

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 74 - JUNE 2012



Larry Hamilton's grandson, Sam, reminds us of all the exhilaration and joy that mountains provide to people of all ages.

Photo by Sam Johnson, from the summit of Half Dome in Yosemite NP

In This Issue

World Heritage Reviews
Action at Jeju WCC
Catskill Center (USA)
Transboundary Mtn Tourism
Parks and Poverty
Great Himalaya Trail
Dark Skies in European Alps
Mountain to Marine Corridor
On Being Too Timid
Value of "Low" Mountains
Appeal for the Mountains
Mountain. Pygmy Possums
Global Change Observers
High Pamir/Pamir-Alai Mtns
CIPRA Turns 60
TrekEast + Eastern Wildway.
Connectivity - Southern Alps
Room for More PAs?
Swiss Mt PAs

As the highest and most dramatic features of the natural landscape, mountains have an extraordinary power to evoke the sacred. The ethereal rise of a ridge in mist, the glint of moonlight on an icy face, a flare of gold on a distant peak -- such glimpses of transcendent beauty can reveal our world as a place of unimaginable mystery and splendor.

For most of us sacred mountains are remote from the experience of everyday life. They lie far off in space and time, revered by distant cultures, many of which vanished long ago. Even the peaks that we manage to climb and visit rise on the borders of our lives, removed from the cities and plains where most of us live.



What is the value, then, of thinking about them? It is simply this: the contemplation of sacred mountains, with their special power to awaken another, deeper way of experiencing reality, opens us to a sense of the sacred in our own homes and communities -- a sense that we need to cultivate in order to live in

Staff Exchanges
Sacred Natural Sites
Siachen Peace Park
Innovation at Yosemite
Bits and Pieces
Recent Publications
Meetings & Events
Useful Links

UPDATE Newsletter
Editor



silverfox@gmavt.net
[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

harmony with our environment and with each other. In looking up to the heights and reflecting on the world around them, we discover within ourselves something that enables us to lead deeper and more meaningful lives.

*~ Edwin Bernbaum, 2011 personal communication
Photo courtesy of Stephan Fuller*

Notes from the Editor

Well, I knew that my winning streak could not last. *Malcolm Payne*, my fine Scottish friend who learned climbing in **Lake District NP** (last issue), points out that the highest mountain is Scafell Pike, not Peak. Does anyone know the origin of this word as applied to a mountain? Incidentally *Jack Ives* writes to say that British mountaineering really began in the Lake District, where he also has tramped and climbed.

I also want to credit to *Jack Ives* for the beautiful picture of the Yi woman in the Last issue. He relates that it was obtained with a bribe to a group of Yi farmers, that he and *Alton Byers* would transport them and their produce to the market in Lijiang, NW Yunnan, some 20 km distant. I am sure that *Jack's* practiced eye selected the most beautiful of the group.

Our photo banner on this issue of **Yosemite NP** shows a young person (actually my grandson) who is obviously enchanted with the Park, and is suggestive of the need to develop the protected areas supporters of the future. This is not an easy challenge in a technological world of nature-deficit young people.

We welcome to the Network:

Dr. Ben Bobowski, who is the Chief of Resource Stewardship for **Rocky Mountain NP** in Colorado, USA, one of my favourite American Parks.
Samuel J. Mwandha, the Executive Secretary of the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration, and is located in Kigali, Rwanda. This collaboration involves Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The iconic species being protected is, of course, the mountain gorilla. The area of concern covers not only the Virunga Massif, but the Rwenzori Mountains.

Herbert Woelger is the recently appointed Director of Austria's beautiful **Gesäuse National Park**, and we welcome him to the Network.

Dr. Bernal Herrera F. holds the Kenton Miller Chair of Protected Areas and Biological Corridors at CATIE (Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza) in Turrialba, Costa Rica. Previously *Bernal* worked for The Nature Conservancy in its Costa Rican and Meso American Program.

We finally have snared *Jeff McNeely*, who was formerly IUCN's Chief Scientist and formerly Program Officer for Protected Areas (including WCPA) as well as many other key roles in IUCN. It is entirely my fault that he was not made a member many years ago. He is now semi-retired, spending half time in Thailand and half back at Gland, from whence he continues his prodigious writing career and consulting.

World Heritage Desktop Reviews for MtPAs

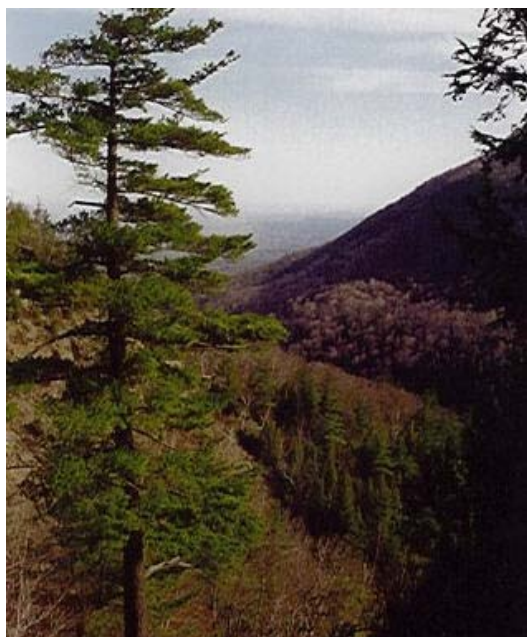
We have been asked by IUCN/WCPA to solicit from Network members those persons able and willing to prepare desktop reviews of some MtPAs that are on the next proposed list. They have asked that willing individuals, knowing one or more of these areas, give their names and contact information **to me by the end of June**. Christelle Perruchoud in Gland will then contact reviewers with full information on the property, and procedure, with a submission deadline of the review by early- to mid-September. The properties are:

- Extension of **Mount Kenya NP/Natural Forest** (Kenya)
- **Xinjiang Tianshan NP** (China)
- **Great Himalayan NP** (India)
- **Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary** (Philippines)
- **Mount Etna** (Italy)
- **El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar BP** (Mexico)
- **Sehlabethe NP**, extension of uKhalamba/Drakensberg (Lesotho)

Indicate your interest to me at silverfox@gmavt.net. This is an important contribution which we can make to World Heritage.

Action at Jeju World Conservation Congress

The WCPA Mountains and connectivity team will be active at Jeju, South Korea at the time of IUCN's World Conservation Congress. Vice Chair *Graeme Worboys* will be participating at the WCPA Meeting on the 5th and 6th September and later, he will be assisting *Olivier Chassot*, *Linda McMillan* and *Ian Walker* to run a two hour workshop on Connectivity Conservation. This workshop will be jointly managed with the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and will be third such workshop run by the WCPA Mountains team at these major conferences (1996-organized by *Larry Hamilton*, 2008-organised by *Graeme Worboys*). The workshop speakers and its panel session will include Mountain members *Harvey Locke*, *Marie-Eve Marchand* and *Tatyana Yashina*, *Olivier Chassot* and *Graeme Worboys*. *Linda McMillan* will be representing the mountains team at the Protected Planet Pavilion, and *Graeme Worboys* will be helping in relation to the E-Book project.



The Catskill Center (USA)

This Center is a not-for-profit, member-supported organization working to educate the Catskill community about the natural, cultural and economic well-being of this large mountain area (2,900 km² or 1,120 sq mi). The Center has developed an excellent set of web-based teaching modules under the umbrella of A Sense of Place. These are: Water Resources, Geography and Geology, Ecosystems, Human History, and Culture and Arts. These teaching curriculum guides emphasize hands-on material for grade levels 3-12, but adults could well learn from them. MtPA staff engaged in interpretation/education might benefit from checking these out.

See www.catskillcenter.org for good general information, then go to "education" and "sense of place". Photo: Catskill State Park showing northern forests at Platte Cove. (Catskill Center photo)

Transboundary Mountain Tourism

Our stalwart and prolific ICIMOD Network member, *Nakul Chettri* seems to have coined a new expression, "**pro-poor cross-border tourism**". In a recent paper (2011) he examines the impediments

and possibilities for increased transboundary tourism cooperation in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region. In doing so, he emphasizes a paradigm shift so that the benefits flow to the local poor rather than to urban tour companies, large hotels and hospitality industries. He points out that even in the **Annapurna Conservation Area**, which is often viewed as a successful model, the benefits go mainly to lodge and restaurant owners and tour companies, rather than to local farmers and marginalized groups or to the environment. The politics of transboundary cooperation adds another layer of complexity, but is worth pursuing as a regional development strategy. The paper appears in *Integrated Tourism Concepts to Contribute to Sustainable Mountain Development in Nepal*, Eds: E. Kruk, H. Kreutzman and J. Richter. GIZ, ICIMOD, BMZ. Bonn: GIZ. 2011.

Parks and Poverty

Throughout the developing world there are often poor human communities in the buffer zones or around the edges of Protected Areas. Some studies of this situation have labeled parks as "poverty traps". A recent study in the MtPA of **Kibale NP** in Uganda refutes this charge. Kibale has both lowland and montane tropical rainforests, lying mainly between 1,100 and 1,600 m in elevation. It is 766 km² (296 sq mi), and since it abuts **Queen Elizabeth NP**, creates a large valuable corridor for wildlife movement. The Makerere University Biological Field Station is located therein.

In the last century the population around the park has increased sevenfold. A decade-long study published in 2011 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (10:1073), found instead of a poverty trap, a general trend among the poor of greater prosperity. This was measured by: access to clean drinking water, ownership of more livestock, and living under an improved roof. It covered 252 families, most of whom were a lot better off than at the beginning of the study. Those who lost ground, lost less than poor people living farther away. Locals apparently do derive some tourism benefits, and also the Uganda Wildlife Authority does allow some use of the park for food and fuelwood.



Completion of the Great Himalaya Trail - [Climate Smart Celebrity Trek](#)

Described as "One trail to rule them all", two of Nepal's best-known mountaineers have completed the 1,555 km, 99-day long journey on the [Great Himalaya Trail](#).

Network member *Dawa Steven Sherpa* (Eco-Everest Expeditions Leader) and 21 times Everest Summiteer *Apa Sherpa* reported

on climate change impacts on environments and people along this spectacular route which traverses the middle hills and low mountains of the Himalaya. Meetings with communities, local officials and the media were held periodically along the Trail. They started on January 15th and completed the trek on May 13th. A report on their trek, comments, and photos are available at www.asia-trekking.com/blog/item/254-the-great-himalaya-trail-climate-smart-celebrity-trek.html. This is reported by Dawa's father, *Ang Tshering Sherpa*.

Intrepid Network member *Elizabeth Fox* joined in part way, and trekked 59 of the 99 days with them, covering 1,005km of the total 1,555km, and about 70,000 plus meters of ascents and just as many

thousands of meters of descents across-up-and-down the mighty Himalayas. Now back in Italy, she states that the GHT trek was an extremely rewarding - and challenging - experience. Congratulations to all involved in this innovative and important effort to find solutions to climate change in the Himalaya!

Dark Skies Get a Helping Hand in European Alps In the first two months of 2012 each municipality in mountainous Liechtenstein is switching off around one third of its street lights. In three of the eleven municipalities only certain main streets will be lit between the hours of 0030 and 0530, while in Planken all the lights are being switched off. Some two years ago the first municipalities introduced a night-time lights-out policy and, if the experiment is a success, in future the whole country will be switching out the lights.

Lighting at night accounts for approximately one third of the public electricity bill. A survey showed that 67 per cent of Germans approved of switching off lights in order to save energy. The night-time switch-off in Liechtenstein is also a matter of environmental protection, as the Alpine section of the Rhine Valley is an important route for migratory birds. They largely fly at night and are disoriented by lights. Nor do the reduced lighting levels involve a risk to people: Liechtenstein police confirm the experience of the German city of Rheine, namely that crime does not increase. Rheine has been switching its lights out since 2005.

People in South Tyrol may also soon be seeing more stars at night: the provincial administration decided in December 2011 that the municipalities must within one year submit a plan for reducing light pollution between 0100 and 0600. Source:www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia/news-en/4538

Maya Mountain to Marine Corridor (Belize)



Maya Mountains with Victoria Peak

Altitudinal connectivity is as important for biodiversity conservation as are along-the- mountain-range, and latitudinal corridors for species migration in response to climate change. One of the most striking examples of this which I often use is the one in Bhutan, from the **Royal Manas NP** (also transborder with India's Manas Tiger Reserve) to the highest Himalayan summits in **Jigme Dorji NP**. A lesser known one is being assembled in Belize, led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) with partners, especially the local Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) The roughly 400,000 ha landscape of rich biodiversity (e.g. over 220 tree species and 350 bird species) extends from the Maya Mountains to the Mesoamerican Reef. It includes the **Bladen Nature Reserve**, **Maya Mountain Forest Reserve**, **Payne's Creek NP**, Port Honduras Marine Reserve and **Sapodilla Caves Marine Reserve**. Two charismatic animal species therein are the jaguar and the harpy eagle.

This corridor links to other parts of the great Maya Forest that extends into Guatemala and Mexico. It also includes the underground **Chiquibul Cave System**, the longest in Central America. In preparing a management plan for this system, TNC brought in staff from its Tennessee Chapter (USA).

This state has the US's largest number of known caves, some 10,000. The Chiquibul Caves may be proposed for World Heritage status. Other PAs in the Maya Mountains are: **Blue Hole NP, Five Cockscomb Wildlife Sanctuary and Jaguar Reserve, Five Blue Lakes NP, and Mountain Pine Ridge and Colombia Forest Reserves**. They cover over one-half of the Maya Mountains.

On Being Too Timid

The following is not focussed on MTPAs (our usual criteria for inclusion), but certainly applies and is well said by four of our Network members along with others:

If the conservation community sets protection targets based on preconceived notions of what is socially or politically acceptable, or on assumptions of inevitable population and economic growth, we will make very limited headway in stemming extirpations. Conservation professionals must become part of the constituency that promotes life on Earth. Our task is not to be beaten down by political reality, but to help change it. Nature needs at least 50% and it is time we said so.

-Reed Noss and 12 others, including *Harvey Locke, Conrad Reining, Steve Trombulak and Gary Tabor.*

More on Value of "Low" Mountains, in Australia

Ed. Note: Our mighty leader, Graeme Worboys, perhaps encouraged by my including the English Lake District in the Mt PA Newsletter, sent in the material which follows.

The mountains of Arkaroola in South Australia have occupied quite a bit of my time across Xmas-New Year. These are arid 600 metre+ "mountains"....a discrete north-south trending peninsula of ruggedness in the Northern Flinders that are surrounded by a sea of flat plains and salt lakes that extend to the horizon....it is dissected, rough and ancient with waterholes and gorges straight from a landscape painting. It is a haven for endangered wildlife and rich in Aboriginal culture. It is also rich in minerals and uranium and a site highly sought after by mining companies.

I am pleased to say that this week, the South Australian Government passed legislation to protect in perpetuity this

60,000 ha private property from mining. South Australian IUCN WCPA members Jason Irving and Bob Inns were heavily involved with this work. These mountains are so important and unique (in the true sense of the word) for their geological heritage that a formal nomination for **National Heritage Listing** has also just been submitted to the



Australian Government in February. The Legislation is a historical precedent in our country where mining is usually "king". The private conservation area is called the **Arkaroola Protection Area** by the Legislation. It has been a good week for Arkaroola!!

An Appeal for the Mountains

A movement that wishes to create an awareness of how to handle the environment with care: the "Appel pour nos montagnes" campaign is an attempt by **CIPRA** France (International Centre for

Protection of the Alps), Mountain Wilderness and ANCEF (the Association for Cross-County Ski and Mountains) to place people and their relationship with nature at the centre of future decision-making. The idea is to develop alternatives to the prevailing urge towards constant growth that puts pressure on both mountains and society: "The mechanisms of the past, in other words the exploitation of the resources of a limited area, are threatening our dreams and threatening the future of the mountains. Just like people, the mountains now need new perspectives", states the campaign manifesto. The mountains have what humans really need: water, peace and beauty that makes thinking and dreaming possible. We should seek to preserve these fundamentals for living.

www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia/news-en/4538 The manifesto (in French), the supporters and how to take part are available at: www.appelpournosmontagnes.org/

Mountain Pigmy Possums in Australian Alps

From: Anthony Evans, Program Manager, Australian Alps National Parks

Here's a happy story about an incredibly cute Australian alpine species that has been in significant decline - now three new colonies have been discovered in a very unlikely location. *Ed. Note: Linda McMillan, enchanted with this wee creature, insists on us printing this item.*

'Possum Lady' Dr Linda Broome's 25 years of work has centred on the endangered Mountain Pygmy-possum (*Burrhamys parvus*). The ongoing data collection - on snow depth and duration, known food sources and predators - has built an informed picture, while the years of monitoring have produced grim results. "The total population of this species in New South Wales and Victoria has declined significantly from just over 2,600 adults when we began surveying in 1986 to around 2,000 today." Despite little time to spare to search for new populations, last year Linda was lured from her usual monitoring sites above 1650 m altitude in southern **Kosciuszko NP** to an area 30 km to the north which did have characteristic habitat though at a lower altitude - a *very unlikely* Mountain Pygmy-possum stronghold. However photographic proof, distinctive marks on the seeds of a preferred food source and trapped specimens - together they confirmed there were possums living at lower altitudes (1250 - 1650 m) and in locations which don't necessarily have all their known prerequisite niche boxes. "We have always held fears that this species is at real risk of disappearing completely with a receding snowline, but finding them at lower altitudes give us cause to hope that the Mountain Pygmy Possum may be more resilient to climate change than we had first thought." However, the news may not be all good - "preliminary analyses are suggesting genetic variation in these new colonies may be quite low which indicates they could be in trouble".

Mt Pigmy Possum Facts

first fossil: The Mountain Pygmy-possum *Burrhamys parvus* was first described following the discovery in 1894 of jaw bones in a fossil deposit at the Wombeyan Caves in central New South Wales. More fossils were later found at Buchan, Victoria in the early 1960s.

first live specimen: In August 1966 a living *Burrhamys parvus* was found in a ski lodge at Mt Hotham, Victoria and was described as an animal that had 'returned from extinction' and one of the few Australian species that had been given 'a second chance'. In the years that followed more were found living in the wild in southern NSW and eastern Victoria.

habitat: Possum colonies occupy widely scattered boulderfields lying on or below rocky mountain peaks, typically at altitudes above 1400 m, the lower limits roughly being in line with the lower limit of the winter snowline.



food & shelter: The seasons heavily influence possum food and shelter. Single litters of four are born after the snow melt in spring, growing rapidly to fatten extensively in late summer and autumn. Winter, when food is in short supply, is spent in hibernation. In summer the boulderfields provide a cool, moist environment, well protected from cats and foxes. During hibernation in winter, daily temperature fluctuations (which can be as low as minus 20 degrees) are virtually eliminated under a protective cover of snow. The migratory Bogong moth (*Agrotis infusa*), which gather in their millions in the boulderfields during the snow-free season, form a major part of the possums diet along with the seeds and fruits of the Mountain Plum-pine (*Podocarpus lawrencei*), Snow Beard-heaths (*Leucopogon* spp.) and Rice Flowers (*Pimelia* spp.). These foods may also include other plants' fruits and seeds, nectar, caterpillars, beetles, spiders and other arthropods.

Ed. Note: Our best wishes go to this special animal of the mountains,-which seems to have some threat parallels with the western North American pika.

Biosphere Reserves as Global Change Observatories

From Thomas Schaaf (UNESCO)

Several mountain biosphere reserves the world over are implementing the GLOCHAMORE Research Strategy (see at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001471/147170E.pdf>) in the fields of climate change, biodiversity, water resources, land use change and economy. As long-term observatory sites, they play an important role to assess the impacts of global change, including climate change, on the biophysical environment of mountain and the livelihood conditions of people. In December 2011, the summary reports have been uploaded on the UNESCO-MAB website at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/specific-ecosystems/mountains/glochamost/> for the following mountain biosphere reserves: Mountains Arrowsmith (Canada), Changbaishan (China), Berchtesgaden (Germany), Nanda Devi (India), Huascarán (Peru), Katunskiy and Teberdinskiy (both in the Russian Federation), Sierra Nevada (Spain), and Reservat da Biosfera Val Mustair-Parc National (Switzerland).



High Pamir/Pamir-Alai Mountains: Transborder Legal Institutions

The GEF/UNEP/UNU Project, "Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains" is located in the transboundary mountain ecosystem shared between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The project was established to alleviate poverty, control land degradation and develop ways to rehabilitate ecosystems in the Pamirs. The University of New England's (UNE's) Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law is the Project's lead agency working to provide an improved legal and regulatory framework. Ian Hannamis leading UNE's development of the legal and institutional component of the project. Network Member *Michelle Lim's* PhD research explores the legal and institutional requirements for effective transboundary conservation of mountain biodiversity.

Ian and *Michelle* have been working closely with National Legal Tasks Forces in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. A transboundary legal institutions approach is being used, with the intention of enabling mountain communities to take primary responsibility for the productive and sustainable management of mountain resources. The legal and institutional component of the project has provided an excellent opportunity for Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to

improve their understanding of their legislative and policy systems for Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains. Many of the principles, procedures and lessons learned from the analysis carried out in this component of the Project can be extrapolated to other parts of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and to other mountain regions of the world.

Photo courtesy of *Michelle Lim*

CIPRA Turns 60, and a Controversial Wind Farm

The International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) was founded 60 years ago this May. This umbrella organization has some 100 members from all countries of the European Alps. It was a major player in achieving the 1991 Alpine Convention. The 60th anniversary celebration was on May 5 at the founding location of Tegemsee Lake in Rottach-Egern in Germany.

The Director is Bruno Stephan Walder who has been a senior official in the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment. The CIPRA annual report for 2011 has a focus on achieving a carbon neutral Alps, and the impacts of climate change. Wind energy is part of the package, but a controversial wind farm over 2,000 m high on the Sattelberg mountain in Italy on the Brenner Pass is facing stiff opposition from one of CIPRA's member organizations, the Club Arc Alpin. It has brought a formal complaint to the Alpine Convention. The farm is located in the buffer zone of two MtPAs, and affects Natura 2000 sites. It is also adjacent to a MtPA in Austrian Tyrol which has also objected. So far the province of Bozen/Balzano has not backed down. Learn about CIPRA and about the wind farm project at www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia/news, the newsletter of CIPRA, *Living in the Alps*.

TrekEast and Eastern Wildway

We previously posted items about the amazing hike of *John Davis*, some 7,600 miles (12,230 km) from Florida to Gaspé, Québec. He was promoting conversations about connectivity in an **Eastern Wildway**, knitting together hosts of local initiatives in land and water conservation. It was a superb feat and it is fitting to quote John's final destination remark of last November.

*The Appalachian Mountains, I'd been warned, do not end in Québec but merely dive into the ocean, only to resurface on the island of Newfoundland and then again reappear thousands of miles eastward, in Scotland. So, there in **Forillon Provincial Park**, at the dramatic eastern end of Québec's spectacular Gaspé Peninsula, I peered over sea cliffs and wondered: Is my trek incomplete, even after 7,600 miles of hiking and biking and paddling the wilder parts of the Appalachians and Atlantic Coast?*

*Yes, a long journey like this is never really finished; you just take a break from homesickness and sore feet. Were I to resume **TrekEast**, though, I'd not follow submerged mounts to Scotland, important and imperiled though their benthic wildlife be. I'd follow the Atlantic coastline north along Québec, Newfoundland, and Labrador, with journeys westward up rivers and high into the Torngats. Exploring the wildest parts of eastern North America, I'd highlight the dire threats they now face from dam-building, mining, logging, and associated roads. An **Eastern Wildway** should run not just from Florida to Gaspé, but on northward through the Ungava Peninsula and Arctic seas and islands. Saving the boreal forest and tundra of Newfoundland, Labrador, northern Québec, Ontario, and westward should be recognized as an international conservation and climate priority, which a good trek could show.*

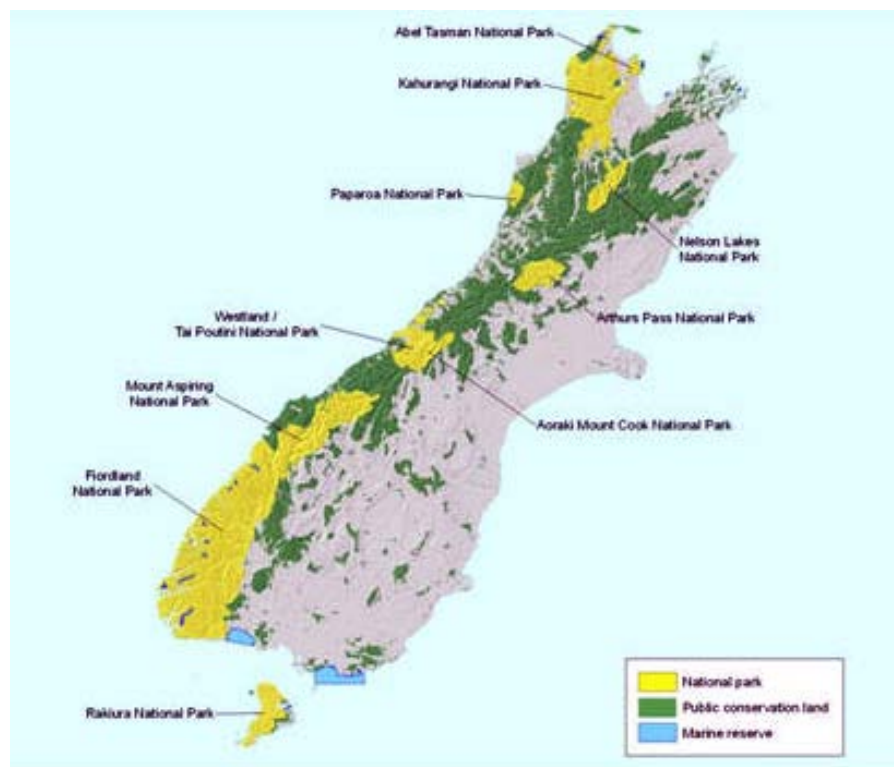
John is working currently to draw out the lessons learned about connectivity for an electronic book, to be published by Wildlands Network and Island Press.

Connectivity along the Southern Alps of New Zealand

--*Bruce Jefferies*, Consultant, Conservation Management/Planning Systems

The Southern Alps extend along the length of South Island (largest of New Zealand's three land masses), with the highest peak being Aoraki/Mount Cook at 3754 meters, and another 18 peaks rising more than 3000 meters. The entire length of the Southern Alps is now under one form of

conservation management or another, and is administered, on behalf of the NZ public, by the Department of Conservation (DOC). The matrix of protected area categories includes nine national parks that are generally spread along the length of the mountainous spine of the South Island and its subsidiary ranges. From north to south these include: **Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, Nelson Lakes, Paparoa, Arthurs Pass, Westland/Tai Poutini, Aoraki/Mount Cook, Mt Aspiring** and **Fiordland**. These areas, in terms of conservation connectivity, can be considered as "core sites" and are linked by a range of other areas administered by DOC under both the Conservation Act (1987) and the Reserves Act (1977). They are generally designated as Conservation Parks (in some cases the term Forest Park is used - usually for historic reasons and is not a category that is used in the Conservation Act) and Scenic Reserves and include: Puponga Farm Park, Richmond Conservation Area (CA), Clarence Reserve (Kaikoura mountains), Hanmer Springs, Lake Sumner Forest Park (FP), Lewis Pass Scenic Reserves, Ahuriri Conservation Park, Ohau Forests, Craigieburn FP, Victoria FP. Most of these areas are mountainous but there is significant altitudinal as well as lateral connectivity in most locations including, **Abel Tasman NP through Kahurangi Paparoa, Westland/Aorangi Mount Cook and Fiordland National Parks**. In all of these areas conservation lands transcend from high mountain tops to sea level. Figure below shows South Island New Zealand-conservation connectivity has been achieved by linking a matrix of Parks and Public Conservation Land.



Abel Tasman, Kahurangi and **Paparoa** contain extensive limestone formations, to a high point in **Kahurangi** of about 1800m, with a huge range of plants from alpine to sub-tropical at sea level. In **Kahurangi National Park** these include a narrow zone of some of the least modified dune ecosystems in the South Island and a strip of very diverse coastal forest.

Further south the rain forests of **Westland** and beech forests of **Fiordland** contain a similar diversity of vegetation. **Westland** and **Aoraki/Mt Cook** share the main divide and include the highest peaks - **Aoraki** (3764m) and **Mt Tasman** (3498m). Vegetation on the eastern side of the alps reflects a dry climate whereas that of **Westland National Park**, which features two very significant glaciers, the **Fox** and **Franz**, is dense and luxuriant as a result of high rainfall.

Fed by four alpine glaciers, Fox Glacier falls 2,600m on its 13km journey towards the coast from *neves* high in the Southern Alps. Although retreating throughout most of the last 100 years, both glaciers have been advancing since 1985 at an average rate of about a meter a day and currently descend to within less than 20km of the Tasman Sea.

Te Waihi Pounamu (South West NZ) World Heritage Site

A total of 4 National Parks, 2 Nature Reserves, 3 Scientific Reserves, 12 Scenic Reserves, 4 Wildlife Management Areas and 5 Ecological Areas make up the 2,600,000ha **Te Waihi Pounamu World Heritage Site**.

Is There Room on Earth for More PAs?

Many people feel that with roughly 13% of the planet's terrestrial surface covered by "designated" PAs, and in view of population increase and need for food production, that opportunities for more PAs are decreasing. Not so, said governments at the 2010 Nagoya meeting, who committed to increasing this to 17%. Where? A recent study of rare and endangered species by **BirdLife International** and **Alliance for Zero Extinction** sheds light on this question. It states that only half of the areas considered of key importance to biodiversity conservation are now protected. **Alliance for Zero Extinction** has identified 600 sites of strategic importance for threatened vertebrates and plants, and BirdLife has 10,000 globally significant sites for conserving birds. Many of these that are unprotected are in mountains, although mountains are generally better protected than lowlands due to less competition for modified land uses. Mountainous countries committed to the Nagoya agreement might consider how well Switzerland has done in the past three years (reported on in previous UPDATES) including one new one described in this issue (in spite of two failures). See following article.

Swiss Mt PAs - Current Process

In Switzerland, PA proposals must be voted on by the Cantons involved. This way of assuring official local input seems like a good process, but may result in failure of some proposals deemed worthy by PA planners and enthusiastic citizen groups. The **Thunersee-Hohgant** and **Val d'Hérens** proposed PAs were rejected by municipalities after votes. The good news is that in the beautiful Grisons region, voters approved creation of **Beverin Nature Park**. This area of 370 km² contains Piz Beverin at 2,998 m. There are 2,500 inhabitants in the park's 12 communities, but the core of the area is largely uninhabited. www.naturpark-beverin.ch.

Staff Exchanges

An International Staff Exchange Programme is organized by Parks Forum, which in turn is supported by the New Zealand Department of Conservation (NSDOC) and the EUROPARC Foundation. This provides for an exchange of staff between park agencies. Contact the Forum to get your agency involved or to undertake an exchange. This may involve study tour in another agency, shadowing, management exchanges for 3, 6, or 12 months. The agency must pay a fee to Parks Forum for arranging the exchange. See the website for details: www.parksforum.org

Sacred Natural Sites in Mountains

The WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas (CSVPA) has developed an IUCN-UNESCO Sacred Natural Sites Initiative. *Robert Wild* and *Bas Verschuren*, who head CSVPA, are asking MTPA managers who are dealing with such sites to review and test the SNS Guidelines that have been developed. Check out the website: sacrednaturalsites.org/items/reviewing-and-testing-the-iucn-unesco-sacred-natural-sites-guidelines. A reminder that *Robert* and *Bas* along with *Jeff McNeely* and *Gonzalo Orviedo* have edited a 27-chapter book on *Sacred Natural Sites: Conserving Nature and Culture* (2010).

Siachen Peace Park Again

Most readers are probably aware of the recent tragic death by avalanche burial of 120 Pakistani soldiers at their military camp in the Siachen Glacier area. This is situated at around 15,000 ft elevation in one of the most inhospitable places on earth. This is the main gateway to even higher and remote outposts occupied by the military in this part of Kashmir where the boundary has been actively disputed with India since 1987. There are at least 15,000 troops from India and Pakistan engaged in the war over ice and snow. While ordnance is still fired across the two battle lines, more soldiers die of hypothermia or falling into crevasses (and avalanche casualties) than are killed by enemy fire.

We have previously carried articles and information updates on proposals for a Siachen Peace Park, with material supplied by *Aamir Ali* and *Harish Kapadia*, and our MtPA Network attempt to have IUCN be a neutral broker to host joint meetings for a transborder protected area. Other proposals for an international Science Park for Peace have been put forth. The military on both sides do not want to be there, --except as mountaineers (joint mountaineering expeditions have been proposed). The legal mechanisms have been studied and set forth by US law professionals. Surely this latest tragedy will re-ignite interest in a peace park.

Innovation at Yosemite NP (USA)

Two recent innovations at Yosemite are called to our attention by *Linda McMillan*, who has a close affinity for this MtPA, and who spends much time there as a volunteer. These may have copy values for other PAs:

--A [webcam of Yosemite Falls](#) "making this incredible scenery available to anyone, anywhere and at any time" in the words of *Mike Tollefson*, the Yosemite Conservancy President. The Conservancy offers it as one of their excellent visual **Nature Notes**, along with El Capitan, Half Dome and High Sierra:

www.yosemiteconservancy.org

--A new cooperative transportation arrangement with the four primary "gateway" communities that will both ease traffic congestion in the Park and stimulate the economies in those communities:

www.nps.gov/yose/parknews/transportation.htm



Bits and Pieces

Tibet plays the role of **water tower of Asia**, with sources of 9 regional river systems in South and Southeast Asia. It has more than 1,500 lakes, covering over 6 million acres (2.4 million ha). Wetlands and grasslands amount to more than 15 million acres, (6 million ha), which are habitat for several species of concern: snow leopard, wild yak, Tibetan ass, Tibetan antelope, black-necked geese and bar-headed geese. Surveys have shown that the area of wetland has increased since 1966. (Source: Headlines Himalaya)

Mau Mountain Forest was the largest closed canopy forest in East Africa at over 400 000 ha, and is Kenya's largest water catchment area. It has lost roughly 107 000 ha (25%) of its forest cover through tree cutting, charcoal making and unsustainable agricultural clearing. A 3-year project has been funded by the European Union (2.3 million euro), to protect and rehabilitate this important mountain forest. It will be implemented by UNEP and the Kenyan Government. (Source: Mountain Partnership News).

At the World Conservation Congress, delegates will be voting on the new Chair for WCPA, to succeed *Nik Lopoukhine*. Tough choice, since there are three very strong candidates: *Kathy McKinnon*, *Ernesto Enkerlin* and *Jeff McNeely*, all members of the MtPA Network. We think that Mt PAs will fare well under any of them.

July 31 is **World Ranger Day**, and people are invited to hold events that recognize the contribution that PA Rangers make to conservation. July 31 this year also marks the 20th anniversary of the **International Ranger Federation**, a very special organization.

The beautiful and informative **Albertine Rift** website has been updated by *Andrew Plumtre*, of the Wildlife Conservation Society, who is Director of its Albertine Rift Program. Check it out at www.albertinerift.org. Much about MtPAs.

Several of you contributed to the **Mingma Norbu Sherpa Scholarship Fund** that was instituted to honor this conservation hero who perished in the tragic helicopter accident of 2006. *Pat Devlin* from New Zealand reports that six students have been supported for forests and parks and tourism post-graduate degrees at Lincoln and Canterbury Universities. Pat points out that in recent years senior staff in almost every major PA in Nepal, and the senior management in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife were Lincoln graduates.

Dawa Steven Sherpa of Nepal has been awarded the **first ever "WWF International President's Award."** The new WWF International President's Award has been created to acknowledge and encourage outstanding achievements of young people under the age of 30 who are making strong and compelling contributions to nature conservation around the world.

The **Mountain Partnership** has a newly designed website. Check it out: www.mountainpartnership.org/

Andrej Sovinc of Slovenia has become the Interim IUCN/WCPA Regional Vice-Chair for Europe. We had been colleagues some time ago, and this is welcome news. He is Head of Secovlje Salina Nature Park. He takes this post due to the resignation of *Stig Johansen* who has been very effective. Large shoes to fill.

The Waterman Fund (*Val Stori*, President) has named *Rebecca Oreskes* as the **2012 Alpine Steward of the Year**. *Rebecca* has just retired from a stewardship position in the White Mountain National Forest and remains active with the Appalachian Mountain Club and the New Hampshire Outdoor Council. She originated the WMNF/AMC Volunteer Alpine Stewardship Program and was on the US Forest Service's Wilderness Advisory Group.

A new, updated map is available of **MtPAs in the European Alps**. It now includes the GeoPark Bauges (France), Regional Park Gruyere Pays d'Enhaut and Parc Els (Switzerland). Click it on webmaster@alparc.org or through ALPARC Newsletter www.alparc.org

The Anton Rupert Award for **Lifetime Achievement in Conservation** was this year (in April) given to Dr. Ian Player of South Africa. It was presented by the Peace parks Foundation to recognize his outstanding contribution to wilderness worldwide, especially in South Africa which is one of the countries having an official designation of Wilderness Protection Areas. His work led to the founding of the **World Wilderness Congress** (Number 10 of which is coming up next year.... See Meetings.)

Last year, **mountain tourism in Bhutan** increased by 56%, with 65,746 "high end" tourists coming in. These have come in by air and pay a minimum daily tariff of US\$250 during peak season, and US\$200 during off-season. This amounted to US\$47.68 million.

The National Geographical Society (USA) selected ten **Sacred Mountains** in a book entitled **Sacred Places of a Lifetime**. Eight of these are in formal, designated MtPAs; one is in traditional Maori community ownership, and one is so venerated that it has *de facto* protection. The list includes: Mounts Fuji, Shasta, Olympus, Kilimanjaro, Nebo, Kailash, Agung, Everest, the Black Hills and Mauao Hill. In addition there are many one-page articles on other significant mountains such as: San Francisco Peaks, Popocatepetl, Tai Shan, Adam's Peak, Mount Ararat, Machu Picchu and Canigou.

Moses Mapesa of the Uganda Wildlife Authority in Uganda has been appointed IUCN Regional Vice-Chair for East and South Africa. And, back in 2008, an event which we failed to note, *Moses* was awarded the Fred Packard Parks Award by IUCN/WCPA. *Moses* has just been named one of Uganda's Movers and Shakers in the New Visions Golden Jubilee, recognizing outstanding conservation careers. Congratulations!

America's World Heritage, a video by US National Park Service has been produced in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. *Jon Putnam* says it is posted on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=UySOelRPNfM. Worth watching to see the variety of these outstanding sites.

With sympathy from your Editor: **SEEmore Network** (South Eastern European Mountain Research Network) is seeking a voluntary Newsletter Editor for its 2-monthly issues. Please contact our Network member *Astrid Bjoernsen* who is Program Manager for the Mountain Research Initiative astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at.

The mountainous area straddling the Cameroon/Nigeria border is habitat for the endangered **Cross River Gorilla**, whose numbers have been reduced to less than 300 individuals. It is the focus of a transboundary project of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Transborder ranger patrols to reduce poaching and illegal clearing together with community outreach and instituting volunteer Gorilla Guardians are features of the project.

The World Heritage Convention came into force in 1972, and so this year marks the 40th anniversary. Several celebratory events are planned around the world. The theme this year is World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities. Check out www.unesco.org/world+heritage. A 2011-2012 map is now available.

While we are not a mountaineering newsletter, I am impelled to report on the activities of *Arjun Vajpai*, conservationist and Network member. He is the youngest Mt Everest summiteer (at 16 years of age) in 2010. He is leading an Indian joint expedition this spring that will attempt both Mt. Cho-oyu and Mt. Shishapangma. He has also reached summits on Lhotse and Manaslu last year.

Readers may hear of an organization called **Global Mountain Action** and wonder what it is. It was formed in 2009 by a group of scientists and professional land managers, with contact offices in Ethiopia, Perú and Switzerland. The founding members are all in agriculture-related fields, and the concern is with unsustainable mountain development, including impacts on natural resources and people. See www.globalmountainaction.org.

Recently there has been established an **International Academy for Nature Conservation**. Its purpose is to provide support and interchange to nature professionals in the European Union countries. It is part of The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, located on the island of Vilm. Earlier this year the first meeting of an Advisory Council took place in Vilm. Elected as Chairman was our leader *Trevor Sandwith*, IUCN Director of the Global Protected Areas Program. Also on the Council is *Andrej Sovinc*, WCPA Vice Chair for Europe.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

The Economics of Wilderness. 2011. Joël Houdet and *Zoltan Kun*. PAN Parks Foundation-Integrated Sustainability Service-Synergiz. 33-page report. Győr, Hungary. Download at <http://www.panparks.org/newsroom/news/2012/the-economics-of-wilderness>

Restoring the Web of Life. 2012. Latest update on the activities in connectivity by ALPARC and the Task Force on PAs of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (headed by *Guido Plassmann*). www.alpine-ecological-network.org

Protection of the Three Poles. 2012. Falk Huettmann. Springer Press. This new book concerns the Arctic, Antarctic and Tibetan Plateau. Chapter 5 on Real World Protection for the Third Pole and Its People is authored by an ICIMOD team of 6, including *Nakul Chettri* and *Uklabya Sharma*.

Protecting China's Biodiversity: A Guide to Land Use, Land Tenure and Land Protection Tools. 2012. Megan Kram et al. (The Nature Conservancy China Program staff). 256 pp. A large section (Part 3) deals with Land Protection in Practice. Four of the 6 case studies are MTPAs. Available from TNC www.nature.org/colorado and as a download and print from the website http://www.nature.org/idc/groups/webcontent/@web/@china/documents/document/prd_047120.pdf

Wilderness Stewardship and Science, 2012 is the theme of Vol 28(3) issue of *Park Science*, the science and management journal of the US National Park Service. Editor *Jeff Selleck* has pulled together a fine issue that includes contributions by two Network members: *Jan W. van Wagtenonk* and *Harvey Locke*. Articles on wilderness character, visitor experience including spiritual implications for management, transboundary cooperation in wilderness, climate change impacts, etc. This issue can be downloaded at: <http://www.nature.nps.gov/Parkscience/index.cfm?ArticleID=555&page=1>

Mountain Biodiversity Conservation and Management: Selected examples of good practices and lessons learned for the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region. 2012. Eds. *Nakul Chettri* et al. ICIMOD Working Paper 2012/2. Kathmandu. This is a series of case studies at least 4 of which involve MTPAs: **Wakhan Region, The Pamirs, Kangchenjunga and Singalila.**

Climate Change and Biodiversity in the Tropical Andes. 2011. Eds. Sebastian Herzog et al. Interamerican Institute for Global Change Research and Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment. 348 pp. There is one chapter specifically on Climate Change and Protected Areas in the Tropical Andes, with *Dirk Hoffman* as one of the authors. <http://bit.ly/JbrIF9>

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

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. Contact Andrej Baca, fc2012@savba.sk.

Australian Alps Forum: Management Effectiveness Evaluations, June 12-13, 2012 at Lake Hume Resort, Albury, New South Wales. This transboundary gathering is for professional development focussed on management effectiveness assessments and their interpretation to guide priority actions. Australian Alps National Parks (2 States and Commonwealth) and IUCN-WCPA. Key players: Dr. "Management Effectiveness" *Marc Hockings*, *Anthony Evans*, *Graeme Worboys*. Information: anthony.evans@environment.nsw.gov.au

Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, June 18, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. A sideline event at the UNCSD Rio+20 Summit has been organized. There will also be a Global Mountain Pavilion. Any MtPA Network members attending the Rio+20 meeting are urged to participate. Confirm participation at info@mountainpartnership.org. Also, in advance, check the Mountain Partnership website for an e-forum *Olivier Chassot* will be our standard bearer www.mountainpartnership.org

International World Heritage Forum, June 22-24, 2012 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Preceding the June 24 - July 6 Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, this will be an NGO Forum to address problems associated with WH Natural and Cultural Sites. *Mechtild Rössler* will be a major player. Unfortunately deadline for registration was May 14, so at this point this is "information only".

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. Preceded by a MRI Key Contact Workshop on July 4. 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. Application date has passed. <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/is/ispam/welcome.htm>

32nd International Geographical Congress, August 26-30, 2012 in Cologne, Germany. Several mountain-related sessions are on the docket www.igc2012.org

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

3rd European Alpine Week, September 5-8, 2012, Valposchiavo, Switzerland. www.alpweek.org/2012
See below.

The Alps Reinvent Themselves. General Assembly of the Alpine Network (ALPARC), September 7, one day within ALPINE WEEK (September 5-8), Valposchiavo, Switzerland. A new ALPARC Association will be formed that day, binding it to the Alpine Convention. www.alparc.org and 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 Deadline for earlybird registration is July 1.

Pro Mountains: Tourism-Environment-Sustainable Development. September 7-9, 2012. Bustini, Romania. www.cartedd.cc.unibuc.ro/conference

International Conference on Managing Protected Areas under Climate Change, September 24-26, 2012 in Dresden, Germany. Organized under EUROPARC (Germany) and National Natural Landscapes (Germany), The event is being organized by Habitat Change and Central Europe Program of European Union. Included topics: monitoring, assessment of sensitivity, future management, awareness-raising, and legal and policy aspects. www.habitat-change.eu. Bringing researchers and managers together. Registration deadline is September 7 (75 Euro) early registration (by July 31) 50 Euro. For details see www.habitat-change.eu/impact or contact Katrin Vogel (k.vogel@loer.de).

Europe's Wilderness Days Conference, September 26-28, 2012, Nagu, Finland. Hosted in Archipelago NP; sponsored by PANPARKS Foundation. Theme is Engaging New Constituencies in Wilderness Protection. Since most of the designated wilderness areas are in mountain areas, MtPAs should be well treated. Registration (by August 31) at www.panparks.org/sites/default/files/docs/ewd2012/registration-form-EWD2012.doc. Program details at www.panparks.org/sites/default/files/docs/ewd2012/ewd2012_draft_programme.pdf Or contact ebalogh@panparks.org

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

10th World Wilderness Congress October 4-10, 2013. Salamanca, Spain. *Theme: Make the World a Wilder Place*. Each WILD10 component will address the question, How can we protect, sustain and restore wild nature while also providing enhanced social and economic opportunities for human society? WILD10's practical objectives will be met through:
A full concept paper and specific proposals are available for WILD10 projects under three main streams: **PLANET**: *Nature Needs Half*; **PROSPERITY**: *Living With and From Nature - Valuing Our Natural Capital*; and **PEOPLE**: *Mobilizing Constituencies and Building a Social Movement*. Practical outcomes will advance biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation, and other benefits to humankind derived from the protection and connectivity of intact and restored wild nature.

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:

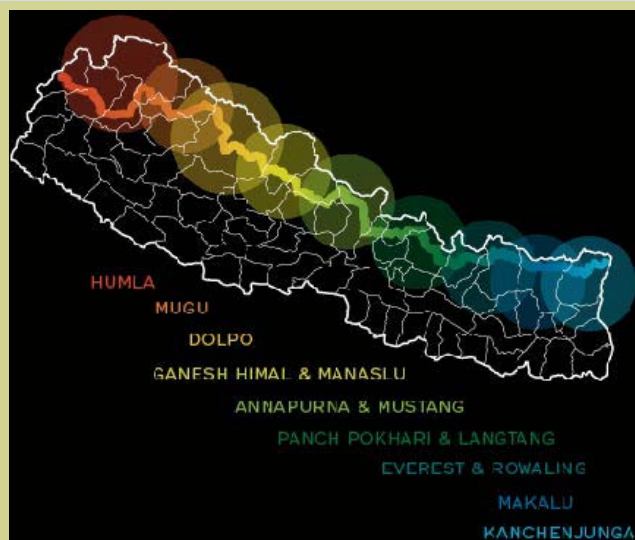
<http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ol/periodicals.cfm?periodid=30>

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/

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](#)

~~~~~  
Congratulations to the  
**GREAT HIMALAYAN TRAIL**, the  
World's first Climate Smart Trail!