

Mountain Protected Areas

UPDATE



No. 77 - MARCH 2013



Great strides are being made in strengthening the effectiveness of this protected area system in Qinghai Province, China

Photo courtesy of Dr. Mark Fogin

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As we reach for the stars we neglect the flowers at our feet. But the great age of mammals in the Himalayas need not be over unless we permit it to be. For epochs to come the peaks will still pierce the lonely vistas, but when the last Snow Leopard has stalked among the crags and the last Markhor has stood on a promontory, his ruff waving in the breeze, a spark of life will have gone, turning the mountains into stones of silence.

Stones of

Silence by George B. Schaller



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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

Notes from the Editor

Let me encourage Network members to become involved in planning and shaping the content of the **2014 World Parks Congress** in Sydney, Australia. This major international gathering is held only once in every decade and gathers the world's most influential people involved in protected area management. It will mainly consist of a series of "work streams". Stream leaders are sought, but proposals are due by March 8 (not much time). Proposers need not be members of IUCN nor of WCPA, so you are all eligible. For information: www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/?11787/leaders-wanted-for-sixth-World-Parks-Congress. If not, let me encourage you to participate in the Congress in some way, --presenter in a stream or side event or as a participant.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new MtPA Network members:

Ang Rita Sherpa, winner of the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal in 2011, is Senior Program Manager for The Mountain Institute, based in Kathmandu. He was a member of the Task Force that set up the **Makalu-Barun National Park** and Buffer Zone. He is another of New Zealand's Lincoln University "mafia" who are contributing so much in Nepal.

Dr. Francesco Framarin, Director of **Gran Paradiso NP** which boasts the only 4,000 m mountain totally inside Italy. He has devoted 20 years to **Gran Paradiso**. Has climbed much in the Alps, but also in Mt. Kenya and the Rwenzori mountains.

Paribesh Pradahn of Nepal (though currently residing in Switzerland), who is the Founder of The Annapurna Foundation. He is also the mastermind behind the Great Himalayan Trail Climate Initiative, and after completing the 98-day trek is working with the Swiss SDC on a report of this endeavor. See later article on GHTCI by Paribesh.

Nadine Lehner, Executive Director of Conservacion Patagonica. See the article in last September issue entitled "Patagonia NP (Chile)- Private Philanthropy at Work".

Sandeep Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer for [Great Himalayan NP](#) in Himachal Pradesh (India), which has been nominated for World Heritage status. *Sandeep* comes out of a background in wildlife management.

Fiona Winward The Mountain Partnership, FAO, Rome (Italy) She produces the Newsletter Peak to Peak for the Partnership, and we can steal each other's material!!

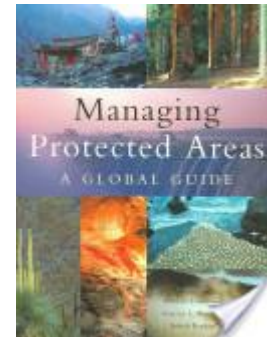
And finally, I urge you to send news of your doings or any relevant news dealing with MtPAs for my possible use in this newsletter. Thanks so much. silverfox@gmavt.net.

Protected Area Governance and Management Book Project

This IUCN project will be a Legacy Product to be launched at the 2014 World Parks Congress. It will be the official principal source of information for the IUCN professional development program. Our Chief, *Graeme Worboys*, is managing this very large enterprise. The resulting book (both e.book and some hard copy) will be edited by *Graeme, Michael Lockwood* and *Ashish Kothari*, all members of our Network., (and Editors of the 2006 landmark book

Managing Protected Areas: a Global Guide).

A group of PA experts is being assembled to cover the 31 topic chapters. It is important that you see the detailed preparations going into this venture. Check out the great new website for the book, developed by *Linda McMillan* --<http://protectedareabook.org>. We are so fortunate to have her as a colleague in getting out the UPDATE newsletter and in developing and maintaining the two fine web sites that are for the CC and M Theme. She will post periodic progress reports about the book. This book will be an integral part of an internationally coordinated approval for the accreditation of tertiary level PA management training by IUCN-WCPA.



Do Our Mountain Protected Areas Adequately Protect Genetic Diversity of Alpine Plants?

Biodiversity can be described at three levels: ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity. Previous theory assumed that the three levels are congruent, amongst other reasons because they are subjected to the same processes. According to this claim, regions with a high level of ecosystem diversity should also be rich in species and those species should display a high level of **genetic diversity**. Genetic diversity is just as important as species diversity because it determines a species' adaptability to a changing environment. If climate change alters the prevailing environmental conditions in the alpine zone, the adaptability of alpine plants will be key to the long-term preservation of species of species diversity.

An international team of researchers led by the University of Grenoble and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) has now discovered that a high level of species diversity does not necessarily go hand in hand with a high level of genetic diversity. The researchers studied the distribution pattern of 893 alpine plants throughout the Alps. After taking the genetic fingerprints of 27 of these species, they found that species-rich areas are distinct from areas harboring high genetic diversity. Moreover, the researchers succeeded in pinpointing the reasons for this: in alpine plants, species diversity is influenced by local environmental conditions, whereas genetic diversity is determined by processes that led to the recolonization of ice-free areas after the last Ice Age. Furthermore, a parallel study conducted in the Carpathian mountains shows that this finding for the Alps was no 'one-off' result.

Today's designated Protected Areas are often locations where rare species occur and where ecosystem diversity and thus the number of species are particularly high. In future, then, existing PAs should be complemented by adding areas characterized by a high level of genetic diversity. In addition, new and existing conservation areas should be more efficiently connected, as this would guarantee the exchange of individual plants and their genes between different populations of alpine plants and thus also maintain genetic diversity in the long term.



Not a wolf, but Your Editor on the trail in Chartreuse Regional Nature Park -- Photo by Linda Hamilton

Status of Wolf Recovery in French and Swiss MtPAs

In September the first Swiss wolf cubs were born on the border between the cantons of Graubünden and St. Gallen. Wolves disappeared from Switzerland 150 years ago, with proof of the first animals re-establishing themselves only coming in 1995. A restrictive policy compared to the French and Italian Southern Alps ensured that it was a very long time before Swiss wolves bred and were thus able to form packs, according to the "Wolf Group Switzerland" organization, which believes

that the formation of packs is positive for humans: wolves hunt more efficiently in groups than as individuals, thus reducing the pressure on domestic animal herds. They also tend to live in specific territories, which facilitates the protection of herds.

In the French Alps the return of the wolf has so far been successful. In the middle of October, however, the Administrative Council of the **Cévennes N P** in southern France decided by a large majority that wolves are not compatible with the animal husbandry practiced in the Park; it therefore intends to permit shooting in defense even in the Park's core zone. Two farmers' organizations have now also asked for the example of the **Cévennes N P** to be followed in the protected areas of the **Vanoise N P** and the **Bauges** and **Chartreuse Regional Parks**, also located in the Alps. But where should wolves - internationally protected animals - live if not in the protected areas?

Source and further information: *CIPRA Living in the Alps Newsletter*, December 2012.

www.cipra.org/en/alpmedia/newsletter

News from the Albertine Rift-the Backbone of Africa

It is always good to get news out of Africa. *Andrew Plumtre* the Rift's Program Director for the Wildlife Conservation Society reports that with other partners they are engaged in several recent initiatives. These include the production of landscape plans for the **Murchison-Semliki Landscape** in western Uganda and also the **Nyungwe-Kibira Transboundary Landscape** in Rwanda-Burundi. They have also been monitoring the impacts of oil exploration in Uganda and learning lessons as well as ways to engage the companies. Ironically the companies in Uganda appear to want to be minimizing their impacts but the government doesn't want them to pay too much for environmental and social mitigation activities as they see it eating into the overall profits and as the government gets a certain percentage of these profits it would also eat into their slice of the cake.

Andrew goes on to say: "We have also been working on identifying landscape 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". For further elaboration see the new website www.albertinerift.org

Further Good News from Chile

In the last issue we reported on Conservación Patagónica's fine work in putting together a new Patagonia NP. This issue brings news of another large conservation achievement in Chile. This concerns the creation of the **Alerce Costera NP**, and a **Valdivian Coastal Reserve** extending from the ocean to cover the Coastal Range, and stretching toward the Andes. It was triggered by land purchases by The Nature Conservancy totaling 148,000 acres (59,890 ha) from a bankrupt timber company, supported also by WWF and Conservation International. The transfer of 23,000 acres (9,300 ha) of this area to the Chilean government stimulated the creation of the new NP in 2012, with the government adding 38,000 acres



(15,375 ha). Not only do these two areas (NP and Coastal Reserve) protect fine stands of the increasingly rare Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) the world's second oldest tree species (up to 3,600 years), but a host of other rare biodiversity, including the smallest deer (pudu), third largest woodpecker (Megallanic), oldest marsupial (the monkey-like *monito del monte*, shown above) and the endangered southern river otter. Part of the TNC management consists of gradually removing 8,650 acres (3,500 ha) of timber-company planted Eucalyptus forest in order to restore native species. TNC also established a US\$300,000 fund of seed money for local entrepreneurs who are instituting new sustainable land uses, including tourism and small-scale forest harvesting.

TREKWEST - Promoting a Western Wildway (USA)

Readers will recall how we periodically reported on the amazing TREKEAST journey of Network member *John Davis* who is with the Wildlands Network. That human-muscle-powered trek went from Florida to the Gaspé Peninsula in Québec, roughly 7,600 miles (12,200 km). The adventure involved many stops along the way, to talk to groups and media about a conservation corridor mainly along the mountain spine of eastern North America.

Now *John* and the Wildlands Network are on a TREKWEST from Mexico to Alaska along the western spine, some 6,000 miles (9,600 km). Some 18 other NGO organizations, ranging from Cuenca los Ojos to Heart of the West Coalition and Yellowstone-to-Yukon are co-sponsoring. The MtPA Network of WCPA is also a collaborator. The journey will begin in Hermosilla, Mexico, and the first phase will end in Fernie, British Columbia close to **Waterton NP**, 10 months later. *John* started this epic journey by foot, bike and paddle on January 25. Supporters will join him at various points along the trail, and assist in collecting information on connectivity and in taking photos for posting. Information on how to access blog postings, tweets etc. and more information from www.trekwest.org.

John's experience in TREKEAST will soon be published by Island Press, in his book *Big, Wild and Connected*.



Innovative Biodiversity Conservation in Qinghai Province People's Republic of China

--Photo and article by *Dr. Marc Foggin*

A new project entitled "Strengthening the effectiveness of the protected area system in Qinghai Province, China to conserve globally important biodiversity" was launched in Xining on 25 January 2013. The five-year project, co-financed

by the Government of Qinghai Province and UNDP/GEF, seeks to catalyze the *management effectiveness* of the protected area (PA) system, with a focus on (i) mainstreaming biodiversity and PA concerns into other government sectors and development planning processes; (ii) building both institutional and staff capacities within the provincial Forestry Department (and other related agencies) and individual nature reserves; and (iii) promoting and expanding collaborative management with local resource user groups, mostly Tibetan pastoralists, for effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The project will be executed by the provincial Forestry Department, supported by UNDP/GEF.

Qinghai Province is the fourth largest province in China. It encompasses the headwaters of three major Asia rivers - the Yellow, Yangtze and Mekong rivers - and vast wetlands. The important ecological services that are provided here affect 5.5 million people locally and nearly all China's population. Altogether, the rivers that originate on the Tibetan plateau affect over one-third of the world's human population. Many rare and endangered wildlife species live in the province, including its high grasslands as well as the arid Qaidam Basin and rugged **Qilian Mountains**.

This innovative project builds on over 10 years' work by local Tibetan herding communities (and supporting organizations, including the **Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve**) to develop a new model of environmental conservation with collaborative management at its core; to sustainably protect the environment as well as meet local people's socio-economic development needs and aspirations. Through the project: specific sector guidelines will be developed; a regional protected area system plan covering more ecoregions and representative habitats will be proposed; training programs and other capacity building will be initiated; nature reserve management plans will be developed with consideration of identified threats to PAs including climate change; and an expansion of community co-management will be supported with development of a community-based system of wildlife and environmental monitoring, local ecotourism ventures, community cooperatives and trust funds, and the trial application of eco-compensation principles.

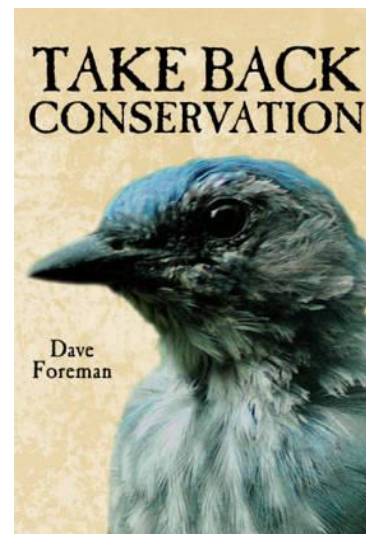
Special attention will be given through the project to strengthening the **Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve** (152,300 km²) and four other nature reserves in the province. Global benefits will arise from the sustainable management of protected areas with conservation of biodiversity, including ecological services, in all of the nature reserves in Qinghai Province - which currently cover around one-third of the land area, or 251,665 km² in total. Endangered wildlife species in the region include the Tibetan antelope, wild yak, snow leopard, argali, black necked crane and numerous other species.

For more information about this innovative biodiversity conservation project, or to offer

various forms of support or recommendations - which are welcomed by the project management team - please contact either the *Project Manager*, Dr Longqing Fan (qhgeffan@163.com), or the *International Technical Advisor*, Dr Marc Foggin (foggin@plateauperspectives.org).

For the Wild Things

Network member *Dave Foreman* calls himself Executive Director and Janitor of the Rewilding Institute, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico www.rewilding.org. Dave is a legendary spokesman for all wild things, and a biting critic of "comfortable, accommodating conservation." He is author of such books as *Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st Century* (Island Press, 2004), and *The Lobo Outback Funeral Home* (University Press of Colorado, 2000). He now plans a five-book series called For the Wild Things. The first of these I have read: *Man Swarm and the Killing of Wildlife* (Raven's Eye Press, 2011). It deals with the over-population situation (man swarm) in a forceful way. The second was published in December 2012 by the same press, and is titled *Take Back Conservation*. If you want some challenging, tough words about the present state of compromising conservation, this is good medicine. It throws the gauntlet to win-win deals with conservation foes, techno-fixes and "enviro-resourcists".



PAs Protecting Biodiversity

A recent study of protected areas in the tropics and how well they were conserving biodiversity, by 200 scientists, emphasized that what goes on around the PA greatly influenced what happened within. In the article William F. Laurence *et al.* "Averting biodiversity collapse in tropical forest protected areas. No park is an island!" show the importance of the surrounding area. This adage is true outside tropics as well. It underscores the importance of better management of areas around reserves. Often labeled "Buffer Zones!! They speak well for the Biosphere Reserve concept, but at least for greater PA outreach to environs!

www.nature.com/nature/journal/v480/n7415/abs/nature11318.htm

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. *Ian Urquhart* from this initiative has joined the MtPA Network.

Mountains of the Middle East and North Africa

These mountains are, by all conservation observers, considered to be deficient in Protected Areas. A new opportunity has arisen to begin to do something about enlarging existing, or creating new Areas. A [Regional Initiative for Mountains in the MENA Region](#) has been set, within the context of the Mountain Partnership. The motivation is climate change, and involves the countries of Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen. Some World Bank funding is available. This initiative can provide a strong common platform for dialogue and action within MENA. Network members in that region should be alert to make sure that establishment and management of MtPAs is part of the scenario as part of response to climate change and sustainable development programs.



On the West Highland Way - Devils Staircase to Stob Mhic Mhartuin, Scotland

The New Mountain Trails Network

Growing out of a small group [meeting](#) at the World Conservation Congress is a new working group, the Mountain Trails Network. MtPA members in this organizing group are: *Miriam Torres, Tatjana Yashina* and *Ed Bernbaum*. It would be under the umbrella of the TILCEPA and the Connectivity Conservation and Mountains Program,

Mountain trails connect people, places, cultures, sites of specific biocultural diversity, tradition with modernity and current users with history. Trails tell stories. They provide management and governance of surrounding land. One could go on and on. They can be important elements in mountain environments, physically linking PAs and providing a basis for establishing connectivity corridors. Think of Appalachian Trail or Inca Trail, and think of *John Davis* on his TrekWest adventure. The new network will develop a priority list of mountain trails on which to focus first efforts, -- ultimately leading to measures for protecting them and their purposes (tangible and intangible). We have at least two trail management experts in our Network: *Bob Aitken* (Scotland) and *John Watson*. (Australia). Perhaps others?

I suggest that those interested get in touch with *Miriam Torres*, Senior Fellow of The Mountain Institute's Programa Andino, mtorres@mountain.org. And, speaking of trails, see the following article-----

Our The Great Himalaya Trail - My Climate Initiative

--From *Paribesh Pradhan*

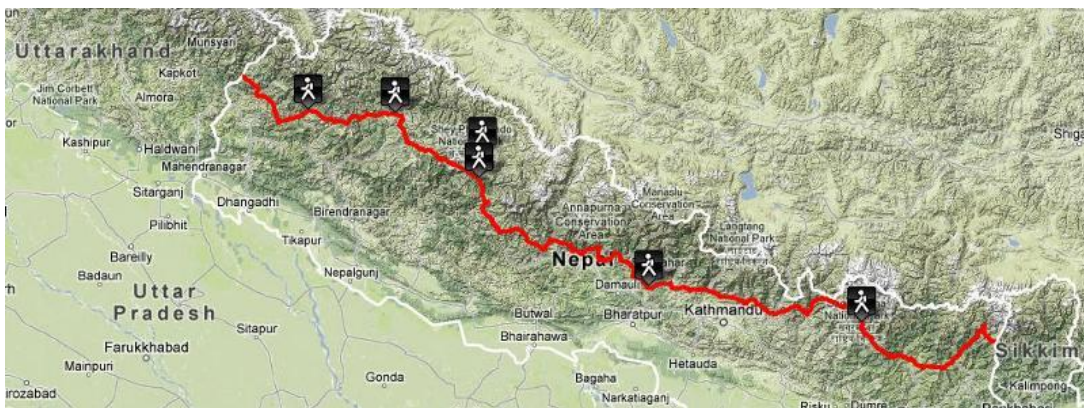
My name is *Paribesh Pradhan* and I walked from east to west of Nepal on the [Great Himalaya Trail](#) (GHT) - a distance of 1555 KM - in 98 days. Starting on 23 February 2012, I joined the [GHT - Climate Smart Celebrity Trek](#) led by Apa Sherpa, the world-record holder for summiting Everest the most number of times, from Barabise to Darchula in the west. I then trekked from Khangla in eastern Nepal to Barabise on my own. This journey across the GHT is a part of the project - "[The Great Himalaya Trail - My Climate Initiative](#)" funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The main idea of this project was to develop a climate travelogue which is a report accounting the impacts of climate change, its related physical and social vulnerabilities, as well as sustainable adaptation practices along the entire stretch of the trail. The documentation process entails written analysis of field-based observations, personal narrations supplemented by photo, interviews, climate impact stories and case studies. The report will be available soon in digital copy on the SDC and other partner websites.

Along the **Great Himalaya Trail**, I also visited schools to meet students and teachers to raise awareness about the environment and the impact of climate change. Most of my interviews

were with the teachers I met, as I believe they are able to provide a more reliable set of information than other locals. Seeing the lack of educational opportunities for children and youth along the Great Himalaya Trail, I also initiated **Trek4Education**, a fundraising campaign to create scholarships for youth in climatically vulnerable communities along the trail. I raised 10 USD for every kilometer I trekked and managed to collect 7320 USD for this initiative. The funds will be executed through **Annapurna Foundation** (www.annafound.org) - an organisation I set up for long-term sustainability of the scholarship. In 2012, we have already given the scholarship to a boy Deepak Sherpa from Taplejung district in Nepal. After the completion of the journey, I have been busy documenting my findings and also sharing them at various international platforms through presentations and talks. So far, I have given presentations at the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) - Nepal, the Rotary Club of Kathmandu Metro - Nepal, the Swiss Nepal Society - Switzerland, United Nations Office at Vienna - Austria.

I am also looking for a good graduate school to pursue my education in 2013, and I also plan to exhibit my photos from the journey with a focus on Climate Change and Adaptation. For this I am looking for collaboration and partnership with relevant organisations. If you would like to hear about my journey, share my experiences on environment and climate change, please contact me at: paribesh.pradhan@gmail.com



Grazing in Zuurbraak Nature Reserve (South Africa)

Areas in the Central Langebergs (Mountains in the Cape Province) have been the focus of care and study by *Peter Blignaut*. His botanist wife, Jill has found over 35 orchid species in one study site. The Langebergs are important water catchment areas for the relatively dry lowlands. One proclaimed, protected Mountain Catchment is the **Zuurbraak Nature Reserve**. *Peter* as a private citizen is fighting one of his many conservation battles to prevent further degradation of this catchment. He found 80 head of cattle on the mountain slope of the Nature Reserve and reports:

We only climbed to the 600 m level (from 80m altitude). Every stream that we came across was trampled, muddy and well covered in cow droppings. Young plants have been wiped out, even Palmiet has been eaten and the water is polluted. Looking down, one sees large areas that are virtually barren. On flatter shelves where cows have stood, there is barren, highly compacted ground. The Zuurbraak community should be preventing the despoilation of this attractive mountain landscape that contains significant biological diverswity, and which brings tourists to the area, enjoyment to some of the people, and clear fresh water to the inhabitants below.

We can only hope that this is resolved by removal of livestock in an area of high biodiversity and high water values as was finally the case in the **Victoria (Australia) Alps NP** last year.

Roaring Fork Watershed Project (Colorado, USA): The Nature Conservancy in Action

Embracing several well-known winter (and now summer also) resort areas such as Aspen, Snowmass and Glenwood Springs, the Roaring Fork mountain watershed of 1,451 mi² (3,758 km²) has been identified by The Nature Conservancy (and its partners) as a priority landscape for intensive conservation effort. It harbors such globally significant plants and animals as Colorado River cutthroat trout, boreal toad, black swift, willow hawthorn, Altai cottongrass and Canada lynx. Most of it lies within US National Forest, but the focus is to protect key areas of private lands and to restore key aquatic and riparian species.

TNC has developed a well-respected and widely-used conservation planning methodology called Conservation by Design. It involves a common vision for conservation of native species, natural communities and ecosystem services. The process then focuses on biodiversity status, degree of threats, identification of key areas where conservation needs to occur (or will be most successful), development of strategies and action, and then a system for measuring success. It is being applied in Roaring Fork.

Bruce Jefferies informs me that TNC's Conservation Action Plan, which features **Conservation by Design** is being applied in Samoa, in its Climate Change Forest Adaption activity. More information about TNC's Conservation by Design methodology is available at www.nature.org

Bits and Pieces

We announced the availability of a fine **mountain environmental education kit** produced by UNESCO last year (English and French). 2013 marks the availability of this kit in Spanish. The UNESCO website now offers free online pdf versions available in English, French and Spanish: [Teaching Resource Kit for Mountain Countries](#).

Natural resource management in Bolivia's **Apolobamba Integrated Management Natural Area** will benefit from an EU-sponsored 42 month program being instituted by Soluciones Prácticas. It will emphasize helping the 1,195 vicuña farming families living in this area of the Andes. This area consists of 483,743 ha (1,194,850 acres) and is not far from La Paz, at an elevation of from 2,400 to 4,700 m. There is much cloud forest and páramo. Information on this very interesting area can be googled by the name of the PA.

The Nature Conservancy Canada and US have been active in British Columbia's **Flathead River Valley**-a spectacular wilderness area that straddles the Canada-U.S. border. The valley is not only home to diverse wildlife, but also supplies clean drinking water to tens of thousands of people and supports local economies through outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing. The two NC's recently helped put together a landmark, bi-national agreement for the permanent withdrawal of mining rights on nearly 400,000 acres of the Valley. These lands, now permanently protected from development, were a key remaining conservation need to protect the 10-million acre **Crown of the Continent**-one of the most intact areas of wildland on the continent and a critical transboundary wildlife corridor for species including grizzly bears, lynx, gray wolves, and elk.

In the border region of Maramures (Romania and Ukraine) in the **Carpathian Mountains**, a project "Open Borders for Brown Bears in the Carpathians" has been initiated. This project, coordinated by WWF's Cristian-Renus Popp, and funded by the European Union, is focused on an area of some 270,000 ha (666,960 acres). Further information from *Yuri Bihun* shelterwoodsystems@comcast.net.

There are currently 962 Sites on the **World Heritage List**: 745 cultural, 188 natural and 29 mixed (both cultural and natural) in 157 countries. The latest map of sites is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

At the December **UN Climate Change Conference** in Doha, mountains came in for special consideration through a Mountain Day 2 side event. It was organized by **The Mountain Partnership Secretariat/FAO** and ICIMOD. *Thomas Hofer*, the MPS Coordinator indicates that the session produced key messages to send to negotiators regarding the special vulnerability of mountains.

Jan van Wagtenonk, Emeritus Scientists for the US Geological Survey has been re-appointed to a second 3-year term on the Board of the **George Wright Society**.

The Zoological Society of London has joined in with The Wild Foundation's campaign **Nature Needs Half**. See www.natureneedshalf.org and check on Partners to see what other organizations endorsed the original "outlandish proposal".

In several previous issues in 2011 and early 2012, we provided information on the amazing **Cycling Silk** adventure of Network member *Kate Harris* and her companion Mel Yule. IUCN/WCPA was a supporting co-sponsor, through our Mountain PA program. A fine videography presentation of highlights is available at <http://connectivityconservation.net>.

Swiss mountain villagers situated in the path of the **Aletsch Glacier** (now a World Heritage area), back in 1818 marched in a procession to pray for intervention to stop the glacier from advancing. A tall wooden cross was placed not far from the tongue and priests composed a prayer for a halt to the advance. Finally, the Aletsch began to retreat around 1865 (end of the Little Ice Age) after annual processions for around 47 years. The tongue of the glacier is now shrinking about 3 m per year and is now about 1,600 m from the cross. The Vatican has now officially sanctioned a reversal of the prayer, since the concern is now with water supply and tourism.

Val Stori, President of The Waterman Fund (for Alpine Stewardship) resigned from her office in January, after long-time service as Secretary, then Vice-President since 2007. She will devote her volunteer energies to **Beyond Katahdin**, an NGO of **Baxter State Park** whose activity radiates out from Mt Katahdin, as a research and outreach organization.

The point of origin of the mighty (and holy) Ganges River is the **Gangotri Glacier** in Uttarkhand India (India's second largest glacier). This is a pilgrimage holy site, where the river exits from the glacier. Pilgrims are having to walk farther due to retreat of the ice tongue, --some 18 km farther in 4,000 years. It is estimated that current retreat rate is around 18 m per year. While the glacier accounts for less than 30% of the water flowing in this 2,500 mile long river, this retreat in the long run could be serious, since several formerly contributing side glaciers are no longer connected to the main ice sheet. (Source: World View of Global Warming - Gary Braasch)

The previous issue of UPDATE (No 76) contained an article reporting on the wonderful work being done by **Conservación Patagónica** (*Kris Tompkins*) in working for a Patagonia National Park in Chile. This organization's sister/partner is **The Conservation Trust** (*Doug Tompkins*). *Doug* has set up a new newsletter and blog that reports on activities of these two active organizations, working in both Chile and Peru. Stunning photos used. Check it at

www.tomkinsconservation.org/news/. The first issue was December 2012, entitled "News from the Southern Cone".

Neil Burgess has left WWF-US position and has become Head of Science at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC-UNEP) in Cambridge, UK.

Maarten Kappelle has been promoted within WWF-Netherlands to become Director, Programme Office for Conservation Performance. Congratulations, *Maarten!*

An electronic Documentation Centre has been established by the **WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas**. It is in English, French, Spanish and Catalan, thanks to the SILENE Association and *Josep-Maria Mallarach* of Catalonia. It welcomes submission of articles, books, etc. on sacred mountains or other places or features. See www.silene.es

Harvey Locke is on leave from **The WILD Foundation** until November in order to play a citizen activist role in the politics of Alberta, Canada, where he contested a parliamentary seat. He is living in Banff next door to Canada's iconic mountain protected area by the same name.

The Alpine Protected Areas Network (ALPARC) was formally constituted as the **Association ALPARC** on January 18 in **La Vanoise NP**, so that it is no longer within the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. *Guido Plassman* remains the Director so ALPARC will continue its fine work.

Smartphones Application in Majella NP (Italy). A new Application allows a visitor to explore the national park virtually, suggests the most important destinations to see and shows the nature and wildlife of Majella. The App also contains practical information for those who want to spend a holiday in the park - about visitor centers, accommodations and restaurants of the PAN Parks network, museums, mapping of the park and also weather forecasts. The most interesting part is the emergency call system, which can be activated by shaking the smartphone. The App is downloadable in English and Italian for iPhone, but it will be available also for Android, soon.

Asian Trekking, headed by *Ang Tshering Sherpa*, celebrated its 30th anniversary by carrying out a tree planting last December at Lakhuri Bhinjyang above the Kathmandu Valley. What a fine thing to do! This involved 122 staff and local participants. *Ang Tshering* says that such tree planting, which was also done the two previous years, will help offset *some* of the carbon footprint of tourism. *Ang Tshering* reported on the death of famed mountaineer whose name will be known to many of you, -- Maurice Herzog. This intrepid Frenchman with his climbing partner was the first to ascend a peak over 8,000 m (26,200 ft), Annapurna, in 1950. His 1951 book, *Annapurna* was instrumental in putting Nepal on the world map as a trekking/climbing destination.

Since November, 4 volcanic peaks in the **Kamchatka Peninsula** have been simultaneously erupting, -- a very unusual occurrence. All are within 180 km (100 miles) of each other. Hopefully all of them are given protection within the **Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage Site**.

The first issue of **Sacred Sites Research Newsletter (SSIREN)** for January 2013 is available at: <http://fore.research.yale.edu/news/item/sacred-site-research-newsletter/>.

This issue contains information about the Sacred Natural Sites Data Base as well as a list of

recent publications dealing with sacred sites. Information is available from:
SSIRENEWSLETTER@gmail.com.

ALPARC (The Alpine Network of Protected Areas) each year collaborates with one of the Alpine Protected Areas to host and organize a winter sports event. This year, in January, in **Vanoise NP** (France), 150 participants from 6 alpine countries participated in mountaineering ski, Nordic ski, giant slalom and rifle shooting. The team from **Triglav NP** in Slovenia captured this year's prize. The event, number 18 in a series, commemorates an Italian Park Ranger, Danilo Re and all other PA colleagues who have died in the course of duty. Next year's event will be in **Adamello Brenta Natural Park** (Italy).

The **Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot Initiative** has been launched by Birdlife International and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). It covers a mostly mountainous area of over 1 million km² across 16 countries from Saudi Arabia to Zimbabwe. It covers the Eastern Arc Mountains and Southern Rift, the Albertine Rift and the Ethiopian Highlands. Only about 10% of the region has "barely-unmodified-by-humans" vegetation, and only 15% has any level of protection. But it is estimated that there are at least 7,600 plant species, 1,300 birds, 500 mammals, 230 amphibians and 590 fish. CEPF announced support of US\$7.8 million over 5 years.

Editor's Note: This is a welcome initiative especially since the mountains of Yemen and Saudi Arabia have not been adequately protected.

Recent Publications of Interest

ICIMOD is pleased to announce the release of the following three publications during the COP 11 meeting of the CBD in Hyderabad, India. Copies can be requested through the *ICIMOD Books Online* links given below or from our Distribution Unit at distri@icimod.org.

Mainstreaming Community-Based Conservation in a Transboundary Mountain Landscape: Lessons from Kangchenjunga

The Kangchenjunga landscape, shared by Bhutan, India, and Nepal, is one of the seven transboundary landscapes identified by ICIMOD for development of regional cooperation for effective conservation and management of natural resources. This publication draws recommendations for transboundary and participatory biodiversity conservation from ICIMOD's pioneering Kangchenjunga Conservation Landscape Initiative. The Kangchenjunga landscape includes 15 protected areas (PAs). The conservation and management practices in these PAs differ, as do the conservation-related policies of the three countries. The publication analyses past and present conservation policies and practices in the landscape and draws recommendations for enhancing participatory biodiversity conservation and management at the landscape level. The full publication can be downloaded from ICIMOD Books Online at <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/downloads/publication/814>

ICIMOD Working Paper 2012/7: Transboundary Landscape Management Framework for Ecological and Socioeconomic Resilience

This paper presents a framework for transboundary landscape management to support the development of ecological and socioeconomic resilience in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, and describes a mechanism for implementing it. It gives examples of the application of the approach in several landscape areas selected by ICIMOD as pilot sites. The paper will be of interest to policy makers, conservation and development practitioners, landscape and protected area managers, and institutions and researchers concerned with regional biodiversity conservation and management in the greater Himalayan region and beyond. The full publication can be downloaded from ICIMOD Books Online at

<http://books.icimod.org/index.php/downloads/publication/817> [944 KB]

Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative: Regional Programme Implementation Plan 2012-2016 [E-publication, available online only]

The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) is a collaborative effort of the three neighboring countries to help preserve the unique biological diversity, the many ecosystem goods and services, and the value-based cultural heritage of one of the most revered and sacred landscapes in the world. The present report is a synthesis of proposed activities based on a wide consultative process and national programme implementation plans submitted by partner institutions from each country. The Regional Programme Implementation Plan has been prepared for the five-year period 2012-2016 and describes how various programme elements will be implemented and executed in the KSL on a regional scale. The full publication can be downloaded from ICIMOD Books Online at <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/downloads/publication/819> [678 KB]

Initiating Effective Transboundary Conservation: A practitioner's guideline based on experience from the Dinaric Arc. 2012. Edited by Boris Erg, Maja Vasilijevic and Mathew McKinney. IUCN, Gland. Highlights examples from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro in this mountainous boundaries area. It came out of WCPA's Transboundary Conservation Specialty Group which Maja heads. www.iucn.org/publications

World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders. 2012. UNESCO Paris and Cambridge University Press. Twenty-six case studies of WH Sites, illustrating benefits to local communities. A French version should be available spring 2013. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/711/>

Spiritual Values of Protected Areas of Europe. Workshop Proceedings. 2012. Edited by Josep-Maria Mallarach. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation - Skripten 322. This is a publication from the IUCN/WCPA initiated Delos Initiative, which is being implemented by the Specialist Group on Sacred and Cultural Values of Protected Areas. Case studies from Bosnia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine. Contribution by Bas Verschuuren. May be downloaded (English) thanks to the Silene Association at www.silene.es/documentos/proceedings_spiritua/%20values_PAs_Europe.pdf

Mediterranean Mountain Environments. 2012. Edited by Ioannia Vogiatzakis. Wiley Blackwell. 232 pp. Though conservation aspects are only lightly covered, this physical geography-based compendium offers a very comprehensive treatment of these mountains, including two sections on climate change and its impacts. See: www.wiley.com/wileyCDA/wileytitle/productCd-0470686243.html .

Eastern Alpine Guide: Natural History and Conservation of Mountain Tundra East of the Rockies. 2012. Edited by M.T. Jones and L.L. Willey. 20 scientists, explorers, naturalists and managers contribute to this guide to the alpine summit areas (mostly all protected in some kind of PA) of Northeastern USA and Canada. Published by Beyond Ktaadn. 348 pp, 800 color photos, 20 maps. See: www.beyondktaadn.org/ktaadn/docs.htm.

Current Status, Ownership and Management of Sacred Sites in the Rwenzori Mountains. 2012. Moses Mahumuza. Fauna and Flora International and Uganda Wildlife Authority. This seems to be a very comprehensive analysis of sacred and cultural values and how they affect or should affect PA management. It deals with 15 specific sites as well as general cultural values. It is a product of the Culture, Values and Conservation Project of FFI. It can be downloaded at: www.fauna-flora.org/wp-content/uploads/Rwenzori-sacred-sites-technical-report-and-

[management-proposals.pdf](#).

Sustainable Mountain Development: Getting the facts right - a personal journey. 2013. *Jack Ives*. Kathamandu, The Himalayan Association for the Advancement of Science. This is indeed a personal account of the developing global Mountain Agenda from what seems like its initiation in 1964 up to the recognition of mountains as a matter of planetary concern at the 1992 Earth Summit, and then up to the present day. In all of this, *Jack* was the principal figure. Along the way, in his research and writing, he tackled head-on the myths, misunderstandings and misinformation that were rife, some of which persist today. It contains 130 of his superb Hasselblad photos. Check the Association's web page for details.

Civilizing Nature: National Parks in Global Historical Perspective. Bernhard Gissibl *et al.* Eds. 2012. Berghahu Books, Brooklyn, NY and Oxford UK. This book presents an historical and international perspective on the global geography of PAs and the changes over time. It ranges from Yellowstone NP (the first) to Triglav in Slovenia. 304 pp. www.berghahnbooks.com

Parks, Peace and Partnership: Global Initiatives in Transboundary Conservation. 2012. Eds *Michael Quinn*, Len Broberg and *Wayne Freimund*. This long-awaited collection of papers from a transboundary meeting held in **Waterton Lakes NP** in 2007 has finally appeared as a 400 page collection of examples of challenges, solutions and lessons learned. Our Mountains Theme co-sponsored this and *Larry Hamilton* organized two sessions involving members of the Mt PA Network: *Patrizia Rossi*, *Roland Stein*, *Barbara Ehringhaus*, *Dave Mihalic*, *Robert Brunner*, *Gillian Anderson* and *Peter Jacobs*. Meanwhile *Graeme Worboys* was moderating a session that included *Kevan Zunkel* and *Mendoza Sammet*. A host of other MtPA Network members were also on the program, some like *Trevor Sandwith*, *David Sheppard* and *Nik Lopoukhine* playing major roles. Thanks are due to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Alberto Guillet) for funding Larry's workshop sessions and supporting the publication. University of Calgary Press, Calgary, Canada. US\$50

<http://uofcpress.com/books/9781552386422>

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

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 Wagtenonk*, 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.

Challenges and Opportunities in Carpathian Protected Areas April 23-26, 2013. Tatranska Javorina, Slovakia (in High Tatra Mountains). This is the 2nd conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA), which is modelled after ALPARC, and it will develop a work plan for 2013-2017 at the meeting. Conference language is English. For details and submissions by March 25 see www.carpathianparks.org/conference2013

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" mountain protected areas. Deadline for submissions is past.

<http://konference.krnep.cz/konference/1/informace/>

Fifth Regional Meeting on Mountain Forests - First Symposium of Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve. May 30-31, 2013. San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina. Organized by Fundación ProYungas together with Jujuy National University and the Secretaria de Gestión Ambiental of Jujuy Province. For researchers working in the many aspects of conservation and sustainable development of Yungas mountain forests. Deadline for proposals is March 15. See www.rbyungas.org.ar and find Organization Symposium RB Yungas.

5th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas.

June 10-12, 2013. Hohe Tauern National Park Center in Mittersill, Salzburg, Austria. Sponsored by 6 NPs in Austria, and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), in coordination with the Swiss-Austrian Mountain Days (<http://www.chat-mountainalliance.eu/en/mountain-days.html/>), June 11-13, 2013. Participants are encouraged to attend both meetings. More at <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. For more information visit: www.cubambiente.com

International Seminar on Protected Area Management

July 15-August 3, 2013. Northern Rocky Mountains (travelling from Missoula and area, and winding up in Washington DC). English required and professional/technical competence. Cost US\$6,000 plus airfare to the USA. No funding support available. Organized by US Forest Service with the University of Montana. www.fs.fed.us/global/is/2013.

10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10).

October 4-10, 2013. Salamanca, Spain. Theme: Make the World a Wilder Place. Visit official Congress website (www.WILD10.org) for information regarding the exceptional variety of Congress program offerings (scientific, stewardship, artistic & cultural). Mid-Congress field excursion. This Congress is always a winner.

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 presented.. 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.

First Asia Parks Congress

November 13-17, 2013. Sendai City, Japan. <http://asia-parks.org/wordpress/>. The theme is Parks Connect. Organized by Japanese Ministry of Environment and IUCN. English. No registration fee. Proposals for papers, posters or side events welcome.

World Parks Congress (IUCN).

November 12-19, 2014. Sydney, Australia. Global Program on Protected Areas. Planning underway. Get it on your calendars. Australia has mountains too!! The theme is *Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions*, and it helps shape the program of IUCN's Global Protected Areas Program, and WCPA. For information see

www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_events/gpap_wpc

Useful Links

UPDATE Archive: More recent editions are posted on our website:

<http://protectmountains.org/mtnpa-update/>

Earlier editions are hosted by The Mountain Forum:

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

IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome website: <http://ProtectMountains.org/>

IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Theme website:

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

Connectivity Conservation and the International Connectivity Conservation Network

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

Linda McMillan

WCPA Mountain Protected Areas
and Connectivity - Deputy Vice-
Chairman, Communications

Publisher of Mountain Protected Areas
UPDATE, News Flash, the Mountains
Biome Blog, and websites for --
the [Mountains Biome Network](#), the
[International Connectivity Conservation
Network](#) and the [Protected Area
Governance and Management Book](#)



The spectacular beauty of Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage Site in Russia, as seen from outer space