.org/2012_congress/

VII World Ranger Congress 2012, November 4-9, 2012 near Arusha NP, Tanzania. To be placed on mailing list for early details, see TanzaniaWRC@gmail.com.

World Parks Congress. 2014. Planning underway.

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_conservingd/

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**

*Pieniny National Park's well-preserved
medieval "Red Monastery" has a beautiful
backdrop of Three Crowns Peak.*

IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome | Professor Lawrence S. Hamilton | Senior Advisor, Mountain Biome | World Commission on Protected Areas/IUCN | Charlotte | VT | 05445