

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 73 - March 2012



The view from Jim ("Muddy Boots") Thorsell's cabin near Wilmer, British Columbia, Canada offers an enticing blend of snow, lake, and mountains.  
Photo courtesy of Jim Thorsell

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*"Montani semper liberi"*- Mountains are always free.  
~ My high school Latin class



*"Mountain peoples are usually free and independent"* - (e.g. Scottish Highlanders, Atlas Mountain Berbers, Alps farmers, Basques of the Pyrenees, Kogi in Santa Marta de Sierra Nevada, Himalayan farmers, etc.  
~ Personal observation, L. Hamilton

## Notes from the Editor

Since this is the first UPDATE in 2012, let me commence with the best of wishes for health, happiness and peace to all Network Members from the Mountains and Connectivity Conservation Executive Team (*Worboys, McMillan, Rossi, Chassot, Sarmiento, Tollefson, and of course me*).

There were no complaints about the length of the last two issues of UPDATE, so be prepared for another,--you can always scroll down fast.

We welcome new members:

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-  
**UPDATE Newsletter  
Editor**



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[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

*Stephanie Beaudoin*, Coordinator of the Quebec-based Appalachian Corridor Appalachien (Canada)

*Ian Walker*, General Manager for Environment and Heritage, Parks Victoria (Australia)

*Susie Weeks*, Executive Officer for the Mount Kenya Trust, (Kenya)

*Dr. Peter Howard*, Consultant, Africa Heritage Trust, Protected Areas and Wildlife Management (Kenya). He is developer of the new, fine web for African World Heritage Areas (see **Bits and Pieces** item on this).

*Scott Perkin* is the new Head of the Biodiversity Conservation Program in the IUCN Asia Regional Office in Bangkok. He has previously served with IUCN in Pakistan.

Our famed legal expert and watcher of Alpine Convention *Wolfgang Burhenne* is welcomed back onto the "active list". He is with the International Council of Environmental Law in Bonn, Germany.

And from Cambodia, Fauna and Flora International, *Toby Eastoe*, the Protection Advisor joins us. And we extend a special welcome to *Jeff McNeely*, who in his heart is a mountain man, though for over 30 years has been IUCN's Chief Biodiversity Officer, Senior Science Advisor, at one time WCPA Executive Officer, and other positions with IUCN, that kept his interests more widely focused. Now "retired" and living in Bangkok, he continues his addiction to writing stimulating articles and books.

It seems fitting to start this issue with an article on the Red Panda, as a tribute to our late colleague *Pralad Yonzon*, (see tribute in last issue) who did some of the early seminal research on this species.

## Red Panda, a Mountain Inhabitant

The red panda is endemic to the temperate forests of the Himalayas and ranges from the foothills of western Nepal to China in the east.[ Its westernmost limit is the Annapurna Range in Nepal, and the easternmost is the Qing Ling Mountains of the Shaanxi Province in China. It is found in southern Tibet, Sikkim, Assam and Bhutan, in the northern mountains of Myanmar, and in southern China in the Hengduan Mountains of Sichuan and Gongshan Mountains in Yunnan. A disjunctive population inhabits the Meghalaya Plateau of northeastern India.



The red panda lives between 2,200 and 4,800 meters (7,200 and 15,700 ft) altitude, inhabiting areas of moderate temperature between 10 and 25 °C (50 and 77 °F) with little annual change. It prefers mountainous mixed deciduous and conifer forests, especially with old trees and dense understories of bamboo.

The **red panda** (*Ailurus fulgens*), or shining cat, is a small arboreal mammal native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. It is the only species of the genus *Ailurus*. Slightly larger than a domestic cat, it has reddish-brown fur, a long, shaggy tail, and a waddling gait due to its shorter front legs. It feeds mainly on bamboo, but is omnivorous and may also eat eggs, birds, insects, and small mammals. It is mainly a solitary animal. The red panda has been classified as **Vulnerable** by IUCN, because its population is estimated at less than 10,000 mature individuals. Although red pandas are protected by national laws in their range countries, their numbers in the wild continue to decline mainly due to habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and inbreeding depression. The red panda is protected in all range countries, and hunting is illegal. Beyond this, conservation efforts are highly variable between countries:

- China has 35 protected areas covering about 42.4% of red panda habitat.
- India has 20 protected areas with known or possible red panda populations in Sikkim,

Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal such as **Namdapha NP** and **Singhalila**, and a coordinated conservation policy for the red panda.

- In Nepal, known populations occur in **Langtang NP**, **Sagarmatha NP**, **Makalu Barun NP**, **Rara NP**, **Annapurna Conservation Area**, **Kanchenjunga Conservation Area**, and in **Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve**.
- Bhutan has 5 protected areas that support red panda populations.
- Myanmar has 26 protected areas, of which at least one or more host red panda populations.

I recently received a report on the activities of a Red Panda Network (Nepal). It has a project of habitat restoration and protection in the Kanchenjunga Mountain area which lies within the **Sacred Himalayan Landscape**. The area also forms an important connectivity linkage in the transboundary complex of **Kanchenjunga Conservation Area** (Nepal), **Kanchendzonga NP** (Sikkim-India) and the **Singhalila NP** and **Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary** (Darjeeling-India). The area consists mainly of community forests, which are now under conservation monitoring.

### **Is England's Lake District a MtPA?**

My mountain buddy, *Jim "Muddy Boots" Thorsell* would scoff at the notion of this landscape qualifying as mountainous. Most of you who are dealing with high mountains, bergs, Alps and the like might join him. On the other hand, *John Watson* in Western Australia who champions his biodiversity-rich Sterling Range (highest elevation 1,073 m) might well vote yes. And he would be joined by all of our fine Scottish Network members who cherish their rugged Highlands (highest elevation 1,344 m). My own Green Mountains in Vermont manage to reach up to 1,338 m. In the last issue we carried word of a new definition of mountains. I believe that by this new criteria, and by the widely adopted Kapos *et al.* (2000) both the Scots and our Western Australia colleagues can rest easy for their summits.

But the **Lake District NP**, the land of Wordsworth who penned "a wild scene of crag and mountain" is an area of footpaths and bridleways and Neolithic stone circles. Its highest peak, at 978 m, Scofall Peak, is the highest point in England. But while its famous dales and lakes are gentle and picturesque with pastoral scenes, its fells are rugged and treeless, called by some "sub-arctic environments". Fell, incidentally is an ancient Norse word for mountainsides. This landscape inspired Wordsworth who wrote volumes of widely read (not only in Britain, but in Europe and America) poetry extolling its beauty and mystery and published a guidebook to the District in the early 1830s. I believe that his nature writing about these lakes and fells was instrumental in helping to change the perception of mountains from places of fear to environments of enjoyment and appreciation. He certainly influenced artists in Europe and America (*e.g.* The Hudson River School), photographers and even mountaineers. And so, whether or not our mountain community is willing to acknowledge the **Lake District NP** as a MtPA, we may still recognize the legacy we owe to this landscape, of which Wordsworth wrote so lovingly.

### **More Thoughts on Defining Mountains**

Low elevation mountains in higher latitudes often have summit areas of baldness, above tree line. They may even have *krumholtz* just below. They are usually isolated steep, rocky (much exposed rock) and with distinctive alpine or tundra vegetation. By many definitions (including mine) they can bear the name "mountains". I have recently heard and adopted a new word, from Russia: "Gol'tsy" which is applied to such summit areas, and helps to give them mountain status. Keys are exposure, temperature and elevation. In my regional environment we have gol'tsy in such mountains as Katahdin (1605m), Mansfield (1340m) and Franconia Ridge (around 1525m).

### **The Carpathian Convention**

Over 150 participants including official delegates, invited observers and press gathered on May 25-27, 2011 in Bratislava, Slovakia for the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3). Officially known as the "Framework Convention on the protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians," the Carpathian Convention was represented by seven Carpathian nations -- the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine.

The Carpathians are strung out in an 1800-kilometer arc over seven Central and Eastern European countries (Fig. 1). The region is the epicenter of regional biological diversity with a unique cultural heritage that is rapidly vanishing. Europe's largest populations of large

charismatic megafauna including brown bears, wolves, lynx, and European bison as well as imperial eagles and other globally threatened species are found in the Carpathians. They are also home to almost 4,000 plant species, many of which (>30%) are regarded as endemic.



Figure 1. Carpathian Mountains

It should come as no surprise that the theme of **forests** cycled up to the top of the menu for the Carpathian Convention. The Carpathian region has had a particularly disjointed history for forest management and exploitation and, hence, in need of comprehensive policy support. The Carpathians are Europe's most densely forested mountains -- forests cover more than half of the Carpathian Mountains, with nearly 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> consisting of natural and semi-natural forests. With 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of old growth forests, the Carpathians harbor the largest remaining, contiguous old growth beech stand in Europe.

The Carpathian forests today are affected by multiple anthropogenic and natural disturbances including:

atmospheric deposition, water pollution, windthrow, floods, droughts, biotic agents (insects and fungal pathogens), unacceptable forest management practices, illegal logging and, increasingly, tourism. These disturbances contribute to ecosystem stress and the spiral of decline visible in large areas of forest dieback particularly in coniferous stands. The number of free ranging livestock animals, most notably sheep, and upland pasture has disappeared dramatically while the number of hotels has increased by almost 60 per cent in the last ten years. Popular destinations are suffering from the phenomenon of massive tourism on an unsustainable scale. In addition, the process of re-privatization and restitution of forest properties to private owners that began in the early 1990s has resulted in a disruption of long-term forest management and fragmentation of forest coverage.

Hand in hand with forest resource management, COP3 reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable tourism. By agreeing on Decision COP3/6, Sustainable Tourism, Article 9 of the Carpathian Convention, the Parties recommended to the Ministerial segment to adopt the text of the Draft Protocol on Sustainable. The ministers and high-level representatives adopted, and Czech Republic, Romania, Slovak Republic and Serbia signed, the Protocol on Sustainable Tourism while Hungary, Poland and Ukraine expressed their commitment to sign the Protocol at a later stage.

Network member *Yurij Bihun* is editor of the *Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Newsletter*, one of the Mountain Research Initiative Regional Networks.

### **European Regional Mountain Initiatives: From Pyrenees to Caucasus (January 2012 - December 2014)**

This new interdisciplinary research project compares several existing and emerging transboundary mountain initiatives through a combination of perspectives from geographers, legal scholars, and political scientists of the University of Geneva and the Institut Universitaire Kurt Boesch. Financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation and coordinated by Prof. Bernard Debarbieux, the project aims to trace the histories of 7 European mountain initiatives; to examine how these massifs have been portrayed and delineated in international and interregional cooperation; to analyze prevailing legal and institutional arrangements and their diffusion to other places; and to specify the degree to which a common 'Alpine model' has been balanced with context-specific goals.

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## GLOCHAMOST

Report from *Thomas Schaaf*, UNESCO

We have previously called readers' attention to GLOCHAMORE which was set up in 2003 by UNESCO-MAB, in collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative and University of Vienna. Based on 20 Mt Biosphere Reserves, it brings together scientists to monitor and study GLOBAL CHANGE in MOUNTAIN REGIONS. It is funded by the European Commission but is world-wide in scope. Now comes GLOCHAMOST as a follow-up initiative to develop adaptation strategies at specific sites. The five areas are "climate, biodiversity, water, land use change and mountain economies. The first two sites selected are **Berchtesgaden** (Germany) and **Val-Mustar** (Switzerland). Reports from GLOCHAMORE are available from several mountain national parks and biosphere reserves. Google GLOCHAMORE or GLOCHAMOST.

## Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative

Report from Robert Zomer and *Krishna Prasad Oli*, ICIMOD

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative (KSLCI) is a long-term conservation initiative based on ecosystem management approaches and regional transboundary cooperation. The KSLCI is an initiative of China, India and Nepal facilitated and supported by ICIMOD, UNEP and GIZ. The Landscape is over 31,000 sq. km and is shared by three countries-China, India and Nepal (See Fig. 2). This highly diverse region is culturally rich and environmentally fragile, containing a broad array of bioclimatic zones, rich natural and cultural resources, and a wide range of habitat types.

It provides essential habitat for large numbers of endemic and endangered species, including large charismatic mammals such as the snow leopard which are under acute pressure from environmental change and human activities. It already has several Protected Areas within it; **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**, **Askopt Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Khaptad NP**, **Api-Nampa Conservation Area**, **Changthang PA** and a high elevation wetland, **Mansarova Ramsar Site**. It contains the sacred pilgrimage site of **Mount Kailas**. The KSL is the source of four of Asia's major rivers, the Indus, Brahmaputra, Karnali and Sutlej, upon which millions of people depend for their livelihoods and sustenance.



Figure 2. Map of Kailash Sacred Landscape

The KSLCI programme commenced in July 2009, having first built consensus through a 6 month pre-inception consultation with partners, lead institutes and ministries in all of the three countries. The initial "Preparatory Phase" of the KSLCI had duration of 18 months, and was concluded January 2011, having achieved agreement on a draft Regional Cooperation Framework. During this Preparatory Phase, the KSLCI moved forward with an innovative and highly participatory, consultative approach for creating the policy enabling environment, institutional networks and the knowledge base for regional collaboration. This process has been led by the respective national institutions and based upon principles of national ownership and sovereignty, as facilitated by ICIMOD in collaboration with UNEP.

National ownership and community-based conservation initiatives are the foundation for the sustainability of the KSLCI. As the KSLCI progresses, building the implementation frameworks, regional networks, and community-based structures to apply ecosystem management and landscape conservation approaches, this multi-level participatory process of shared responsibility, national ownership and differentiated approaches among the various countries, actors and stakeholders will continue to evolve as mechanisms for cooperation are formalized. The KSLCI has piloted an innovative approach for the region that encourages flexibility to

respond to sensitive transboundary issues, based on mutual trust built up through a process of joint action and collaborative efforts. Through support from GIZ, several long term automatic weather monitoring stations of modern standard have been established in the landscape. The KSLCI consultative and participatory process has successfully brought together a consensus for conservation and sustainable development of the KSL, and provides a model of regional cooperation for **transboundary ecosystem management** that can be replicated throughout the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

## **Transboundary Issues in the Altai**

Report by *Yuri Badenkov*, Mountain MAB-6 Group and Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences

*Ed. note: The following is slightly re-worked material written by Yuri from comments on "A Line Through the Sacred Lands of the Altai Mountains: Perspectives on the Altai Pipeline Project" (Mountain Research and Development 31 (4), 2011). It is supplemented by additional material he has provided on his ideas for an Altai-Sayan-Baikal large transboundary landscape, and a Regional Center for study and outreach in mountain development and conservation. Yuri has been advocating and pressuring for decades for conservation action here.*

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This article on the Altai pipeline project deals with an extremely relevant "hot" issue- construction of a gas pipeline from Russia to China via the Altai Mountain region located in the center of the Asian continent, a sacred and spiritual area also noted for its superb and scenic natural landscapes. The construction project has provoked tremendous feedback from the Russian and Altai communities and throughout the world, including international institutions such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). An UNESCO expert mission to the Golden Mountains of Altai mentioned the "outstanding universal value" of the area as it existed. It was considered a site that merited recognition for outstanding universal values associated with the features of its rich cultural heritage, for spiritual values embedded in Altai culture, and for exceptional natural beauty. It can be described as a mixed site and cultural landscape. (*Ed. Note: Yuri and Jim Thorsell did a site visit in 1996, and David Sheppard did the IUCN WH evaluation in 1998, and it was Listed in that year.*)

The transportation infrastructure project crossing the Altai Mountains and the Ukok Plateau has a 15-year history. In 1996, Chinese scholars published a paper that first proposed the idea of a railroad infrastructure project connecting the Chinese railroad system (INTECO) with the Trans-Siberian East-West Railroad in Russia. This proposal provoked heated discussion in Russian society and in the Russian academic community. As a result, the Altai Declaration was signed in 1998 during an international conference in Urumqi, Xinjiang Province, China, by experts representing 3 countries (Russia, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan). One of the key proposals of the Altai Declaration was the creation of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve in Altai as a mechanism for reconciling development and conservation issues in this sensitive and internationally (UNESCO) recognized mountain territory. The idea of a railroad transportation corridor through the Altai-The Great Continental Bridge-was not realized at that time, although it is still alive in Chinese development planning as a postponed project.

An international workshop with the theme "The Frozen Tombs of the Altai Mountains: Strategies and Perspectives," held in the Altai Republic in 2006, issued a recommendation for a cooperative process among 4 countries. Later in 2006, Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, announced during his official visit to China on 21 March a plan to build a gas pipeline through the Altai Mountains. According to the Master Agreement between GASPROM and the China National Petrol Corporation (CNPC), the pipeline was to be constructed for transportation of natural gas (30 billion m<sup>3</sup> annually) from the Northwest gas fields in Siberia through the Kanas Pass in Altai to Urumqi, and further to the eastern provinces of China. This plan aroused strong public protests in Russia (from environmental, social, and ethnic-focused NGOs). The UNESCO World Heritage Center was also concerned by such a development scenario for the Ukok Plateau, which is one of 5 clusters of the "Golden Mountains of Altai" World Heritage Site. Apparently, this strong negative reaction was taken into account by the Chinese stakeholders-the Chinese public and the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation-who had become involved in the environmentally risky project and its potentially drastic impact on sacred landscapes and the UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is no information available on the planned route of the new pipeline via the Chinese Altai. We know, however, that this area

has an abundance of archeological sites that could be affected by the construction activities.

There are at least 2 parties involved in the decision-making process with respect to the transborder pipeline construction project: GASPROM (Russia) and CNPC (China). Other stakeholders include regional and local authorities, local public communities, international NGOs, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. All of these stakeholders have a vital interest in finding a solution that will reconcile environmental conservation and development needs. The lessons learned from this conflict of interests will have a much broader impact beyond the Altai region. This is particularly true in light of the upcoming Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012) and the "green economy" approach to sustainable development strategies in an era of global change.



This all relates strongly to initiatives for connectivity conservation management approach implementation in a transboundary Altai-Sayan-Baikal (ASB) mountain region as one natural and historical space in the heart of Eurasia continent. There are some common attributes of ASB with Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) . One could visualize the ASB as huge intracontinental divide and "water tower" for Irtish, Ob, Enisei and Amur rivers as well as for intracontinental runoff for Great Asian steppes and deserts of Mongolia and Xianjang, China. After 20 years of our activities in Altai transboundary region we can note some progress on bilateral relations in Altai-Sayan area: on September 15, 2011 presidents of Russian Federation, Kazakstan and Mongolia signed Agreements for establishing a Transboundary Reserve in Altai (Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve and Katon-Karagai National Park) and Uvs-Nuur Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, which combined two Biosphere reserves in Mongolia and Tuva Republic, Russia. *(Ed. insert: Tatjana Yashina is Chair of the Katunskiy BR and has been working on these transborder issues. In 2010, she and Graeme Worboys were key organizers of a workshop that focused on possibilities of a mega-Connectivity Conservation Corridor for the Altai-Sayan. Graeme was the keynote speaker.)*

But on the multilateral intergovernment level, we still face a lot of concerns in transboundary cooperation between Russia, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan. We did not achieve success in so called Altai Convention process as a regional legal mechanism for cooperation (following the models of Alpine and Carpathian Conventions in Europe). Even UNDP-GEF Altai-Sayan biodiversity conservation project (2002-2011) and Germany's financial support did not combine and integrate all efforts in the 4 countries. They are still separated on national levels. In light of Climate Change and adaptation issues, such situation is very strange and inefficient. A lot of money and other resources vanished as water in sands.



*Larry, you know I'm crazy man! That's why I try to develop idea/concept of creation of International Altai-Sayan-Baikal Center for connectivity conservation and sustainable mountain development (on regional level) which should be based in Mongolia. The ICIMOD model is suitable for ASB region, for sure. Ed. note: Keep strong Yuri, you are a true warrior...*

The photo shown above by WCPA VC for Mountains and Connectivity Dr. Graeme Worboys, shows the international boundary between the two PAs taken from the Russian side of the border. The two reserves help conserve the Snow Leopard (left) and the largest of the native sheep, the Argali. Both of these species are endangered, and the 2011 transboundary agreement will lead to more effective conservation of these species which are found in the border zone. The trans-boundary agreement is also a starting point for a mega connectivity corridor vision along the Altai-Sayan Mountains potentially involving China and

Mongolia as well as Russia and Kazakhstan.

### **Alpine Zone Briophytes as "Canaries"**

Briophytes obtain all their nutrients and moisture from the air, and so are good monitors of what is happening to our air in terms of temperature, rainfall and pollutants. Moreover many of them are conserved in MtPAs, so that long term monitoring is more assured. Specialist briophytes that thrive only in snowbed patches (long melt time) are especially sensitive to climate change. Various species of *Fontinalis* for instance, have different elevational ranges, - are they moving up slope? Are treelines displacing briophyte areas of tundra? Answering these questions would give good evidence of climate change. One of the leading studies of these alpine plants is on Mount Shrankoget in the Austrian Tirol. A second is on Mt Washington in New Hampshire's US National Forest. More are needed to cover a greater geography say the bryophyte lovers. How about your MtPA? One of the principal scientists working on alpine zone snowbed communities of briophytes and lichens, Dr. Nancy Slack and a British colleague have been awarded a 2012 grant from the Waterman Trust (President: *Val Stori*) to further studies on Mt. Washington.

### **Climate Change in the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains (USA)**

The ecosystems of the large **Adirondack State Park** (1,137,000 ha) are likely, within a few decades, to see widespread shifts in species composition, with the loss of upper elevation spruce forests, alpine tundra and boreal plant communities according to a recent report *Responding to Climate Change in New York State* (2011). And the spruce-fir and hemlock forests of the **Catskill State Park** (273,000 hectares) will be similarly impacted. Animals dependent on these habitats will also suffer, including the temperature-sensitive brook trout and the moose, snowshoe hare and pine marten. These changes will seriously affect the economies of these areas which are heavily tourist dependent (skiing, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing). Other major topics included in the report include water resources, coastal zones, agriculture, energy, transportation, telecommunications and public health. This comprehensive 600-page report was produced by scientists from Cornell and Columbia Universities and City University of New York. Sadly however, our politicians still refuse to take meaningful action on climate change.

### **Wolves and Trophic Cascades (USA)**

We have previously carried items reporting the beneficial effects of wolves and restoring wolves to previous habitats from which they were extirpated. These include the reduction of overpopulations of elk, by culling the sick, dying and weak, and restoring natural foraging patterns. The reduction in damage to aspen poplar stands by elk in Yellowstone NP is now well substantiated. Reduction in meso-predators such as coyote, fox, weasel has taken some pressure off birds and smaller mammals.

Now comes a study in the Wildlife Society Bulletin showing that through wolves reducing coyote numbers the snowshoe hare populations are under less pressure, and these provide more food for the endangered lynx. In the western USA, grizzly bears are also benefitted since they feed on wolf kills.

Note: It seems unfortunate for the Rocky Mountain wolf populations (successful re-introduction from Canada) that benefits from protection under the Endangered Species Act, that this protection has been removed and the management turned over to the western states. The gray wolf population reached about 1,700 animals, but this winter in Montana alone "management" has resulted in 110 kills, with an anti-wolf group offering a bounty of \$100 for each wolf killed. But as 2011 turned into 2012, a lone 2 ½ year old male gray wolf came into California from a small Oregon population. It had travelled 300 miles, and is the first documented wolf in 85 years in California.

### **Good/Bad News on Ibex in Two MtPAs**

First the bad news. Reports have come in from **Gran Paradiso NP** (Italy) of heavy mortality in young ibexes (*Capra ibex*). No specific cause has been identified by veterinarians and researchers, but two of three possible villains are related to climate change. This is tragic, since **Gran Paradiso** has been the traditional refuge for the Alpine ibex, and its welfare was instrumental in initiating the transboundary cooperative relationship with **La Vanoise NP** in France. Protection and reintroduction efforts have



brought it back from the brink of extinction. We will keep updated through Park Director *Michele Ottino*.

Now the good news. Late last year, and earlier this year, two re-introductions of 15 animals each, of this former resident of **Chartreuse Natural Regional Park** (France) were carried out. The hope, within France's national conservation strategy, is to establish a self-sustaining population which will expand to cover the entire Hauts de Chartreuse. *Bruno Messerli* and *Larry Hamilton* were fortunate enough to see ibex during their walkabout in **Chartreuse** last September, thanks to *Guido Plassmann* of ALPARK.



### **Cairngorms NP and Wilderness (Scotland)**

[A contribution to the discussion about wilderness in Europe, from *Martin Price*, who is now on the Park Board and will be an effective voice for wildness.]

In July of last year, a Planning Guidance Policy on Wilderness for the Cairngorms was approved as part of the Local Plan covering most of the Park. Its objective is to maintain zones that have various levels of wildness in the face of development proposals. Three levels of wildness are described and zoned. Rationale: "The experience of wildness is a core special quality in the Cairngorms National Park. This quality should be protected and enhanced throughout."

Wildness is defined: This is the experience of being in a landscape and is derived from the combination of four specific attributes: naturalness, ruggedness, remoteness and the lack of modern human artifacts. Wild land: an area where an individual finds the experience of wildness is particularly strong.

Three bands or zones are set forth. Band A (High Value) allows some areas to have extensive and low impact management, only historic man-made features and no domestic animals. At night there will be no or very distant light sources or dim light pollution glow. Band B and Band C allow increasing but controlled evidences of human management or occupation. These zones have been mapped. For details: [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk).

### **All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory at Great Smoky Mts NP**

The search for life in the **Great Smoky Mountains NP** will be celebrated at a unique gathering in Gatlinburg, March 22-24, hosted by **Discover Life in America (DLIA)**. The All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Conference brings experts and volunteers from around the world together to focus on citizen science, and to be inspired by "The Roots of Biodiversity" with the distinguished Dr. E.O. Wilson.

The main focus of the three-day conference is to highlight the research, conservation and educational efforts being made to understand, manage and restore the estimated 60,000 - 80,000 species in the Smoky Mountains, considered to be one of the world's most biologically diverse ecosystems. At the heart of this effort is the DLIA-organized All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), a unique ecological undertaking to find and document every species of life in **Great Smoky Mountains NP**, from ferns and fungi to birds and beetles.

The effort began in 1998 and is serving as a model for efforts to document the diversity of life throughout the nation-at other National Parks, State Parks, and in other preserves, large and small. To date over 900 species have been identified that are new to science and over 7,000 species have been identified that are new records for the Smoky Mountains.

### **Jaguar Corridor in Costa Rica**

**Paseo Pantera** (Path of the Panther) was an early (1980s) concept of a conservation wildlife

corridor through Meso America. It was initiated by the Wildlife Conservation Society in 1990, and adopted as one of the visionary corridors by the **Wildlands Project**. It morphed into the Meso-American Biological Corridor, subsequently blessed by all governments of the region. The original concept was to link protected areas (many if not most in mountains) with conservation pathways that would permit the iconic jaguar (*Panthera onca*) to travel safely from Brazil and Bolivia to Mexico, at least through Central America.



Action on the ground is slow, but it is happening. Word has come in that Costa Rica for instance, has incorporated the **Barbilla Jaguar Corridor** into its existing wildlife corridor system. **Barbilla NP**, which is part of the **Talamanca/La Amistad Transborder Biosphere Reserve** is on the eastern slopes of the Talamanca Range and was established in 1982, forms the core of the **Barbilla Jaguar Corridor**. The NGO Panthera is involved (with *George Schaller* on the staff). The Corridor Initiative is

overseen by a 25-person Costa Rican corridor committee composed of indigenous leaders, ecotourism operators, villagers, cattle ranchers, cilantro farmers, businessmen and university researchers. The threat of a hydroelectric project that would bisect the Barbilla Corridor is being addressed by Costa Rica's electric utility with advice from Panthera.

### **Film Festivals - Focus on Banff**

Mountain conservation films, presented through film festivals and tours can reach thousands of people, --potential supporters of MtPAs. The Banff International Film and Book Festival is one such event. After the award showings, these festivals usually go on tours, reaching many more. The 2011 Banff event has a category on Mountain Environment, sponsored by the **Yellowstone-to-Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y)**. Six films in this category were watched by 16,000 audience members in several countries. The finalists were from the USA, Canada and Italy. The award winner was titled "Spoil". It focuses on an issue that we have raised in UPDATE, the Enbridge Tar Sands Pipeline across the Rocky Mountains from Alberta production fields to a Pacific Coast port. It poses risks to the Great Bear Rainforest, important salmon rivers and the lives and culture of the Wet'sowet'en First Nation people. Network member *Francois Depey* is working with First Nations on this and other threats to their land and culture. In the overall Festival, there were 310 film entries from 31 countries. It will tour to 35 countries (6 showings in Chile, 5 in Switzerland, 8 in China, and even 2 in Antarctica). Watch for it in your area. See [www.banffcentre.ca/mountainfestival/worldtour/listings](http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainfestival/worldtour/listings).

### **Vikos-Aoos National Park (Greece)**

Based on material from *Stephan Doemke*

We have not, in my memory, had in UPDATE any article on MtPAs in Greece, other than the famed Mt Olympus, the home of gods. Vikos-Aoos, consisting of 12,600 ha (31,136 acres) is in the northern part of the Pindus Range. It is a UNESCO Geopark with spectacular Vikos Gorge 12 km long and 1,000 m in depth, and great karstic topography. Highest peak is Gamila, at 2,497 m (8,192 ft), and there are several others above 2,000 m. There are many alpine lakes with rare aquatic species. It was protected as a national park in 1973. There are four small settlements within the Park, which otherwise is quite wild with few roads in the core zone. Wolves, fox, brown bear and lynx are found here in the southernmost part of their European range, and the rare Balkan Chamois. There are 9 small settlements near the borders of the peripheral zone. The small villages provide a good base for a growing ecotourism economy to a formerly de-populating area. River rafting, kayaking, climbing, caving, hiking and mountain biking along paths are increasing in popularity. Vikos-Aoos is a fine **traditional cultural landscape**.

*Addendum:* A member of the WCPA **Delos Working Group**, Kalliopi Stara has just received an award from the National Technical University of Athens for her PhD thesis. It is entitled: "Sacred woods and groves in the Vikos-Aoos National Park, NW Greece: locally adapted management systems, perceptions and values of local societies for the conservation of the natural environment".

### **Climate Change Science in US National Parks**

*Park Science* Vol 28 No 2, 2011. We do not usually include journals in this section, but this

issue of the US National Park Service research magazine, edited by Network member *Jeff Selleck* warrants a further mention. It is devoted to articles on the impact of climate change on PA management. Many of the articles and case studies deal with MtPAs, since they are experiencing serious impacts, e.g. **Mount Ranier**, **Denali**, **Yosemite**, The pika and the white barked pine are also treated. Ninety-six percent of the NPS land area, and 84% of the units are in areas of documented 20th century warming. For instance, at **Yosemite NP** headquarters, the temperatures have almost steadily increased from around 11°C in 1907 to 12.5°C in 2003 (linear trend). Almost all the articles are oriented to management responses, so that this issue seems particularly valuable to MtPA managers. Available for downloading at [www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/](http://www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/) (Click the "archive" link. It's a large file, so be patient, or view it in HTML format: [www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/index.cfm?IssueID=29](http://www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience/index.cfm?IssueID=29)).

The following issue, Vol 28, No. 3 (Winter, 2011-2012) has as its theme "Wilderness Science and Stewardship". A good one! It also may be downloaded from the Park Science web site.

### Cycling Silk

The intrepid duo of *Kate Harris* and *Mel Yule*, having completed their phenomenal roughly 6000 mile (9600 km) bike ride safari on the Silk Road, are home at last as of the end of 2011. IUCN/WCPA was a co-sponsor of this epic journey. Part of the objective was to visit various transborder PAs where cooperation was being attempted not only for better resource management but for promoting peace and harmonious relationships. A report on this phase of their activity will be forthcoming. For now, let me extract the following sections from their "journal":



*We met lacerating rains and snows on Turkey's Black Sea coast; shivered through the Caucasian mountains of eastern Turkey and Georgia; thawed out painfully in Azerbaijan; biked into the beating hot heart of the Ustyurt Plateau straddling Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, then on to the fabled Silk Road cities of Khiva, Bukhara, and Samarkand; rode into the relief, in all senses, of the Pamir mountains, as we traced the fluid Tajikistan-Afghanistan border for nearly a thousand kilometers; dashed across Kyrgyzstan's swaying green steppes to reach the blazing rock of Xinjiang in western China; climbed up and over the forbidding, forbidden Tibetan Plateau, a stealth mission that sets our hearts racing just remembering it; and plunged down into steamy Kathmandu, then across Nepal's plains and tiger-prowled jungles.*

*Then finally, drawn back to mountains like moths to flame, we looped north through India to finish on the crampon edge of the Himalayan winter in Ladakh. An expedition entirely self-supported, to the chagrin of our legs and lungs, and, barring a few unavoidable train and bus rides due to illness, safety concerns, or visa constraints, a journey entirely self-propelled, with no camel caravan in sight. Take that, Marco Polo!*

Well done *Kate* and *Mel* !!]

### Bits and Pieces

The World Heritage Site **Machu Picchu** has, in 2011, for the second year been declared THE major natural tourist destination in all of South America by World Travel Awards.

**ARCOS**, the **Albertine Rift Conservation Society** was named in February the recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. Network member *Sam Kanyambwa* is Executive Secretary of **ARCOS**, and we send congratulations to him and the Society.

The annual **EcoEverest** climb and clean up will take place this year from 3 April till 30 May. See

*Francois Depey* has been appointed Regional Coordinator for North America of the Indigenous People's and Community Conservation Areas and Territories (ICCA Consortium).

The WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group has a new website. It provides access to the Newsletter and has information about the work of this group, which is headed by *Maja Vasilijevic* who is a proud new mother. [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net). Incidentally, the site links to a history of IUCN transboundary work leading up to the establishment of this Specialty Group, authored by *Larry Hamilton* and *Trevor Sandwith*.

It appears that **Costa Rica**, in reaching a target of 26% of its land area in protected areas, will be the first developing country to meet its commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*Chris Rose*, formerly Regional Manager East, for Parks Victoria (Australia) has been promoted to General Manager Regions, in the Executive Team of Parks Victoria.

Let's not forget the **Pyrenees**. There seems to be much current activity in Europe involving the Alps and the Carpathians. But the Pyrenees are suffering under climate change impacts on species, and glaciers. The European Environmental Agency and the Pyrenees Working Community have recently signed an agreement to assess the situation and assist in adaptations. France and Spain are principals in the Working Community, and have created a Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory.

*Paul Green*, retired in December from New Zealand's Department of Conservation where he has been associated with **Tongariro NP and WH Site** and recently was Conservator, Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy.

Network member *Bill McKibben*, our nature activist/writer/philosopher has been given the Sierra Club's highest award, -- the 2011 **John Muir Award** outstanding conservation achievement. Among other things, Bill is founder of the leading international climate change organization, 350.org, and very active writing, speaking and leading major demonstrations around the need for decisive action to reverse global warming. He was arrested and jailed last year for a protest at the White House over the Tar Sands Pipeline Project.

**Atitlán Watershed** (Guatemala), **Meili Snow Mountains** (China), **Central Appalachians** (Eastern USA), **Mount Hamilton** (California USA), **Atlantic Forest** (Brazil), and **Nevada and Utah Mountains** (USA) are the project sites selected by The Nature Conservancy for **Climate Adaptation Clinics**. These clinics are three days of work to develop pilot adaptation strategies. They have been held over the past two years. More information can be found at [www.conpro.tnc.org/1590/](http://www.conpro.tnc.org/1590/). For example, the project team for **Lake Atitlán**, a volcanic mountain landscape indicates a warmer climate (2°C by 2100) and reduction in dry season precipitation by 50 mm per month. This will shift the relatively narrow cloud forest belt higher (and therefore make it smaller). Therefore it is predicted: fewer mosses and bromeliads, a decrease in catchment capacity, loss of amphibians and serious loss in horned guan population due to fewer fruiting species.

Network member *Hope Robertson* is one of the ringleaders working on a Bureau of Land Management area in Oregon's **Siskiyou Mountains** to create a trail system. They have established a Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) to give to users a reason to protect this beautiful area from degrading land uses, such as off-road vehicles. This is a community initiative for trail work, and to influence policies of relevant state and federal agencies such as BLM, the US Forest Service, and Oregon Parks and Recreation.

**ALPARC** has a full agenda of activities for 2012. One major activity will be to form an association, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, to give more formal structure after 17 years of operation as a loose network. Check out [www.alparc.org](http://www.alparc.org), and sign up for the newsletter to stay informed.

*Alton Byers* has been named "**Explorer**" by the National Geographic Society, joining an illustrious crew.

Mountains have found a separate paragraph in the **Rio+20** Zero Draft Agenda, presented in January 2012:

*We recognize that mountains are highly vulnerable to global changes such as climate change, and are often home to communities including of indigenous peoples, who have developed sustainable uses of their resources yet are often marginalized, sometimes with high poverty rates, exposure to natural risks and food insecurity. We recognize the benefits derived from mountains and their associated ecosystems. We also recognize the need to explore global, regional, national, and local mechanisms to compensate and reward mountain communities for the services they provide through ecosystem protection.*

[Ed. Note: I see no mention of Mountain PAs as one of the best devices for providing ecosystems services!!]

**Romania's** "virgin" forests in its mountainous area represent up to 65% of Europe's remaining wilderness forest land. Home to up to 13,000 species, much of this is now in PA status thanks to an agreement of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, responding to a WWF campaign of **Saving the Virgin Forest**.

The European Union **Natura 2000** Network currently includes over 26,000 sites directed toward conserving Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitat types.

*Nik Lopoukhine*, our WCPA Chair was honored on February 1 by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society with the 2012 **J. B. Harkin Award** (considered the Father of Canadian National Parks). Nik was Director General of Parks Canada from 2001 until his retirement a few years ago and during his long career in Parks Canada was a mover and shaker, strengthening science in park management.

New mining and mineral development for the next 20 years is prevented on more than one million acres (405,000 ha) around **Grand Canyon NP**. This action by President Obama's administration bans mineral leasing or mining of hardrock minerals, mainly uranium, which has been a threat for years.

A new website is available showcasing **Africa's World Heritage Sites**. Of the 120 sites, 36 of them meet Natural Criteria and 5 meet both Natural and Cultural. Several, of course, are mountains, *e.g.* Kilimanjaro, Drakensbergs, Rwenzori, Mt. Nimba, Mt. Kenya, Simien. The website provides access to some 4,000 photographs plus maps. Well worth a visit. It was developed by new Network member *Peter Howard*.

At **Jasper NP** (Canada) there is a proposal by US-owned Brewster Travel Canada to blast out the side of a cliff to create a glass-bottomed "Glacier Discovery Walk". This would be a privately developed venture in the PA for which the public would be charged a use fee. It is being strongly opposed by Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society as an inappropriate commercial development. Parks Canada has just decided to approve the project, though calling for mitigation measures..

The 18 new **Biosphere Reserves** created under the UNESCO BR program include the following MtPAs: Bura'a (Yemen), St. Mary's, St. Kits and Nevis (Scotland), and Mao'er Mountain (China). There are now 581 BRs in 114 countries.

**PANPARKS** has launched The Million Project aimed at identifying and designating one million ha of wilderness by 2015. The total now stands at 312,030 ha, so this is an ambitious undertaking. [www.panparks.org](http://www.panparks.org).

A gold mining development on **Mount Khawa Karmo** sacred mountain site for Tibetans, has been shut down by Chinese authorities after major protests by local people. Enraged villagers had thrown mining equipment worth some \$300,000 into the river in their demands for mine closure. The shutdown occurred in February.

## Some Recent Publications of Interest

*Crossing Borders for Nature: European examples of transboundary conservation.* 2011. Maja Vasilijevic and Tomasz Pezold. IUCN, Gland.

The book draws on transboundary conservation in Europe, highlighting its challenges and benefits. It was published as part of a project led by IUCN and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) which aims to improve transboundary conservation in the mountainous border zone between Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo. Due to isolation in the past and recent political instability in the area, the border between those countries was strictly guarded for decades. It now represents one of the last intact natural sites in Europe with some of the largest populations of species like bear, wolf and lynx. Maja Vasilijevic, co-editor of the publication states: "Nature doesn't stop at borders or man-made boundaries nor should our efforts to conserve it. Transboundary conservation is increasingly important in protecting and maintaining large ecosystems and enhancing the socio-economic development in the areas." For further information, visit: [http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/publications\\_doc/publications/?7925/crossing-borders-for-nature--European%20-examples-of-transboundary-conservation](http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/publications_doc/publications/?7925/crossing-borders-for-nature--European%20-examples-of-transboundary-conservation)

*Las Areas Protegidas de América Latina. Situación actual y perspectivas para el futuro.* 2011. Ed. by Joerg Elbers. IUCN and Government of Spain. Quito, Ecuador. 227 pp. This up-to-date report covers South and Central America, Mexico and the Spanish Caribbean. Beautifully illustrated. Among the authors of sections are Network members Victor Hugo Inchausti and Eduard Mueller.

*Landscape Fragmentation in Europe.* 2011. Joint Report from the European Environmental Agency and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. Impact of roads, motorways, railroads, agriculture and urbanization. Importance of wildlife corridors and connectivity. EEA Report No 2/2011. Free hard copies or [www.eea.europa.eu/publications/landscape-fragmentation-in-europe](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/landscape-fragmentation-in-europe).

*Per Alpes: Discovering the Alps in 20 Circular Walks.* 2010. This free ALPARC book (in all four languages of the Alps, plus English) describes 20 selected trekking routes across the Alpine Arc. They touch on all of the countries that are part of the Alpine Convention, and feature some of the best-known mountains (most of them MtPAs), e.g. Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa, Grossglockner, Triglav, Zugspitze, Maritime Alps, Grosser Lizner, Civetta and Monviso. Published by Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. [www.alpconv.org](http://www.alpconv.org).

*Connectivity conservation in Australian landscapes* by Ian Pulsford and Graeme Worboys is included in the Australian State of the Environment 2011 Report. This is one of six major topics/sections in this official Land Theme. It is possibly the first time a national government report anywhere in the world has given such prominence to connectivity conservation. Well done, Graeme and Ian. [www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/report/land/supporting-material](http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/report/land/supporting-material).

*Why Invest in Sustainable Mountain Development.* 2011 (released on Mountain Day, December 11). Claudia Veith. FAO. Rome. Download at [www.fao.org/forestry/watershedmanagementandmountains/er](http://www.fao.org/forestry/watershedmanagementandmountains/er). Hard copies available from Gerard.marquis@fao.org. [Ed. Note: I see no mention of Mtn PAs as contributing to sustainable development!!]

*Mountain Forests in a Changing World - Realizing values, addressing challenges.* 2011. Eds. Martin Price, Et al. Published by FAO and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. It is largely composed of case studies. Includes a case study by Larry Hamilton, and others by Angeles Mendoza Sammet, Thomas Hofer, Krishna Oli, Eklabya Sharma, Zoltan Kun, Robert Wild, and Ashish Kolthari. Available from publications-sales@fao.org and downloaded at [www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org).

*Dealing with Volcanic Terrains: Conflict Management at Protected Areas: Conflict, Communication and Consensus Building among Stakeholders of Protected Areas in Iceland and Japan.* 2011. Harald Schaller. Lambert Academic Publishing. 188 pp. Focus on Dairetsuzan NP (Japan) and Vatnajökull NP in Iceland. I have not seen this book with what must be the longest title we have ever carried, but it does explain what it's about. Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

*Climate Change in the Hindu Kush - Himalayas, The State of Current Knowledge.* 2011. Surender P. Singh et al. (including *Eklabya Sharma*). ICIMOD, Kathmandu. This is a good review of the region's resources, and the impact of climate change on them, with emphasis on water, and the difficulties of assessing glaciers and their impacts on hydrology. 88 pp. This is one of the three reports presented at the Durban Climate Meeting on Mountain Day. Access at [www.icimod.org/mountainday](http://www.icimod.org/mountainday).

*Repeat Photography Methods and Applications for the Natural Sciences.* 2010. Eds. R. H. Webb, et al. Island Press. 337 pp. We have previously highlighted some of *Alton Byers'* repeat photography on land use change in the Himalayas, and Dan Fagre's fine work on glaciers in the Rocky Mountains. This is an up-to-date presentation of methods and applications developed in the last two decades.

*Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values.* 2011. Alan Watson, et al. Partial Proceedings of Ninth World Wilderness Congress Symposium of 2009 in Mérida, Mexico. USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. RMRS-P-64, Fort Collins, Colorado 80528. 225 pp. Available on CD ROM. Many papers by Network members including for instance: *Wendy Francis, John Crowson, Dave Harmon, Sonja Kruger, Hans Kiener and Zdenka Krenova*, and of course *Alan Watson*. Not all presentations from the various workshops are included, where many more Network members gave presentations.

*The Alps. From Rio 1992 to 2012 and Beyond: 20 years of sustainable mountain development. What have we learned and where should we go?* 2011. *Martin Price et al.* A Report for the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Convention. Available from Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College, Scotland.

*Fulfilling the International Mission of the US National Park Service.* This is the theme of the bulk of the articles in the most recent issue of *The George Wright Forum* 28(3), 2011. Our fine colleague friend *Dave Harmon* is the Forum's overall Editor, with two Guest Editors, *Stephen Morris* and *Jonathan Putnam* for this excellent issue, bringing in 10 articles of international content. Of particular interest to UPDATE readers will be articles on the role of the NPS Office of International Affairs, the World Heritage Convention and NPS, transboundary cooperation in the **Big Bend NP** region (with Mexico), Sister Parks **Rocky Mountain** and **Tatra NPs**, and the value of international experience to park staff. In addition to these, the final article is of great interest: *A Model Process for Developing Adaptation Options for Natural Heritage Areas in an Era of Rapid Climate Change*. Information at [www.georgewright.org](http://www.georgewright.org).

### **Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest**

**Biodiversity Without Boundaries 2012.** April 22-26, 2012. Portland Oregon, USA. Put on by NatureServe, a network of natural heritage programs in US, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. Featured topics for event: The Wild West; Ecosystem Services; The Assessment Landscape. <http://connect.natureserve.org/BWB2012>

**Forests for People.** May 22-24, 2012 in Alpboch, Tyrol/Austria. A IUFRO conference, organized by University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna. Due to locale, probably much emphasis on mountain forests. Information at <http://ffp2012.boku.ac.at>.

**Forum Carpathicum 2012,** From Data to Knowledge, from Knowledge to Action, May 30- June 2, 2012 in Stará Lesná, Slovakia. Gathering for researchers and managers from different fields of expertise for the Carpathian Mountain Region. Nine sponsoring organizations, especially the Mountain Research Institute and Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Landscape Ecology. March 31 deadline for registration. [www.forumcarpathicum.org](http://www.forumcarpathicum.org) for details. Contact Andrej Baca, [fc2012@savba.sk](mailto:fc2012@savba.sk).

**3rd Southeastern European Mountains Research Network Conference** July 4-8, 2012 in Ankara, Turkey. Expanded network to include in addition to Balkans, researchers and practitioners from Middle East, Caucasus, Iran, Levant and Israel. Information: <http://csaum.ankara.edu.tr/index.en.php>.

**Tenth-annual International Seminar on Protected Area Management**, July 9-29, 2012 at the University of Montana, Missoula, USA. This well-loved and -known Seminar is a technical and professional course designed for mid-career planners and managers of nationally significant protected areas worldwide. Initiated and organized by the Universities of Montana, Idaho and Colorado State and the USDA Forest Service Office of International Programs. *Jim Barborak* is the Director of the Center for PA management and Training at CSU. Participants will evaluate policies and institutional arrangements that sustain both people and natural resources. They will travel to several types of protected areas including Yellowstone NP, Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests, and tribal land. They will also travel to Washington, DC. Additional information about this Seminar, including application details, is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/ispam/welcome.htm>. **Applications are due April 6, 2012.** This course is offered in the English language. Applicants must seek and acquire financial sponsorship to attend, as funding for is not available from the Seminar organizers.

**32nd International Geographical Congress**, August 26-30, 2012 in Cologne, Germany. Several mountain related sessions are on the docket. [www.igc2012.org](http://www.igc2012.org).

**3rd European Congress of Conservation Biology**, August 28 - Sept.1, 2012 in Glasgow, Scotland. <http://eccb2012.org/index.asp>.

**The Alps Reinvent Themselves. General Assembly of the Alpine Network (ALPARC)**, September 3, one day within ALP WEEK (September 4-7). Valposchiavo, Switzerland. [www.alparc.org](http://www.alparc.org) and [www.alpweek.org/2012/](http://www.alpweek.org/2012/)

**VII World Conservation Congress (IUCN)**, September 6-15, 2012 in Jeju Island, South Korea. Mountains and Connectivity Conservation inputs to program. Check on updates at [http://www.iucn.org/2012\\_congress/](http://www.iucn.org/2012_congress/). Deadline for earlybird registration is July 1.

**Healthy Parks, Hungry People VII World Ranger Congress**. November 4-9, 2012 near Arusha NP, Tanzania in Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge. Field trips to several MtPAs, including Kilimanjaro. Details at [www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress](http://www.pamsfoundation.org/world-rangers-congress)

**WILD10. MAKE THE WORLD A WILDER PLACE**. October 4-10, 2013. Salamanca, Spain. This is the 10th World Wilderness Congress, and will emphasize the increasing attention to re-wilding and establishing new wild areas in Europe. [www.wild.org/blog/wild10-save-the-date/](http://www.wild.org/blog/wild10-save-the-date/)  
**World Parks Congress 2014**. Planning underway. Looks like Australia is host country.

## 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\\_conserving/d/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_what/wcpa_conserving/d/)

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

### Linda McMillan

Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications  
WCPA Mountains Biome + Production Editor of  
*Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE*,  
*News Flash* and the *Mountains Biome Blog*

**Hearty Congratulations to the Cycling Silk Team on the completion of their amazing, inspiring Transboundary Wilderness Conservation Journey!**

