

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 59 - September 2008



Mount Damavand soars to 5,610 metres (18,406 ft) near Tehran, Iran and is the highest volcano in Asia.

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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](#)

***On the mountains of truth you can never climb
in vain; either you will reach a point higher up
today, or you will be training your powers so
that you will be able to climb higher tomorrow.***

~ ***Fredric Nietzsche***



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** from the Papallacta Workshop on Connectivity Conservation (with ***Michael Lockwood*** and ***Wendy Francis***). Target by end of this year.
- planning for workshop in Kathmandu-see Upcoming Meetings Section.
- planning for IUCN Congress-see Upcoming Meetings. Also, note that a Mountain Dinner for attending Network members is planned
- starting planning for Mt PA Ecotourism workshop in China for October 2009 (with Robyn Bushell) and ***Mike Tollefson***.
- updating MtPA web page, and providing updates to IUCN HQ.web
- continuous correspondence interchange with Network members (now pruned back to a core of 266 members from a high of over 500 in 2006).

New Designation for Mount Damavand NP (Iran)

From ***Ali Salahi*** (Iran) comes the good news that Mount Damavand (shown above) has now been registered as the first National Natural Heritage Site. This makes the path to nomination as a World Heritage Site possible. In our booklet on **A Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas on the World Heritage List**, ***Jim Thorsell*** and ***Larry Hamilton*** listed a number of suggested future possibilities. Mount Damavand NP, the highest (5,671 m) and most symmetrical volcanic cone in the Alborz Range was one of them. It rises from the interior desert on one side, and the Caspian Sea on the other, and is the highest point in the Middle East, and the highest volcano in Asia.

Damavand is an Iranian icon, the Mount Olympus of Persian mythology. It is thought by many to hold magical powers. It holds an honored place in Persian literature. It has the most renown ski area in the Middle East. Our banner photo for this issue highlights the dramatic beauty of this important mountain.

A message from E-News
Production Editor

[Linda McMillan](#)

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.

Ali (shown at right with plaque) is a member of the National Committee of legislation and regulation of National Natural Heritage, inside the Culture and Tourism Agency. The Committee worked through the Deputy of the President of Iran. **Ali** has been hoping for this for many years, at least since he and I met and became friends in a meeting in Europe over a decade ago.

Congratulations!



Recent World Heritage Action

At its July meeting in Québec City, Canada, the World Heritage Committee inscribed 8 new Natural Sites on the WH List. Four of them are MtPAs.

- **Mount Sanqingshan NP (China)**. Remarkable granite peaks and pillars combined with diverse forests create an area of unusual natural beauty.
- **Surtsey Island (Iceland)**. The volcanic island which emerged and erupted from the sea 1963-1967, and has been protected from birth. A pristine natural research laboratory.
- **Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona (Switzerland)**. A classic display of mountain building processes, recognized since the 18th Century. Clear exposure of the Glarus Overthrust.
- **Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)**. See separate article below.

Machu Picchu World Heritage Site was considered for listing on the "In Danger" list due to erosion, uncontrolled tourism and rapid expansion of a nearby town. It was not listed due to assurances from the Peruvian government.

Russian Prime Minister Putin was commended for a decision to move parts of the 2014 Winter Olympics away from the **Western Caucasus WH Site**.

Currently still on the "In Danger" list are the following MtPA WH Sites: **Niger-Air and Ténéré Natural Reserve (Niger)**, **Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea)**, **Simien NP (Ethiopia)**, **Mount Nimba (Côte d'Ivoire)**, **Virunga NP**, **Kahuzi-Biega NP (Democratic Republic of Congo)**, and **Galapagos NP (Ecuador)**.

The Mountain Apple Forests of Kazakhstan

While most of the world's population thinks of apple trees growing in orchards, there are prodigious natural forests of apple trees on the Kazakhstan slopes of the Tian Shan range. Friend and colleague **Gary Paul Nabhan** (wild food guru) who recently visited these steep slopes, states that this is the place where the apple first originated, and where the highest diversity can still be found. There have been some 16,000 apple varieties identified in the past 4 centuries, but by 1904, identities and sources of only 7,098 could only be tracked, and today, 86% of those have disappeared from nursery catalogs and farmers' markets, and in the USA, just 15 varieties account for 90% of all apples reaching grocery stores.

Gary lays out a fascinating story of attempts to conserve this disappearing heritage that is only an hour's drive from the city of Almaty, in the May/June 2008 issue of **Orion** magazine. The Kazakh government has set up a few small protected reserves, but second home (dachas), cultivated orchards and urban sprawl up the mountains have resulted in loss of 70-80% of the apple forests since 1960. A bolder approach is needed, and surely the Convention on Biological Diversity presents a strong imperative. Lest anyone visualize these apples as akin to the small wild apples of the Caucasus Mountains, Gary points out that these are the large-fruited, delicious types. Moreover many varieties of wild pears grow in the same forests. A world heritage.



Monarch Butterflies Again

At the World Heritage meeting in early July in Québec City, the three core zones of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve were put on the World Heritage List. This is a long path to protection from roughly 30 years ago when a few dedicated Mexicans standing in a burned over area of Sierra del Campanario, made a pledge to push for protection of a monarch butterfly preserve. This has been such an interesting, sometimes heartbreaking journey, that we have devoted many items in UPDATE to recent development, threats and protection actions. Hopefully with its listing as a WH Site, an additional mantle of protection (and perhaps funding) will stabilize things even more.

The three core zones protect 8 large over-wintering colonies of the monarch in the oyamel fir forests, after an annual journey of 3,500-4,500 km from Canada and northern USA.

Dave Harmon passed on a message he received from Rick Smith, who movingly portrayed the experienced of witnessing the arrival phenomenon. It was so good that we share it here:

I had the great good fortune of being in the Reserva de la Biósfera Mariposa Monarca on the day that the butterflies arrived, ending their fall migration. It is the most breathtaking wildlife display I have ever seen. Millions and millions arriving at the same time, making it look like it was snowing orange snowflakes. The green pine trees turned orange as the butterflies landed; each one was turned into an orange covered Christmas tree. I have seen the batflight at Carlsbad, caribou migrating in Alaska, the great herds in Africa, but this was the most impressive. I will never forget it. I submitted a statement to IUCN in support of Mexico's nomination (for World Heritage designation).

Volunteers in PAs

Many MtPAs make quite extensive use of volunteers and it thus seems fitting to highlight two recent programs that have come to my attention:

In 2003 **EUROPARC Germany** started a volunteer program in its national parks, nature parks and biosphere reserves. It was so successful that in 2007 it was presented with the "**Active Citizens of Europe Award**" by Volonteuropre (a European network of NGOs). The next step has been to go beyond national boundaries, and in 2007, a reciprocal volunteer administrators' exchange was initiated between Germany and Italy (initially with Abruzzo NP and then using German parks). Now a program of volunteer exchanges is planned through the European Voluntary Service organization, and an application has been submitted to the European Union for a learning partnership in 8 countries.

Mount Rainier NP (USA) suffered severe damage from a rainfall downpour of 457 mm (18 inches) in a 36-hour period in the autumn of 2006. Thanks to valiant efforts instituted by the **Northwest Storm Recovery Coalition** of five NGO organizations plus park staff, by the end of 2007, most of the damaged infrastructure had been restored, and the final "CLOSED" signs came down in time for this summer's visitors. An amazing 1,700 volunteers gave 84,000 hours of service! In April, the Coalition received a **Cooperative Conservation Award** from the US Secretary of the Interior. The Coalition consisted of the Student Conservation Association, National Parks Conservation Association, Washington Trails Association, the Mountaineers, and the Washington National Park Fund, with support by outdoor equipment retailer REI and a special Congressional appropriation.

During the first three weeks of September, **Linda McMillan** will be leading a team of climber/volunteers in an expanded Lichen Inventory Project in Yosemite National Park. This innovative park stewardship project, a collaboration between rangers and climbers, is made possible through **Centennial Challenge 2008**. It is part of the Centennial Initiative of the US National Park Service, which will celebrate its first 100 years in 2016 (<http://www.nps.gov/2016/>). The Lichen Inventory Project is designed to enable park scientists to inventory species in parts of Yosemite they've never been able to visit -- the vertical faces of its 1000m granite cliffs. This Volunteers-in-Parks project is a component of the **National All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory** and will increase knowledge of species in Yosemite, helping the Park Service understand and respond to impacts such air pollution and climate change on the park's natural resources. It also lets climbers leverage their vertical skills and love of Yosemite to serve as valuable long-term *citizen scientists* and *citizen naturalists* in this place which they consider "sacred". Information and images: <http://lindamcmillan.info/climbers-stewards/>

Retezat National Park and Biosphere Reserve (Romania) Caravan

Using the slogan "If you don't come to the mountain, the mountain comes to you", a mobile information center caravan has visited over 260 towns and villages in southern Romania. The Retezat Interpretive Officers and/or Rangers accompany the vehicle with its visual displays. It was the first National



Park to be established in Romania, in 1935. It subsequently became a Biosphere Reserve. It consists of 54,400 ha of high crests, with numerous peaks over 2,400m in the Southern Carpathian Range, with much fine alpine and subalpine vegetation. The BR contains 58 permanent glacier-created lakes. The Retezat Massif is the genetic center for species of the Hieracium and Poa genera. It is rich in biodiversity, but on the endangered list are 170 plant taxa, 27 mammals, 82 birds, 9 reptiles and 5 amphibians.

The Retezat Caravan is one part of promoting the Nature 2000 Sites in Romania. It should be noted that the forthcoming (September 24-28) EUROPARC 2008 meeting is in Brasov, Romania (see Meetings Section). This is also in the Romanian Carpathians, at the base of the Postavaru Massif. This is the location of one of the other major MtPAs, the Piatra Craiului NP (14,800 ha). There is a 7-day post-meeting tour of Retezat in the program. But, meanwhile, Piatra Craiului is no slouch for mountains, with peaks of 1,764-2,238 m (latter is Piscul Bacuilui).

Park Ranger Uniforms

The Kenyan Wildlife Service, which manages such MtPAs as Mount Kenya, Aberdare and Mount Elgon, recently received an unusual gift from Parks Canada in the form of some 6,000 items of park warden uniforms. New uniforms in Parks Canada had replaced these. It was the enterprise of Banff NP Ranger Art Laurensen who conceived the idea and collected discarded uniform material from across Canada. Volunteers whom he recruited removed shoulder flashes and identifiers. A further 1,000 items that did not conform in color or style were also sent and picked up by WWF for use elsewhere in Africa.

This project continues a wonderful pattern promoted by the International Ranger Federation to recycle used but serviceable items of uniform to places where they are needed. In late March another exchange was effected in sending Canadian Park Ranger winter uniforms to colleagues in Romania. This shipment included 877 winter uniform items. Again the "control center" was Banff NP and Art Laurensen was the key figure.

This information comes from the IRF Newsletter, edited by **Bill Halainen**. This project, called "Ranger Relief" which has so far transmitted through 6 actions some US\$120,000 of surplus uniforms and equipment to rangers in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. The IRF project is coordinated by founder US Ranger Einer Olsen.

I had never heard of this before reading the IRF Newsletter, but it seems like a great idea for adoption more widely in our PA community.

International Center for Integrated Mountain Development

Readers may often see the acronym ICIMOD in these pages, and it has been many years since we have had an item briefly outlining the role of this important organization. A few lines of explanation are therefore not amiss, but please go online for a more complete story at www.icimod.org.

The International Center for Integrated Mountain Development is an inter-governmental institution for countries in the Hindu-Kush/Himalaya Region. These are Bhutan, Nepal, China, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Afghanistan. Its Board of Governors is made up of representatives of the countries of HKH plus some Independent Members, among whom for 2007-08 is our colleague **Bruno Messerli**. It serves as: a) a multidisciplinary documentation center; b) a focal point for training and applied research activities; c) a consultative center in scientific and technical matters for all the countries of the region. The principal goal is to promote environmentally sound, economically feasible, socially just mountain development and to improve living standards of HKH mountain populations.

It is with ICIMOD as partner and host that the WCPA Mountain Biome Workshop on Connectivity Conservation is planned. Key co-organizers there are **Nakul Chetri** and **Eklabya Sharma**.

2008 marks the 25th year for ICIMOD, which was established in Kathmandu in 1983. At least two current Network members played a role in this landmark initiative: **Bruno Messerli** and **Jack Ives**. Our best wishes go to the current Director General, Andreas Schild.

Pfalzerwald-Vosges du Nord Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

Located on the German-French border, this transnational BR is one of only 5 in Europe, and 8 in the world on the official UNESCO register. Note that Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (Canada/USA) is not officially listed, even though each separately is a Biosphere Reserve (Transboundary BR status has never been sought.). Pfalzerwald-Vosges du Nord (PVN) was the first one to be designated in the European Union.



This complex forms the largest uninterrupted tract of temperate broadleaf forest in Western Europe. Seventy-five percent of the TBR's 310,000 ha is covered in sustainably managed forest certified by the Pan-European Certification Council. The administration and management are by respective National Nature Parks (NGOs) having representation of rural, urban and district communities, non-profit nature conservation associations, regional federations and other local and regional stakeholders. Government forest and nature conservation bodies cooperate in actual management. There exist within them: forest reserves, strict nature reserves along with extensively managed areas of agricultural land. The TBR is overall classed as Category V (large-scale Cultural Landscape), with pockets and clusters of Ia, Ib, III and IV. I look forward to visiting this area for the first time in October.

Notable is the existence of populations of lynx, wildcat and peregrine falcon which are supported by the mutual protection provided by the transborder nature of the habitat. Attempts are being made to install animal-crossing bridges over transportation routes to provide connectivity. **Roland Stein** from whose paper this write-up was taken) points out how important is this TBR as a connector for a flagship (and keystone) species such as the lynx in a large internationally connected system that includes: Central and Southern Vosges (France), the Jura (Switzerland and France) and Black Forest (Germany).

The cooperation exhibited across this border could almost designate this as a "peace" or "friendship" park, since between 1870 and 1945 Germany and France waged cruel wars. A cooperative Wasgan Border Forum will be held in October (see Meetings section) which will address transboundary biodiversity conservation under the impact of climate change and global warming. Roland has kindly allowed us to post information about transboundary parks "Lessons Learned" on the "Best Practices" link on our Network website: <http://mountains-wcpa.org>

How to Give Back to the Study Area

New Network member **Jeremy Spoon** completed his doctoral work at the University of Hawai'i in 2007, with his research focused on the interrelations between the political economy and Sherpa ecological knowledge in the Khumbu/Sagarmatha NP, Nepal. There he worked with our friend **Lhakpa Sherpa**. **Jeremy** has just spent many days back in the Khumbu presenting the results of his research to the participants in his surveys and other interested community members (5 presentations involving nearly 300 people). He translated a short summary of his work into Nepali and distributed it at the meetings and gave full versions to the local library and a repository in the buffer zone administrative entity.

This is a fine example of returning something to the site, from a research project. Jeremy is now instituting a new project through The Mountain Institute integrating place-based spirituality into education, tourist interpretation, a conservation and livelihood initiative. The project has been blessed by the Tengboche Rinpoche.

Border Wall Barrier (USA/Mexico)

We have previously written of the outlandish, harmful and ultimately useless scheme by the US Department of Homeland Security to construct a 750 km (470 mile) long wall along the Mexican border. Its purpose is to stop (reduce?) illegal immigration and drugs coming into the USA, and possibly terrorists. As well as disrupting humans in border communities, it divides wildlife populations at a time when conservation efforts around the world are being implemented to connect populations and permit migration in view of climate change. Fledgling small populations in the USA of ocelot, jaguar and Mexican wolf will be isolated from the source populations in Mexico. The Bush Administration has waived some 36 laws in the interests of speeding construction. This includes requirements under the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lest readers think that all Americans are crazy, and buy into this, I want to point out that a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of this use of executive power has been filed by Defenders of Wildlife and the Sierra Club. The project has come under widespread opposition from many religious groups, Native Americans, National Historic Trust, and just about every major national conservation organization have joined in *amicus curiae* brief. Fourteen members of Congress have also filed an *amicus* brief. No, --not all of us go along with this fortress mentality. The wall barrier goes through several US parks on the border, and creates a barrier for transborder cooperation in at least two Transboundary Conservation Areas.

Just as we were completing this issue, I received word of a protest and information meeting at the barrier in Texas, organized by the Sierra Club on August 22, named "Endangered Species and the Border Wall". We hope it did some good.

Daisetsuzan (Big Snow) Mountain NP (Japan)

We get very little news about PAs in Japan (Japanese Network members, take note). It therefore seems appropriate to abstract some material about Daisetsuzan Mountain NP from a recent **National Geographic** article (August 2008). This 2,330 km² PA is the mountain central core of Hokkaido, the northernmost Japanese island. It was established in 1934 and is the country's largest and wildest national park. It contains volcano Asahi Dake which rises to 2,290 m (7,513 ft) and last erupted in 2004.

This peak was sacred to the Ainu indigenous peoples who were intimately linked to the Hokkaido bear. These were the "people of the bear" who crossed the land bridge from Asian mainland during the glacial maximum 18,000 years ago. The area seems imbued with spiritual presence. In spite of its remoteness, Daisetsuzan receives around 6 million visitors a year. This seems like a large number, but is among the least-visited of Japan's 29 national parks. Mount Fuji World Heritage Site draws 100 million visitors a year!



Largest Single Private Conservation Land Acquisition in Canadian History

(sent by Jim (Muddy Boots) Thorsell)

In July The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) announced a bold commitment to protect 550 km² of remote valleys, mountains, and wetlands, the largest single private conservation project ever undertaken by a Canadian non-profit organization.

Darkwoods is in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia. The previous owners, the Pluto Darkwoods Forestry Corporation, had owned and operated the land since 1967. The property connects a network of protected lands and wilderness management areas. The NCC has secured the property through the use of the same endowment funds needed to ensure Darkwoods will be cared for in generations to come. The property has been purchased with the support of the Government of Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program.

Due to its great scale and topographical diversity, Darkwoods offers sensitive plants and animals a chance to adapt in the face of global

climate change. The carbon footprint of nearly half a million Canadians.



*The Sacred and the Profane:
The revered San Francisco Peaks grace the skyline
only 20 miles from a Flagstaff shopping mall.*

A Sacred Mountain Loses in Court

We have previously reported on the struggle of 13 Native American Tribes (and a few supporting organizations such as the Sierra Club), over their sacred San Francisco Peaks (Arizona, USA). The government custodians of the area, the US Forest Service issued a permit for the

substantial expansion of a small ski development, and the use of wastewater from the City of Flagstaff to make artificial snow. (There would be warnings posted not to eat the snow!). **The Save the Peaks Coalition** previously lost appeals to the US Forest Service and lost a court decision in local district court, **but**, won a signal victory last year in federal district court. We reported on this in the December 2007 issues of UPDATE. However a specially convened panel of judges in an appeal by the resort developer and the USFS has just (August) ruled that the proposal could go ahead.

The ruling was that applying reclaimed sewer water to a site acknowledged as sacred posed "no substantial burden" on the Native Americans' exercise of their religious beliefs (even though the court admitted it offended religious sensibilities). While I have been working with the Coalition, and am therefore biased, this seems an arrogant ruling. The Hopi Nation for instance, believes that the Kachinas who bring rain to water the land will desert their abode in the mountain. Apparently the American Religious Freedom Act is insufficiently clear on what constitutes "religious observance". It was a split court decision, with 3 of the 11 judges dissenting from the majority opinion. My close colleagues and friends, the Benallys of the Navajo Tribe are mightily discouraged, but the Coalition will appeal to the Supreme Court, and attempt clarifying amendments to the Religious Freedom Act. See www.savethepeaks.org.

Is There Room for Wilderness in a Crowded World? In Europe?

We often hear politicians and many others say that there is little hope for establishing new national parks and other protected areas in an increasingly populous world. Yet statistics from successive issues of the UN List of Protected Areas, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, continue to show steady advances in the number and extent of various kinds of nature conservation areas. Currently around 12% of the terrestrial surface of the planet is in "protected areas"; and marine PAs are increasing as reefs and fisheries resources merit greater conservation. The target used to be 10% of the land surface, and here we are at 12%! Mountain PAs are well represented, with 21,400 sites and covering some 4,682,000 km² (using the broad definition of mountains now widely accepted from Kapos *et al.* 2000). Room for more? Are there remaining wildlands or lands that are re-wilding? Can there be any in populous Europe?

For mountain areas, the answer seems to be "Yes, indeed." In the mountainous parts of the planet, dramatically competing uses which eliminate all or most of nature are fewer and less intense than in the lowlands. In addition, in several parts of the world the steep lands are still being retired from intensive agriculture, and are re-wilding on their own. Assisted re-wilding is being practiced in some places, to restore original vegetation and animals. A good example is the effort to restore the Caledonian forest in parts of the Scottish Highlands. Several years ago, I participated in a conference entitled "Wilderness Britain?" where many examples were presented. At that meeting, I presented the rather amazing story of the recovery of forests in New England and New York State from widespread clearing up until the mid-to-late 1800s. There now exist large official wilderness areas in this region. We hear and read about the return of the large predators to Western Europe, --the lynx, bear, bearded vulture, and wolf--a true indication of re-wilding. I stood on a spot in the Saxonia-Switzerland NP in Germany a few years ago looking at a carved stone marker where the last lynx was killed in



the region in the early 1800s, and within five minutes along the trail we encountered lynx scat. The Alpine PA Research Network has a working group on the return of the large predators.

The word wilderness is in increasing use, in spite of the fact that there are no meaningful translations into many languages. IUCN has had a formally recognized PA Management Category 1b, for about a decade, and it calls for the highest level of protection and minimum human intervention. There are officially recognized Wilderness Areas or Zones in Australia, South Africa, Canada, the United States, and Mexico to my knowledge.

In Europe, the word wilderness and its use as a category for PAs has been uncommon. Only in Italy, thanks to the Associazione Italiana per la Wilderness (AIW) has the word and application been recognized. AIW is headed by **Franco Zunino**, and it is associated with The WILD Foundation. **Franco** puts out a fine newsletter, "Documenti Wilderness" quarterly, in Italian, in which he makes a case for the wilderness character of many areas, even though they are often relatively small. But, his criteria align with IUCN standards, and adhere as closely as possible to the standards set forth in the US Wilderness Act.

Recently however, the PAN Parks organization (Protected Areas Network) has certified 10 NPs where it feels that visitors can find a wilderness experience (see article in UPDATE No. 57, March 2008). **Zolton Kun** and **Vlado Vancura** are the prime movers in this program. It is a struggle to meet the minimum size criterion of 10,000 ha (24,700 acres), especially in Western Europe, and heavy use may diminish the wilderness experience. (See www.panparks.org) PAN Parks has just certified the Penedes-Geres NP in Portugal. It abuts Xures Nature Park in Spain, offering opportunity for a transborder PA. After an overview study of PAs in France, it was concluded that it was unlikely that any French PAs could meet the standards.

Moreover PAN Parks is taking a lead in mustering organizational support for a Wilderness Resolution to be presented to the European Commission and EU member states. It asks the Commission to develop recommendations and guidance on the best ways to protect the existing but fast-shrinking areas of wild nature and the potential wilderness areas. EUROPARC has added its support.

Bits and Pieces

In spite of opposition by the Association of National Park Rangers in the USA (and most sane people), and despite the failure of dubious proposed legislation "To Protect Innocent Americans from Violent Crime in National Parks", a Bush Administration ruling has been issued allowing visitors to carry **loaded and concealed weapons in the National Parks**. This reverses a policy of almost 100 years. Golly, the American outdoors is really dangerous!!

An eruption and substantial lava flow (14 km long and 150 m wide) occurred from **Volcano Cerro Azul in the Galapagos NP** this past May 29. A second eruption of smaller size occurred on June 3. Park rangers monitored the volcano, and concluded that the hazard was over on June 10. Cerro Azul is in the southwestern part of Isla Isabela.

Fulufjallet NP (Sweden) will be honored by having one of the new KLM fleet of Boeing 777-300s given its name. The new fleet is being given names of some of the world's leading national parks.

Colombia has recently declared two new National Parks: **Complejo Doña Juana y Cascabel**, and **Serranía de Churumbelos** in the Andes. The Nature Conservancy played a role in making this happen. These PAs are home to such rare species as the condor, mountain tapir and spectacled bear.

The International Ranger Federation has an online "help and discussion forum" at <http://groups.google.com/group/guardaparques>.

The new Executive Secretary of The Mountain Forum Secretariat in Kathmandu is **Frans Neuman**. He comes from the International Institute for Communication and Development in the Netherlands. He has previously worked in the Andes and the African Highlands. www.mountainforum.org.

George Schaller (See also Recent Publications section below), will receive on September 27, the prestigious Indianapolis Prize for animal conservation, in recognition of lifetime achievements. This is coupled with the Lily Medal. The prize of US\$100,000 is substantial, and George plans to use it to fund studies for young biologists in their own countries. George is Senior Conservationist with the Wildlife Conservation Society. The President and CEO of WCS states "...George has either contributed the first great scientific study or inspired a generation of scholarship, and conservation --or both--." He is currently active in promoting an international peace park at the four corners of Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and Tajikistan in the Pamirs. He has helped establish more than 15 wildlife reserves around the world.

We have reported previously on the innovative **All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory** that was implemented in Great Smoky Mountain NP, beginning in 1997. This was the largest natural history survey ever undertaken in the USA, covering over 2,072 km² (800 mi²). The project, completed at the end of 2007 involved over 1,000 scientists and identified 16,570 species. New to the Park were

6,129 of these, and 890 species are new to science. These inventories are now being conducted in other parks such as Yosemite.

Ed (Doctor Sacred Mountains) Bernbaum has left his position with The Mountain Institute as Director of its Sacred Mountains Program. He will become a TMI Senior Fellow. The program will be headed by Network member **Dr. Jonah Steinberg**, who is at the University of Vermont, --very handy to your Editor.

The **Gran Ruta Inca** that stretched 7000km along the Andes, linked the Inca Empire north to south. About 20 percent of the road/pathway still exists, part of it between altitudes of 4000-4800m. **Allan Putney**, (WCPA Vice-Chair for World Heritage) has for many years been promoting the conservation of this natural, cultural, archaeological resource. Last April, he and The Mountain Institute's **Miriam Torres** organized a trek along the section called Inca Nani through Peru's Cordillera Blanca in an effort to increase the visibility of the need for protection.

Ang Tshering Sherpa writes that the recent **EcoEverest Expedition 2008** (in partnership with ICIMOD and UNEP) was successful in creating awareness on the global warming issue, and need for environmentally friendlier expeditions. (See note in last issue.) His son, **Dawa Steven Sherpa**, led the expedition and reached the summit on May 26. Earlier he had climbed to the summit of Mt Lhotse (8,516m), on May 21. These were completed in time for a celebration in Kathmandu on May 29, commemorating the historic ascent by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on this day in 1953.

Breaking News at Press Time: We just received word from IUCN headquarters that **Dawa Steven Sherpa** has been chosen as one of the Top 5 Young Conservationists in the world from the large field of contenders this year for the **WCPA/International Ranger Federation Young Conservationist Award**. His name and a paragraph highlighting his outstanding conservation work this year will be posted on the IUCN website. Congratulations Dawa Steven!!



The **American pika** (shown at left; photo courtesy of **Robert Heil**), often referred to as the "mountain boulder bunny" is a sensitive indicator of global warming (like the canary in the coal mine). As high elevation alpine sites are altered by warming, this species has to move up higher, but in many habitats, there is nowhere up to go that meets habitat requirements. In Yosemite NP, populations have retreated 150m upslope. They are disappearing on other mountains of the American West. On August 19, the **Center for Biological Diversity** and **Earthjustice** filed State of California and Federal lawsuits seeking both listing and protection under the respective Endangered Species Acts. The remedy, of course, is to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and of course the Bush Administration is opposed to using the Endangered Species Act to curb carbon dioxide emissions. We will see, and report.

Canada's newest national park, the **Naats'ihch'oh NP Reserve** will cover some 728,424 ha (1.8 million acres) in the Northwest Territories. This is a splendid wilderness area, next to **Nanhanini NP Reserve and World Heritage Site** (first in the world). The reserve's name means "stands like a porcupine" and refers to the shape of Mount Wilson.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Tales from a Life in the Field, by **George Schaller**. 2007. Sierra Club Books, 272 pages, US\$25. One of our most distinguished Network members has written a fascinating set of 19 short essays on his deep experiences with some of the world's most amazing wildlife and places. For example snow leopard in the Hindu Kush, mountain gorilla in Virunga Mountains and the Porcupine caribou herd on Alaska's North Slope (the latter he describes as "A wall of dark brown lava." His sage advice in that "everyone should make a pilgrimage into the wilderness to dwell on its wonder and discover the idyll of a past now largely gone."

Sacred Natural Sites: Guidelines for Protected Area Managers. 2008. Ed. by **Robert Wild** and Christopher McLeod. IUCN/WCPA Best Practice PA Guidelines Series No. 16. A product of the WCPA Task Force on the Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas, in collaboration with UNESCO's MAB Programme. Very many of the examples and case studies are MtPAs. Available at books@iucn.org. Can be downloaded at http://cms.iucn.org/wcpa/wcpa_resources/wcpa_bpg//index.cfm

Binational Peace and Conservation in the Cordillera del Condor of Ecuador-Perú. 2007. Ed. by M. Acalde and S. Kingman. The famous instance of conflict reduction through a transboundary Peace Park. International Tropical Timber Organization. English and Spanish. ifu@itto.or.jp.

The Landscape Approach in Biodiversity Conservation: A regional cooperation framework for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Kangchenjunga Landscape. 2008. International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Framework Paper. 24 pages. www.icimod.org.

Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage. 2007. Lead Author: Augustin Colette. UNESCO World Heritage Center, Paris. <http://whcunesco.org>. Has contributions by *Alton Byers*, *Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa* and *Bastian Bomhard* and 14 others.

Diccionario de la Biodiversidad. 2008. Ed. *Maarten Kappelle*. Published by INBio (Costa Rica), with support from TNC, Royal Embassies of Netherlands and Spain, and Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Maarten is the TNC Science Director for the Mesoamerican and Caribbean Region. Book covers 6000 terms related to biodiversity, and has over 1000 color photos. Available: www.inbio.ac.cr

Parks, Protected Areas and Global Change Participatory Conservation in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. 2008. Ed. by Marc Galvin and Tobias Haller. NCCR North-South, University of Bern, Vol.3, Geographia Bernensia, Switzerland. Thirteen case studies, an introduction and synthesis/conclusion. The case studies follow a template provided by the editors. MtPAs included are: Tunari NP (Bolivia), Pizarro PA (Argentina), Ankarafantsika NP (Madagascar), Simien Mountains NP (Ethiopia), Kanchenjunga CA (Nepal) and Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschorn WH Site (Switzerland) 560 pp. Downloadable at www.north-south.unibe.ch

Wildlands Philanthropy. 2008. Written by *Tom Butler*. While we do not usually include books dealing with only one country, this one deals with an important topic applicable to other countries, and is by a Network member. It is being launched on October 23 in New York City. 350 pp, 170 color photos. US\$65 www.wildlandsphilanthropy.org

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

The Natural Protected Areas: Management Issues, Experience and Case Studies. An International Seminar. September 7-20, 2008 in Majella NP, Abruzzo, Italy. Organized by PAN Parks. Cost 1000euros info@parcomajella.it or www.parcomajella.it

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. *Graeme Worboys* is organizing a workshop on Protected Areas and Connectivity Conservation. Registration began January 2008. More info at the IUCN website: <http://iucn.org/congress/2008/>.

A post-WCC 2008 "Mountain Dinner" in Barcelona is being organized by *Linda McMillan* and *Miquel Rafa*. Network members attending Barcelona meeting who are interested, please contact Linda (linda@mountains-wcpa.org) or Miquel (miquel.rafa@fundtip.com), so that you can receive details as available.

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>

Wasgau Border Forum: Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Under the Impact of Climate Change and Global Warming. October 21-22, 2008; Organized by *Roland Stein* at the Pfalzerwald-Vosges du Nord Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, Fischbach bei Dahn (German/French border village). Participants from Germany and France. *Larry Hamilton* will be giving a keynote. R.stein.nothweiler@t-online.de.

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. Contact **Rod Atkins**: Rodney.Atkins@act.gov.au.

Conservation and Conflict. November 12-14, 2008. Washington, DC, USA. An experiential training in the skills, theory and process that conservation professionals need to better analyze and address conflict. Hosted by Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration. Registration deadline September 30. Details at fmmadden@comcast.net Some scholarships available, but not travel.

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.

Australian Protected Areas Congress. November 24-28, 2008. Participants from Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region. Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Organized by Environmental Protection Agency. Themes: PA values and benefits; building the PA system; sustaining effective management; partnerships and shared stewardship. www.asnevents.com.au/apac

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.

Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference. October 13-16, 2009. Cape Town, South Africa. Biodiversity and society: understanding connections, adapting to change. First call for paper proposals has a deadline of 15 September, 2008. check out www.diversitas-osc.org

IUCN/WCPA Mountain Biome Mountain Ecotourism Workshop. October, 2009. Juizhaigau NP and WH Site, China. In planning stage. Organized by Robyn Bushell in collaboration with **Graeme Worboys** and **Mike Tollefson**.

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.

Mountains Biome E-News Production

News Flash / UPDATE Production Editor
Linda McMillan
Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications
WCPA Mountains Biome

*Views looking east to Mono Lake from Mono Pass
(Yosemite NP),
an ancient transboundary route in the Sierra Nevada of
California*

