

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 76 - DECEMBER 2012



On the Pacific Crest Trail near Echo Summit, California, looking toward Lake Tahoe  
*Photo by Joan Hamilton*

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*It is a good thing to look upwards sometimes, to lift our eyes to the mountains. The world encourages the downward look. We are in the world. We are subject to its influences, caught by its excitement and absorbed by its claims. Everything the world offers is below us, beneath us, and so it keeps us looking down so that, at last, the habit of looking down grows on us. ...Everything that helps us to look up should be encouraged. The hilltop experiences are a necessity of life if we are to live at our best, --those experiences which bring us near to our Gods. Man cannot live in small enclosed valleys and be what the Gods intended him to be. ...May we often lift our eyes to the mountains and breathe the purer air.*



Secularized and edited from a sermon by Fergus McLaren,

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**UPDATE Newsletter  
Editor**



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*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

entitled "The call of the mountains", preached in the 1930s  
in Wanaka, a town set among the mountains of New  
Zealand's South Island. Provided by *Paul Dingwall*.

### Notes from the Editor

The new Chair of WCPA (basically The Boss) is *Ernesto Enkerlin* of Monterey, Mexico, a Network member. Our congratulations and best wishes to him in this significant position in global conservation. And, our good friend *Kathy McKinnon* (UK), beloved for her World Bank financial support to many MtPA events over the years, is the new Deputy-Chair. What a formidable team! Immediate past Chair *Nik Lopoukhine* now takes up a consultancy review of Parks Canada, his former organization. Thanks to *Nik* for all his dedicated work and support of the Mountain and Connectivity Conservation Theme. *Graeme Worboys* has been appointed WCPA Co-Chair Vice-Chair along with fellow Co-Chair *Olivier Chassot* for the Connectivity Conservation and Mountains Theme. And, the motion (M-057-2012) concerning Mountain Protected Areas was adopted by the Congress Members' Meeting. Complete information about all of the motions and other actions may be found at the [World Conservation Congress website](#).

And thank you to those reader members who took the time to respond to my appeal for feedback on the UPDATE newsletter. But from most of you there was a thunderous silence, in spite of my warning that no signals of some kind back here to the Editor in the past year and a half may result in being dropped as a Network member. Be warned, if you have not been in touch lately!

A warm welcome to *Carina Ahlqvist* (Sweden) who is Sustainability Coordinator and Manager for Ernst and Young, Sweden. A mountain climber, Carina has a particular interest in spiritual and cultural values of mountains and will probably be joining that Specialty Group (now Chaired by *Ed (Sacred Mountains) Bernbaum*).

*Bob Peart* is Project Coordinator for the **Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative**, out of British Columbia, Canada. He is concerned with high elevation grasslands and connectivity and played a role in Y2Y in early years.

The new President of **Yellowstone-to-Yukon Coalition** (Y2Y) is *Karsten Heuer*, and we welcome him to our group. See the article on Y2Y for details.

*Harry Keys*, **Tongariro NP** (New Zealand), Conservation Analyst, Department of Conservation, who supplied us with some fine pictures of the recent volcanic eruption (see article below) has joined us. Thanks *Harry*.

*Ian Urquhart* is not only a key faculty member of the new Mountain program at University of Alberta (see later announcement) but is the Editor of the newsletter **Wildlands Advocate**.

As announced in the last issue of UPDATE, the new [International Connectivity Conservation Network](#) was given birth at the World Conservation Congress in September. *Graeme Worboys* reports that the technical session on CC was a great success. And, the motion Resolution 037 on Connectivity Conservation was passed by the General Assembly overwhelmingly, with 100% support from the government delegates according to the chief motion drafter *Olivier Chassot*. The motion's passage formally calls on the entire IUCN to assist in the development of the Network. Also at the WCC the motion calling attention to the special case of Mountain PAs was

passed without dissent. Thanks to *Richard Cellarius* of the Sierra Club, who played a major role, and to *Olivier Chassot* who lined up a solid group of resolution co-sponsors.

Now, again let us invite MtPA Network members who have a strong interest in Connectivity Conservation to join this group also. Go to the following web page, created by *Linda McMillan*: [www.connectivityconservation.net/contact/](http://www.connectivityconservation.net/contact/)

### Connectivity "Down Under"

Australia has moved to the forefront of nations that are taking Connectivity Conservation seriously. In early November the Australian Minister for Environment announced a "National Wildlife Corridor Plan". Its purpose is to provide a continental network of connected protected areas to prevent the loss of biodiversity. Do any readers recognize the fine hand of one *Graeme Worboys*, and several other Network members such as *Ian Pulsford* and *Penny Figgis* in this?

Essentially it allows local communities to nominate wildlife corridors to be part of this National Plan. While most of these will be in flatlands lowlands and along rivers and streams, it is well to remember that the iconic leader in the concept was the great Eastern Ranges which morphed into the Alps to Atherton -a mountainous corridor. Details will be provided through the new International Connectivity Conservation Network (see above).



Muskwa-Kechika Landscape - Photo Credit: Wayne Sawchuk

### Keeping Muskwa-Kechika Wild!

A new study from Yellowstone-to-Yukon (Y2Y) gives land managers the science-based information to protect one of Canada's wildest areas in the face of budget cuts, development pressures and most importantly, climate change.

British Columbia's Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (M-K) is an area roughly the size of Ireland. It was created in 1998 with the latest thinking in conservation land use management, and is comprised of parks and protected areas, as well as

management zones where extractive development is allowed under stringent, best-practice standards. Members of Y2Y were involved throughout the process.

"Fifteen years later, the M-K is still the wildest area in the Rocky Mountains," explains *Wendy Francis*, Program Director at Y2Y and one of the contributors to this new study. "It is one of the Yellowstone to Yukon region's great success stories, but new realities are forcing us all to rethink the basic elements of land management."

Under a changing climate, northern B.C. can expect major transformations in biodiversity on land, in water, and across all levels of species and ecosystems. It could have such a dramatic effect on the types of plants that grow that the terms 'alpine' and 'boreal forest' may no longer apply. Y2Y's main goal in the northern portion of the Yellowstone to Yukon region is to maintain the protection of the vast networks of intact landscapes that already exist. Keeping the M-K intact is critical to achieving this goal. The strategy outlined in the report suggests that the more variety a landscape has today, the more variety of life is likely to be found there in the future," explains *Juri Peepre*, Muskwa-Kechika Project Manager for Y2Y. "Most importantly, this study provides new maps and information to advise management practices that support the protection of biodiversity.

### US National Park Service Updates Its Science-based Policy

The National Park Service needs to manage natural and cultural resources in



a way that embraces change caused by humans says a [recent report](#) from the agency's science advisory board. A group of 11 scientists, including a Nobel Laureate and two Presidential Medal of Science recipients, worked over the past year to craft the report. The report, entitled "**Revisiting Leopold: Resource Stewardship in the National Parks**" recommends how to manage the resources that parks are charged with protecting, at a time when environmental shifts are "widespread, complex, accelerating and volatile".

In addition to managing for change, the group recommended that the overarching goals are to ensure that: ecosystems are self-sustaining, cultural and historical resources retain their authenticity, visitors are educated and inspired, and parks form an anchor in a broad conservation network. The report recommends using the utmost caution in park resource management, integrating natural and cultural resource management, and stresses the need for expanded scientific research within parks. The primary recommendation is to not strive to preserve landscapes "unimpaired" as they were before Europeans arrived in North America, but instead manage parks for "continuous change that is not yet fully understood" in a highly humanized environment.

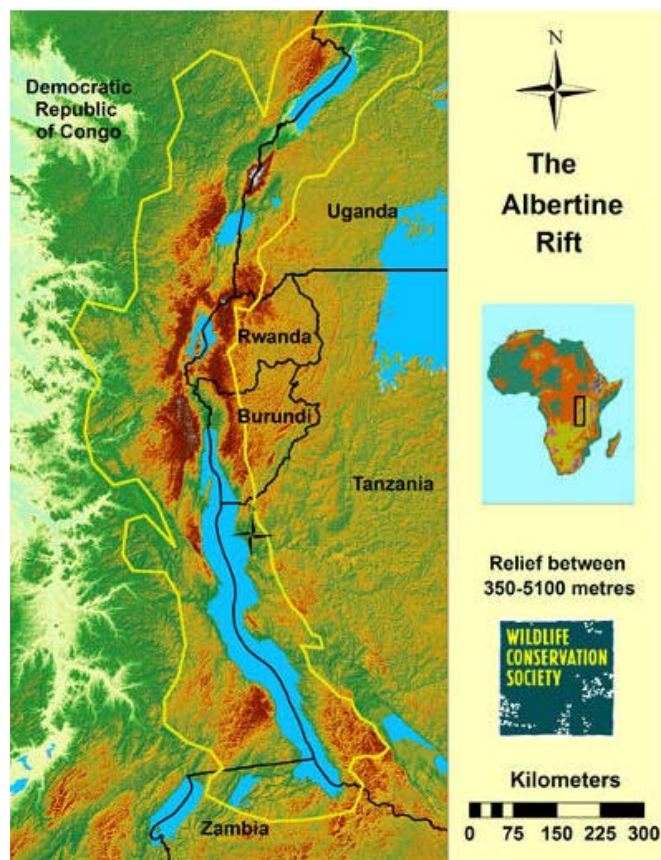
Over the next six months, NPS Director Jon Jarvis plans to collect feedback from the park staff and the broader conservation community to determine what recommendations to adopt. In general environmental groups are supportive, but bemoaning the financial cuts that will make these tasks difficult.

### **Albertine Rift Program of WCS**

The following item is taken from the fine web page of *Andrew Plumtre* of the Wildlife Conservation Society. It is such a succinct and informative picture of this important but probably little-known area, that I have reproduced the introductory portion, below. A great map also!

The Albertine Rift or Africa's Western Rift Valley is one of the most biodiverse regions of the African continent. With more than half of Africa's birds, 40% of Africa's mammals and about 20% of its amphibians and plants, it contains more vertebrate species than anywhere else on the continent. It also conserves more threatened and endemic species than any other region of Africa, and as a result is a Biodiversity Hotspot, a Global 200 Ecoregion and an Endemic Bird Area. Human population density in the Albertine Rift is also high with over 1000 people per square kilometer in some areas of the Rift, with some of the poorest people on the continent. It has been a region of great conflict over the past 40 years with civil wars in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Only Tanzania has escaped this conflict in the Albertine Rift.

This juxtaposition of high human population density, high levels of poverty, conflict and high biodiversity means that there are many challenges for conservation in the region. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been active in the Albertine Rift since 1959 when George Shaller made his pioneering studies of the mountain gorilla. In 2000 WCS established the Albertine Rift Conservation Program which works throughout the region to support the protected area authorities in all five countries in the Albertine Rift, the only conservation NGO to be active at all sites.



In each country we partner with the national protected area authority, notably the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), National Forest Authority of Uganda (NFA), Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and the Institut National pour l'Environnement et Conservation de la Nature (INECN) in Burundi. We also partner with many other national and international NGOs as well as Universities at various sites.

Andrew specifically mentions some current activities:

We have also been working on identifying corridors and connectivity for landscape species in the region and are working on identifying where corridors need to be conserved to allow migration under future climate change. In the **Murchison-Semliki Landscape** we have been looking at REDD+ financing as a way of providing an incentive to farmers to keep forest on their land and are in the process of developing a REDD+ project with the government of Uganda. In DRC we are in the process of trying to create two new protected areas that would conserve some of the most biodiverse parts of the African continent: the **Itombwe Massif** and the **Kabobo Highlands**. These two sites contain many endemic species for the Albertine Rift and are likely to be created in the coming year or so.

### **Patagonia National Park (Chile)-Private Philanthropy at Work**

*Conservacion Patagonica has been buying land to create a new 650,000 acre (263,000 ha) Patagonia National Park out of spectacular landscapes of the Southern Andes, though many areas were severely degraded by overgrazing. The area is north and west of Cochran and north of Cochran Lake. It would eventually become part of Chile's National Park System. Kris Tompkins, the Founder and President of Conservacion Patagonica sends the following report of progress:*

As we start to gear up for the summer season, the countdown starts on the **Patagonia National Park** project. We're now just over two years away from the park's grand opening, slated for January 2015. At that point, we'll welcome visitors from around the region and the world to a fully-functional park. The ecosystem of this biologically key area will be well along the road to recovery and balance after decades of ranching, and the structures will be in place to share the economic benefits of conservation with local communities.

Over the next thirty months, we will finish all trails, campgrounds, and visitor facilities in the Chacabuco Valley--that means completing three to four trail systems, developing three major campgrounds, and finishing all key facilities at the park headquarters. Our Community Outreach program, just wrapping up its pilot year, will have solidified new projects and collaborations, and our wildlife recovery program will have developed new strategies for protecting key species such as the endangered *huemul* deer, the Andean condor, and the puma.

Interest in the future park is growing, throughout the region and internationally, so we're eager to complete the work required to establish and open this new 650,000 acre flagship park.

Our skilled on-the-ground team has gained momentum and is tackling projects with greater speed and expertise than ever. But we need your help. Please consider joining us [<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/ConservacionPatagonica/OnlineDonations.html>] to support the ambitious work ahead. When you get the chance to walk across these spectacular landscapes, we hope you'll feel proud to be part of this historic conservation effort. There just aren't many places like this in the world. -- Kris Tompkins

### **A Succinct Case for High Biodiversity in Mountains**

Over the years, your Editor has often had to "make the case" for the outstanding biodiversity that characterizes mountains. This was especially true when we were trying to place "Mountains" on the global agenda back in 1992. I have just come across a fairly short, pithy statement which I believe might be of interest to the Network. It is taken from the Editorial on Mountain Biodiversity of the special issue of Plant Ecology and Diversity (Vol 4, No 4, 2011). This was written by *Eva Spehn*, *Katrina Rudman-Maurer* and *Christian Koerner*:

Although covering a relatively small fraction of the terrestrial land surface (13-25%), mountain regions host an overproportional fraction of global biodiversity, supporting an estimated one-third of terrestrial biological diversity. On a global and regional scale, mountains that lie in

areas of high biological richness are biodiversity hot spots because the rapid altitudinal change of climatic conditions over a very short distance gives rise to a range of bioclimatically defined vegetation types in close proximity. For example, in the tropics, mountain vegetation ranges from submontane forests to tropical alpine ecosystems, thereby concentrating high biodiversity on an area basis. High topographic diversity, a characteristic feature of mountains, results in high habitat diversity and contributes to enhancing richness in biodiversity. Mountain biota, representing islands of high-elevation habitats and separated by the surrounding lowlands, have often formed in biogeographic isolation, resulting in high numbers of endemic species that further add to the uniqueness of mountain biodiversity.

### **Update on Mt Tongariro NP and WH Site Eruption**

(Some observations from a Park management standpoint by *Paul Green*)

The Te Maari volcanic eruption on 6 August tossed blocks of old lava and hydrothermally altered lava more than 2kms distance. Fortunately the eruption was late at night in the middle of winter so there was no one walking the track or staying in the hut. A flow of rock and soil debris generated by the eruption partially filled a steam draining NW from the Te Maari crater with three stream tributaries being blocked. A lake formed with an estimated 80000 cu m of water and this has been posing a significant risk to track walkers with approximately 200 metres of track being at high risk to a lahar resulting from a collapse of the lake rock barrier.



August Eruption of Te Maari, in Tongariro NP and WH Site Photo: *Harry Keys* (DOC)

Following the eruption local Maori had placed a 'Rahui' [traditional protective restriction] over a 3km zone from the Te Maari Crater but with little further indication of imminent volcanic activity plans were underway to reduce the 'Rahui' to a 1km zone. The Tongariro Alpine Crossing is walked by more than 70000 walkers a year with the season traditionally starting in the last week of October so managers from the Department of Conservation had been working on track repair and considering how best to limit risk from a collapse of the lake dam?.

Nature did the trick on the evening of 13 October after a prolonged period of heavy rain when the lake rock barrier burst emptying an estimated 60,000 cu m of water. The lahar flowed as predicted and was at least 2m high as it significantly damaged 200m of track and spread mud over the last 1-5 km of track. Three bridges and a boardwalk survived damage and the track was made passable in the following week. The Ketetahi hut will not be replaced but the toilets are still useable.





DOC staff survey of upper Te Maari vents area. Photo: *Harry Keys* (DOC)

A second eruption, but only of ash and gas occurred on November 21. About 50 trekkers were on the Alpine Crossing, since it had not been closed off, and these were moved off without incident. As of this Newsletter date the Crossing is closed. The Te Maari crater "Rahui" is still in place.

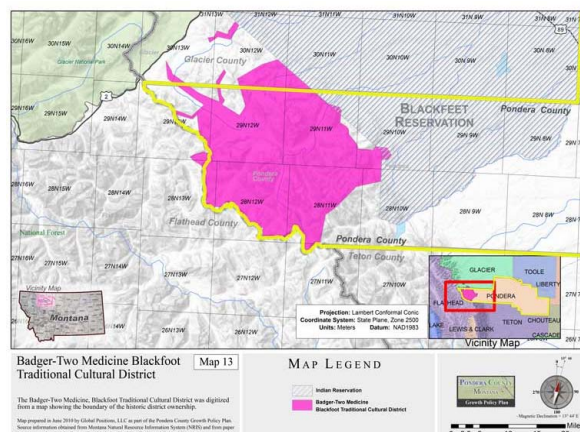
### Collaborative Planning for the Badger-Two Medicine Area

The Badger-Two Medicine area lies within Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest (USA) and is directly adjacent to **Glacier National Park**. The location makes it an ecological hub - home to grizzlies, lynx, wolverines and other native species - and one that both the **Blackfeet** and the conservation community deem worthy of protecting. The CCCI is a key region in the overall Y2Y conservation connectivity program, and Y2Y plays an important role in CCCI.

The Badger-Two Medicine is also sacred ground to the **Blackfeet People** and an important part of their spiritual traditions. Historically, the Tribe has fought to maintain the area's ecological integrity for sacred reasons, but with the vast majority of their people unemployed, some people on the reservation have advocated for more natural resource extraction as an answer to their economic concerns.

Despite these competing interests *Stephen Legault* (Coordinator of the **Crown of the Continent Conservation Initiative CCCI**) suggests, "We have an exciting collaborative opportunity where all the elements that are valued by those at the table - the social, economic, environmental and cultural - have the potential to work in harmony." Dozens of grassroots conservation groups, government officials, local business owners and individual **Blackfeet Tribe** members are working together to determine how this land will be used in the future and by whom. "There is a growing desire to protect the 130,000 acres of roadless wilderness against non-compatible uses, such as off-road vehicle recreation and fracking, while also respecting the rights, needs and vision of the **Blackfeet People**," states *Stephen*.

"We always have to keep in mind that we are the guests of the **Blackfeet People** on these lands," he continues. "I'm here to put the right people together to have a conversation, and to make certain that the partners involved respect the leadership of the **Blackfeet Tribe**." The next step in this endeavor is to better understand the needs and perspectives of the **Blackfeet Tribe**. Local conservationists are turning to tribal members to speak with other members to gauge their views regarding the value of preserving their cultural interests and



diversifying their economy.

### **Balkans Peace Park**

Thanks to the inspiration and work of cultural anthropologist Antonia Young, in 2001, at a meeting at York University (UK), a proposal for a Balkans Peace Park was crystallized as a UK Charity effort. As visualized, this was to promote healing in the war-ravaged area of Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo, through an effective transboundary relationship among three National Parks (respectively: **Theth**, **Prokletja** and **Bjeshket**). The slow progress of this proposal is told in a new publication "Case Study: The Evolution of the Balkan Peace Park Project" (See Recent Publications). The lessons learned, as analyzed by author Todd Walters should be of interest to others attempting transboundary PA initiatives, and are presented:

- \* International peace parks possess great potential as a tool for cross-border cooperation, for environmental conservation, sustainable development, and livelihood creation-if they are created and managed with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders from all affected countries.
- \* It is important to coordinate efforts to develop peace parks at the ecosystem level.
- \* Short- and long-term employment opportunities linked to the peace park initiative can help shift incentive structures for local communities towards conservation as a viable land-use option and can consolidate public support for the establishment of a peace park.
- \* Use of an integrated multi-track approach can increase the chances of success and spur the development of a wide range of related programs, projects, and initiatives on multiple levels.
- \* Timing is critical in the development of an international peace park because a park cannot be created unless the principal state decision makers are ready and the concept is embraced by a critical mass of stakeholders.<sup>31</sup>
- \* Effective and functioning National Parks must exist in each country, and be contiguous, in order to be functionally linked together to form a transboundary protected area, which can then be dedicated as an International Peace Park.

### **Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative**

The University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada) has formally established an interdisciplinary/multi-disciplinary research and teaching program in the form of Canada's first and only mountain studies initiative. It comprises 25 faculty members from four different faculties, --ranging across the human, biological, physical, social and applied sciences. This looks like another win for mountain scholarship and investigation. [www.mountains@ualberta.ca](http://www.mountains@ualberta.ca). Ian Urquhart from this initiative has joined the MtPA Network.

### **Noise Pollution and Natural Sounds**

We have carried many articles over the years on the topic of noise pollution interfering with the soundscape in Mt PAs. The Scottish Natural Heritage with its Quiet Zones mapping, and the US National Park Service with its Natural Sounds and Dark Skies Division have been providing much leadership in this arena. The NPS website at <http://nature.nps.gov/sound/> has much useful material on this important topic. Now, also, the WCPA Urban Specialist Group, under Chair Ted Trzyna, has formed a Natural Sounds Working Group. It is chaired by Karen Trevino, Chief, Natural Sounds and Dark Skies Division, US National Park Service. While this new group is within the Urban Specialist Group, Mt PA Network members with problems or concerns would be welcome, I am sure. Contact [Karen Trevino](#).



You can listen to [the effects of sound masking](#) on the NPS website

### **International Mountain Day - 10th Year**

This December 11 will mark the 10th anniversary of the UN declaration of International Mountain Day in 2002, --which was the International Year of Mountains. FAO and the Mountain



Partnership have organized and coordinated a series of activities as a celebration, guided by *Thomas Hofer*. Over 80 projects were submitted on Sustainable Mountain Development and the winner will be announced and showcased. A new website is available at [www.fao.org/mts/en/](http://www.fao.org/mts/en/) and from it, materials may be accessed in six languages. Those planning celebrations are encouraged to communicate them to [Sara Manuelli](#).

### More on Photomonitoring

Our two items on photomonitoring in the last issue brought in a few positive comments, and *Eva Spehn* of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment advised us of an interesting repeat photography project on mountains. It is the project of Mountain Legacy, based in the Visualization Lab at the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. It concentrates in the arenas of landscape ecology, ecological restoration and social perspectives. It partners with Parks Canada and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. It archives thousands of historical prints, survey journals and other artifacts. Check out their program at [www.mountainlegacy.ca/research/projects.html](http://www.mountainlegacy.ca/research/projects.html).

### Annapurna Conservation Area Project Problems



The beautiful Annapurna Range can be seen from the city of Pokhara.

According to a recent article in the *Nepali Times*, long-time work by many Nepali and New Zealand Network members could be set back by a decision of the Government of Nepal. The late *Chandra Gurung* and other Nepali conservation stars who perished in that 2006 tragic helicopter crash would be totally dismayed by the decision not to renew a 10-year extension of the management role of the **National Trust for Nature Conservation** which has been running the **ACA** Project for the past 25 years. The **ACA** at 7,629 km<sup>2</sup> (2,946 mi<sup>2</sup>) is the largest PA in Nepal, and is the most popular of all trekking destinations. The roughly 100,000 residents of many cultural groups benefit from the tourism which is nourished by more than 1,000 lodges, teashops and other support services.

The National Trust for Nature Conservation has been attempting to find effective ways to transition to local management control by Village Development Committees, without jeopardizing conservation values. NTNC has a long and valued history. When I first encountered it, it was the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, and in its office I first met *Chandra Gurung* and *Broughton Coburn* (now Field Director of the American Himalayan Foundation). **ACA** is a Category VI PA, and contains Annapurna Peak at 8,091 m (26,545 ft). We will follow developments herein, due to the global significance of this Mt PA and its management model.

### Yellowstone-to-Yukon News

Yellowstone-to-Yukon has a new Executive Director following the retirement of *Rob Buffler*. The new chief is *Karsten Heuer*, as of January 2013. It was *Karsten* who did the first walk from **Yellowstone NP** to the Yukon Territory, --reported in UPDATE in 1998. This was a

journey of 3,400 km (2,100 mi). He is a biologist, writer and adventurer, and spent 18 years with Parks Canada.

*Bill Weber* of Two Countries-One Forest, has been appointed to the Board of Directors. Also on the Board of Y2Y are *Charles Chester*, *Jodi Hilty* and *David John*. Another change at Y2Y is the resignation of *Rob Buffler* as Executive Director.

*Wendy Francis*, Program Manager sends us the fine Y2Y Newsletter and informs us that a key new acquisition in the transborder **Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor** provides connectivity for small grizzly bear and mountain caribou populations to travel through British Columbia's Creston Valley. The privately-owned 124 ha (306 acre) property was secured through collaboration between Nature Conservancy of Canada and Y2Y. It is called the **Frog-Bear Conservation Area** since it also provides critical habitat for the endangered northern leopard frog. Other acquisitions and news may be found in the newsletter at [www.y2y.net](http://www.y2y.net).

### **Climate Change Ski Area Casualties in European Alps**

(taken from CIPRA, Int'l Commission for the Protection of the Alps)

In the Western European Alps, the skiing area of Drouzin-le-Mont in the municipality of Biot Haute Savoie (France) is shut down due to lack of snow. It lies at an altitude of roughly 1,230 m and was opened in 1973. In recent years there have been annual losses of up to 150,000 euros. The mayor wants to dismantle the lifts and convert the area to other kinds of mountain tourism, including cross-country skiing and mountain biking. In doing so, it will be emulating some of the casualties of climate change for Alps ski developments. For example Saint-Pierre-de-Chartreuse in **Chartreuse Regional Nature Park** has closed pistes outside of holiday periods, and in 2011 transformed itself into a trail-running area and hiking area. And, in the Swiss Bernese Oberland the Stockhornbahn AG Company shut down its pistes in 2003 and a new business model was adopted focused on gastronomy and nature-oriented winter and summer activities. According to the OECD, a temperature rise of 4 degrees will mean that only 30% of ski pistes can be sure of snow.

### **World Heritage News**

The **Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch World Heritage Site** is the most famous WH in the European Alps. Its evolution was rather slow, since both cantons and the 25 communes involved had to come to agreement. *Bruno Messerli* reports that it is experiencing a period of fine cooperation between the cantons of Valais and Bern, and the 25 communes. A visitor center at Naters close to the railway station of Brig is in the planning phase. *Bruno* indicates that the current leadership provided by Site Manager Beat Ruppen is responsible for much of the recent progress. This is good news indeed.



The stunningly beautiful Finsteraarhorn is in the **Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch World Heritage Site**.

### **Bits and Pieces**

The prize of a bottle of "Australian red" at the **Mountain PA Dinner** in the Jeju WCC went to *Roger Crofts*. Organized by *Graeme Worboys* to carry on a long tradition of these fun affairs, it was booked for 18 Network members-but 45 showed up! *Ed Bernbaum* asked the Mountain Questions, and *Roger* captured the prize.

The new web site for the International Ranger Federation is [www.InternationalRangers.com](http://www.InternationalRangers.com)

The organization Appalachian Corridor Appalachien this year celebrated 10 years of existence. It is working on the transboundary (Quebec portion) landscape connectivity linking to Vermont's Green Mountains (USA), as part of the Northern Appalachian Bioregion. *Stephanie Beaudoin* tells us that in 10 years it contributed to protect the habitat of about fifty species at risk (Threatened, Vulnerable or likely to be designated as such). "We created a network of

15 Affiliate Members based on sharing ecological knowledge and encouraging close collaborations between environmental groups. With our Affiliate Members, Nature Conservancy Canada, financial partners, landowners and collaborators like, we went from 400 ha to more than 10 000 ha of private land protected in perpetuity, a success to celebrate! Congratulations to ACA!

The clash between **vehicles and wildlife in PAs** is aptly illustrated in statistics called to our attention by *John Mock*. So far this year, in **Yosemite NP**, 17 bears have been hit (not all fatally). A case for using underpass or overpass wildlife crossings on heavily travelled roads in our PAs.

*Cyril Kormos* (of WILD Foundation), who has been WCPA Regional Vice-Chair for North America, has shifted functions within WCPA to become the new **Vice-Chair for World Heritage**. *Dave Harmon* (George Wright Society) continues as Deputy Vice-Chair for North America and his valued task of managing the list serve. The new Chair is [Mike Wong](#), chief scientist with Parks Canada.

The **EUROPARC library** of material pertaining to protected areas was transferred to a permanent home at Klagenfurt University (Austria) where it will be immediately accessible to students and faculty in the Management of Protected Areas Master of Science program, which we have previously reported. Representatives from UNESCO, IUCN and ALPARC were present at the opening ceremony in late September. [www.mpa.e-c-o.at](http://www.mpa.e-c-o.at).

And update on the **World Biosphere Reserve Network**: The last figures we gave (two issues ago) have been superseded by new ones: 610 BR sites in 117 countries; 12 are transboundary BRs.

According to the European Environmental Agency, **PAs in Europe now cover more than 21% of the land surface**. Only 4% of the marine environment has PA status (target is 10% by 2020). Details are available in a report published October 22, 2012 (see Publications section).

**Mount Kailash**, which according to *Ed (Sacred Mountains) Bernbaum*, is the world's most revered mountain (one of the quiz questions at the recent Mountain Dinner at World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Korea), has been the focus of a trash clean-up effort. Volunteers from all over Tibet gathered for a garbage removal treatment in September, -- removing material left by the thousands of annual pilgrims and visitors. They are also installing a trash removal program and facility.

Members may be interested to know that within the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, there is an **Ethics Specialist Group**. Its two leading projects are the Biosphere Ethics Initiative (BEI) and Earth Democracy (concerned with governance structures that best allow for biodiversity conservation). The BEI project encourages action on ethical principles and has been holding a series of meetings called Relatos: Wilderness Relato (Chicago), South African National Parks, Jordan, Indiana Dunes (USA), and Rio State. It held a Mini-Relato at the IUCN World Conservation Congress this year on the controversy over the military port development at Gangjeong Village near the Congress site in Jeju. Information from the Group's Deputy Chair, [Kathryn Kintzele](#).

*Martin Price* is the latest Network member to be awarded the prestigious **King Albert Gold Medal for Mountain Conservation**. *Martin* holds the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Perth, Scotland. He is also Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies there. He joins the circle that includes other recipients from the Network: *Jack Ives*, *Bruno Messerli* and *Larry Hamilton* (the Golden Oldies?).

The part-time on-line MSc in Sustainable Mountain Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland, coordinated by *Martin Price* has been approved for global delivery. The modules cover a wide range of environmental, social, economic and policy issues. A real strength of the course is the opportunities for participants to learn from each other. Students can exit with a Postgraduate Certificate after completing the three core modules, or



continue to gain the Postgraduate Diploma after three optional modules, or the MSc, after completing a dissertation. For further information, visit [www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies](http://www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies) or contact [Martin Price](#).

IUCN is launching two "Green Lists" (as contrasted with Red Lists). These concern both PAs and Species. For PAs, the list will honor well-managed protected areas, and it is hoped the incentives and rewards can be provided to listed PAs. The List will be inaugurated at the World Parks Congress in 2014, and the Species List in 2016. The Mt PA Santa Marta de Sierra Nevada will be one of the early ones to receive attention.

**Ang Tschering Sherpa** has been elected as an Honorary Member of the UIAA, the international alpinists organization.

### Some Recent Publications of Interest

*Parks*. The WCPA journal has been re-launched as an on-line, peer-reviewed and open-access journal. [www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap\\_capacity2/gpap\\_parks2/](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_capacity2/gpap_parks2/). This is Volume 18 No 1, 2012. In this current issue, there are contributions from the following Mt PA Network members: *Nik Lopoukhine, Stephen Woodley, Bastian Bertzky, Nigel Dudley, Kathy MacKinnon, Trevor Sandwith, Olivier Chassot, Scott Slocombe* and *James Hardcastle*.

*The Implications of Climate Change for Biodiversity Conservation and the National Reserve System: Final Synthesis*. 2012. Michael Dunlop *et al.* (12 authors). Climate Adoption Flagship. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization - Australia. Excellent work by the Aussies. [www.csiro.au/nationalreservesystem](http://www.csiro.au/nationalreservesystem). There is also a companion piece of same title but: *Implications for Policymakers*.

*Tibet Wild: A Naturalist's Journey on the Roof of the World*. 2012. The latest in a fine series of books by Network member and distinguished scientist *George Schaller*. It covers some of his research and interactions with snow leopards, Marco Polo sheep, chiru antelope, horse-like *kiang* and the people who live with them. Island Press. 384 pp. [www.islandpress.org/ip/books](http://www.islandpress.org/ip/books). US\$30. Other books by George include: *Tibet's Hidden Wilderness; Stones of Silence; The Giant Pandas of Wolong; The Mountain Gorilla; A Life in the Wild; and Wildlife of the Tibetan Steppe*. An amazing record!

*Revisiting Shangri-la*. Robert K. Moseley. 2011. China Intercontinental Press. 256 pp; 233 photos and maps. *Bob* uses repeat photography in the mountains of Yunnan, China to portray the dynamic and resilient nature of change in land and people. He is currently Director of Conservation Programs for The Nature Conservancy in Illinois, but spent six years as TNC Director of the China Program. He has worked most of his life in mountains including 25 years in Rocky Mountains. Subtitle is *Photographing a Century of Environmental and Cultural Change in the Mountains of Southwest China*. US\$58. [www.mandarinbooks.cn/](http://www.mandarinbooks.cn/).

*Principles and Guidelines for Ecological Restoration in Canada's Protected Natural Areas*. 2012. National Parks Directorate, Parks Canada Agency. A huge multidisciplinary working group from a large array of agencies, universities and other institutions and organizations contributed. It focuses on restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem function of Canada's natural heritage, but will prove valuable for any country. [www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/re-er/pag-pel.aspx#tphp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/np-pn/re-er/pag-pel.aspx#tphp).

*Protected Planet Report*. 2012. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, IUCN/WCPA, and other organizations. This report tracks global progress toward meeting the target of 17% of the world's terrestrial and 10% of the marine surfaces conserved and managed by 2020. This Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity was set at a meeting in Aichi, and is often referred to as the Aichi Target. It presents latest data, e.g. PAs now cover 12,7 % of terrestrial surface and 1 % of ocean area. [www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap\\_home/gpap\\_biodiversity/gpap\\_protectedplanet/?10866](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_biodiversity/gpap_protectedplanet/?10866).

*Protected Areas in Europe - An Overview*. 2012. European Environment Agency. EEA 05-2012. [www.eea.europa.eu/publications/protected-areas-in-europe-2012](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/protected-areas-in-europe-2012).

*Conserving Dryland Biodiversity*. 2012. Jonathan Davies and 8 others, including Network members: Kathy MacKinnon, Nigel Dudley and William Henwood. IUCN. The first analysis of dryland biodiversity on a global scale. Many Mt PAs are in arid or semi-arid climates. [https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/drylands\\_bk\\_2.pdf](https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/drylands_bk_2.pdf).

*Integrating Nature and Biodiversity and Land Use Data*. 2012. Final Report of the Ecological Networks in the European Alps,--by Michael Hosak et al. English. 53 pages. Available: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems>

*Case Study: The Evolution of the Balkans Peace Park Project* 2012. By Todd Walters. Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security, University of Vermont. Recounts the genesis and evolution as this fine transboundary mountain area progresses from concept to reality. PAs in Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo. [www.uvm.edu/ieds/sites/default/files/balkans-peace-park.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/ieds/sites/default/files/balkans-peace-park.pdf).

*Outdoor Recreation in Change - Current Knowledge and Future Challenges* 2012. This is the Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas, held August 21-24, 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden. [www.mmv2012.se](http://www.mmv2012.se)

*The Threshold of Sustainability for Tourism in Protected Areas: a Quick Guide for Protected Area Managers*. 2012. Andrew Drumm, Stephen McCool and James Rieger. The Nature Conservancy Sustainable Tourism Alliance, USAID, US FS, UNDP and Convention on Biological Diversity. This seems like a "must" for MtPA managers faced with reduced budgets, but increasing visitation, plus other threats to biodiversity and PA integrity. Knowing *Steve McCool*, it will be a very practical guide. [www.conserveonline.org/library/the-threshold-of-sustainability-for-tourism-in/view.html](http://www.conserveonline.org/library/the-threshold-of-sustainability-for-tourism-in/view.html)

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

**Capacity Building for Conservation**. February 12-15, 2013. Humboldt Institute, Villa de Layva, Colombia. This training program (in English with Spanish translation) is put on by Ecological Research and Training in the UK. IT is designed for practitioners, scientists and educators and focuses on best practices for conservation, and on interchange. Deadline: end of December. Contact [Mark O'Connell](mailto:mark@ERT-conservation.co.uk) mark@ERT-conservation.co.uk and see: [www.ert-conservation.co.uk/conf\\_programme.htm](http://www.ert-conservation.co.uk/conf_programme.htm).

**Protected Areas in a Changing World**. March 11-15, 2013. Denver, Colorado, USA. The George Wright Society Conference, with the Organizing Committee including *David Parsons* (Chair), *Brent Mitchell* and *Jan van Wagendonk*, with *Angeles Mendoza Sammet* on the Native Involvement Working Group. *Dave Harmon's* touch will assure that this is a winner. Deadline for proposals is past, but attendees are welcome. *Larry Hamilton* and *Tom Gilbert* have organized a Session on Biosphere Reserves, involving Network members WCPA Chair *Ernesto Enkerlin*, *John Peine* and *Natarajan Ishwaran*. [www.georgewright.org/gws](http://www.georgewright.org/gws)

Not to be confused with

**Mountain Protected Areas in a Changing World**. May 21-24, 2013. Spindleruv Mlyn, Czech Republic. Organized by Transboundary Parks and Biosphere Reserve Krkonoše (Czech) and Karkonosze (Poland) Administrations and the Czech Ministry of Environment. Working language is English, and focus will be on changes, challenges and experiences in management of "medium altitude" Mt PAs. Deadline for papers / poster abstract submission is October 15, 2012. <http://konference.krnep.cz/konference/1/informace/>

**International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas**. June 10, 11, 2013. National Park Hohe Tauern. Sponsored by 6 NPs in Austria, and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC). Optional excursion June 12. Unfortunately proposal deadline was October 19, 2012. Final selection December, 2012. [www.hohetauern.at/symposium2013/](http://www.hohetauern.at/symposium2013/)

**9th International Convention on Environment and Development**. July 8-12, 2013. Havana, Cuba. La Agencia de Medio Ambiente de Cuba, with other organizations. 250 word proposals required for participation should be sent to [convencion@ama.cu](mailto:convencion@ama.cu). For more information visit: [www.cubambiente.com](http://www.cubambiente.com)

**10th World Wilderness Congress.** October 4-10, 2013. Salamanca, Spain.

Theme: *Make the World a Wilder Place*. Visit the official Congress website ([www.WILD10.org](http://www.WILD10.org)) for information regarding the exceptional variety of Congress program offerings (scientific, stewardship, artistic & cultural). Within the Congress is a Symposium of Presentations on Science and Management relevant to wilderness stewardship - papers grounded in data or theory, field experience and/or case studies of policy approaches and ideas - are particularly encouraged under the following program areas:

**Call for Abstracts**, before December 31, 2012 on following topics:

- \* advancing our knowledge related to freshwater contributions of wildland protection
- \* transboundary connectivity benefits and challenges
- \* cultural landscape protection
- \* traditional knowledge and evolving relationships between indigenous people and nature
- \* protecting wild values on private lands
- \* trends in wilderness use and values to society
- \* land and seascape protection and restoration
- \* the role of environmental well-being in human well-being
- \* economics of wilderness conservation
- \* the role of wilderness education and training in stewardship
- \* spatial science applications to wilderness protection

See web site for abstract instructions.

This Symposium is organized, and proceedings are published by, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, The Wildland Research Institute of The University of Leeds, the Global Change Research Center of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the WILD Foundation. Submit abstracts (500 words or less) by email (preferred) or fax to: Co-Chairs, Symposium on Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values. *Alan Watson* is one of the Co-Chairs Email: [symposium@wild10.org](mailto:symposium@wild10.org) FAX: 406-542-4196

**Capacity Building for Conservation.** February 12-15, 2013. Humboldt Institute, Villa de Layva, Colombia. This training program (in English with Spanish translation) is put on by Ecological Research and Training in the UK. It is designed for practitioners, scientists and educators, and focuses on best practices for conservation and on interchange. Deadline: end of December 2012. see [www.ert-conservation.co.uk/conf\\_programme.htm](http://www.ert-conservation.co.uk/conf_programme.htm)

## 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 and the International Connectivity Conservation Network**

websites: <http://connectivityconservation.org/> <http://connectivityconservation.net/>

### Linda McMillan

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

The rugged Albanian Alps are in the Balkan Peace Park, and contain many rare species of animals like the European brown bear .

