

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



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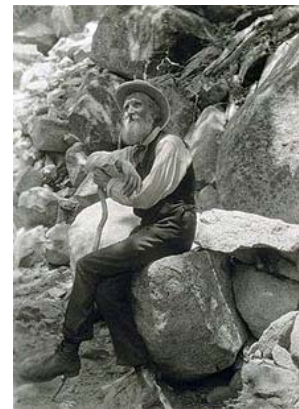


Everest from *Kala Pattar* (Black Rock). See "Recent Publications" on Everest.
Photo courtesy of *Dr. Alton Byers*

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Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer. Camp out among the grass and gentians of glacier meadows, in craggy garden nooks full of Nature's darlings. Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. As age comes on, one source of enjoyment after another is closed, but Nature's sources never fail. Like a generous host, she offers here brimming cups in endless variety, served in a grand hall, the sky its ceiling, the mountains its walls, decorated with glorious paintings and enlivened with bands of music ever playing. The petty discomforts that beset the awkward guest, the unskilled camper, are quickly forgotten, while all that is precious remains. Fears



Meetings & Events
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UPDATE Newsletter
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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

vanish as soon as one is fairly free in the wilderness. ~ John Muir

Sent to me by Richard Cellarius who reminds us that April 21 was the 175th birthday of this Scottish-American iconic mountain conservationist.

Notes from the Editor

It is always heart-warming to get together with a group of members of the MtPA Network. There seems to be such a great feeling of camaraderie and community, -- open to sharing, no defending of turf, no pretensions. This is why, at many large international meetings the tradition that I started in 1995 to organize and implement a Mountain Dinner and Evening continues currently with our chief, *Graeme Worboys*. He organized the last one in Jeju, South Korea at the World Conservation Congress last year, ably assisted by *Linda McMillan* and *Edwin Bernbaum*. Meeting as I did in mid-March at a conference of the George Wright Society with so many great members of the Network, I have resolved to organize such an event at the 10th World Wilderness Congress. This is in Salamanca, Spain (see **Upcoming Meetings and Events**). *Linda McMillan* has offered to assist with the logistics. Consequently, if you are planning to attend, please send a note of intention to both *Linda* and me.

The Executive Committee has been considering the pros and cons of designating and promoting a "Mountain Savior" in the style of Jacques Cousteau for coral reefs, David Attenborough for tropical rainforests and Jane Goodall or Dian Fossey for primates. This would be some well known person who is associated with mountains, who might capture more public visibility for mountain conservation than most of us. At one time when a group of us were trying to get "Mountains" on the global agenda, I thought we might promote our "Viking" *Jack Ives*, but he would have none of it. It might even be some man or woman who is well known regionally (*e.g.* in the Himalayas) who could be promoted as a global icon. If you have any good suggestions, please send them to me at silverfox@gmavt.net.

Apologies to valued "old" members who were inexplicably and inadvertently dropped, and who are now back on the distribution list: *Jim Barborak*, Co-Director for Protected Areas Management and Training at Colorado State University, and longtime career in Latin America. *Dave Parsons*, recently retired from the US Forest Service, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, now an active volunteer with the George Wright Society (see article).

We welcome new members:

Terrence Hay-Edie, who is now with the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility with a focus on biological diversity. He has a long-standing interest and activity in

mountains and sacred spaces.

David Cole, who has recently retired from the US Forest Service, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, after a 34-year productive career in Wilderness management research. Of late, his work has focused on recreation ecology. He is recipient of four Forest Service Outstanding Service awards. *Ashley Adams*, Wilderness Stewardship Officer, WASO National Parks Institute Liaison, who has to "suffer" in the lovely **Yosemite NP**.

E-Book Progress

In "e-book Newsletter #2, with respect to the current major project of our Connectivity Conservation and Mountains WCPA Theme, Vice-Chair *Graeme Worboys* reports on finalization of Principal Authors for each of the 28 chapters. These include the following MtPA Network members: *Graeme Worboys* (of course!), *Charles Besançon*, *Roger Crofts*, *Stephen Woodley*, *Kathy McKinnon*, *Fausto Sarmiento*, *Anna Spencely*, *Patrizia Rossi*, *Ashish Kolthari* and *Cyril Kormos*. He also announces that Australian National University will be the publisher of the e-book which is entitled *Protected Areas Governance and Management*. Details are available at <http://protectedareabook.org>. If you think you can make a contribution to the writing, get in touch with one of the chapter authors whose addresses are given in the document.

A MESSAGE TO THE MOUNTAINS NETWORK

FROM: Co-Vice Chair *Graeme Worboys* representing Adonia Bintoora, Manager, **Mount Elgon National Park**, Uganda

DEAR MOUNTAIN COLLEAGUES: Adonia needs a hand to prepare a short documentary about his transboundary mountain park for the 2014 World Parks Congress. He has a clear vision for the content of the video. He would like it to portray the natural values of **Mt Elgon NP**, the importance of the park in a climate changing world, threats from clearing, threats from landslips, and the good work the Park Authority is undertaking. Is there anyone in the Mountains Network with video production skills that would be happy to assist Adonia with his vision? If there is, and the video can be made, I will speak to *Marc Hockings* and *Stephen Woodley* about securing a slot in their stream at the World Parks Congress for the launch of the video. Please be in touch with me if you can help.

Many thanks,

Graeme Worboys Email: g.worboys@bigpond.com

Protected Planet Report-An amazing resource!

At the George Wright Society Conference (see item in this issue), I heard a presentation on the UNEP-WCMC Protected Planet Report by Amy Milam. It blew me away!!! There is a wealth of information in this report which saw the light of day in 2012. A few examples and impressions follow, with the caveat that the data are only as good as what the countries put into the system:

- There are over 350 large-scale connectivity conservation initiatives known.
- There are at least 277 transboundary complexes known.
- PAs have reduced conversion of natural land cover in 75% of 147 countries.

The overall trend is positive !!!.

- There are 217 Natural or Mixed World Heritage Sites, representing around 10% of the area of global Protected Areas of the world. It was noted that there is increasing designation of Sites, against the advice of IUCN.
- There are 17 Natural WH Sites in Danger, mostly due to mining.

These are just a few items from this review of achievement towards the PA targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. With the support of German Nature Conservation gaps are being analyzed. The biggest regional need seems to be in the Northern Andes, a finding that surprises me. Protected Planet Report is increasingly focused on "Conservation Outlook", - assessing "good" conditions as well as situations of peril. Standards will be issued for a review process that includes management status. The Report team compilers include Network members *Bastian Bertsky*, *Charles Besancon* and *Neil Burgess*, http://www.unep-wcmc.org/ppr2012_903.html

The Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot Initiative

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

Editor's Note: This is a welcome initiative especially since the mountains of Yemen and Saudi Arabia have reserved comparatively little land for conservation.

Global Regions Program

This is a relatively new program in existence, headed by Network member *Engelbert Ruoss* who was former Director of **Entlebuch Biological Reserve** and then UNESCO's Regional Office in Vienna. It proposes using PAs of all kinds that are involved in sustainable development strategies. The Model Regions selected first for action are



The report can be downloaded on [the IUCN website](#)

Biosphere Reserves. The Swiss experience in establishing the **Entlebuch BR**, and the legal framework they developed is cited as a model. From the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (810 in 117 countries a few pilot areas have been selected. Of the 4 initial candidates, two are mountain sites; **Entlebuch BR** (Switzerland) and **Grosses Walsertal BR** (Austria). More details will be forthcoming, but meanwhile see www.globalregions.org.

Ring of Darhad Mountain Valley (Mongolia) Wildlife Survey

While the focus of this study by a team of biologists is on the wolverine as an indicator species for climate change, many other species are included in this little-known area of Northern Mongolia which started in March 2013 and ended in late April. It is partly an educational project under the National Geographic Education Program and Montana State University which will engage thousands of students who follow progress throughout the survey. This is a 400 mile (640 km) ski traverse. Other species of interest include ibex, Eurasian lynx, argali sheep, brown bears, pika, capercaillie (giant grouse) and many others. This venture is conducted within the innovative mission of **Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation** (ASC), and in this case has 8 individuals of excellent caliber. It will provide valuable information to the Mongolian Government, on the wildlife of this area, and particularly through DNA sampling of the presence of the rare and elusive wolverine. This trek concluded on April 18, and did pick up DNA samples of at least 25 wolverines.

This is a fine manifestation of the citizen-scientist concept which is a passion of our UPDATE Production Editor and WCPA Deputy Vice Chair, *Linda McMillan*. ASC facilitates partnerships between adventurers and the researchers who need to have data collected in hardship places around the world. More information about ASC and this interesting initiative available at: www.adventureandscience.org/about-us.html and www.adventureandscience.org/mongolia-science.html.

The Valley, ringed by jagged peaks (*e.g.* Khoridol Saudaz Range) is a permafrost area inhabited by nomadic graziers (yaks, cattle, horses, cashmere goats, Bactrian camels and fat-tailed sheep). There are roughly 100,000 domestic animals, taken over the mountains in autumn in a transhumance situation. A program of support and study has been established with Montana State University, which is described in a book *A Land Without Fences* by Tracy Ellig, 2008. A program called **BioRegions International** is the delivery vehicle. See www.montana.edu/montanandminds/article.php?article=9128.

In Spite of Protection, -Loss of Temperate Old-growth Forests in Romania

(From an article in Environmental Conservation, December 2012 by Jan Knorn et al. including Network member Bill Keeton)



Old-growth forests around the world are vanishing rapidly and have been lost almost completely from the European temperate forest region. Poor management practices, often triggered by socioeconomic and institutional change, are the main causes of loss. Recent trends in old-growth forest cover in Romania, where some of the last remaining tracts of these forests within Europe are located, are

revealed by satellite image analysis. Forest cover declined by 1.3 % from 2000 to 2010. Romania's protected area network has been expanded substantially since the country's accession to the European Union in 2007, and most of the remaining old-growth forests now are located within protected areas. Surprisingly though, 72% of the old-growth forest disturbances are found within protected areas, highlighting the threats still facing these forests. It appears that logging in old-growth forests is, at least in part, related to institutional reforms, insufficient protection and ownership changes since the collapse of communism in 1989. The majority of harvesting activities in old-growth forest areas are in accordance with the law. Without improvements to their governance, the future of Romania's old-growth forests and the important ecosystem services they provide remains uncertain.

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.

Mt Blanc: Natural/Cultural/Intangible Heritage???

The UIAA Mountain Protection Commission has expressed concern that a proposal by the mayors of two towns near Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the Alps, endangers ongoing efforts to designate it as part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. The letter signed by Commission President *Linda McMillan* on 18 March 2013 was in response to an application by the mayors of Chamonix (France) and Courmayeur (Italy) last year to use the region's historical association with mountaineering as the basis to have alpinism/mountaineering designated under the intangible World Heritage List. *Linda* feels that the registration of two applications at the same time - one concerning material heritage (natural and cultural) and one concerning intangible heritage - may doom the chances of any successful World Heritage status for this iconic mountain.

Moreover as ProMontBlanc stalwart *Barbara Ehringhaus* points out the mayors are interested in promoting tourism, including "gastronomy tourism" to increase the level of economic activity in the area. This overlay will weaken the case for protection of the natural and cultural values and no territorial land protection is added on by this designation. *Barbara* has been working valiantly for over a decade with a coalition of environmental NGOs to have the Three-Nation Mountain designated as a Biosphere Reserve. We will keep an eye on this one, through both *Linda* and *Barbara*.

USGS Gap Analysis Program and Protected Areas

The US Geological Survey Gap Analysis Program provides data and analytical tools in three arenas: Protected Areas, Land Cover and Vertebrate Species. With regard to PAs, for instance you can obtain a map of The USA showing PA location, ownership and protection level. The neat thing about this is the inclusion, as far as possible, of private lands, state parks, and urban parks. For instance The Nature Conservancy preserves are listed. It covers roughly 1 billion acres, and over 600 000 records. It is a fine aid for corridor planning and setting priorities for future acquisitions. Data are provided by State Data Stewards, non-USGS employees who are provided with grants for their work. An amazing resource!!

www.gapanalysis.usgs.gov/padus

Animals Up Near the Summit-Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep in **Grand Teton NP (USA)** at elevations of 9000 ft (2700 m) and up, are being pushed up even farther as climate change is changing their habitat, and the non-native and more aggressive mountain goats push from below. Extreme winter sports are also putting pressure on these vulnerable animals, leading the Park to put closure on some of the key alpine winter habitats. Higher elevation vegetation of use to bighorns is responding more slowly to change and it is being competed for with the goats. With nowhere to escape as they get closer to summits, and nutritional deficit, the Teton herd is extremely vulnerable. Numbers are down to around 125, and without genetic infusion to this "island" herd, long term success is doubtful. Nonetheless, this population appears to be persisting, and Park management is

engaged in heroic efforts to keep this iconic animal as part of the Teton Ecosystem. Present focus is on closure and reducing the goat population.

Source: National Parks Spring 2013

Connectivity in Canada's Southern Rocky Mountains

The Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada recently released a new report that details a conservation strategy to promote the long-term health of wildlife in the Southern Canadian Rockies. See "Publications" section:

Safe Havens, Safe Passages for Vulnerable Fish and Wildlife: Critical Landscapes in the Southern Canadian Rockies British Columbia and Montana. The report bases its conservation recommendations on the survival needs of six iconic species- grizzly bears, wolverines, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

All these species are grappling with the growing impacts of climate change and the spread of roads to support resource extraction in the area nestled between **Glacier NP** in Montana and **Banff NP** in Alberta. This spectacular landscape supports one of the most diverse communities of mammals in North America and is a stronghold for these six vulnerable species, which have disappeared in much of their former range further south.

In the report, WCS Conservation Scientist John Weaver recommends a network of conservation lands including a Southern Canadian Rockies Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that would conserve key habitats by emphasizing the importance of fish and wildlife values while allowing other responsible land uses. The trans-border Flathead River basin adjacent to **Waterton Lakes-Glacier National International Peace Parks** also merits very strong conservation consideration, says Weaver, due to its remarkable biological diversity. He endorses a new National or Provincial Park on the B.C. side and Wilderness Areas on the Montana side.

Some Thoughts on Geotourism and 'Simply Being There'



Photo caption--John simply being there and taking a breather from hiking in the Scottish high country

John Watson, Policy and Projects Officer and former Regional Manager of the Department of Environment and Conservation South Coast Region, Western Australia. John was also one of the original (1992) members of the Mt PA Network (21 years ago), contributed to our workshops in Hawaii and the Drakensberg. He is still an active long distance and hill walker...and a former rock climber and caver. The current concept of 'geotourism' is very new and has only evolved over the past decade or so. It now has a strong focus on the geological science of

landscape and rock features as well as a strong desire for visitors to understand and learn about what they are observing, for example through interpretation and guiding:

Geological features and landscapes can often be so awe-inspiring that they trigger a visitor's emotions and sense of place through them simply 'Being there'. Many visitors do not necessarily need to be told about, or want to understand, the underlying geoscience of such places. Indeed, 'imposed' education or interpretation may well be counter-productive when visitors prefer to be left alone to enjoy, experience and learn from these magnificent places in their own way and in their own time.

Furthermore, many thousands of visitors independently plan and organise their travel and seek out spectacular geological landscapes, sometimes to participate in 'geocentric' activities such as rock climbing, mountaineering and caving. Travellers such as these have been explorers of wild places for centuries, long before the term 'geotourism' was coined, and they should remain a recognised and legitimate part of the geotourism market.

At a broader level, the current 'geo-scientific' educational focus for geotourism now being promoted is most welcome. However, this educational aspect of geo-tourism should not evolve into an essential criterion. Instead it is proposed that a **Geotourism Opportunity Spectrum** concept is required, particularly with regard to the educative component. Geotourism would then accommodate not only those visitors who actively seek or willingly accept geo-interpretation as a primary focus, but also include, at the other end of the spectrum, those visitors who instead seek minimal or no geo-scientific education at all.

Learning and appreciating by simply 'Being there', without an obligatory educational component, and often as independent travellers, should be respected and catered for as a legitimate point on the Geotourism Opportunity Spectrum.

Ed Note: If these ideas and this subject appeal to you, John has kindly agreed to provide the entire article which was first presented in elemental form at the 2nd Global Geotourism Conference held at Mulu World Heritage Area, Malaysia in 2010. You may contact him at John.Watson@dec.wa.gov.au for the complete article.

Trekwest Progress

Two pairs of hiking boots and 25 pounds of peanut butter later, *John Davis* continues his trek from Hermosillo, Mexico along the Western Spine of North America (see last issue of UPDATE) and has now logged roughly 1,000 miles. My last information was that he had crossed the Colorado River in the **Grand Canyon**. He is observing and reporting on the barriers to wildlife connectivity for such species as jaguar, puma, ocelot, bobcat in the southern regions and for wolf, grizzly bear, wolverine and puma in the north. To date, the ill-advised border wall erected between Mexico and the USA by the Homeland Security Agency is the most formidable, though there are others (roads and farmland) where connectivity measures are needed. www.trekwest.org. At the end of the trek in British Columbia, a "Say Yes to Wildlife Corridors" petition will be delivered to US decision-makers by **Wildlands Network**, the principle sponsor of *John's* trip.

George Wright Society Conference

We do not usually provide coverage to past meetings, but the March meeting of the GWS (held biennially) will be an exception in this issue. It maintained its usual excellence in spite of

reduced attendance due to budget cuts and a travel ban by the US National Park Service. GWS functions as a professional organization for North American PA personnel, including strong representation from Mexico and Canada, --field level managers, high level officials, scientists and educators. Headaches galore for conference organizer *Dave Parsons*, for GWS Executive Officer

Dave Harmon, and for GWS President *Brent Mitchell*. But the smaller number of participants did not noticeably diminish the quality of information, the enthusiasm and the great interaction. Our WCPA Chair, *Ernesto Enkerlin*, was very much in evidence, with four presentations, and was present at a small meeting of the North American WCPA group under its Regional Vice-Chair Mike Wong. Mike promises to make this regional member group more active.

I went to this meeting with a mission: to try to resuscitate the idea of functioning **Biosphere Reserves** in the US by organizing a session on BRs. In this, I was ably abetted by persons who knew more about BRs than I did: *Tom (Vernon) Gilbert*, *John Peine*, *Ernesto Enkerlin* and *Natarajan (Ish) Ishwaran*. Although *Ish* was unexpectedly grounded in Beijing, he submitted his contribution. This panel I do believe has helped to open a dialogue in the US about the future of the 47 US BRs, and the possibility of collaboration with Canada and Mexico who have viable programs. Units in the US National Park System need to be promoting nature-friendly land and water management on surrounding private lands. "No Park is an island". Formalizing this process or mandate could be effected through active Biosphere Reserves, or by the adoption of a similar concept.

Will the US re-activate the BRs, joining the World Network of 610 Biosphere Reserves in 117 countries? Stay tuned. *Tom Gilbert*, who heads the **International Biosphere Trust**, is taking the leadership on follow-up. *Ernesto*, as Chair of WCPA, and a strong supporter (and initiator) of BRs in Mexico, has committed to helping in this also. We could use an enthusiastic volunteer promoter of BRs to help carry the ball. Any volunteers from the MtPA Network? A promising meeting is being held in Washington on June 6.

Bits and Pieces

Alpine summits in the Northeastern USA (mostly in some kind of PA status) get a stewardship boost each year from the **Waterman Fund**. As examples, in 2013 the fund will:

- Help Antioch University host the 8th Alpine Stewardship Gathering.
- Help support botanical work on **Mt. Washington** (highest peak in the Northeast) focused on rare lichens, bryophytes and snowbed communities.
- Support a new Summit Stewardship exhibit at the newly rehabilitated Mt. Washington Observatory Museum. This is a fine tribute to the late Guy Waterman and his wife Laura. www.watermanfund.org.

CIPRA, the **International Commission for the Protection of the Alps** announces its annual meeting for October 10-11, 2013 in Brescia, Italy, with a focus on mountain water supply and effects of climate change on this alpine resource. **CIPRA** has received an award from the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Association (the largest European Alpine Club

outside the Alps, with 55,000 members) for being the most sustainable organization of 2012 (the Bergsport Award). www.cipra.org/en.

Jessica Brown, who is Chair of the Protected Landscapes/Seascapes Specialist Group of WCPA, has left QLF-Atlantic Center for the Environment and now heads the **New England Biolabs Foundation**. This Foundation awards grants both domestically and internationally for community-based conservation projects, which happen to be Jessica's passion.

Those interested in the impacts of grazing and grazing intensity on grassland biodiversity in the buffer zones of a Mt PA will find much of interest in an article on **Sagarmatha (Mount Everest) National Park** in a recent issue of *Mountain Research and Development* 33(1)19-28, 2013. The study presents evidence that moderate grazing as compared with no grazing or heavy grazing is better for the biodiversity situation of palatable species.

PANParks continues its fine work in promoting rewilding in Europe, to establish and certify new wilderness areas. The foundation believes that a goal of 5% of Europe's land area in wilderness is feasible. Currently in this much- and long-modified continent **PANParks** claims about 1% can be called wilderness. Last month, in Ireland, in cooperation with Coillte (Ireland's State Forest Company), the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Mayo County Council, it organized a conference on The Potential and Challenges of Developing Wilderness in Modified European landscapes.

BIOPAMA, the **Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Program** of IUCN's Global Protected Areas Program (Trevor Sandwith, Director) focuses on Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean. Its aim is to foster capacity for PAs in developing countries. It was established in July 2011 by the European Commission. It has a new permanent Project Manager in Nick Cox, formerly with WWF in the Greater Mekong Region.

Mike Quinn recently accepted a new position as Director of the Institute for Environmental Sustainability at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This position will allow *Mike* to continue and expand his work on transboundary protected areas. One of the initiatives under this new institute is to establish a research working group on protected areas in the Calgary region of western Canada. The institute will also act as a catalyst for interdisciplinary research and teaching on many aspects of environmental sustainability. More information at www.mtroyal.ca/ies.

Long-time Himalaya veteran *Broughton Coburn* will be joining environmental economist Mark Smith in **Sagarmatha National Park** this June, teaching a course for Colorado College that will explore natural resource use and management. *Coburn's* most recent book, *The Vast Unknown: America's First Ascent of Everest*, to be released by Crown in late April, recounts the iconic 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition and the volatile geo-political context of the early sixties. Visit www.unusalspeaker.com

In the **Harz Mountains** of Germany, the Wurmberg hill, which rises above the small town of

Braunlage, is the planned site for northern Germany's largest ski area, supposedly as a boost to the economy. The locality is sorely lacking in tourist infrastructure, while the neighbouring village of Schierke itself intends to become the "Chamonix of the North". But no effort is too great for Braunlage: it is investing 10 million euros in the project, including the latest artificial snowmaking equipment, and has already cleared 16.5 hectares of forest in the midst of the **Harz Nature Park**. Just one thing seems to have been overlooked: at the beginning and end of the winter of 2011, it was only possible to ensure artificial snow coverage of Alpine ski pistes at altitudes of 2,400 metres and above. The Wurmberg rises to a maximum height of just 971 metres. This means that either the ski area must somehow be located within a gigantic cold-storage warehouse, or huge quantities of chemicals must be mixed into the artificial snow. (Source: Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20.02.2013, page 3)

Josep Mallarach says it well in the following quote: Protected landscapes and seascapes would not exist without the deeply rooted cultural and spiritual values held by the people that once inhabited these places and who very often continue to care for them. In fact, protected landscapes and seascapes could be seen as one of the most striking outward manifestations of the intangible values inherent in cultural heritage. Unlike other values, such as agro-biodiversity or ecosystem services, which are relevant to many protected landscapes, cultural and spiritual values are fundamental in the very strictest sense of the word.

The Newsletter *The Backbone* (le Pilier) of the **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)** is now (late May) available to all at www.arcosnetwork.org Current issue is #25, and as usual is in English and in French. It is edited by *Faustin Gashakamba*, Laure Rurangwa and long-time colleague *Sam Kanyamibwa*. Check out this portal....

The development of a strategy focusing on sustainable tourism development is under way in the countries of the **Carpathian Mountains**, with consultations with government representatives, tourism agencies and NGOs along with a series of stakeholder meetings and case studies. The resulting strategy will be delivered to the next Conference of the Parties to the **Carpathian Convention** in October 2014. The project is being carried out by Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) together with project partners CEEweb for Biodiversity, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the **Carpathian Network of Protected Areas**. Read more:

www.mountainpartnership.org/news/news-detail/en/c/174897/

The WCPA Transboundary Specialist Group (with *Maja Vasilijevic* as Chair), is undertaking an update revision of the 2001 publication in which I and several Mt PA Network members were involved entitled **Transboundary Protected Areas for Peace and Cooperation**. Other network authors included *Trevor Sandwith* and *David Sheppard*. This new publication will be developed through a set of expert workshops. Maja is seeking a host institution and place for the first session, to be held sometime between late August and October this year. If you have suggestions send them to Maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com. They are aiming to launch this at the 2014 World Parks Congress.

And, speaking of transboundary matters, **Karkonoski NP** (Poland) and **Krkonoszky NP** (Czech Republic) which together form an International Biosphere Reserve, have adopted a new joint logo to symbolize their close relationship. *Andrzej Raj* is Director of the Polish unit.

Connectivity mountain corridor-building by **The Nature Conservancy** has just been effected. It involves the purchase of a key 4,000 acre (1,620 ha) property of steep mountain forest that links **Great Smoky Mountain NP** to the **Cherokee National Forest**. A recent survey found 21 species of plants and animals that are considered globally rare. The tract is traversed by US Highway 129, --a section called The Dragon's Tail due to its curves. It will be transferred to the US Forest Service or the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, with conservation restrictions with regard to recreation and forestry. Perhaps an underpass crossing in the future?

The Newsletter of the **Ecological Continuum Initiative** is packed with interesting materials. It is a cooperative initiative involving Alpine Network of Protected Areas (**ALPARC**), International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (**CIPRA**) and the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (**ISCAR**). It is produced by **CIPRA** (*Aurelia Ullrich* is Project Manager.) Produced semi-annually, the May 2013 issue has just arrived. www.alpine-ecological-network.org/information-services/newsletter.

IUCN is in the process of developing a "companion piece" to the **Red List of Threatened Species** which will be called a Red List of Ecosystems, and it is aiming at complete coverage by 2025. It is more than a threatened or endangered red flag, but will document the status (good and bad) of the world's major ecosystems. A Secretariat will be established to manage this process. Stay tuned, and go to www.iucnredlistofecosystems.org. Several case studies have applied the system, *e.g.* Alpine Heath in Tasmania, Australia, and several from Venezuela, including the "Critically Threatened" Deciduous Forests of Falcon State.

Thomas Schaaf, our Mountain Man at UNESCO who is Director of Ecological and Earth Sciences and Secretary of the Man and Biosphere Program has just announced his "early" retirement. He will be deeply missed, and especially by me, for we have had a long association dating from the early days of getting Mountains ensconced in the global agenda in the 90s. His successor from June 1 is Mr. HAN, Quinli, who has been working with the MAB Program since 1989 in the Asia Pacific arena. Mr. Han will be invited to join our Network.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

The Adaptation for Conservation Targets (ACT) Framework: A Tool for Incorporating Climate Change into Natural Resource Management. 2012. By Molly Cross and 20 others including Lisa Graumlich and Gary Tabor.

Springer Verlag. Managers need practical tools for selecting among actions and strategies to develop a tailored management approach for specific targets at a given location. Herein is presented one such tool, the participatory Adaptation for Conservation Targets (ACT)

framework, which considers the effects of climate change in the development of management actions for particular species, ecosystems and ecological functions. The framework is based on the premise that effective adaptation of management to climate change can rely on local knowledge of an ecosystem and does not necessarily require detailed projections of climate change or its effects. The ACT framework is illustrated by applying it to an ecological function in the **Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem** (Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, USA)-water flows in the upper Yellowstone River. It is suggested that the ACT framework is a practical tool for initiating adaptation planning, and for generating and communicating specific management interventions given an increasingly altered, yet uncertain, climate.

Safe Havens, Safe Passages for Vulnerable Fish and Wildlife. Critical Landscapes in the Southern Canadian Rockies, British Columbia and Montana. Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada. See previous article in this issue.

<http://wcscanada.org/Portals/42/Publications/safe%20haven%20final%20web.pdf>

Ecological Restoration for Protected Areas. Principles, Guidelines and Best Practices

. 2012. Prepared by the IUCN/WCPA Ecological Restoration Task Force: Karen Kienlyside *et al.*, including *Nigel Dudley* and *Sue Stolton*. Published by IUCN, in collaboration with Parks Canada, Society for Ecological Restoration and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is No. 18 in the Best Practices Series.

Knowledge, Parks and Cultures. Transcultural exchange of knowledge in protected areas.

Vol. 5 of Proceedings in the Management of Protected Areas. 2013. Ed. by M. Huber *et al.* including *Michael Jungmeier*. These are case studies from Austria and Nepal that come from Klagenfurt University Management of PAs program. Published by Heyn

www.verlagheyne.at/buch/detail/knowledge_parks_and_culture.

PARKS Journal

19.1 (April 2013). Eds. *Sue Stolton* and *Nigel Dudley*.

www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_capacity2/gpap_parks2 Of

particular interest is the article on the **Kanchenjunga Landscape** (Bhutan, India and Nepal) by *Krishna Prasad Oli*, *Sunita Chaudhary* and *Uday Raj Sharma*. It covers the 14 PAs comprising this transboundary complex surrounding Mount Kanchenjunga at 8,586 m (28,000 ft). Another transboundary study published is of the status of tigers in the **Manas Conservation Complex** (India and Bhutan), which is part of the **Terai Arc Conservation Landscape Corridor**.

Observations of Pest Horse Impacts in the Australian Alps, March 2013.

By *Graeme Worboys* and *Ian Pulsford*. This report, available at our mountain web www.mountains-wcpa.org is the result of a new assessment in a 40-year periodic impact inspection of the Mt. Pilot area of **Kosciuszko NP**. It deals with the adverse impacts of feral horses (called "brumbies" in Oz) on critical high elevation watersheds of the Murray and Snowy Rivers (arguably the two most important rivers in this "dry continent"). The excellent photographic evidence makes a compelling case for reducing or eliminating these introduced animals in the Parks of the Australian Alps.

The Call of Everest: The History, Science, and Future of the World's Tallest Peak. 2013. Conrad Anker et al. including Network members *Alton Byers* and *Broughton Coburn*. National Geographic Society, Washington, DC. \$35. A book to celebrate the first American ascent 50 years ago. *Alton Byers* contribution was reprinted in the current issue of *Natural History*. It is entitled **Three Sides of Everest: There's More to a Mountain Than the Summit**, and is an excellent coverage, including a map of the PA Corridor along the Nepal/Tibet border. It is one of *Alton's* photos that forms our UPDATE Banner this issue. He is also in the June issue of *Discovery Magazine* being interviewed on the topic of glacier outburst floods. A flood of public visibility for an active "mountain man". In the current *National Geographic Magazine* is another article by another contributor to the book, -Mark Jenkins on the "mess at the top of the world entitled **Maxed Out**, dealing with all the problems of too many (and inexperienced) climbers, and suggesting six methods of repair. A good read for Network climbers.

Some Forthcoming Meetings of Interest

5th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas.

June 10-12, 2013. **Hohe Tauern National Park Center** in Mittersill, Salzburg, Austria. Sponsored by 6 NPs in Austria, and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), in coordination with the Swiss-Austrian Mountain Days (<http://www.chat-mountainalliance.eu/en/mountain-days.html/>), June 11-13, 2013. Participants are encouraged to attend both meetings. More at <http://www.hohetauern.at/symposium2013/>

Climate Change and Nature Conservation in Europe, an ecological policy and economic perspective. June 25-27, 2013 in Bonn, Germany. How adaptation to climate change can be put into practice in Europe. English language. www.eclareon.com/en/ccnce. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, and European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies. Immediate registration needed.

9th International Convention on Environment and Development

July 8-12, 2013. Habana, Cuba. La Agencia de Medio Ambiente de Cuba, with other organizations. 250 word proposals required for participation should be sent to convencion@ama.cu. For more information visit: www.cubambiente.com

International Seminar on Protected Area Management

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

Mobile Seminar on Tourism in Protected Areas.

September 10-25, 2013. Fort Collins, Colorado. The Center for Protected Area Management

and Training at Colorado State University announces this new mobile seminar in English. It provides course participants with exposure to many different aspects of planning and managing tourism in protected areas, including: concessions; visitor management; the role of gateway communities; infrastructure; interpretation; tourism and climate change, funding and visitor services, and partnerships. The seminar is designed for protected area managers increasingly faced with the challenges and opportunities of operating in environments where tourism is or will be a dominant factor. Sites visited will all be at or above 5000ft (1500m), with many Mt PAs. Participants will experience the full range of tourism activities in protected areas in the western US, from wolf tracking tours to ranger-led interpretative presentations. Lectures and presentations and panel discussions with a wide range of individuals from across the organizations and areas visited will add additional depth and context. The application deadline is June 24. Cost is US \$5000 plus airfare from home base. Details found at <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-tourism-course>. *Jim Barborak* and *Ryan Finchum* of CSU and *Steve McCool* of the University of Montana are seminar organizers.

Faster, Higher, More? Past, Present and Future Dynamics of Alpine and Arctic Flora under Climate Change. September 22 - 25, 2013, Kurhaus Bergün, Grisons, Switzerland. The conference aims at: presenting current research in climate-driven changes in species distribution in alpine and arctic environments; linking research efforts across disciplines and regions; discussing potential implications on conservation efforts and land management in the respective areas. Open to all interested researchers and practitioners. Sponsored by Swiss Federal Institute and Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research. Deadline for abstracts- July 1, for registration- August 1. www.wsl.ch/alpine-arctic-flora/gipfelflora/index_EN

10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10).

October 4-10, 2013. Salamanca, Spain. Theme: Make the World a Wilder Place. Visit official Congress website (www.WILD10.org) for information regarding the exceptional variety of Congress program offerings (scientific, stewardship, artistic & cultural). Mid-Congress field excursion. This Congress is always a winner with its mix of nature and culture. Some focus on wilding of Europe. There will be enough MtPA 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* playing major roles.

Management of Protected Areas

Master of Science Program at Alpen-Adria University (Klagenfurt University), Austria offers their next course for February, 2014. Deadline for registration is **October 30, 2013**. Details at www.mpa.uni-klu.ac.at

The new Scientific Director is Prof. Heike Egner.

First Asia Parks Congress

November 13-17, 2013. Sendai City, Japan. <http://asia-parks.org/wordpress/>

The theme is Parks Connect. Organized by Japanese Ministry of Environment and IUCN. English. No registration fee. Proposals for papers, posters or side events

welcome.

Natural Solutions: Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific. December 2-6, 2013. This is the 9th Pacific Islands on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Suva, Fiji (on campus of the University of the South Pacific). This will review the state of conservation in the Region, and set the direction for conservation and biodiversity for the next 5 years. Deadline for registration is August 31. www.pacificconference2013@sprep David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP will be the guiding light.

World Parks Congress (IUCN).

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

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

Useful Links

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

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

Earlier editions are hosted by The Mountain Forum:

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

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

IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Theme website:

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

Connectivity Conservation website:

<http://connectivityconservation.org/>

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

Linda McMillan

Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications
WCPA Mountains and Connectivity
Conservation

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 (WPA). The project uses the 'citizen science' approach to engage the public in gathering and improving information on protected areas for the database.

