

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 80 - DECEMBER 2013



Shahdag National Park in Azerbaijan offers stunning views of Mount Bazardüzü (4,466 metres/ 14,652 ft) and its surrounding peaks of the Greater Caucasus Range. It is the highest peak in Azerbaijan.
Photo courtesy of *Linda McMillan*

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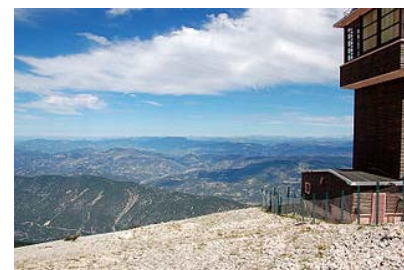
At first, owing to the unaccustomed quality of the air and the effect of the great sweep of view spread out before me, I stood like one dazed. I beheld the clouds under our feet, and what I had read of Athos and Olympus seemed less incredible as I myself witness the same things from a mountain of less fame.

~Petrarch, 1336 on ascending Mont Ventoux near Avignon, France (1912m)



The smaller we come to feel ourselves compared to the mountain, the nearer we come to participating in its greatness.

~ Arne Naess, 1980



View from the summit of Mont Ventoux today

Editor's Remarks

With this issue No. 80 of UPDATE, we complete 21 years of publication, --possibly a longevity record for a newsletter, and certainly for one produced solely by voluntary effort.

My wife, *Linda*, and *Linda McMillan* (our stellar Newsletter Production Manager), and I are still glowing from the experience of October's 10th World Wilderness Congress. It was again a superb blending of the wildness of nature and the recognition of cultural values. Thanks to those Network members, especially *Vance Martin*, who organized and implemented this important global meeting, where Mt PAs get such heavy coverage.

WILD 10 (held in Salamanca, Spain) provided an excellent opportunity for another high-spirited Mountain PA Network Dinner. Thirty-five participants enjoyed a fine meal and collegial banter. We were pleased to have WCPA Chair *Ernesto Enkerlin* and his wife with us.



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Dr. Larry Hamilton

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE is a quarterly newsletter edited by Dr. Lawrence Hamilton. It is distributed to members of our Mountain Protected Areas Network

Note: Names of Network Members appear in *italics*

Dr. Graeme Worboys
Vice Chairman, IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome and Connectivity Conservation

The traditional 10-question mountain quiz was given and it was an unusually tough one. *Miquel Rafa* scored highest with 6 correct answers, and his prize was a BluRay/DVD of *Yosemite NP*, provided by *Linda McMillan*. *Harvey Locke* started off the traditional mountain limerick challenge by creating a fine one, and this was followed by several other clever rhymes. A good time was had by all.

Our Chief, *Graeme Worboys* tells of progress on the E-book project: *The Protected Area Governance and Management Book*. This is co-edited by *Michael Lockwood* and *Ashish Kothari*. He has sent out the fourth update Newsletter. To check out this project visit: <http://protectedareabook.org>

We welcome the following new members to the Network:

Husein Baghirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources for Azerbaijan, who was instrumental in organizing and hosting a recent Conference on Sustainable Mountain Tourism, which included presentations by our own *Linda McMillan* and 30 other experts from the Caucasus and beyond. (See also item on Azerbaijan and its MtPAs).

Elizabeth Bell is The Yellowstone-to-Yukon program manager for The Wilburforce Foundation in Seattle Washington. It was Wilburforce that helped keep the hard copy Mt PA Newsletter going for a few critical years,- welcome contact again.

Sue Gould is a restoration and conservation ecologist, currently doing post-doctoral research at Griffith University, Australia. She is working on a large landscape project.

Pamela Lanier is Founder of Friends of Sustainable Tourism International, with a particular interest in mountain tourism. This is located in Sonoma, California, USA. She is also a National *Geographic Geo*-Ambassador, and has hiked in the Sierras, Andes and Alaska's Brooks Range.

Alan Koss is Vice-President of Board of Directors of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation in West Glacier, Montana, USA. He has had a lengthy career in the US Forest Service, in wilderness management and stewardship, not only in the Bob Marshall, but in the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas.

Linda Sheehan is Executive Director of the Earth Law Center in Fremont, California. She has a particular interest in rights of indigenous peoples,- many in mountain communities and impacted by mining.

Jonathan Carruthers-Jones works with The Wildland Research Institute (Leeds University, UK), but is currently Scientific Coordinator for the Great Mountain Corridor Initiative (Fundacion Catalunya-La Pedrera/Spanish and French IUCN Committees). This is the potential corridor of conservation along the Cantabrian and Pyrenees Mountains, across the Central Massif of France to connect with the Alps, first envisioned by Miquel Rafa. Jonathan recently completed a MSc at the Center for Mountain Studies (University of Highlands and Islands) under Martin Price, focussed on use of GIS in the Pyrenees.

High Mountain Snow Leopard Conservation

At an October meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, representatives from Kyrgyzstan and 11 other Central and South Asian countries made a historic pledge to protect and conserve snow leopards and their habitat in the high-mountain landscapes of Asia. Joined by conservation experts from around the world and the international donor community, the 12 nations endorsed the **Bishkek Declaration on Snow Leopard Conservation and the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program**. The declaration marks the first time that governments and non-governmental organizations have teamed up to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.

Like many species, the snow leopard is vulnerable to poaching driven by the illegal wildlife trade. In addition, snow leopards are killed by farmers in retaliation for preying on livestock, and face a declining habitat range due to overgrazing, infrastructure development and the impacts of climate change. It is estimated that fewer than 7,500 snow leopards remain in the wild. The goal of the initiative is to protect 20 snow leopard landscapes that have over 100 breeding adults by 2020, and to promote sustainable livelihoods in areas where the species lives.

Ghana Gurung of WWF Nepal reports on one step this month that Nepal is taking, in radio collaring in the community managed **Kanchenjunga Conservation Area**. This transboundary conservation mountain will involve cooperation with Tibet-China and Sikkim-India.

The Pamir Mountains form the intersection of several of Asia's greatest mountain ranges. They are a critical link between the southern and northern parts of the snow leopard range - a vital corridor for the species' genetic interchange.

Snow leopards prey mainly on Marco Polo sheep, ibex and markhor but extensive poaching of these animals by local communities is now a major threat to the leopards. Overhunting of prey species can force snow leopards to prey on villagers' livestock, often resulting in the retaliatory killing of these big cats. Trade in snow leopard skins and other parts for the illegal wildlife trade is also a growing threat to the species.

Sustainable use of the Argali sheep, a key prey species for the leopards in Tajikistan, is critical for conserving the snow leopards. But there are several



challenges in achieving this, including illegal and possibly unsustainable trophy hunting, and a lack of a transparent system for the distribution of hunting quotas and poaching.

Tanya Rosen who is Vice-Chair of the WCPA Transboundary Specialist Group, and who works as Snow Leopard Programme Coordinator for the conservation organization **Panthera**, aims to secure a future for one of the world's rarest wild cats, nicknamed Asia's Mountain Ghost because of its elusive nature. *Tanya's* team is also helping to develop a Tajik Snow Leopard Action Plan with Panthera's partners and provides support to the **Tajik National Park**, recently designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as the **Zorkul Strict Protected Area**.

Led by Panthera's Snow Leopard Programme Executive Director, Dr Tom McCarthy, *Tanya* is also helping to develop model community-managed hunting concessions in the **Eastern Pamirs** to ensure the sustainable use of Marco Polo sheep and ibex, and economic and social benefits for the communities involved. She and her team work with border guards and local and national authorities to understand the scale of illegal trade in snow leopards and their parts, and find ways to prevent it.

Snow Leopard Action Plan for Tajikistan

Scientists have established links between climate change and shifts in the timing of visitor use, with some parks already experiencing more visitor use earlier in the season than has been observed historically. Climate change is expected to expand periods of climate conditions conducive to visitor use at higher latitudes and altitudes, which may lead to more visitor use at times that are currently considered shoulder seasons. While many climate-related factors may directly or indirectly influence visitor use, temperature has been shown to be a stronger predictor of national park visits than other climate variables, such as precipitation. Indeed, simple temperature-based models of snow accumulation and melt can simulate observations as well as, if not better than, more complex models that include other climate variables. Because of the strong seasonality of visitor use in Alaska's national parks and the expected changes in climate, scientists of the US National Park Service conducted a study to identify how historical visitor use relates to temperature to provide context for how future visitor season of use may change at each of three Alaskan national parks under three different climate change scenarios.

(Taken from: *Albano, C. M., C. L. Angelo, R. L. Strauch, and L. L. Thurman. 2013. Potential effects of warming climate on visitor use in three Alaskan national parks. Park Science 30(1):37-44.*)

Editor's Note: Also, climbers in **Denali NP** apparently will reach a summit lower by 83 ft (25 m), --see item in **Bits and Pieces**.

Climate Change and PA Visitors

Future Patagonia National Park (Valle Chacabuco, Aysen, Chile)

From **Kris** and **Doug Tompkins**

(Conservacion Patagonica) comes a progress report on the work going on as they assemble the next "gifted" PA to Chile's NP System. Being present at a Mt PA in-the-making is a great experience. *Kris* writes:

"Signs of spring mean the summer high season is just around the corner, so our 50-person team in the heart of the future Patagonia National Park is diving into new projects. Construction and landscaping at the park headquarters are a major priority, with myriad final touches left to go.

Over the past two months, we've moved into our new office at the park headquarters, joined with neighbors and teammates to celebrate Fiestas Patrias with dances, music, and poetry, tracked and collared new huemul deer to help recover this endangered species, and researched the symbolic Copihue flower. Further afield, the heroic Dave and Kath have finished their epic 6,504 mile run across the length of South America to raise awareness for us. Our sister foundation, The Conservation Land Trust, published a new photo-format book on **Monte Leon National Park**, our first park-making success." www.conservacionpatagonica.org

Ed. Note: I have a copy of this Monte Leon large photo-book depicting Argentina's wonderful grasslands and coast (155,000 acres- 627,000 ha), and it is a stunner (no mountains though).



Highway Wilding

The Wildlife Monitoring and Research Collaborative in the Canadian Rocky Mountains has a partnership project called **Highway Wilding**. Involved are Parks Canada, the Western Transportation Institute, Miistakis Institute, Wilburforce Foundation and Woodcock Foundation. Its purpose is to develop appropriate tools to address landscape connectivity across transportation corridors and changing climate, then to monitor, and disseminate information. This would be a good contact for those in other countries for information sharing: www.highwaywilding.org. When on the website, check out Research and Monitoring, which reports on the **Banff NP** wildlife passages that we summarized in the UPDATE. A very detailed website! Contact person is Rachelle Haddock at the Miistakis Institute: rachelle@rockies.ca. A fine set of publications is listed under Resources.

Some Information on a Little-Known World Heritage Site

Mountain World Heritage Wrangel Island (designated in 2004) is a Russian Zapovednik/Federal Nature Reserve (strict protection except for science facility and activity). It includes a marine reserve up to 24 nautical miles and this includes little **Herald Island**. This Arctic island lies astride the International Dateline (1800 meridian) and is 7,600 km² (2,900 mi²) in size, with highest peak **Sovetskaya Mountain** at 1,096 m (3,596 ft), and is the northernmost WH Site. The flora has at least 417 plant species, more than any other Arctic island. It has the largest population of Pacific walrus, the only snow goose nesting colony in Asia, and has the world's largest denning grounds for polar bears. It is thought to have hosted the last remaining population of mammoth (2000 BC). Reindeer and musk ox have been successfully introduced, and Arctic wolves have come back as of 2002 after being eradicated.

Its history has been marked by failed attempts at discovery and settlement by British, Canadian, American and Russian parties. The first modern humans thought to have set foot on **Wrangel** were American, in 1881 from the steamer Thomas L. Corwin. Wrangling over Wrangel continued until 1926 when the Soviet Union claimed sovereignty, which has not been seriously officially questioned (except by some members of the US Tea Party movement). All thoughts of settlement of this inhospitable place were abandoned and in 1976 the Wrangel and Herald Island became a Zapovednik. Note: Names come from Baron Ferdinand von Wrangel and the HMS Herald, both of whom failed to land on Wrangel in the era 1820-1850.

(Material extracted from *National Geographic* (May 2013) and other sources.)

Northeast Kingdom of Vermont to Northern New Hampshire (NEK-NNH) Landscape Linkage

I have written previously of the large transboundary bioregional program promoting Conservation Connectivity for the Northern Appalachian Mountains - to - Acadia (Canada). It involves a coalition of many NGOs and government agencies of 5 States and 3 Provinces. The portion of most concern to me as a Vermont Trustee of The Nature Conservancy, is the connectivity between the Green Mountains of Vermont across the Québec border to Mounts Sutton and Orford, and also the corridor of the Northeast Kingdom to the mountains of New Hampshire. The overall program is called The Staying Connected Initiative, and may be viewed at <http://stayingconnectedinitiative.org/> At the October World Conference on Ecological Restoration, the following progress report was given that should be of interest to those working on landscape-scale linkages. It is taken from P. Steckler of The Nature Conservancy.

Conservation organizations and public agencies have made great progress protecting landscape-scale conservation areas in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont to Northern New Hampshire (NEK-NNH) Linkage, including natural areas and their surrounding working forests. However, these areas are separated by river valleys with associated fragmenting features including transportation corridors, agriculture, and development that serve as impediments to the free flowing dispersal of wide ranging mammals including many Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Conservation science was used to identify high priority conservation pathways between the landscape-scale conservation areas to maintain opportunities for forest dwelling and wide-ranging wildlife to disperse across the Linkage over time.

We developed three strategies to maintain and enhance wildlife connectivity within the conservation pathways of the NEK-NNH Linkage, including land protection, road barrier mitigation, and restoration. For the land protection strategy, we developed a framework that prioritizes specific locations to effectively and efficiently protect landscape permeability.

We identified 23 road barrier mitigation sites within the Linkage and developed brief implementation strategies for each. Road barrier mitigation strategies focus on areas within the right-of-way of major roads in the Linkage. We similarly identified and developed brief implementation strategies for seventeen restoration sites. These occur on private and public lands where altering land management will improve landscape permeability for wildlife.

Light Pollution - Dark Skies

We have been attempting to keep readers informed about night sky issues in MTPAs. A short update is presented here. WCPA has a Dark Skies Advisory Group, chaired by David Welch (welchottawa@gmail.com). There are now several other organizations pushing for control of light at night. The US National Park Service has a Night Sky Team insisting that four characteristics of wilderness are violated by light: natural, untrammeled, undeveloped and opportunities for solitude. The **Starlight Foundation's Starlight Initiative** has the purpose of creating international action for right to observe the stars.

The International Dark Sky Association has the goal of "identifying and honoring protected areas with exceptional commitment to and success in implementing the ideals of dark sky preservation and/or restoration." If you think your PA qualifies, get in touch at www.darksky.org. Only two MTPAs have been certified: **Big Bend** (USA) and **Death Valley** (USA). And UNESCO has a concern about astronomy impacts, and impact on World Heritage Sites.

And to users of PAs, remember that your camping use of unshielded lights is light pollution that may be affecting other PA users. And to PA managers, -- there are good publications available from several of the above organizations to reduce the impact of your needed lighting.

Mount Olympus (Olympos), Greece

The development threats to **Mount Olympus** are on the radar screen once more. This iconic mountain, home to the pantheon of gods clustered around Zeus was revered by the Ancient Greeks. This heritage has been passed down through the ages, so that it has become a symbol to much of the world of a site which should be held in highest esteem. It has a "wildland" side on the east, but in 1988 local authorities proposed a road and ski development on this eastern slope. It is within the designated National Park, and in the core zone of the Biosphere Reserve of 4000 ha.



One of the most dedicated guardians of the wildness of this mountain is Network member **Kostas Tsipiras**. He is founder of Mountain Wilderness - Greece. When the 1988 proposal for road and ski development on the wild east slope arose he helped organize the opposition. He produced two TV movies pointing out the values that would have to be sacrificed. WWF and Mountain Wilderness joined in, and messages of protest were lodged with the government from around the world (including this Editor). Plans were aborted!

And now, again in 2013 he has produced two more TV program films to help combat the latest threat. Neither the sad economic state of Greece nor the warming climate have apparently deterred the local mayors, but the proposal will now have to climb over more official and unofficial barriers. Don't tamper with the abode of the Ancient Gods!

New Vision for a Wilder Europe

Environment leaders have launched a new Vision for a Wilder Europe at **WILD10**, the World Wilderness Congress held in Salamanca, Spain this October. Nine organizations from across Europe have promoted the Vision that seeks to build on the significant conservation achievements in Europe that have seen the comeback of some of the most iconic wild species such as the wolf, bear, sea eagle, salmon and beaver.

The Vision calls for a European continent where the last wilderness areas are protected and where wildlife, natural processes and

biodiversity are allowed the space and freedom to come back and shape land- and seascapes as they did for millions of years. The Vision promotes a new perspective on management of nature in European conservation with emphasis on protecting existing wilderness and rewilding - where natural processes take precedence and native species are encouraged to return. This will complement and further the ambitious program of **PanPARKS** which is now approaching 1 million ha. of certified wilderness.

The Vision promotes the idea of a new **European Wilderness Convention** that would underpin strengthening of existing protection of the last areas of wilderness in Europe; wetlands, seas, ancient forests and mountains that are still home to bison, reindeer, lynx and eagles. Threats from logging, mining and energy developments continue to erode these last vestiges of wild nature across Europe.

PanPARKS incidentally, has published a new European Wilderness Map showing by location, and photos the Network of 13 existing (872,352 ha) designated areas. www.panparks.org

The Amazing Mountains of Azerbaijan

In late October my husband and I had the pleasure of participating in an impressive international conference focused on sustainable mountain tourism, hosted on the campus of [Western University](http://www.theuiaa.org/news_472_Sustainable-tourism-focus-of-Azerbaijan-conference) in beautiful Baku, Azerbaijan. The two-day event focused on the valuable role of mountaineering and climbing sports for developing sustainable tourism in mountain regions of the world. In Azerbaijan, the development of sustainable tourism is viewed as an important way to ensure effective long-term protection of their amazing mountain protected areas: http://www.theuiaa.org/news_472_Sustainable-tourism-focus-of-Azerbaijan-conference.

The very diverse Azeri landscapes contain nine of the eleven existing climate zones on Earth, and more than half of the country is covered by mountains. Nine impressive national parks have been created in Azerbaijan since 2003. After the conference, Azerbaijan's talented and tireless Minister of Natural Resources, *Mr. Hussein Bagirov*, kindly arranged for us to visit three of these parks: **Gobustan NP and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Shirvan NP, and Shahdag National Park.**



Gobustan NP is officially known as Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, and what an amazing landscape it is! In its location at the end of the Big Caucasian Ridge, it contains not only superb ancient carvings and relics of the early humans who passed this way over the millennia, but also hills, mountains, mud volcanoes (left), and gas-stones (below).

Shirvan NP, which is on the grasslands bordering the Caspian Sea, is renowned for its populations of the beautiful [Goitered Gazelle](http://www.theuiaa.org/news_472_Sustainable-tourism-focus-of-Azerbaijan-conference) (*Gazella sulgutturosa*) and many species of waterfowl. The well-managed gazelle herds now are being used to help restore herds in neighboring Georgia and other parts of the Caucasus.

Shahdag NP was created in 2006 and is the largest national park in the entire Caucasus region. During our visit we enjoyed spectacular views of Mount

Bazardüzü, the highest mountain of Azerbaijan. The very friendly and informative park superintendent and his rangers gave us a tour of the high-altitude research station, then drove us through the grassy alpine hillsides. Our surprise destination was a warm and sunny slope with a panoramic view of the snowy Mount Bazardüzü massif. The rangers set up a table and chairs, then expertly cooked up an unforgettable hot luncheon for all of us, using one of the handy natural-flaming "gas-stones" of this region. Truly unique! You can view more images from our trip on [my website](http://www.theuiaa.org/news_472_Sustainable-tourism-focus-of-Azerbaijan-conference).

--Linda McMillan



Historic Hikes for Connectivity Completed

At WILD10, two of the lengthy treks for conservation and connectivity were completed. Lisa Klimek, the young Austrian woman with her dog completed the 5 month, 5,000 km long walk from **Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald** in Austria to **Peneda-Geres** in Portugal, and arrived at the Salamanca meeting site to the applause of participants for her wonderful trek which called attention to the various PAs she passed through. She walked with the Mayor of Salamanca to open WILD10. www.walk4wilderness.org

Also, "Earth Pilgrim" and race car driver from South Africa, Geoff Dalglish hiked over 125 days, along four mountain ranges from Geneva, and Mont Blanc, arriving in Salamanca in time for WILD10. He sent in postings to the Congress web site as "Geo Stories".

In North America, Network member *John Davis* completed his amazing **TrekWest** from Hermosillo, Mexico to British Columbia, Canada, -5,000 miles (8,050 km) along the Western Wildway. Congratulations *John*, --we would have raised a toast to you at our Mountain PA Dinner in Salamanca had we known that you finished on October 4. His walking, bicycling and canoeing highlighted the importance of connectivity conservation. His **TrekEast** adventures have now begun to be published as an e-book: *Big, Wild, Connected, Part 1* and recounts the early stages of this trek (See Publications.)

Transboundary Best Practice Guidelines

Since mountains so often form national borders, transborder cooperation in abutting PA management has always been of high priority in the WCPA Mountain Program area. In fact, the IUCN transboundary activity has been largely nourished in the Mt PA "portfolio" going back to mid 80s, and I was recognized for leadership in this arena at the Durban Parks Congress. We now have a Transboundary

Conservation Specialist Group in WCPA, headed by *Maja Vasilijevic* of Croatia. This Group recently (October 16-18) held a working session in **Thayatal NP** (Austria) whose main purpose was to begin the process of updating the *Best Practice Guidelines for TBC Areas*. This was a 2001 publication in which I was a co-author along with *Trevor Sandwith* and *David Sheppard*. The Park host was Network member and Director *Robert Brunner*, and there were nine other Network members present, including two from our Executive Committee, *Patrizia Rossi* and *Olivier Chassot*. We look forward to the product. See www.tbpa.net



A Photograph is Worth a Thousand Words

I have just seen a display of The World's Best mountain photos from the International Mountain Summit held October 17-22, 2013 in the Dolomites of South Tyrol. Fantastic! Try the following:

www.ims.bz/en/home/programm/exhibitions/best-of-ims-photo-contest.htm. It reminds me once more of the key role which photography can play in promoting care for the natural world. The WILD Foundation is allied with the **League of Conservation Photographers** (about whom I have written in the past). This dedicated group is one of the most effective advocacy voices of conservation of which I am aware. Mountains and MtPAs are a frequent subject. The mission is to further environmental and cultural awareness through ethical photography. A current project is in the mountainous Clearwater Basin, amid the peaks of the northern **Bitterroot Range** in north central Idaho, USA. This basin contains three designated Wild and Scenic Rivers arising from these 8,000 f

(2,400 m) mountains including some of the wildest public lands remaining in the contiguous United States. ILCP had a photo blitz expedition not long ago to that insane barrier to connectivity, the Border Wall/Fence between Mexico and the USA.

We had the good fortune to meet and interact with ILCP member Florian Schultz and his partner/spouse Emil. Florian had previously published an award-winning book on **Yellowstone-to-Yukon**, entitled *Freedom to Roam*. He has taken part in two ILCP Rapid Visual Assessment Expeditions (RAVES) in MtPAs, --the **Great Bear Rainforest** in British Columbia and the **El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve** in Mexico. I have seen his new (2013) book *To the Arctic*, and it is a gorgeous volume of photos and text.

Mountain film festivals and mountain book fairs are fine aids in promoting mountain conservation (e.g. Banff Mountain Film Fest (80 films) and Mountain Book Fest, just held in October). Keep your eyes open for these fine books of photography and the festivals and fairs. These may be an opportunity soon, especially on **International Mountain Day**, December 11.

Bits and Pieces

Many Network members will remember *Dr. Jane Pratt* and her many significant contributions to mountain conservation and sustainable development. She headed **The Mountain Institute** (based in the USA) for many years and was a strong player in our efforts to get Mountains on the world stage back in the 1990s. *Jane* passed away recently, and we all are the poorer. She was instrumental in establishing the electronic communication tool, **The Mountain Forum**. Her legacy lives on. Thank you, *Jane*.

A recent research project in the Caucasus on **Mount Elbrus** (5,642 m /18,500 ft), the highest peak in Europe, found deposits of desert dust from the Sahara, the Middle East and Syrian Deserts, and northern Mesopotamia. These occurred in the period 2009-2012. It is to be hoped that some of these from warfare areas are not carrying vestiges of depleted uranium and other toxic material, though the researchers found that dust from the Middle East had indications of anthropogenic sources.

A large controversial **gold mining operation in the Andes** straddling the Chilean-Argentinean border has been closed down by a Chilean court due to environmental violations. The US\$8.5 billion Pascua-Lama project is being challenged by an indigenous group, the Dragruito people. Connectivity along the spine of the Andes, with its necklace of MtPAs is compromised by these large mining developments. Score a small victory for indigenous rights!

Climate change affects biodiversity, including the rare **Yeti** (known by several other names, such as Abominable Snowman). The **Yeti** is one of *Jeff McNeely's* favorite personae. Check out what Alfred the Yeti says about climate change at www.mountainpartnership.org/news/news-detail/en/c/181190/

Utah Valley State College (USA) and the Utah-Russia Institute are developing projects with the **Kyrgyz National Center for Development of Mountain Regions**. Contact abdrisba@uvu.edu or R.Butler@uvu.edu for information.

The Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWCA) has on November 1 opened an Eco-training Center at Urtsador (**Mount Ararat Region**) in Armenia. It is located in the **Caucasus Wildlife Refuge**, the first PA in the Southern Caucasus managed by an NGO, the FPWCA. The Center will educate school children, youth and adjacent villagers, become a scientific hub, and offer accommodation for eco-tourists and nature lovers. www.fpwc.org.

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation, having wound up their last year's project in Mongolia's **Darhad Mountains** (reported in UPDATE #78), will in the coming year conduct a survey of elusive pine marten populations in the **Olympic Mountains** of the Olympic National Forest.

The only mountain range in the United States that is completely contained within a single NP is the **Chisos Mountains**, reaching up to 7,825 ft (2,385 m). They are within **Big Bend NP** in Texas, --a must visit on my list, especially during tropical songbird migration north in spring.

Often one has to work in lowlands in order to conserve connectivity along mountain ranges. Our grandfather of connected mountain corridors, the **Yellowstone-to-Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)** is currently imperiled by a proposed US\$7.9 billion water power project called

Site C. It is in the Peace River Valley (British Columbia), at the narrowest "pinch point" in the Y2Y corridor. Stopping this dam is the priority for the new Y2Y Senior Conservation Program Manager Sarah Cox. Sarah is no stranger to advocacy, having worked for seven years at the British Columbia Sierra Club. www.y2y.net.

The highest peak in North America has shrunk, according to new data released by US geographers. **Mount McKinley (Denali)**, located in the state of Alaska, in **Denali NP** measured 83 ft (25 m) shorter than previously understood. The mountain now stands at 20,237 ft (6171 m). It was last officially measured in 1952 as 20,320 ft (6196m) The US Geological Survey speculated that the reduced height could either be the result of more accurate measurement technology or of "climate differences". The new measurement was taken in 2012 using Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, a technology designed to digitally track small geographic forms.

AfroMont, the **African Mountain Research Network** consists of 300 scientists from across Africa who have a common interest: sustainable resources and livelihoods in the African mountains. **AfroMont** wishes to promote the science needed to achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem services in these areas. A position has been established for a Coordinator at the Centre for Environmental Studies (CFES) at the *University of Pretoria* and funded by *Consortio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Ecorregion Andina* (Condesan) and the Mountain Forum, with technical oversight by the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) at the University of Bern (Switzerland) (<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/mriafrica>).

What a great name for a wild mountain forest area, --**Birthplace of Rivers!** This is the designation for an area of the **Yew Mountains** in West Virginia on the **Monongahela National Forest**, managed by the US Forest Service. It is the headwaters source of six regionally important rivers. Part of the area, some 48,000 acres (19,420 ha), has been zoned as the **Cranberry Wilderness Area**. Now, the Wilderness Society and other NGOs are promoting this area, plus another 72,000 acres (29,130 ha) for designation as a National Monument. This would entail transferring management of this part of the National Forest from the US Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior (under the National Park Service), --not an easy task. It would give the area a higher level of protection.

The International Appalachian Trail (IAT) extension of the Georgia to Katahdin (USA) then across to Gaspé (Quebec, Canada) is also visualized to extend across the St. Lawrence Gulf and North Atlantic to include 17 countries all the way to **Atlas Mts.** of Morocco. In 2009, Paul Wylezot, as Chairperson of the International Appalachian Trail, negotiated five Special Managements Areas in the Western Newfoundland woodlands managed by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd, where he works. He is currently planning the creation of a Global Geopark spanning the four ophiolites of Western Newfoundland and evaluating the establishment of an International Appalachian Geoparks program for the IAT.

This October, *Harvey Locke*, **Y2Y** co-founder and strategic advisor, received in October one of the highest honors for conservation in Canada -- the **J.B. Harkin Award**, for his lifetime service to Canadian wilderness conservation. *Harvey* has also made huge contributions to wilderness worldwide, partly through his stellar work with The WILD Foundation. Wonderful news, *Harvey* has had his ambitious proposal "Nature needs half: a necessary and hopeful new agenda for protected areas" published in the current issue of *Parks Journal*, 19.2 (November 2013) IUCN.

In recent news, the **Tatra National Park** (aka **TANAP**) in Slovakia is threatened to lose its national park status (IUCN category II) due to the various unsustainable investments inside the park. *Andrej Sovinc*, the European chair of IUCN's WCPA says that the key question is whether the Slovakian authorities can still force the IUCN criteria in order to classify **Tatra National Park** as a valid Category II national park.

George Schaller has recently returned from China where he spent three months on the Tibetan Plateau this year working on snow leopard and Tibet brown bear conservation in cooperation with local communities. After being an early lone voice, he is pleased to see much more attention on snow leopard conservation--see previous two articles in this issue.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Mountain Geography: Physical and Human Dimensions

2013. After more than a decade of work by an international group of authors, with *Martin Price* as the lead editor, and *Alton Byers* a co-editor, this important book has been published. University of California Press. This is a major revision of Larry Price's 1981 *Mountains and Man*, largely comprising chapters updating those in the previous book, as well as new ones on people in the mountains, and sustainable mountain development. The book is currently available in hardback (US\$95) and as an e-book; if the demand is great enough, a softcover version will be considered! For more details: <http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520254312>

Die Anden. Ein geographisches Porträt. 2013. Borsdorf, Axel. Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer. eBook: 978-8274-2458-7.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-8274-2458-7>. This book on the Andes mountains has a large chapter on Andean PAs. It is in German language, but an English version will be published in 2014 or 2015.

Agricultura ecológica y estrategias de adaptación al cambio climático en la cuenca del Río Piedras, Popayán. 2013. Borsdorf, Axel, C. Marchant & M. Mergili. Popayan: Fundación EcoHabitats. Published in Spanish, it deals with regional development in the Cinturón Andina Biosphere Reserve in Southern Colombia.

Forschen im Gebirge - Investigating the mountains - Investigando la montaña. 2013. Borsdorf, Axel (Ed). Dedication of book (Feldschrift) to *Christoph Stadel* on his 75th birthday. IGF-Forschungsberichte 5. Wien: Austrian Academy Press. Three languages.

Several Network members contributed chapters, including *Jack Ives*, *Bruno Messerli*, *Fausto Sarmiento*, and of course *Axel Borsdorf*. It focuses on the Andes where *Christoph* did much of his work. 381 pp.

Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action. 2013. By a team of seven authors including four Network members: *Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend*, *Nigel Dudley*, *Adrian Phillips* and *Trevor Sandwith*. IUCN and partners, Gland. This is Number 20 in the WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guideline Series. It was developed to enhance the governance capacities for PAs, and uses the IUCN's recognized four types of governance, with examples of each, and then suggested guidelines for new or enhanced systems. May be downloaded at:

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_people/diversity_and_quality_of_protected_area_governance_2/

Are Governance and Management Effective Within Protected Areas of the Kanchenjunga Landscape (Bhutan, India and Nepal)? 2013. *Krishna Prasad Oli*, *Sunita Chaudhary* and *Uday Raj Sharma*. *PARKS* 25(1): 25-36. This paper by two Network members is worth noting since it deals with one of the world's major transboundary complexes. (We usually do not list journal articles, -there are too many). It studied 4 of the most important PAs in this 14 PA complex.

Big, Wild, Connected, Part 1: From the Florida Peninsula to the Coastal Plain. 2013. *John Davis*. *John's* first book from **TrekEast**, his 7,500 mile (12000 km) walk, bike, canoe adventure is published as an e-book. Island Press E-ssentials. US\$4.

www.islandpress.org/essentials

The Legal Aspects of Connectivity Conservation: A Concept Paper. 2013.

B. Lausche, *D. Farrier*, *J. Verschuuren*, *A. G. M. La Viña*, *A. Trouwborst*, *C-H. Born*, *L. Aug*. Project Director: *Françoise Burhenne* IUCN Environmental Law Centre, IUCN, Gland. This concept paper was produced through close collaboration of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, the World Commission on Environmental Law, the Global Protected Areas Programme and the World Commission on Protected Areas. It aims to advance conceptual thinking and legal understanding about important law and policy tools and options for supporting the connectivity of protected area systems. *Graeme Worboys* worked with the senior author on this document.

Canadian Parks and Protected Areas: Helping Canada weather climate change

. 2013. Canadian Parks Council Climate Change Working Group. Emphasizes the role of PAs in being a natural solution to climate change. The mantra "Protect, Connect, Restore" occurs repeatedly. This is a good educational publication for citizen awareness. 52 pp.

www.parks-parcs.ca/english/CPC%20climate%20change%20report%20final%20englr.pdf

Park Science. The publication by the US National Park Service, which I find of considerable interest and often useful for items appearing in UPDATE, is now available on line, starting with the Summer 2013 issue, according to Editor *Jeff Selleck*.

www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience.

Social and Economic Benefits of Protected Areas. 2013. *M. Kettunen* and *P. ten Brink*. An Assessment Guide of practical guidance on identifying and valuing the various ecosystem services of PAs. Routledge. 368 pp. www.routledge.com/9780415632843.

Authenticity in Nature - Making choices about the naturalness of ecosystems. 2011. *Nigel Dudley*. Deals with understanding and measurement of "naturalness". Examples from around the world, including many mountain areas. Routledge. 256 pp.

www.routledge.com/9781844078363.

Sacred Sites of the Southern Kyrgyzstan: Nature, Manas, Islam. 2013. *Alpine Cultural Research Center*. Results of a 3-year study documenting lakes, caves, mountains, springs, rocks and trees. (Manas is the great epic hero.) These were collected from local indigenous peoples of the region, and visited by the field researchers. English and Russian as well as Kyrgyz. www.alpine.kg.

Montevivo. 2013. *Seamus Shortt*. Self published. 325 pp, 28 color etchings, lithographs, works of art. This is a fictitious Spanish mountain, inhabited by the Iberian lynx and brown bear, -both endangered, These and other wildlife of the mountain are anthropomorphized, but this is not just for children in its conservation messaging. I met the young author at WILD10, saw his book, and was impressed, - hence its inclusion in this listing. Available: Nhbs.com/montevivo_tefno_195053.html

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

Gathering on Mountain Legal Structures in Iran. December 16, 2013. Mountain Environment Protection Society along with University of Iran, several government agencies and the FAO Office in Iran. *Bruno Messerli* will give a key presentation. www.Meps-ir/news/en/show/id/137

3rd European International Ranger Federation Congress. May 2014. Croatia. Details not yet available, but see www.internationalrangers.org/news/

Conservation Leadership Through Learning. Begins August 2014. This 2-year Master's Degree program again is offered by Colorado State University (USA) and partners around the globe. Twenty students will develop real world skills in Mexico, Belize, Kenya and the USA. Application deadline is February 1. Information at <http://leadershipthroughlearning.org>.

Forum Carpathicum. September 16-18, 2014 in Liv, Ukraine. Sponsored by Science for the Carpathians (S4C) and its umbrella the

Mountain Research Initiative. Abstract deadline is February 15.
www.forumcarpaticum.org/2014

National Wilderness Conference. October 15-19, 2014 Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. Held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, with wilderness nearby. Focus is on USA and marking 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Preservation System (1964-2014). But participants from other countries are welcome as a future of wilderness is discussed. Planned by a coalition of NGOs and Federal agencies. www.wilderness50th.org.

World Parks Congress. November 12-19, 2014, Sydney, Australia. IUCN Global Program on Protected Areas. The theme is Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions, and it will help shape the program of IUCN's Global Protected Areas Program, and WCPA for the future. Registration is open. Check the web site:
www.worldparkscongress.org

Heritage and Landscape as Human Values.

November 10-14, 2014. Florence, Italy. ICOMOS Italy and the Scientific Committee for the Symposium. The International Committee on Monuments and Sites. Some Mountain PAs with high cultural value might qualify for ICOMOS Listing, and scientific contributions are welcome. Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2014. Symposium Scientific Secretariat and address for sending abstracts: GA2014-Symposium@icomos.org



Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions

12 – 19 November 2014

Useful Links

The 6th World Parks Congress -- <http://www.worldparkscongress.org/>
Registration is now open!

UPDATE Archive: More recent editions are posted on our website: <http://protectmountains.org/mtnpa-update/>

Earlier editions are hosted by The Mountain Forum:

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

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

IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Theme website:

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

Connectivity Conservation website:

<http://connectivityconservation.org/>

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

Linda McMillan

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Production Editor of

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.

