

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS



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Spectacular views of Chomolungma (Everest), Lhotse, and Ama Dablam in Sagarmatha National Park, Khumbu Region of Nepal

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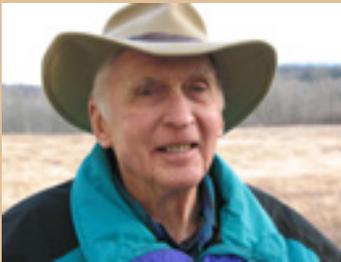
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UPDATE Newsletter Editor



[Dr. Larry Hamilton](#)

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

Note: Names of Network Members appear in *bold italics* in our Newsletter

IUCN - WCPA Vice Chairman

[Dr. Graeme Worboys](#)

A message from E-News
Production Editor

Koh-o-mardomon moya.
The mountains are our people.
~ Afghan saying



To see the greatness of a mountain, one must keep one's distance;
To understand its form, one must move around it;
To experience its moods, one must see it at sunrise and sunset,
At noon and at midnight, in sun and in rain,
In snow and in storm, in summer and in winter
And in all the other seasons.
He (or she) who can see the mountain like this comes
near to the life of the mountain.
~ Lama Govinda

Greetings...

...from the WCPA Mountain Biome Executive Team of Graeme, Linda, Fausto and Larry. As well as this sending out this newsletter, much energy is currently being directed at:

- Completing editing of the book based on the Papallacta Writing Workshop of November 2006. Editors are ***Graeme Worboys, Michael Lockwood*** and ***Wendy Francis***.
- Planning and trying to secure funding for a Conservation Connectivity and Transboundary PA Workshop for Kathmandu in November of the year, with partner ICIMOD (see Meetings Section). ***Graeme***, together with ***Rod Atkins*** and ***Nakul Chetri*** is doing much heavy lifting on this.
- Updating the WCPA Mountains Biome website (***Linda***), including the Melting Glaciers project. If you have not checked it out lately, try it at www.mountains-wcpa.org.
- As this newsletter is being assembled, ***Graeme*** is off in Madrid at the World Congress on Biosphere Reserves. He is a key player in a Side Event on Connectivity Conservation that also involves members ***David Sheppard*** and ***Eduard Muller***. ***Carmen Miranda, Thomas Schaaf, Yuri Badenkov*** and ***Martin Price*** are others known to me who are active at the Madrid meeting.

Sir Edmund Hillary

The passing of this heroic figure shortly after our last UPDATE was issued, was a personal loss to his co-workers and friends such as ***Bruce Jefferies*** (and his wife Margaret). It was a loss to the Nepalese children educated in the schools he established, and a loss to all those who know Sagarmatha NP whether from personal experience or from books. We have extracted from a tribute that Bruce wrote that illumines the role Sir Edmund played in establishing this great World Heritage Site.

One of the early suggestions for establishing this iconic place as a national park came from Louise Hillary. In 1973 the Government of Nepal announced their in-principle decision to establish the park. In 1974 an appraisal mission from New Zealand which included "***Bing Lucas***" (our late beloved friend and Chair of WCPA), undertook an appraisal mission to evaluate the feasibility for establishing the national park. This was followed in 1975 by a commitment from the New Zealand Government, undoubtedly under Sir Ed's guidance, to provide finance and technical assistance to the Nepalese Government to help set up the park. Here is the extract from Bruce's tribute to

[Linda McMillan](#)

Hillary...

To prevent problems for our text-only recipients, URLs are NOT hyper-linked in our newsletter. This prevents the newsletter software from inserting its link-tracking coding, which excessively expands the URLs in links.

You can highlight and copy the non-hyperlinked URLs shown in the text; paste them into your web browser to view links.

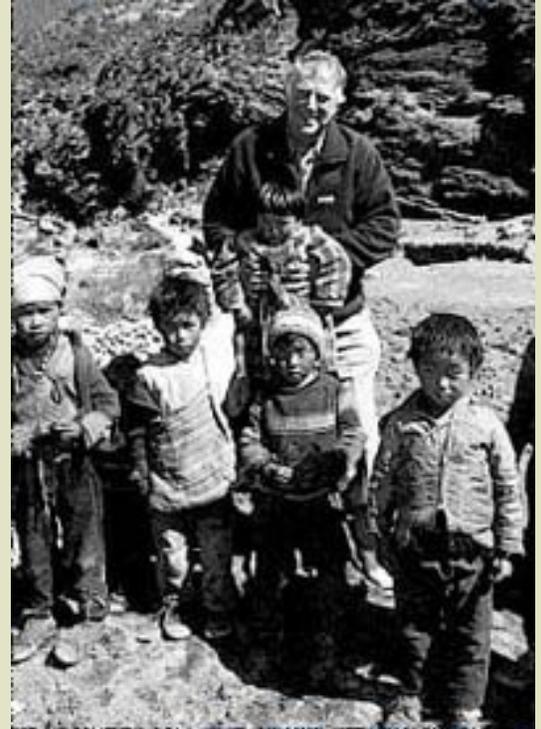
To increase font size while you read this with your browser just click on the "View" tab at the top of your browser window, scroll down to "Text Size" and choose "Increase". This change can be reversed using the same path.

*"I (Bruce) spent nearly 3 years living and working in the park and Sir Ed visited us on many occasions to discuss our work and share his perspectives. Conservation activities in Nepal were supported by educational opportunities in New Zealand where a small International Ranger Training facility at Turangi provided a platform for Nepalese staff to increase their English language ability and gain knowledge of a wide range of practical protected area management skills. The early Sherpas that participated in this scheme were handpicked by Sir Ed and the first year at Turangi was a precursor to their entrance at Lincoln University where, under **Dr. Pat Devlin**, many students including several who later became Chief Wardens in Sagarmatha NP as well as prominent international conservation professionals, completed undergraduate studies.*

*"Our late colleague **Mingma Sherpa** was one of the first children to graduate from a school that Sir Edmund established in the Khumbu region."*

~ **Bruce Jefferies**

Linda McMillan aptly states that this is "a testament to the power of education to help conserve our planet."



More on Sir Edmund Hillary

Network member **Ang Tshering Sherpa** had his life changed by the work of "Sir Ed". He has written a moving tribute from which the following is excerpted:

In the early 1960s Sir Ed Hillary was on one of his many journeys accompanied by his Sherpa friends. While they were crossing a mountain pass, Sir Ed is said to have asked one of the Sherpas if there was anything he could do for the Sherpa people, what would it be? The Sherpa friend immediately replied, "Burra Sahib (Big Sahib), our children have eyes but they are blind and cannot see. We want you to open their eyes by building a school."

In 1961 Sir Ed Hillary built the first school in Khumjung village with his own hands. In 1964, he built Lukla Airport, opening a gateway to the Khumbu and to Everest and letting not only the world know about the Sherpa people and their culture, but also showing the Sherpa people that there was a much bigger world beyond the Himalaya. In 1966 he built the Khunde Hospital to provide free health services to all Nepalese.

And the list could go on. But what I have said here touches my family, --the Sherpa who asked for a school to be built was my father Konchok Chumbi. (My father accompanied Sir Ed when the Yeti scalp from Khumjung Gumpa was taken around the world.) I was one of the first students to be admitted into Khumjung School and graduate from there. If not for the vision of one man who stood above all, I perhaps now would be a man bowed by age and still carrying loads in my beloved Khumbu.



Many Nepalese went to New Zealand for the funeral and memorial service, joining **Bruce Jefferies** and others in marking the passing of this heroic mountain man. Another Network member linked to Sir Ed is **Alton Byers**. He was the second recipient of the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal, back in 2005, in recognition of his fine work in research and conservation in the Himalayas, as well as several other mountain areas around the world.

Wilderness in Europe: PAN Parks



We have previously described some of the activities of PAN (Protected Areas Network) Parks, an initiative of WWF. A major endeavor is to create a network of Europe's best wilderness areas. "Wilderness" is not a term that springs to mind when one thinks of Europe's PAs, and the word actually is little used. One of the few organizations with the word in its title is the Wilderness Associazione Italiana, headed by **Franco Zunino**.

But PAN Parks has certified 10 national parks which can justifiably suggest to visitors that a real wilderness experience can be found. Among the latest of these is Majella in Italy's Appenines, joining MtNPs such as Bieszczady (Poland) and Central Balkans (Bulgaria). One criterion calls for areas of at least 10,000 ha, and that makes it very difficult in much of Europe, particularly in the West.

Certification is carried out by third party scientists, and this makes it a somewhat costly process. Certification requires a "sustainable eco-tourism plan" that promotes community development. The PAN parks Foundation is located in Gyor, Hungary and the contact is Gavin Bell. www.panparks.org.

Majella massif (shown above left) is also known as "Mother Mountain" by local inhabitants, and has a special significance in their culture. It is estimated that there are over 30 peaks in the Park over 2,000 m, with the highest, Monte Amaro being the second tallest in the Appenines. It consists of over 74,000 ha and was decreed in 1991. For more information see www.parks.it/parco.nazionale.majella/Eindex.html.

And meanwhile, in Romania is found some of the "wildest" land in the Carpathians. The Transylvania Carpathians support around 2,500 wolves, 4,500 brown bears, and 1,500 lynx, constituting about one-third of Europe's large carnivores. The Wildlands Project (USA) is assisting in the design of a Carpathian Ecological Network that will be a hub for a Pan-European Ecological Network. Work has begun to design a Carpathian Wilderness Park in this area. According to Michael Soulé, the local mountain inhabitants raise flocks (mainly sheep) in an accommodation with these large carnivores through use of guard dogs and shepherds in attendance. Fear of livestock deprecation, though usually over-rated has often been an impediment to rewilding processes.

The CEN grows out of a study/initiative of the Council of Europe in 2002 with a report on "The development of an ecological network in the Carpathian Ecoregion: identification of special areas for conservation of large carnivores." Emphasis is on the 4 countries containing almost 90% of the Carpathian range: Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania. Information at www.carpates.org.

Just prior to finishing off this newsletter, we received notice that the next wilderness PAN Park will be in the mountains of Northern Portugal,--the Penedes Geres National Park. Maritime mountains here in Portugal's largest NP (70,800 ha) range around 1560m in elevation, are granitic and characterized by many torrential streams, some of which are dammed. **Vlado Vancura** and **Zoltan Kun** of PAN Parks hope that this first certification in a "Mediterranean" country will encourage others to search and find nominees.

For more on PAN Parks, see www.panparks.org. Executive Director is **Zoltan Kun**.

More Mountain "Sister Parks" Arrangements

In the last issue we reported on the Sister Parks arrangement between Yosemite and Huangshan. Incidentally, Yosemite also has a sister park relationship with Torres del Paine (Chile), and both are World Heritage Sites. This issue we feature a Sister Park agreement in a 3-way linking between Rocky Mountain (USA), Tatranski (Poland; see right) and Tatrasky Narodny (Slovakia). The two Tatras have long had a transborder cooperation regime in place, which we recognized in a 1995 WCPA Mountain Workshop in Australia, and which was represented there by **Ivan Volucuk** and **Zbigniew Krzan**. Grand Teton (USA) is matched with Lagodekha Nature Reserve in Georgia; Olympic (USA) with Balaton Uplands in Hungary; North Cascades (USA) with Alpi Marittime Nature Park (Italy); Glacier (USA) with Khan Kentis in Mongolia (both World Heritage Sites); Wrangell St. Elias (Canada) and Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve (Russia; where the extremely rare Amur Tiger lives--see right).



The guidelines for such a relationship call for similarity of protected resources/ecosystems or mutual interest in a common set of management issues. At a minimum it involves exchange of technical information, and usually short-term personnel exchanges. No additional funding is supplied by the US National Park Service to nurture the relationship, but many individual units have been creative in leveraging funds from foundations or "Friends" groups.

Snowmobiles in Yellowstone NP (USA)

A persistent item of controversy has been the harmful effects of heavy snowmobile use on wildlife and air quality. (On some days at the park entrances, park personnel must wear respirators.) It pits Americans against each other in competing visions about how Yellowstone NP should be managed, and for whom. The battle involves economics, science, images and politics. Three scientific reports (one on air quality, one on natural quiet enjoyment and one on wildlife disturbance), have all called for keeping the numbers at less than 260 a day. More than 300,000 letters have been sent to the Park Service, of which more than 80% favored keeping all recreational snowmobiles out of the park. The snowmobile industry is hoping that new technology with cleaner, quieter four-stroke engines will take off some of the heat.



But, the controversy has become politicized, and the current Bush Administration, siding with the snowmobile industry, through the Secretary of Interior is pushing to raise the number allowed per day to 750. (The current annual average for past 3 years has been 260.) The current park Superintendent and the Regional Director, supported by the present Director of the National Park Service are approving 540 per day, --a figure that makes both sides in the battle unhappy.

On March 26, 2007 all 7 former living NPS Directors, 2 former Deputy Directors, a former Yellowstone Superintendent and a former Assistant Secretary of Interior signed an appeal to the current Secretary of Interior, urging that he keep or reduce the current cap, and to increasingly rely on snowcoaches to accommodate winter visitors. It is of interest to note that as soon as the legal requirement of one year of no involvement, the immediate past NPS Director under the Bush Administration has agreed to sign on to this appeal from former top NPS administrators. The 620-member Coalition of NPS Retirees has also weighed in to support the restrictions and use of snowcoaches (shown at right).



Twenty-eight Years Ago, Eight National Parks Came into Being in the USA

Never before have, and probably never again will, so many national parks come into existence on the same date. Given birth by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act were Denali, Gates of Arctic, Glacier Bay, Katmai, Kenai Fjords, Kobuk Valley, Lake Clark and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks.

Long in coming, and highly controversial for the amount of land it would put off-limits to mining, logging and other extractive and consumptive industries, the act signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on December 2, 1980 added 17.4 million ha (43 million acres) to the national park system. All except Kobuk Valley can be considered as Mountain NPs, and are briefly summarized below:



* **Gates of the Arctic National Park**, which contains approximately 2,853,800 ha (7,052,000 acres) of public lands and **Gates of the Arctic National Preserve**, which contains approximately 364,000 ha (900,000 acres) of federal lands. The park and preserve shall be managed for, among other things, maintaining the wild and undeveloped character of the area, including opportunities for visitors to experience solitude, and the natural environmental integrity and scenic beauty of the mountains, forestlands, rivers, lakes, and other natural features; to provide continued opportunities, including reasonable access, for mountain climbing, mountaineering, and other wilderness recreational activities, and; to protect habitat for and the populations of, fish and wildlife, including, but not limited to, caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep moose, wolves, and raptorial birds. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the park, where such uses are traditional.

* **Kenai Fjords National Park**, which contains approximately 229,000 ha (567,000 acres) of public lands. The park shall be managed for, among other things, maintaining unimpaired the scenic and environmental integrity of the Harding Icefield, its outflowing glaciers, and coastal fjords and islands in their natural state, and; to protect seals, sea lions, other marine mammals, and marine and other birds and to maintain their hauling and breeding areas in their natural state, free of human activity which is disruptive to their natural processes. The legislation allows the secretary of the Interior to develop access to the Harding Icefield and to allow use of mechanized equipment on the icefield for recreation.

* **Lake Clark National Park**, which contains approximately 987,000 ha (2,439,000 acres) of public lands, and **Lake Clark National Preserve**, which contains approximately 491,000 ha (1,214,000 acres) of public lands. The park and preserve shall be managed for, among other things, protecting the watershed necessary for perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay; to maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of portions of the Alaska Range and the Aleutian Range, including active volcanoes, glaciers, wild rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and alpine meadows in their natural state, and; to protect habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, Dall sheep, brown/grizzly bears, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons.



* **Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park**, which contains approximately 3,297,000 ha (8,147,000 acres) of public lands, and **Wrangell-Saint Elias National Preserve**, which contains approximately 1,666,000 ha (4,117,000 acres) of public lands. The park and preserve shall be managed for, among other things, maintaining unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of high mountain peaks, foothills, glacial systems, lakes, and streams, valleys, and coastal landscapes in their natural state; to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, brown/grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, wolves, trumpeter swans and other waterfowl, and marine mammals, and; to provide continued opportunities including reasonable access for mountain climbing, mountaineering, and other wilderness recreational activities. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the park, where such uses are traditional.



* **Glacier Bay National Monument**, by the addition of an area containing approximately 212,000 ha (523,000 acres) of Federal land. Approximately 23,000 ha (57,000 acres) of additional public land is hereby established as Glacier Bay National Preserve. The monument also was redesignated as **Glacier Bay National Park**. The lands are to be managed for, among other things, protecting a segment of the Alsek River, fish and wildlife habitats and migration routes and a portion of the Fairweather Range including the northwest slope of Mount Fairweather.

* **Katmai National Monument** was enlarged via the addition of an area containing approximately 420,000 ha (1,037,000)

acres of public land. Approximately 154,000 ha (380,000 acres) of additional public land was established as Katmai National Preserve. Additionally, the monument was redesignated as **Katmai National Park**. The monument addition and preserve shall be managed for, among other things, protecting habitats for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, high concentrations of brown/grizzly bears and their denning areas; to maintain unimpaired the water habitat for significant salmon populations, and; to protect scenic, geological, cultural and recreational features.



* **Mount McKinley National Park**, through the addition of approximately 982,000 ha (2,426,000 acres) of public land, and approximately 538,000 ha (1,330,000 acres) of additional public land is hereby established as Denali National Preserve, and then redesignated as **Denali National Park and Preserve**. The park additions and preserve shall be managed for, among other things, protecting and interpreting the entire mountain massif, and additional scenic mountain peaks and formations; protecting habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, brown/grizzly bears, moose, caribou, Dall sheep, wolves, swans and other waterfowl, and; to provide continued opportunities, including reasonable access, for mountain climbing, mountaineering and other wilderness recreational activities.. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the additions to the park where such uses are traditional.

Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range (Japan)

Excerpted from: Motonaka, M. 2007. pp 279-288 in *Protected Areas and Spirituality*. Eds. **Josep-Maria Mallarach** and **Thymio Papayannis**. (See publications section.)

Since ancient times, the Kii Mountain Range has harbored a tradition of nature worship, in which mountains, rock, forests, trees, rivers and waterfalls are deified and revered as objects of worship. Yoshino and Omine, Kumano Sanzan and Koyasan, as well as the pilgrimage routes that connect them, have all become important heritage areas in the Kii Mountain Range. The Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range were inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of Cultural Criteria and the concept of Associative Cultural Landscapes. The main elements of the sites' natural heritage are the coniferous and broadleaved forests that cover much of the Kii Mountains. Some of the most significant forests (in terms of their size and/or characteristics) and some of the particularly old and/or tall trees growing in temple and shrine compounds are highly revered and are protected as natural monuments.



Most of the Kii Mountain Range is covered by dense verdant forests. Three endemic plants and plant communities thrive in the forests of the site: Oyamarenge, a deciduous shrub belonging to the Magnoliaceae family, a sub-alpine evergreen coniferous forest consisting mainly of Veitch's fir (*Abies veitchii*), and the Nachi primeval forest, a laurel forest dominated by the isu tree (*Distylium racemosum*). They are all widespread over the mountain ridge and have been designated as natural monuments under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Both the forests that cover the compound of the Koyasan Buddhist Temple and the Nachi Primeval Forest, located behind the Nachi-Taisha Shinto Shrine, have been well preserved thanks to a strict prohibition based on religious doctrine that prevents entry into these sites.

Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalayas Partnership



Significant progress is now underway to develop Pakistan's Central Karakorum National Park (CKNP), and area of spectacular beauty encompassing Mount K2 and the Baltoro Glacier (the biggest outside the poles). A project for the establishment of the park has recently been approved, thanks to the commitment of the Northern Areas Government and the support of the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya Partnership, Karakorum Trust and World Wildlife Fund. In particular, the HKKH Partnership has organized several preliminary assessments to develop research and baseline studies on wildlife, glaciology, biodiversity, forestry and livelihoods. A series of workshops has been organized to develop a common management planning process and build partnerships for research. The Karakorum International University, where some events were hosted, is emerging as a key actor capable of catalyzing long-term research in the region.

This is just one of the many catalytic activities underway by the HKKH Partnership Project, --a regional initiative aimed at improving the management of the ecosystems of the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya Mountain Complex through capacity-building, development of new methodologies and tools, and the implementation of management-oriented research. The Project, which was developed by the Italian Cooperation in the context of the Mountain Partnership, is supported by the Italian Cooperation and implemented by IUCN in partnership with ICIMOD, CESVI and Ev-K2-CNR. The Project is active at regional, national and local levels with a special focus on three protected areas. As well as work in CKNP, the Partnership is engaged in activities at Sagarmatha (Everest) NP in Nepal, and Qomolangma Nature Preserve in Tibet. More information at www.hkkhpartnership.org or contact Emanuele Cuccillato (IUCN) Chief Technical Advisor for the HKKH Partnership Project emanuele@iucn.org.np.

Mount Kilimanjaro NP and Water Issues

Kilimanjaro Mountain is located in the northern zone of Tanzania, on the border with Kenya. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa with the highest peak Kibo (5,895 m). Mt. Kilimanjaro is the oldest protected area in Africa and was first declared a game reserve by the German colonial government and gazetted as Forest Reserve in 1921. The main forest line, above (2,700 m) classified by the Tanzanian government in 1973, forms a National Park covering 75,353 ha, surrounded by a forest reserve of 107,828 ha. The National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987.

Mt. Kilimanjaro is critical water catchment for both Tanzania and Kenya. This results from the ice cap, extensive forests and high rainfall. The southern and the southeastern forested slopes form the main upper catchments of the Pangani River (one of the Tanzanians' largest rivers) that drains into the Indian Ocean near Tanga.



In the period 1921 to 1989, Mt. Kilimanjaro lost 75% of its ice cap due to global warming. The existing ice mass is only 25% of the total which existed in 1912. One study indicated that if the current warming continues at the same pace, Kilimanjaro would completely lose its ice fields within 20 years.

On the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro there is water demand for growing coffee and bananas in kihamba (home gardens), while in the lower areas water is required in paddy farms, tomatoes, maize and so on grown in shambas (cultivated land). Kihambas and shambas are all sustained by irrigation systems. Further down water is required in hydropower plants at Nyumba ya Mungu, Pangani Falls and Hale which in total generate 20% of the total electricity output of the country. In the urban setting there is continuous pressure for domestic water supply.

Domestic, agricultural, industrial and biodiversity needs already are suffering due to decrease of water as a result of climatic and human factors including increasing population (rate of 2.1-3.8%), and poor management of the available scarce resource. The protective role played by the National Park, with its snow cover and its cloud forests is a critical one in this region of great water scarcity. Our close friend, the esteemed hydrologist **Sampurno Bruijnzeel** has just returned from clambering on the Mountain where he has been setting up a research project in the cloud forest. He is very mindful of the fact that this is a sacred mountain, and a world icon.

Invasive Exotic Plants in the Snowy Mountains, Australian Alps National Parks (and elsewhere)

Network member **Catherine Pickering** and co-author Wendy Hill, in a recent article in *Mountain Research and Development* (27 (4):359-366), highlight the ubiquity of some European plant exotics. The most common exotics in the Snowy Mountains are native to Europe, but are currently found in many other mountain regions worldwide where they are associated with human disturbances such as roads and ski slopes. They are all naturalized in Australia, and 5 of them (sheep sorrel, catsears, yarrow, white clover and dandelions) can be found spreading into native vegetation adjacent to roads and tracks in the Snowy Mountains. They show many general weed traits, including high seed output and/or vegetative spread, and wide climatic tolerance, including of temperate regions. They are all relatively hard to remove, either mechanically or through spraying, due to their large seed output that can be spread by wind and/or animals, and their capacity to spread vegetatively.

It is also clear that human disturbance in mountain regions, such as the construction and use of roads and tracks, provides the opportunity for the establishment of these and other weeds that can then spread into adjacent native vegetation, with some species becoming naturalized and competing with native taxa. These results highlight that though there are many differences in the diversity and ecology of mountain regions, they appear to be similarly susceptible to invasion by a common group of alien plants that share many of the same traits, making them the "usual suspects" (apologies to Casablanca). (Ed.note: Perhaps climate change intensifies the problem worldwide?)

Shift Away from Nature-based Recreation?

We had previously reported and commented on the **decrease in national park visitation in the USA** over the last few years, and asked whether other countries were experiencing the same trend. However, statistics from the US National Park Service for the most recent heavy use period of 2007 (January-October) indicate a substantial increase over 2006. Up by roughly 2.3 million visits to reach 246.2 million recreation visits. Among the top 6 for increase (3 of which are in urban areas, e.g. the Lincoln Memorial) were two Mt PAs: Yosemite and Yellowstone. Interestingly however, Mount Rainier NP was one of the 6 units experiencing the greatest decrease. Could the increase be due to the fact that the television programs are so bad these days?

But there is more to it than that, according to a current study reported in a publication by the National Academy of Sciences by Pergams and Zaradic who found evidence of an ongoing and fundamental shift away from nature-based recreation. They analyzed visitor reports from four US land administering agencies (Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and State Parks) plus some long term data from Japan and recent data from Spain. It is reported as **per capita visitation**, and after years of increase almost uniformly they show decreases beginning in 1981 and 1991. The long-term data from US and Japanese NPs coincide remarkably. In the USA moreover, fishing and hunting are both decreasing, and hunting peaked in 1983. www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.0709893105

Are we suffering from nature-attention deficit disorder?? Implications for PA management?

Global Warming and PA Management

For many years, PA managers, have generally adopted as "hands-off" and "let-nature-take-its-course" policy toward what could be characterized as natural change or forces. We might jump on alien invaders, be they plant or animal, but only with reluctance adopt measures to control excessive population increases of a naturally occurring species. We would suppress fires that were human-caused, but getting quite comfortable with letting lightning-caused fires to have sway (except where human life and property was concerned. However global warming is raising dilemmas.

The increased fire hazard brought about in seasonally dry areas that are getting drier due to global warming is causing new problems. An interesting article has just appeared in a feature in High Country News (in early days co-edited by son **Bruce Hamilton** and wife Joan) which asks the question of PA Managers whether they are content to witness serious losses of their most cherished wildlife or will they become gardeners and zookeepers. This provocative article is well worth reading, as it helps to crystallize the important issue facing managers, which lurks just under the surface of day-to-day strategies.

Should we not assist plants and animals to migrate poleward, up mountain slope or to moister areas? Should we be encouraging species that are perhaps better-suited to a changed situation in our PAs? Should we even be planting or introducing species from nearby warmer or drier habitat zones? Not easy.

See: www.hcn.org/issues/251/12999/

Honoring Through Educational Opportunities

In the last issue, we reported on the award of the first **Mingma Sherpa Memorial Scholarship** to which many WCPA members and Network members contributed. (Other scholarships, including one to honor **Chandra Gurung** have been set up by WWF/US to provide educational opportunity for young Nepalis). WWF has just announced two of these for bachelor of science studies at the Institute of Forestry in Pokhara, one to Margada Shrestha and one to Sher Bahadur Parivar who completed certificate-level studies with distinction. In addition a memorial scholarship for certificate-level studies at the Hetauda Campus has been awarded to Chandra Shekhar Badu. Indeed, the legacy of our lost comrades does live on.

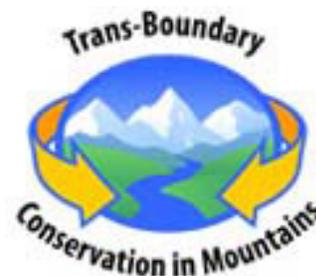


And, the Kiwis (New Zealanders to those in the know) are not idle. In September 2007, a **Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Fund** was established to provide educational opportunity for young Nepalis to take post-graduate studies at Lincoln University. It was at Lincoln that **Mingma** and many other conservation leaders in Nepal received their training, for Nepal and New Zealand have had long and fruitful relations. **Bruce Jefferies** is on the Steering Committee for the Fund, which is administered by WWF-New Zealand and hopes to raise US\$350,000 as an endowment. This would support students annually in perpetuity. Sir Edmund Hillary, just prior to his death, gave his strong endorsement to the Fund. **Bruce** is urging Network members to support this worthwhile endeavor (or as he would put it "endeavour"). Amen from the Executive Team.

Donations can be made at: www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/MingmaNorbuSherpa

Mountain Transboundary Protected Area and Connectivity Conservation Workshop

The major event being organized by WCPA Mountain Biome for 2008 will be a workshop named as above. It will be held in cooperation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, November 11-14 (if funding support can be secured). This has been an event planned by your Executive Committee (**Graeme Worboys**, **Linda McMillan**, **Fausto Sarmiento** and **Larry Hamilton**, and at one time **Mingma Sherpa**) as one of the three major activities in a 5-year work program. Graeme has been providing the leadership on this, and is ably assisted by **Rod Atkins** who is the principal organizer of the many details. **Nakul Chettri** is the ICIMOD action counterpart and **Eklabya Sharma** is administrator.



IUCN/WCPA Mountain Biome
Workshop - Nepal 2008

The workshop is a direct response to the needs expressed in the Convention on Biological Diversity Plan of Work in Protected Areas in view of threats to biodiversity from climate change. Two significant responses in mountains concern connectivity (linking PAs along the ranges and altitudinally summits to lowlands or to the sea), and including "corridors" across borders in transboundary

conservation/protection areas. Thus a major focus and output will be drafting "tools for managing connectivity conservation corridors and transboundary protected areas in mountains." Invited participants will review and further develop a draft document of "tools". Participants will review the status of their actual or incubating corridors, and test the tools. The workshop will have an Asian focus. ICIMOD is providing travel support to some attendees from the HKKH Region. **Bruce Jefferies** and **Linda McMillan** have offered to help organize a post-workshop trek into the Everest region and Sagarmatha National Park, while Rod is coordinating with others to offer a post-workshop tour to the lower-elevation regions of Nepal, either the Terai area or Royal Chitwan National Park. More details to come on this. Workshop contacts: **Rod Atkins** Rodney.atkins@act.gov.au and **Nakul Chettri** nchettri@icimod.org

Bits and Pieces

More honors for **Jack Ives**. See publications section for his latest book on Iceland. He was in Iceland in mid-February to receive an award for outstanding contribution to the culture of Southeast Iceland, selected out of a nominated field of 12. "Good on you, mate!" as **Graeme** would say.

In September 2007, UNESCO MAB accepted 23 new areas from 18 countries as **Biosphere Reserves**. Several of these are Mt PAs, such as Western Nghe An in Vietnam, Sierra de Alamos-Rio in Mexico, and Apaneca-Llamatapec in El Salvador. There are now 529 Biosphere Reserves in 105 countries, roughly 40% of which are in mountainous areas. (Source: **Thomas Schaaf**.)

The University of Berne (Switzerland) is the new home of the **Mountain Research Initiative (MRI)**. Thanks to Dr. Rolf Weingartner, the new chair of the Scientific Steering Committee, MRI's coordination office is now located at the Institute of Geography, University of Berne. One way in which MRI supports researchers working on global change in mountain regions worldwide is through facilitating communication and exchange. MRI asks you to join the regional networks to find out what others are doing, to network with new colleagues, or to contribute information on your activities to the News Flashes. Contact Claudia Drexler drexler@giub.unibe.ch or www.mri.scnatweb.ch.

Resources Himalaya (**Pralad Yonzon**, Coordinator) is engaged in many activities in Mt PAs of the Himalayan Region. Pralad himself is involved in a snow leopard project in Sagarmatha NP. One of his colleagues together with a scientist from the University of Padua (through EV-K2CNR) is working on tracing past climatic changes in Sagarmatha through study of **tree rings**. Cores of *Abies spectabilis* are being studied from sample plots at 4,050m (Pangboche) and 3,850m (Tengboche). www.resourceshimalaya.org.

Hale kal NP Hawai'i has recently been afforded a corridor of connection (summit-to-sea) through the acquisition of the largest remaining undeveloped tract on the Island of Maui, --the Campbell Company ranch of 1,660 ha for US\$3.3 million. While this addition to its 11,700 ha may seem small by world standards, land is difficult to come by on small islands, and the price is high. It is critical habitat for rare birds and insects and contains several important Hawaiian cultural sites.

Since the **impacts of climate change on Mt PAs** is so very appropriately of concern to Network members, we point out the following: Information on this topic is available in French, Spanish, German and Czech from ALPARCS international conference held in Stelvio NP (Italy) last October. Find it in the interesting December 2007 ALPARCS newsletter in one of the four languages at www.alparc.org/newsletter.

Several scientists have proposed the creation of **planetary parks on Mars**. Concerns over debris left by unmanned exploration vehicles prompted the idea. Seven areas of the red planet representing features including mountains, meteorite craters, a polar ice cap, and the solar system's largest volcano have been suggested for possible conservation.

Network member **Ang Tshering Sherpa's** son Dawa Steven Sherpa has organized an **Eco-Everest Expedition** for April 6, 2008. It will raise awareness of glacial melting and the formation of glacial lakes, as well as raising funds for further studies of these glacial lakes. Clean-up activities at base camps and on the mountain will also be featured. For further details contact him at dawasteven@asian-trekking.com. By the time you get this newsletter, it will be too late for climbers to join, but supporters may be part of the eco-treks. This expedition, and our own Melting Glaciers Project, fit like hand and glove. The expedition helps to carry forward the work of our late, esteemed colleague **Mingma Sherpa**, who helped create the short movie "Meltdown in Nepal" as part of his WWF work.

Those of you interested in the criteria for **World Heritage Sites** should check out the recently-approved revised **Operational Guidelines**. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>.

Acadia NP in Maine (USA) is a Mt PA (has alpine zone on Mount Cadillac, even though that is only 466 m in elevation). **Charlie Jacobi** is our Network member on staff there. They have developed an interesting **virtual e-tour** which may suggest possibilities to some of you. Unfortunately it is a park marine cruise rather than a mountain hike, but the concept is the point. We have taken this cruise and can attest to it being right on target with what we experienced (except for fresh air, sounds and smells of the sea, less favorable weather, and crowds). Find it at www.nps.gov/acad/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm. Will this kind of thing replace real experience? Or, will it acquaint people at a distance (who may never get there) about a fine PA worth their support when threats arise?

The rare saola (Vu Quang ox or bovid) was "discovered" in 1992 in Vietnam's Annamite Mountains by a team of scientists from WWF and the Ministry of Forestry. It is estimated that there are no more than 250 individuals. Two new reserves that will afford them protection have been established, which complete a continuous protected landscape stretching from the Vietnamese coast to Xe Sap National Biodiversity Conservation Area in Laos. This is named the **Central Truong Son Conservation Landscape**.

Australia's highest toilet is nearing completion at Rawson Pass, just below the summit of Mount Kosciuszko in the PA of the same name in the Australian Alps. This was needed to accommodate what have become 60,000 hikers per year. The summit of Australia's highest mountain is at 2,228 m.

Alpine Week - Innovating in the Alps will be June 11-14 this year in L'Argentiere-la-Bessee, France. Series of events by collaborating partners: ISCAR (International Scientific Committee on Alpine Research), CIPRA (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps), Alliance in the Alps, ALPARC, Network of Protected Areas, and Alpine Arc Club. See www.alpweek.org.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Protected Areas and Biodiversity: An Overview of Key Issues. K. Mulongoy and S. Chape. 2004 WCMC-UNEP. Cambridge, UK. Contributions include: **Adrian Phillips, David Shepard, Ashish Kothari, Nigel Dudley, Marc Hockings, Luis Suarez**. The data herein are from the 2003 World Database on Protected Areas. www.iucn.org/bookstore/index.html.

Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values. 8th World Wilderness Congress Symposium. Compiled by **Alan Watson, Janet Sproull and Liese Dean**. 2007. Proc. RMTS-P-49. US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Stations, Fort Collins, Colorado. 581 pp. Download from www.fs.fed.us/rm/publs/rmrs_p049.pdf. Has presentations by Network members: **Gordon Cessford, James Sullivan, David Johns, Steve McCool, Paul Lachapelle, Jim Thorsell, George Schaller, Peter Keller, Barbara Cellarius, Juri Peepre, Sonja Krueger, Alan Watson, Steve Trombulak, Kevin Kiernan, Larry Hamilton**.

Protected Areas and Spirituality. Ed. by **Josep-Maria Mallarach and Thymio Papayannis**. 2007. Proceedings of the First Workshop of the Delos Initiative held at Montserrat, Spain in 2006. The Delos Initiative, under the umbrella of the WCPA Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas, focuses on sacred natural sites in the technologically-developed world. Many of the sites are in mountains. Published by IUCN and the Monastery of Montserrat. Available from IUCN, Gland or www.iucn.org/publications.

New Zealand's Wilderness Heritage. By **Les Molloy** (photos by Craig Potton). Craig Potton Publishing. 320 pp, over 300 full-color photos. 2007. It is structured around a bioregional approach, and since much of NZ's wilderness is in mountain areas, MtPAs get good coverage. Also includes the sub-Antarctic islands, and Ross Sea area of Antarctica. NZ\$90 from PO Box 555, Nelson 7015, New Zealand or www.craigpotton.co.nz

Thrillcraft: The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation. Ed. **George Wuerthner**. 2007. Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction, Vermont 05001, www.chelseagreen.com. This large-format 274-page, incredibly illustrated book, was commissioned and published by the Foundation for Deep Ecology, **Douglas Tompkins**, Project Director. It is dedicated "to the late, great public lands." (It is a feisty book!) The Foreword by Doug gives some idea of the thrust: "Thrillcraft, Slob Recreation and Eco-Terrorism." The purpose of the book is "to alert all Americans to this crisis of motorized wreckreation." Perhaps the alert is important in many other countries. Network member **Tom Butler** is a contributor. It is quite an amazing book, with relevance to MtPA management and policy.

The George Wright Forum Vol. 24, No. 3, 2007. We feel impelled to call attention to this issue of the *Forum* due to the relevance of a large number of the articles therein. For instance, our own "stars" **Graeme Worboys** and **Michael Lockwood** have a fine one on Issues in Australian Protected Area Management. An excellent treatment of the role of various kinds of governance for private PAs and their place in the global picture is presented by **Brent Mitchell** entitled Who's Doing the Protecting in Protected Areas: a Global Perspective on Protected Area Governance. Those MtPA managers facing the dilemma of suppression or not, for wildfires will learn much from Origin and History of Wildland Fire in the US National Park System. The term Wildland Fire Use is a central theme. Although "sustainable tourism" and "eco-tourism" have become much more norms, they do not adequately address the full range of costs and benefits among stakeholders, --especially cultural impacts. An article on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Tourism: The Missing Cultural Link discusses these issues and provides good insights. All articles of every issue of the *Forum* except the current one, can be downloaded through the publications link of www.georgewright.org and Brent's articles is now available as a pdf file at www.georgewright.org/243mitchell.pdf.

Identification and Gap Analysis of Key Biodiversity Areas: Targets for Comprehensive Protected Area Systems.

Langhammer, P.F. *et al.* (18 others). 2007. Ed. Peter Valentine. IUCN/WCPA Best Practice Protected Areas Guidelines Series No 15. 116 pp. Available at www.iucn.org/bookstore/index.html.

The Visitor Experience Challenge, PARKS Vol. 16, No. 2, 2006. Theme issue edited by Juliana Priskin and **Stephen F. McCool**. IUCN/WCPA. www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/pubs/parks.htm. Relevant articles for MtPAs. Includes one on PANParks (see a previous article).

Skaftafell in Iceland-A Thousand Years of Change. 2007. by **Jack Ives**. Ormstunga, Reykjavik. 256 pp. English and Icelandic. US \$60. While we do not usually report on books that focus on only one MTPA in one country, we call attention to this one because it traces the history from an isolated, seldom-visited-by-outsiders area to a fine National Park. And, Jack documents this from over 40 years of personal experience with this amazing landscape. He is also optimistic about its potential as a World Heritage Site as part of a huge Vatnajökull National Park. All proceeds from sale of this book will be used to establish a research fund for administration by Skaftafell NP. www.ormstunga.is/english/titles/skaftafell/e-htm

Useful Links

UPDATE Archive Past editions, hosted by The Mountain Forum: <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ol/periodicals.cfm?periodid=30>

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

Connectivity Conservation website: <http://conservationconnectivity.org/>

Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

Understanding and Managing Amenity-led Migration in Mountain Regions. May 15-19, 2008; Banff, Canada. This is an international workshop being organized by the Banff Centre. More info at the Banff Centre website: <http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/mtnconferences/am/>

Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting (North American section: USA, Canada, Mexico, Greenland) July 13-17, 2008; Chattanooga, Tennessee. The title is one we well know: "From Mountains to the Sea". More info at The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) website: <http://www.conbio.org/>

IUCN World Conservation Congress. October 5-14, 2008; Barcelona, Spain. Invitations were extended to organize events in the World Conservation Forum October 6-10. The 3 streams are: A New Climate for Change; Healthy Environments - Healthy People; Safeguarding the Diversity of Life. Registration begins January 2008. More info at the IUCN website: <http://iucn.org/congress/2008/>

Living in the Alps - the New Challenges. October 8-10, 2008; Triglav National Park, Slovenia. See website: <http://cipra.4teamwork.ch/en/alpmedia/events/1650>

VI General Assembly and International Conference of Alpine Protected Areas Network (ALPARC). For more information contact the ALPARC organizers: <http://www.alparc.org/>

Mountain Transboundary Protected Areas and Connectivity Conservation Workshop. November 11-14, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Organized by WCPA Mountain Biome, Transboundary Task Force and ICIMOD. By invitation only due to working nature of the meeting. See previous article.

Biodiversity and Land Use, Biosphere Reserves and Transboundary Parks under Natural and Human Pressures of Global Change. November 16-18, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Organized by ICIMOD, also in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity Program of Work on Mountain Biodiversity, aimed at COP.10 in 2010. Contact **Nakul Chettri** at nchettri@icimod.org.

George Wright Society Conference. March 2-6, 2009 in Portland, Oregon USA. This meeting will institute many energy-conserving factors such as having it located at a no-styrofoam, comprehensive-composting, full-recycling, energy-aware hotel on Portland's light rail system, eliminating the need for automobiles for participants flying in. With majordomo **Dave Harmon** being the key figure, these international PA conferences are always winners. See www.georgewright.org.

9th World Wilderness Congress "Feel, Think, Act (Siente, Piensa, Actua)!" November 2009 in Mexico. An early heads-up about this important event, organized by the WILD Foundation and Unidos para la Conservación (UPC). Details as available will be posted on www.wild9.org.

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WCPA Mountains Biome

The mountains of northern Iraq in winter

