

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 79 - SEPTEMBER 2013



We are inspired and sustained by mountains, and they need us to keep them protected.
Photo of Denali, courtesy of *Bruce Hamilton*

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Of **Navajo Mountain**, sacred to the Navajo Nation, Rob Schultheis writes:

There is the mountain of stone and soil, covered with timber, and there is the thick electric sediment of memories and dreams, arched in a mountain more perfect than anything on earth. ... They also call it Pollen, or War, or War God Mountain, the grandest thing in the landscape. It draws the eye for hundreds of miles, from Page Arizona to Cedar Mesa Utah. ... This jade and cobalt peak that rises like an apparition from the rose-colored desert. If you took peyotl, closed your eyes and thought "mountain", this is the mountain you would see: Navajo.

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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

Member Welcome:

By a devious route, I located a former and valued Network member, -*Kostas Tsipiras* in Athens, Greece. *Kostas*, a bioclimatic architect, has a long history with Mountain Wilderness-Greece, and was a key leader in the battle to save **Mount Olympus** from a proposed road and ski development a couple of years ago (which some local authorities are still pushing). He is Editor of *ECOBUND REVIEW*.

Warm welcome is extended to new MTPA Network members:

Arthur Mugisha, Fauna and Flora International in Kampala, Uganda. He is working in the **Rwenzori Mountains (Mountains of the Moon)** implementing a project of integrating cultural values in the management of protected areas.
Boris Erg, Director, IUCN Program Office for Southeastern Europe, in Belgrade, Serbia. Boris has a strong interest in transboundary cooperation in PA management in that region, and there is much going on. He has special focus on the **Dinaric Arc**.

Scotland's Cairngorms National Park: 10th Anniversary

2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the **Cairngorms National Park**, the largest in the UK. Its mountain massif contains five of the UK's six highest mountains, its highest being **Ben Macdhui** at 4296 ft, barely 100 feet lower than the UK's highest, **Ben Nevis**. Cairngorm means 'blue mountain' which refers to the distinctive granite forming the core of the massif. Its surrounding valleys

~ R.



Schultheis, *The Hidden West*, 1983.

Editor's Remarks

Unfortunately, this issue is appearing a month too early to report on the main accomplishments of the **World Wilderness Congress** in Salamanca, and our Mountain Dinner event. By the way, if you are planning to attend our get-together, **please send a signal to me**. I go, and will present a paper. This one addresses the question of how sacredness or cultural values has or has not prevented harmful (profane) development damage to mountains, with special reference to the **Sacred San Francisco Peaks** in Arizona. A wonderful Navajo woman, Jeneda Benally is a co-author.

Long trails of pilgrimage have been an undertaking throughout recorded history. For example: Gran Ruta Inca; Route to Mt. Kailas; St. James Way (Camino de Santiago); Pilgrimage to Badrinath. Modern iconic treks are such as The West Highland Way, Milford Track and the Appalachian Trail.

More recently, individuals have undertaken long treks along mountain ranges, or linking mountains to raise awareness of connectivity and the wild values of these generally less inhabited and more strenuous landscapes. Notable ones that we have followed in this newsletter include: the Yellowstone-to-Yukon hike of *Karsten Heuer*; the Great Himalayan Trail by *Dawa Steven Sherpa*, with *Elizabeth Fox* joining in for part of it; Cycling the Silk Road by *Kate Harris* and partner *Mel Yule*; Trekeast by *John Davis* and now his Trekwest in progress. Two more have surfaced just after our June issue. These are summarized by articles in this issue of *UPDATE*, with progress updates as of going to press. The conservation messages resulting from these hikes, thanks to the internet, reach vast audiences of caring people. Bravo!

contain a resident population of 17,000 people and an important aim of the park is the social and economic wellbeing of its people along with the protection of the large mountain core and the surrounding natural forest with its abundant wildlife.

The park attracts some 1.4 million visitors annually with its attractive villages and its winter sports facilities which include a mountain railway and numerous ski lifts. The southern boundary of the park was extended some 3 years ago, taking in a larger area of North Perthshire. This includes the historic settlement of Blair Atholl which provides an attractive gateway where there are long and challenging paths leading into the heart of the Cairngorm's massif. The Cairngorms has recently been put on National Geographic's List of the World's 50 Last Great places.

At the start of the 1970s loyal Network member *Malcolm Payne* lived and worked in the area as a Project Officer with the Countryside Commission for Scotland. He was instrumental in the establishment of ranger services in the area. He admits, however, that his principal aim was to secure national park status for this outstanding mountain area. He campaigned for 30 years and was delighted when the Scottish parks legislation was passed in 2000, and the Park was established 3 years later. His contribution to this was recognized in 2001 when the Europarc Federation awarded him their European medal for his efforts.

Are Ecological Corridors Effective?

Ed note: Conservationists have long called for creating corridors that would enable large mammals and other wildlife to roam more freely across an increasingly developed planet. But now scientists are taking a closer look at just how well these corridors are working and what role they might play in a warming world. I have excerpted material from an [article written by Jim Robbins](#) a veteran journalist living in Montana, USA, because I think it not only pertinent but well done, -sorry for the length, but it is worth the time, I believe.

The rugged **Cabinet Mountains** of northwestern Montana are an island of wild country with a population of fewer than 30 grizzly bears, their existence tenuous because they are cut off from others of their kind by distance, roads, and other development. Biologists are concerned about the small number of females, since they reproduce only every three to four years. So in recent years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has occasionally caught a sow near **Glacier NP**, trucked it to the Cabinets, and sent it running off into the woods to increase the number of females. But the Fish and Wildlife Service is pinning its hopes for the long-term survival of this population on a different strategy: the protection of an ecological corridor that would connect the marooned Cabinet grizzly bear population with a larger, more intact ecosystem, 50 miles to the south. That ecosystem is the **Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness**, some 600 square miles of rugged bear habitat now devoid of bears because they were wiped out to protect sheep.

The Cabinet bears could make it to the **Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness** under their own steam, but standing in their way is the formidable obstacle of Interstate 90 - six lanes of concrete, with more than 8,000 vehicles a day zooming past at 75 miles per hour. Some tunnels exist under the highway to allow wildlife to bypass the road, but in the last few years only one grizzly bear has apparently made it to the other side, and he was shot by a black bear hunter. Biologists aren't sure grizzlies will even make the trip but they are currently studying options for preserving land for a corridor; in August, a non-profit group bought a key, 71-acre parcel of land to expand the grizzly bear corridor near the **Cabinet Mountains**. Connecting the Cabinet Mountain grizzlies to the **Selway-Bitterroot wilderness** - part of the larger "**Yellowstone to Yukon**" corridor project - demonstrates the challenges involved in efforts to link up isolated populations of wildlife by establishing ecological corridors. With the planet increasingly carved up by human development, biologists and conservationists have for decades realized the importance of establishing ecological corridors that will enable remaining populations of animals - particularly large mammals - to have the room they need to thrive. Now, numerous studies are underway and the effectiveness of corridors remains an open question, especially as the climate, and natural systems, shift in unpredictable ways.

"We've studied the small ones, a couple of hundred yards [wide]," and they work, said Paul Beier, a

conservation biologist at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and an expert on wildlife corridors. "We think the bigger ones will work too, but we don't really know that." Still, the creation of corridors is moving ahead. In Germany biologists are planning to protect or create thousands of miles of corridors to connect national parks and conserve a range of species, especially the imperiled European wildcat. In India, conservationists have raised money to resettle several villages in the Tirunelli-Kudrakote corridor, a critical 2,200-acre swath that connects elephant habitat between two preserves that are home to roughly 6,300 elephants, the largest population of Asian elephants in the world. This summer, residents of a fourth village in the corridor agreed to abandon their land for new homes elsewhere.

A critical element of conservation is the need to keep large mammals on the landscape, especially predators. And essential to protecting the large mammals is the preservation of their migration routes, whether they're moving for food and water, for breeding, to make seasonal changes, or, more recently, to follow preferred habitat as a changing climate causes shifts in plant communities. Some ecologists question, however, whether corridors are the panacea that conservationists make them out to be. Dan Simberloff, an ecologist at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, said that some corridors will work, and some won't - it is site specific because habitats are so different. But he thinks they are a compromise that avoids the real problem, and diverts critical funds. "A general concern I've had with the corridor bandwagon is that it perpetuates the notion that we can somehow have conservation on the cheap by providing a technological solution to the problem of habitat destruction and fragmentation," he said. "It is seductive, but unlikely to work in many cases. Unfortunately to conserve biodiversity we have to conserve habitat."

A study published in late September in *Ecology Letters* suggested that global warming could occur so rapidly that some creatures, including certain amphibians, might not be able to adapt, even with the aid of ecological corridors. "Our work shows that it's not just how fast you disperse, but also your ability to tolerate unfavorable climate for decadal periods that will limit the ability of many species to shift their ranges," said Dov Sax, assistant professor of biology in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Brown University. "Ultimately this work suggests that habitat corridors will be ineffective for many species and that we may instead need to consider using managed relocation more frequently than has been previously considered."

Few studies exist on the conservation effect of corridors on large mammal populations, but there is some good data on small- to medium-sized species. The longest-running study of corridors has gone on for 18 years at the Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina, a 310-square-mile Federal nuclear reprocessing facility that is also a National Environmental Research Park. Nick Haddad, a professor of biology at North Carolina State University has investigated the impact of a restored corridor 150 meters long and 25 meters wide between fragments of native mixed longleaf pine and savannah. Haddad and his colleagues have done painstaking work, capturing butterflies and small mammals, marking them, and then recapturing them to see which creatures made the trip along the corridor. They have also dusted plant seeds with fluorescent powder, and then found those seeds again in bird waste on the other side of the corridor. The verdict? "Corridors work as a superhighway for plants and animals and they use them a lot," Haddad said. Of the 20 species studied, 18 moved more frequently with a corridor, some even ten times as much as species with no corridor. Areas connected by corridors also had 20 percent more plant species than those without according to a 2009 study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Scientists have shown that highway overpasses for wildlife on Arizona Highway 260 and in **Banff National Park** are well used and have reduced the number of large animals killed by traffic by more than 90 percent. They are widely considered to be a success, and similar structures are being built around the West (and in Europe-Ed's note). The question, though, is whether less road kill has an appreciable effect on a species' long-term viability. Oswald Schmitz, an ecologist at the Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, is investigating climate change and the movement of species across large landscapes. He thinks the jury is still out on the efficacy of corridors. "The hypothesis is there, but there hasn't been a lot of empirical work done," he said. "We don't know if species will use the corridors we think they will." What is important about corridors, he said, is that "they create a dialogue and awareness

that these are things we need to pay attention to."

To some, the notion of preserving and creating corridors seems obvious, especially as a warming world will put more pressure on species to move. "Dozens are being created, and it will become hundreds quickly," said Beier. But other scientists are less sanguine. University of Minnesota ecologist Craig Packer, writing in *Science* in 2010 about the Florida Panther, said, "Once the entire planet reaches the same state of economic development and urbanization as the United States, wildlife managers all over the world can look forward to carting rare species from one park to another until the end of time."

UIAA Mountain Protection Award

The UIAA Mountain Protection Award is given to organizations and tourist operators that have implemented/are implementing outstanding projects on mountain protection. Each year, winners will be chosen by the Award Team composed of external experts, UIAA mountain protection delegates and partners. The winner will receive a financial grant of US \$5000 as well as visibility through UIAA communication platforms. See: www.mountainprotection.theuiaa.org/

[Western University](#) in Azerbaijan has come on board as a sponsor of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award and will organize an international mountain ecotourism conference in October this year, in the capital Baku, that will highlight the award. The Western University conference will be designed to attract leading experts on mountain ecotourism from around the world to discuss new ideas and practices of mountain ecotourism. (See *Meetings Section*)

Linda McMillan, president of the UIAA Mountain Protection Commission said:

"The location for this event is especially appropriate, as we are particularly focused on spreading the economic and social benefits of sustainable mountain ecotourism in developing countries, which often have large areas of precious intact biodiversity."



Azerbaijan has seven national parks, including Shahdag National Park, in the Greater Caucasus Mountains

Applicants have until the end of the year to apply for the award with the results being announced in March 2014. For further information on this program please contact [Linda McMillan](#).

Biodiversity Gaps in World Heritage Sites

The World Heritage List includes 156 sites that are explicitly recognized for their outstanding biodiversity values. They span 72 countries across all continents except Antarctica and represent all of the world's major ecosystems. "Biodiversity World Heritage Sites" are generally very large protected areas such as Australia's **Great Barrier Reef**, the **Cape Floral Region** of South Africa or India's **Western Ghats**. They cover a land area of 1.1 million km² - nearly 0.8% of the global land surface.

But there are still areas with outstanding biodiversity values that are not yet part of this network and these are outlined in a new IUCN/WCPA Report (See *Recent Publications*) assess the 156 sites and identify broad gaps. It identifies the most irreplaceable PAs that may merit World Heritage listing and evaluates how these can help to fill the broad gaps.

Gaps in the coverage of global biodiversity conservation priorities include areas in the mountains of Central Asia, southwest Arabian Peninsula, and mountain, forest and desert areas in the southwest of North and South America. Broad 'biogeographic' gaps include Oceania, temperate grasslands and cold deserts and semi-deserts.

There is potential for new biodiversity World Heritage sites in the four biodiversity hotspots, where

currently there is no representation on the List: Chilean Winter Rainfall and Valdivian Forests (Argentina and Chile); Irano-Anatolian (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Turkmenistan); Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands (Mexico and United States); Mountains of Central Asia (Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

Another 19 hotspots and one 'high-biodiversity wilderness area have less than 1% of their area in biodiversity World Heritage sites. Hotspots with less than 0.1% coverage are New Caledonia, Succulent Karoo, Philippines and Mediterranean Basin. A further 46 Global 200 terrestrial priority ecoregions, 159 Centres of Plant Diversity, and 136 Endemic Bird Areas do not have a biodiversity World Heritage Site. *Ed note: Notice how often Mountain areas are mentioned!!*

YUS Conservation Area and Landscape, Papua New Guinea

Since we seldom receive anything from Papua New Guinea, and this mountainous country is of great interest to many readers, the following is extracted from the IUCN/ Global Protected Areas Newsletter of May.

Located in the north-eastern corner of the Huon Peninsula in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the YUS landscape straddles multiple administrative boundaries, and is home to a culturally diverse population estimated at around 12,000, speaking six local languages and dialects in addition to English and Tok Pisin. Emerging from the Bismarck Sea, the landscape extends across a narrow coastal plain (2-5km) to foothills, and then rises over a distance of 40 kilometers to altitudes in excess of 4,000 meters (13,000 ft) in the **Sarawaget Range**. The landscape covers a total area of 158,271 hectares, which includes a forested core zone known as the "**YUS Conservation Area**", totaling 78,729 hectares.

This Category VI Protected Landscape was established in 2009, and YUS is the first Conservation Area (CA) established in PNG. It is named after the three rivers, the Yopno, Uruwa and Som that start in the cold high mountain reaches of the **Sarawaget Range**, and flow out into the Bismarck Sea.

The **YUS Landscape** has significant conservation value. The rugged landscape is characterized by a low human population density (~6.2 people/km²) and a large unbroken tract of rainforest (both within and outside the core area, from zero to over 4,000 meters) that occupies 70 percent of the land area. Although difficult to quantify precisely, permanent human communities occupy around 6 percent of the landscape, and since no roads currently dissect or enter YUS, the landscape has been afforded some protection from large-scale development and resource extraction that threatens biodiversity nationally. The **YUS Conservation Area**, with its intact natural environment, fringed by a small human population, is therefore well positioned to conserve complete ecological communities for both biodiversity and utilitarian value.

A forest vegetation analysis in 2011 showed that the landscape is made up of around 76% of pristine ecosystems - including tropical alpine grasslands and cloud forests. Detailed carbon analysis has also shown that the landscape currently stores around 44 million tons of carbon (the equivalent of 163.6 million tons of carbon dioxide).

The planning, management, oversight and reporting of activities across the **YUS Landscape** falls to a range of community and technical organizations and elected representative bodies. These include: the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Programme-PNG, YUS Conservation Organization, **YUS Conservation Area Management Committee**, and the Woodland Park Zoo from Seattle, USA, which provides technical oversight and long term managerial and financial support.

The **YUS Landscape Plan** has been publicly released in June 2013. The most comprehensive protected area management plan of its kind in PNG.

These Australians and Their Small "Mountains"

Arkaroola, in South Australia, is a rugged, mountainous area of about 60,000 hectares and its highest mountains reach up to 944 meters at **Mount Freeling** with many dissected areas above 500 to 600 meters. While many readers may not consider these to be worthy of the name "Mountains", let us see if they meet my criteria: They stand out from surrounding lowland plains (conspicuity), have steep slopes, and have more than one altitudinal belt or zone of vegetation, and what is more, they are considered and named mountains by many observers; and they bring out the "Oh Wow!" exclamation. That suits me, -I have no patience with some fixed and arbitrary elevation such as 1000 meter rise, and elevation above sea level is sometimes meaningless. Among these "Oh Wow!" observers is my "boss" *Graeme Worboys*, so what else is there to say?

Graeme has a strong geological background, and he calls the **Arkaroola** one of Australia's outstanding geological "hot spots". He writes in a newly released Field Guide: "It is a stunning 60,000 hectare mountain area of the northern **Flinders Ranges**. Its natural arid mountainous landscapes include steep ridges, red gorges, boulder strewn creek beds, waterholes, river red gums and a rich Aboriginal and European history. It is an outdoor museum of nationally and internationally significant geological phenomena and a window into Australia's deep geological time".

The geological "hot spot" attributes of **Arkaroola** are so significant that it led the South Australian Government to protect it from mining by special legislation (It was designated as the **Arkaroola Protection Area** last year, 2012). The government has submitted (jointly with the **Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary**), a nomination for National Heritage Listing. Good luck with this *Graeme*.....



Photo of Arkaroola by Dr. Graeme Worboys

World Heritage Mountains

Technical advice on World Heritage nominations is provided by an IUCN World Heritage Panel. Of the 11

members, *Pedro Rosabal, Cyril Kormos, Jim Thorsell, Peter Shadie* and Panel Convener *Tim Badman* are MtPA Network members. The nominations considered in 2013 included mostly MtPAs: **Mount Kenya** Extension to include **Lewa Wildlife Conservancy** and **Ngare Ndare Forest Reserve**, **Sehlabathebe NP** (Lesotho extension of **uKhalamba/Drakensberg**, and re-named **Maloti-Drakensberg WH Site**), **Great Himalayan Part** (India), **Xinjiang Tianshan** (China), **Mt. Hamiguitan Wildlife Sanctuary** (Philippines), **Tajik NP** (Mountains of the Pamirs), **Mount Etna** (Italy), and **El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar BR** (Mexico). IUCN recommended all for inscription except recommended (and they were) but "Defer" for **Hamiguitan** and **Great Himalayan Part**, suggesting further missions for these two. **Mount Fuji** (Japan) was approved at the June meeting in spite of problems.

IUCN is currently conducting Conservation Outlook Assessments (COAs) for all Natural and Mixed (Natural and Cultural) WH Sites (over 200 Sites), to be put into a State of World Heritage Report in 2014. They are mainly desk studies by experts who are familiar with the Sites. Some of you may be involved in this. We look forward to this report on how Sites are faring after being listed.

More and Better Information on Flathead Valley Activities

In last issue, in our Bits and Pieces section there was a brief item on a recent conservation "win" in the Flathead Valley. It was incomplete and slightly askew. Member *Bob Peart* of the Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative has sent in the following more complete account:

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 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.

The NCC initiative is important to the conservation of the Flathead River Valley and the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem - no question. However they are not permanently protected from development as the newsletter says. The provincial crown lands are now protected from coal, oil and gas development as mineral rights have been withdrawn. However there is significant logging taking place in the Flathead River Valley, and the federal Crown lands within the Flathead Valley, known as the Dominion Coal Lands, are not part of the recent NCC agreement with Montana and BC and development is allowed on those lands.

The Trail to Salamanca

The countdown to WILD10 is being measured in footsteps along the Trail to Salamanca. It began in Geneva on June 2. Led by "Earth Pilgrim" (and race car driver) *Geoff Dalglish*, he and others are making a 2,500 km (1,500 mile) hike across four mountain ranges in six countries over 125 days, to arrive in Salamanca Spain as delegates gather for the 10th World Wilderness Congress (October 4-10). Geoff is a South African journalist, author, adventurer and guide.

The trail follows the Southern European Alps from Mont Blanc across the Central Massif of France to the Pyrenees and then the Cantabrians (*el camino del lobo*). This is the connectivity corridor known as the Great Mountain Ecological Corridor, initiated in the 2005 workshop organized by *Miquel Rafa* and the Catalonia-La Pedrera Foundation, and our WCPA Mountain Theme. This corridor is also critical for linking bear populations in the Cantabrians to Pyrenees. Progress reports ([Geo Stories](#)) are posted on the [WILD 10 website](#).



Hope to see several of you at Salamanca, and that you will stay alert for details about our Mountain Dinner.

The Success of Wildlife Crossings Areas

Banff National Park has worked hard since the 1990s to decrease wildlife problems along the highly-traveled, 83-km stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway that runs through the park. New research, published in the *Journal Conservation Biology*, shows that their efforts have been a success. There are 25 wildlife crossing structures in the park; two are overpasses and the rest are bridges or culverts. The overpasses are wide and covered with enough vegetation to resemble the surrounding forest. These work in conjunction with high fencing installed along the roadways. The fencing itself "has reduced wildlife-vehicle collisions by more than 80% and, for elk and deer alone by more than 96%," according to the Parks Canada.

Researchers from Montana State University set out non-invasive hair snags to provide material for genetic testing. They recovered snagged hair from 20 crossings strung with barbed wire, 420 baited hair traps and 497 rub trees with wires attached. They were able to collect 10,000 hair samples. The team identified 15 individual grizzly bears and 17 individual black bears, meaning that 20 percent of Banff's bears used the crossings. They have also determined that bears are able to use the crossing structures to find mates on the other side.

Parks Canada adds, "There is a 'learning curve' for animals to begin using wildlife crossings after construction. For wary animals like grizzly bears and wolves, it may take up to five years before they feel secure using newly built crossings. Elk were the first large species to use the crossings, even using some while they were under construction!" In all, eleven species of large mammals have been recorded using wildlife crossings more than 143,000 times since 1996. This includes grizzly and black bears, wolves, coyotes, cougars, moose, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and more recently, wolverine and lynx.

A Grand European Mountain Hike for Nature Protection

A corridor of connected MtPAs has been envisioned from Portugal to the Spanish Cantabrians, through the French/Spanish Pyrenees, across France's Central Massif to connect with the European Alps and across the Alpine Arc through Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Austria and Slovenia. It has been promoted by ALPARC, Catalonia Landscape and Territory Foundation and our WCPA Mountain Theme. Now, starting in June outside Vienna, a 19-year-old woman, Lisa Klimek, her dog Jala and horse Che, will walk to Portugal and then return, --a distance of 5,000 km (3,100 mi). This is sponsored by PAN Parks and 5 other partners. She will visit as many PAs and ecologically interesting natural areas along the way, as they are allowed to walk through. She invites those who wish to do part of the hike to join her.

www.walkforwilderness.at/english/projekte.html. Zoltan Kun and Vlado Vancura of PAN Parks joined her in June for two days.

TREKWEST

In the last issue we described the amazing trek by *John Davis* of the Wildlands Network, which began in Mexico and has now reached Montana, and is headed for Canada. John has hiked, paddled, and bicycled some 4000 miles (6400 km): www.trekwest.org. He has been accompanied at times by some 100 co-hikers, -resource managers, government officials, environmentalists and others, and has made 16 public presentations to about 1500 persons. *Go John, go!!*

Bits and Pieces

To see the fledgling **Patagonia National Park**, being assembled and developed by Conservation Patagonica (Chris and Doug Tompkins) in Chile, west of the Argentine border in the Southern Andes, visit: <http://www.conservacionpatagonica.org/visit.htm>. Then pack your luggage because you'll want to go!

John Mock and *Kimberley O'Neil* have received an outstanding contribution award from the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council for their successful work of securing five annual National Fire Plans for their community of Yosemite West. These grants originated from both the National Park Service and the Forest Service to assist in protecting **Yosemite NP** and National Forest lands.

A new species, the **Olinguito**, has been discovered living in trees in the cloud forest of Andean Ecuador. The species has been given the name *Bassaricyon neblina*, the species name in Spanish being cloud or fog. Though in the Order Carnivora,

it eats mostly fruit. It is described as looking like a cross between a cat and a teddy bear, and is related to a larger, known animal, the Olingo. The luxuriant fur is orangish. Cloud forests are indeed treasure houses of biodiversity, some of it as yet undiscovered.

We had previously noted the 2003 purchase by The Nature Conservancy of 148,000 acres (59,900 ha) of coastal mountains in Southern Chile to set up a Valdivian Coast Reserve. This superb area conserves the dwindling populations of the Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) and Olivillo (*Aextoxicon punctatum*) plus associated rare wildlife. It has just been announced that through a selection process managed by Conservation International, the BHP Billiton Fund is providing US\$20.4 million to repay the purchase, cover the current management activities, and set up an endowment for long term conservation by TNC. *Editor's Note: BHP Billiton is not BP the spiller of oil in the Gulf of Mexico.*

Mount Damavand in Iran (18,406 ft/4,667 m) is the highest peak in Iran and the Middle East. This fine symmetrical dormant volcanic mountain was featured as our cover photo, plus an article about four years ago. Its presence was celebrated by over 5,000 mountaineers, environmentalists and members of the public in July. The traditional Tirgan Festivity has been named as National Damavand Day.

Upon entering an Ejido (Community) Protected Area in Mexico's **Sierra Madre Occidental**, last year, my wife Linda and I were given a ticket bearing the following message: *La alegría de ver y entender es el más perfecto don de la naturaleza.* (The joy of seeing and understanding is the most perfect gift of Nature.) Included were pictures of forests, jaguar, a trogon and a hawk. A good idea for entry into other MtPAs?

EUROPARC Federation, the umbrella organization for Europe's PAs, has a **Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas Charter** certification process. It now has 107 certified PAs in 13 countries. For more information: www.europarc.org for home page then go to What We Do, then [Sustainable Tourism](#). While on the website, you may want to check out the many workshops and actions relating to [Transboundary Protected Areas](#), --very impressive. EUROPARC has a certification program for them, and there are now 9 certified TBPAs formed by 19 PAs in 11 countries.

Those interested in transboundary PAs will find much information at the recently available website (available for downloading) of the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group of WCPA, at www.tbpa.net. *Maja Vasilijevic* of Croatia is Chair of this group.

Remember, December 11 is **International Mountain Day**. Any special activity planning might well begin soon. The theme chosen by FAO for this year is **Mountains - Key to a Sustainable Future**. FAO has prepared some helpful materials in six languages, posted on line at www.fao.org/forestry/internationalmountainday/en/ or instead of "en" (English), use language preferred.

An official "twinning ceremony" has linked **Banff NP** in Canada with **Huangshan NP** in China, both World Heritage Sites. *Jim Thorsell*, who did the WH evaluations for both figured as an honored guest.

We have previously reported on PAN Park's **The Million Project**, --the ambitious goal of designating a million hectares of wildland in Europe. In 2013, 10 new wilderness partners joined the project, with 236,872 ha to bring the total so far to 801,410 in 19 countries. Information at www.panparks.org/what-we-do/the-million-project. Perhaps the goal will have been reached by the end of this. Good work, *Zoltan Kun* and team!

Conrad Reining, who has been leading **The Wildlands Network** here in the Northeastern USA, and been a major player in the transboundary work of 2-Countries-1-Forest, and the Northern Appalachian/Acadia Region has resigned and will be missed. He goes to an academic position at Dartmouth College, which is commuting distance from his home.

The Mountain Institute has launched a new website for its **High Mountain Glacial Watershed Program**. This merges science and local knowledge to increase awareness of the importance of conserving high mountain watersheds. The program is headed by *Alton Byers* of TMI and *Daene McKinney* of University of Texas. Focus is on the Himalayas. www.highmountains.org.

One-third of the world's conifer species are at risk of extinction according to an update of the **IUCN Red Book List**. Conifers are the main forest cover for mountains, and are in general the largest and longest-lived species on the planet. *Jane Smart*, head of the IUCN Biodiversity Program, states that the overall picture is alarming, with a 4% increase in risk since the 1998 assessment. Global warming seems to be a growing threat, from increasing insect and disease prevalence.

The proposal to build 5 mega-hydroelectric dams on two of **Chilean Patagonia's wildest rivers**, the Pascua and the

Baker, is now opposed in statements from almost all of Chile's Presidential contenders. While the Congress is supportive of the HidroAysén project from Chile's two largest energy companies, Endesa Chile and Colbún, 67% of Chileans are opposed along with 87% of those living in the Aysén region. All of the politically independent and center left candidates have stated their opposition along with one of the right wing candidates.

Jeff McNeely, now retired from his post as Chief Scientist at IUCN and a strong supporter of mountains issues since his years in the Eastern Himalayas (1972-1974) has now relocating to Thailand, where he will be working with UNDP and the Thai Department of National Parks to advise on improving management effectiveness. One of the four model sites is Thailand's tallest mountain, **Doi Inthanon**, contained within a national park of that name. As well as working as mentioned above, and playing golf, *Jeff* is still writing (prodigiously), lecturing, and will be involved in the Parks Congress, since he is liaison to Congress from Species Survival Service. *Jeff* has been a huge presence at most past Parks Congresses since Bali.

As in previous years, this year **Eco Everest Expedition** continued its initiative of cleaning Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha NP) under the "Cash for Trash" program. 800 kilos of garbage was brought down from the slopes of Everest including a rotor blade and landing gear of an Italian army helicopter that crashed at camp 2 in 1973, and 200 kilos of human waste produced by 6 expedition teams. The sponsor for this year's "Cash for Trash" was Asian Trekking, and Dawa Steven Sherpa was again the organizer and leader.

The **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development**. (ICIMOD) has entered into a five-year partnership with a leading Indian consumer goods company to promote herbal medicinal and aromatic plants from the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. The project will involve establishing an herbal garden at the ICIMOD Knowledge Park at Godavari, Nepal, which will facilitate research and development and act as a learning centre with demonstrations, hands-on training, and information sharing. Read more www.icimod.org/?q=10894

The Southern Caucasus Region, globally recognized as an endangered biodiversity hotspot (Conservation International), recently completed an assessment of priority areas for bio-diversity conservation and established a target of over 43% of its territory (among three sovereign states) as priority conservation areas and corridors. (Contact Dr Georgi Sanadiradze, Director of WWF Caucasus Program gsanadiradze@wwfcaucasus.ge)

Bastian Bertzky has left UNEP/WCMC and has a new location close to mountains in Italy, working with the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the European Commission Joint Research Centre. His last major product is reported on in our Publications section on Biodiversity and World Heritage.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Big, Wild, and Connected, part 1. 2013, by *John Davis*. This e-book recounts John's experiences during his 7,000 mile Trek East of last year. Wildlands Network and Island Press. E-book format is US\$4 Islandpress.org/ip/books/islandpress/B/b09153600.html. Now *John* is on TrekWest.

Ciencia Holística para el buen vivir: una introducción. 2013 by *Joerg Elbers*. It is not a MTPA publication, but is a passionate plea for a new world view paradigm if we are to save our planet from disaster. It draws heavily on Latin American views of how a less Western-scientific, more holistic approach is necessary. Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental, CEDA. *Joerg* is Advisor on Conservation and Development to CEDA, having left IUCN South American Office. The book is available as a Spanish download at www.redge.org.pe/node/1679

Travelling to the Wild South. 2013, PAN Parks Foundation. This is a travel guide to two National Parks that have been certified in the PAN Parks Wilderness System: **Majella** (Italy) and **Peneda-Geres** (Portugal). Available from Amazon (USA, UK, FR, IT, DE).

Sustainable Mountain Development: Getting the Facts Right. 2013 by *Jack Ives*. Himalayan Association for the Advancement of Science. This was previously reported on, and described in our March Issue, but is now available. Himalayan Association for the Advancement of Science. Kathmandu. Check HAAS web page for details of procurement.

The role of tourism in a changing climate for conservation and development. A problem-oriented study in

the Kailash Sacred Landscape. 2013. C.E. Adler et al. *Policy Sciences* 46(2):161-178.

COMPACT: Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage. 2013. Jessica Brown and Terence Hay-Edie, Editors. Since 2000, the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT) program has been testing an innovative model for engaging communities in conservation. An initiative of the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Program and the United National Foundation, the program has been working with communities near 8 current/proposed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Through extensive on-the-ground experience, and a participatory methodology that integrates a scientific and cultural approach, COMPACT is demonstrating that community-based initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in globally significant protected areas. Of the 8 WH case studies, 4 are mountains: **Mt. Kenya**, **Morne Trois Pitons** (Dominica), **Mt. Kilimanjaro** (Tanzania), and **South West Madagascar** (proposed).

The publication introduces the COMPACT model and reviews its 12 years of experience. Chapters from each target country illustrate how COMPACT is working in diverse settings. It explores lessons learned about effective governance of protected areas, techniques of community engagement, linking conservation to local livelihoods, transboundary cooperation, as well as other issues key to sustaining the landscapes/seascapes of WH Sites and protected areas generally. To download a copy of the publication navigate these steps: www.sgp.undp.org -> About Us -> Key Partnerships -> COMPACT or go to: https://sgp.undp.org/images/Compact_Report_WEB_flat.pdf

Protecting and Connecting Headwater Havens. 2013. John Weaver. Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Conservation Report No. 7. WCSC, Toronto. This report of the assessment of 257,000 ha (647,800 acres) of wild land in the Southern Canadian Rockies of Alberta calls for the establishment of new Wildland Provincial Parks to protect bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, grizzly bears, wolverines, mountain goats and bighorn sheep. www.wcscandada.org.

Terrestrial Biodiversity and the World Heritage List. 2013. Bastian Bertzky and 5 other authors, including Tim Badman. This is subtitled Identifying broad gaps and potential candidate sites for inclusion in the natural World Heritage network. It identifies 78 priority sites based on their high biodiversity values not now included as WH Sites but which may merit inclusion. These include many mountain PAs e.g. **Lorentz NP** (Indonesia), **Sierra de las Minas** (Guatemala), **Mont Cameroon** (Cameroon). The study was conducted and sponsored by several organizations, but it is published as an IUCN and UNEP/WCMC report, Gland. It is available for download as a pdf at www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/wxpa_worldheritag/resources/publications/?PubsID=4905.

The First National Park: A Natural for World Heritage. 2012. Geoff Mosley. Sutherland Shire Environmental Centre, Australia. The creation of what is now called **Royal National Park** in 1879 made it a contender as one of the world's earliest national parks, among **Yellowstone** (1872), **Mackinac** (1875), **Banff** (1885), and **Tongariro** (1887). Mosley joins in two adjacent areas **Heathcote NP** and **Garawarra State Conservation Area** to make a case for WH status. There is much emphasis on history as a value for such status. This book has initiated a public campaign for listing.

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

Changing European landscapes: International Association for Landscape Ecology European Congress. September 9-12, 2013. Manchester, UK. Within this will occur a symposium of particular interest: **Biocultural Landscape Conservation in the Framework of Landscape Ecology: A European Perspective**. www.iale2013.eu/

Fourth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership. September 17-20, 2013, Erzurum, Turkey. A gathering for the 212 members of the Partnership (51 governments, 16 intergovernmental agencies, and 145 major groups and organizations). **Bruno Messerli** has been invited to give the keynote address. www.mountainpartnership.org/about/fourthglobalmeeting/en/. The meeting is only 6 km from Palandoken

Mountain, and *Bruno's* talk and presence will add much of value.

10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10). October 4-10, 2013, Salamanca, Spain. Theme: Make the World a Wilder Place. www.WILD10.org for information regarding the exceptional variety of Congress program offerings (scientific, stewardship, artistic, cultural). Mid-Congress field excursions. This Congress is always a winner with its mix of nature and culture. Some focus on wilding of Europe. There will be enough Mt PA Network folks there to warrant one of our famous Mountain Dinners. Please advise *Larry* if you are attending WILD10. Maestro of Congress is *Vance Martin*, President of The WILD Foundation, with several Network members such as *Alan Watson*, *Steve Carver* and *Zdenda Krenova* playing major roles.

41 Years Working for Nature. Europarc Conference

. October 9-13, 2013, Debrecen, Hungary. Held in **Hortobágy NP**, Hungary's first and largest NP (www.hnp.hu). Conference details: www.europarc2013.eu/en.

The Alps as a Water Trough. October 10-12, 2013, Bolzana, Italy. International Commission for the Protection of the Alps special conference/symposium. The Alps provide water to 170 million people. www.cipra.org/jahresfachtagungen

EuroMAB 2013

. October 15-19, 2013, Frontenac Arch Biosphere, Brockville, Ontario, Canada. The first time this biennial meeting of the Network of Biosphere Reserves has been held in North America. The theme for the conference will be on community engagement to achieve MAB objectives, with the fourth day being on sustainable tourism. Hoping for USA BR participation and a rejuvenation of US program. Program looks to be exceptionally good. www.euromab2013.com/program/program-details. For information on the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, contact info@fabr.ca

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

Natural Solutions: Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific

. December 2-6, 2013, Suva, Fiji (on campus of the University of the South Pacific). This is the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Organized by the South Pacific Region Environmental Program, it will review the state of conservation in the region, and set the direction for conservation and biodiversity protection for the next 5 years. Deadline for registration was August 31. <http://www.sprep.org/pacificnatureconference>. SPREP Director General *David Sheppard* will be the guiding light.

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 website:

<http://connectivityconservation.org/>

Protected Area Book website: <http://protectedareabook.org/>

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Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE
News Flash the [Mountains Biome Blog](#)
and the [Protected Area Book](#) website

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[The Protected Planet website](#) has a valuable on-line tool to showcase the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). The project uses the 'citizen science' approach to engage the public in gathering and improving information on protected areas for the database.



IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome | Professor Lawrence S. Hamilton | Senior Advisor,  
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