

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 60 - December 2008



Attendees of our Kathmandu Workshop came together from around the world to create more knowledge and guidance on Transboundary Conservation Management issues. We were inspired daily by the grandeur of the Himalayan views to think "beyond boundaries".

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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

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## IUCN - WCPA Vice Chairman

[Dr. Graeme Worboys](#)

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A message from E-News  
Production Editor  
[Linda McMillan](#)

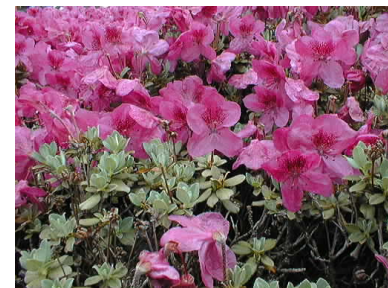
To prevent problems for our

## An excerpt appropriate to the financial crisis of the current times?

*Neither me nor my husband are economists, but we believe firmly that good memories are the soundest investment. That belief was our justification for setting out in 1950 on a major plant hunting expedition to the (mountainous) borders of Assam and Tibet, on a wicket that financially was none too sound. At the time we started there was a considerable gap between our estimated expenses and the funds we had to cover them. When we returned, after ten eventful months, the gap was wider.*

*Some would say we were improvident. Perhaps we were, but we have no cause to regret our improvidence, which as long as life lasts, will go on paying us rewarding tax-free dividends.*

**~Jean Kingdom-Ward: *My Hills So Strong*, Jonathan Cape, London, 1952**



## Greetings...

...from the WCPA Mountain Biome Executive Team of **Graeme**, **Linda**, **Fausto** and **Larry**...

### With Gratitude

On behalf of all the members of the Mountain Protected Areas Network, we wish to thank the **Wilburforce Foundation** again for their financial support which has largely met the expenses of producing and distributing **MtPA UPDATE** over the past year. *We would welcome any sources of support for 2009. No amount is too small, up to US\$500.*

*Note:* This issue is a bit shorter and a bit later coming out due to your Editor **Larry Hamilton** being in recovery from double knee replacement surgery and a broken thigh bone. Production was further delayed by **Linda McMillan**, who finally returned from Nepal (after the Mtns Biome workshop and the post-workshop Khumbu trek) on December 10th. The following week she had some previously-scheduled surgery on her knee and is recuperating. Apologies to our colleagues and friends for the delays.

## An Overview of 2008, especially Barcelona and Kathmandu Events

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.

## From **Graeme Worboys** Vice Chair (Mountains Biome) IUCN WCPA

Greetings to the WCPA Mountains Biome Network!

### Best Wishes for Speedy Recovery for Larry

My first thoughts at this time are for **Larry Hamilton**, our WCPA Senior Advisor, Update Editor and previous Mountains Biome (Vice Chair). **Larry** is on the mend following a two knee replacement operations and then, a serious accident and a leg break. We wish him well and a speedy recovery as he recuperates in hospital.

### 2008 Overview

The year 2008 has been a remarkable year! It has also been really busy, with all of the Mountains Biome Executive just downright supportive, and helpful. My huge thanks go to **Linda McMillan**, **Larry Hamilton** and **Fausto Sarmiento** for all of their work and a job well done! Our exceptionally high quality **UPDATE** quarterly newsletter (**Larry** and **Linda**) keeps being produced on time; our website is superb and current (**Linda**), and the support and help for the Barcelona and Kathmandu workshops (**Linda**) has been outstanding. Thank you team!

### Barcelona

At the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** at Barcelona in October 2008, full recognition was made for **Larry Hamilton's** remarkable volunteer contribution to IUCN over many years, and, in his absence, I had the privilege to receive his "**Honorary IUCN Member Certificate**" at the plenary session and in front of many thousands of IUCN conservation professionals. It was a special moment. Well done **Larry**!!

The IUCN Secretariat asked the Mountains Biome, to co-coordinate (with IUCN's **Bastian Bomhard**) a major Connectivity Conservation Workshop. The workshop was recognised as an inspiring success, with 300 to 400 people present. It included the premiere of a new 14-minute film on the **Australian Alps to Atherton Connectivity Corridor (A2A)** and speeches on major connectivity corridors; A2A; Y2Y and the Meso-American Corridor of South America and an interactive session. Our thanks are extended to our Master of Ceremonies Sally Barnes, Head of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change); our speakers Mr Bob Debus (Australia) [who very generously travelled to and from Barcelona especially for the speech]; **Dr Eduard Muller** (Costa Rica); and **Mr Harvey Locke** (Canada); and the behind the scenes team of **Bastian Bomhard**, **Linda McMillan**, and Sorrel Wilby of Australian Geographic (for the film production).

### Kathmandu

Immediately after our work in Barcelona, the Mountains Biome, in partnership with ICIMOD and WWF, conducted a Mountains Workshop on connectivity conservation and transboundary protected areas in Kathmandu in November. Thirty-six people participated (shown above in this issue's banner image), and contributed to reviewing some theoretical concepts for our new IUCN connectivity conservation book and helped develop very practical Workshop Action Statements for six large scale connectivity corridors. It was an inspiring Workshop, with a new Altai-Sayan corridor recommended (Well done to **Yuri Badenkov** and his group!) and important connectivity corridor expansions in the Himalayas at the China-Pakistan and China, India and Myanmar borders. It was a pleasure also to listen to the outstanding connectivity conservation work happening in Nepal's Terai Arc; the Albertine Rift (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda) and the Australian Alps to Atherton Corridors. Our special thanks go to **Rod Atkins** (Australian Alps Liaison Committee), Nakul Chettri (ICIMOD); **Trevor Sandwith** (WCPA, TNC); **Linda McMillan**; **Kathy MacKinnon** (World Bank); **Ghana Gurung** (WWF) and **Ashiq Khan** and many, many others for helping to make the Workshop a success.

### The Festive Season

As we approach the end of 2008 and the start of a new year, I would like to extend my very best



wishes to you all for the festive season and a wonderful 2009. It is great to work with you towards the conservation of Mountains. I look forward to working with you next year.

[Note -- A copy of Graeme's Report on the Transboundary Conservation Workshop can be downloaded from the Strategic Workshops section of our Mountains Biome website: <http://mountains-wcpa.org/> ]



## Some Awards of Interest at IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain

A lot of things happened at the **4th World Conservation Congress** in October in Barcelona. Among them, **Honorary IUCN Membership** was awarded to **Larry Hamilton** (accepted on his behalf by **Graeme Worboys**). This award "recognizes outstanding services to the conservation of nature and natural resources and is presented to two or three individuals at each Congress who have made exceptional contributions to furthering the goals of the Union."

Past recipients in the Mt PA Network include: **Adrian Phillips, Jan Cerovsky, Bing Lucas, Wolfgang Burhenne, Gerardo Budowski** and **Duncan Poore**. Other distinguished recipients include Maurice Strong, Sir Martin Holgate, Yolanda Kakabadse, Sir Peter Scott, Kai Curry-Lindahl and Sir Julian Huxley. **Larry** is honored and pleased, and thanks all who contributed to his nomination.

The **WCPA Fred Packard Award** was given in Barcelona to Network member **Moses Mapesa**. He is recognized, in part, because of his role in negotiating a working relationship between the **Ugandan Defense Force** and the **Wildlife Authority** during a period of serious civil strife. This enabled Park Rangers to work with the military who were occupying the Ugandan protected areas. Six other globally-outstanding individuals were recognized. We all send our congratulations to **Moses**.

## Nanda Devi National Park, Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site (India)

Nanda Devi (7,817 m) has long held a special place in the hearts of devotees of the Goddess of that name, and among mountaineers as a superb climbing experience. The summit is particularly venerated, and when first climbed, there is a story that the two British mountaineers stopped voluntarily short of the peak, as a gesture of respect. They were members of the Himalayan Club, and at that time it was the highest mountain then climbed. It was also two members of the Club (Shipton and Tillman) who played important roles in achieving protection for Nanda Devi, ultimately leading to its status as a National Park (1982) and then a World Heritage Site (1988).



The special nature of this mountain is partly captured by a set of statements produced by the Himalayan Club in their consideration of having a special relationship with Nanda Devi (from a report in 2008 of Himalayan Club activities by **Aamir Ali**) :

- It is a symbol of the wonders of the Himalaya.
- Of all the deities that inhabit the Himalaya, none is more beautiful, none so elegant and none so admired as Nanda Devi.
- She is a goddess and has been worshiped through the ages.
- Few mountaineers have seen it and failed to become instant devotees.
- For 50 million years it remained undisturbed by humans and its protected sanctuary (glacial basin) nurtured an unique ecosystem; only for the last 70 years has it offered access to its sanctuary, but this must not be abused.

**Nanda Devi NP** is 63,033 ha with its centerpiece of Nanda Devi itself, and surrounded by other spectacular peaks over 6,000-7,500 m in height. There is an Inner and Outer Sanctuary, divided by high ridges. The Inner Sanctuary contains the mountain itself with its two glaciers. The Biosphere Reserve contains also the adjacent **Valley of Flowers NP** and consists of a total area of 223,674 ha.

Access to the Sanctuary was banned in 1982 to protect its biodiversity from increasing numbers of trekkers. It has been re-opened to controlled visitation, using registered, local guides. This has helped to provide benefits to local communities.

## Partnership between Mercantour (France) and Alpi Marittime (Italy)

In this newsletter, we have often extolled the fine transboundary cooperation which has been achieved by these two Mt PAs. This was first initiated by the enthusiastic and dynamic partnership between **Marie-Odile Guth** (now Inspector General of Environment, France) and **Patrizia Rossi** (Director of Alpi Marittime, Italy).

A renewed partnership between the **National Park Mercantour** and the **Regional Park Alpi Marittime** was signed in Monaco by the Ministers of Environment from France and Italy and Prince Albert II from Monaco on September 19, 2008. Both parks have a long common border and they have been working closely together since 1987. The new partnership allows the realization of 4 new joint projects, strongly supported also by Monaco.

The first one aims to make a complete inventory of plants and animals in both parks. The second should strengthen the intention to become a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, based on a common administration. The third should develop a common tourism infrastructure, based on scientific studies and for a science-oriented tourism. The fourth is a proposal to sign the **European Charter of Sustainable Tourism** and to implement also a joint sustainable tourism initiative.

## A Few Facts About Biosphere Reserves

In connection with a paper I presented at an October meeting at the **Wasgau Border Forum** (Germany/France), on the topic "**How Can Biosphere Reserve Managers Address the Impacts of Climate Change and Global Warming: An Overview of Some Global Efforts**", I dug out some interesting data on the progress in **UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve** program.

There are 531 BRs in 105 countries: Australia 14, Pacific 3, Europe 193, North America 15 in Canada and 47 in the USA, Africa 69, Asia 98, Latin America and Caribbean 102, Arab States 24. It is estimated that 40% of these are in mountains (courtesy of **Thomas Schaaf, UNESCO**).

There is an official designation of "**Transboundary Biosphere Reserve**". There are only 7 of these: 5 in Europe and 2 in Africa. Several BRs abut each other on the border e.g. **Waterton/Glacier** on the Canada/USA border, but have not constituted themselves as a Transboundary BR. They are of course an International Peace Park, the world's first, and a World Heritage Site, but not a TBR.

Amid the current concern about climate change, and the "island" nature of many PAs, managers are pressured, and many are indeed attempting, to extend nature-friendly land management beyond the PA boundaries. This has been a WCPA program thrust for well over a decade. The BR concept with its "protected core" zone, around which is a "buffer" or "peripheral" zone in which conservation land practices are mandated or encouraged, offers a good model.

Much good material is at [www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml). A set of case studies of the 5 European TBRs is available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001321/132140eb.pdf>.

## More on European Wilderness

In an attempt to raise interest in the concept of wilderness in some of Europe's PAs, the **WILD Foundation** joined with **PAN Parks** and **Spatenhof** to endorse an 11-day tour of some of the wilder areas within 4 PAs in Central and Eastern Europe (Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Czech Republic). **The Wild Europe Tour** last September/October offered cultural heritage as well as visits with PA managers in the following areas: **Swiss NP, Stilfser NP** (Italy), **Bavarian Forest NP** (Germany), **Sumava NP** (Czech Republic). In addition there was exposure to **Kerwendel Nature Area** in Austria. The tour was organized by Eco Reisen: [www.eco-reisen.de](http://www.eco-reisen.de).

# Kanchenjunga: Connectivity Conservation in the Himalaya



Featured at the Mountains Biome workshop, and in a previous article in *Mountain Research and Development* (27:3, 2007) was a connectivity corridor in the Kanchenjunga Landscape, the particular project of **Nakul Chettri** and **Eklabya Sharma**. It is of unusual interest, since its nucleus is the transboundary **Mount Kanchenjunga PA** which was the passion of our late great colleague **Mingma Sherpa**.

It is pointed out that there are 9 different protected areas ranging from **Kanchenjunga Conservation Area** and **Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve** to **Kyongnosia Alpine Sanctuary** (Sikkim, India) to **Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve** (part of **Jingme Dorji NP** in Bhutan). There are possibilities of connecting these by 6 corridors. Within these, human communities are gradually participating fully to develop nature-friendly land management practices such as forest restoration on degraded lands, medicinal plant cultivation, agroforestry and organic farming. **ICIMOD** is supporting this as a 3-country regional strategy to implement the **Convention on Biological**

## Diversity.

This Mountains Biome event was followed by one focused on *Linking Geodata with Biodiversity Information* organized by the **Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment** and **ICIMOD** November 15-16. This was followed by an **ICIMOD** conference on *Biodiversity Conservation and Management for Enhanced Ecosystem Services: Responding to the Challenge of Global Change* (November 16-18). A post-conference workshop organized by **UNESCO-MAB** followed on November 19, with a focus on *Research Strategy on Global Change in Mountain Biosphere Reserves*. November 20-25, a field trip was instituted by **GLORIA** and **ICIMOD**, to locate **GLORIA** target regions in Nepal.

## Mt PAs, Tourism and Climate Change

New Zealander **Rodney Garrard** is undertaking the academic life again and is working on an interesting research project at the University of Berne. It explores the impacts and implications of tourism in light of climate change in Mt PAs, using Sagarmatha NP as a case study.

Despite the significance of the mountain-based tourism industry to the Nepalese economy and the obvious interrelationship with climate, to date, little information has been published on the potential impacts of climate change and its potential effects on people's livelihoods in the Himalayan region, some of which may be substantial. Mt PAs in developing countries are poorly placed to respond to a projected increase in mountain-based tourism in the face of global climate change.

Thus, the primary aim of his research is identifying the vulnerability, and implications of climate change for sustainable tourism in **Sagarmatha NP** (such as in the rapidly growing town of Dingboche, shown here). The secondary aim of this research is utilizing the research findings to generate a portfolio of anticipatory adaptation strategies, specific to **Sagarmatha NP**. This research links with the **Global Alpine Conservation Partnership (ACP)** thereby adding to the existing case studies of Mt PAs, describing commonalities, uniqueness, and lessons that can be transferred as part of the ACP, which is crucial for achieving long-term sustainability of such regions. ACP is a joint venture between **The Mountain Institute** and **The American Alpine Club**, under the leadership of **Alton Byers**, who is co-supervisor of the research. **Rodney** welcomes questions or comments at [www.garrard.co.nz](http://www.garrard.co.nz).



The WCPA Mountain Biome's next major workshop event (in China, late 2009) will focus on tourism in Mt PAs. See our website for further details: <http://mountains-wcpa.org>

# Strategies for PA Managers in the Face of Climate Change to Promote Resilience

In connection with a keynote paper which I prepared for the Wasgau Border Forum (Germany/France) last October, I decided to develop a one-page summary message. Thinking that it might be of interest to some readers of **UPDATE**, I reproduce it below. I was stimulated to do this by a small box in an article in the most recent **George Wright FORUM** entitled "**Protected Area Stewardship in an Era of Global Environmental Change**".

My list:

- **Inventory.** Conduct all taxa surveys to know what you have. Be alert for unusual sites/natural communities.
- **Sustain the slow variables** (e.g. soil resources and the species gene pool) that accumulate slowly and provide buffers.
- **Relieve the stresses that drive change** (e.g. pests, invasive plant and animal species, pollution).
- **Increase the effective size of the protected area where and when possible** (e.g. enlarged core protection zone, enlarged buffer zone of nature-friendly land use).
- **Build linkages across multiple scales from hedgerows to landscape-scale connectivity corridors** (Stepping stones may also be valuable.)
- **In connection with connectivity, think big - bioregionally, even at continental scale.**
- **Protect altitudinal gradients.**
- **Cooperate to develop common approaches with adjacent or nearby protected areas. Transborder cooperation is especially important.**
- **Sustain both ecological legacies** (e.g. old growth forest, woody debris) **and cultural legacies** (e.g. peoples' connection to the land).
- **Restore or facilitate recovery of missing keystone species** (e.g. wolf, beaver).
- **Develop flexibility and ability to move in new directions as scenarios change. Employ adaptive management. Treat crises as opportunities for constructive change.**
- **Think outside the box.**
- **Increase interchange with and education of stakeholders about planned interventions.**

## Wildlands Project to Wildlands Network (USA)

**The Wildlands Project** (USA) has been in the forefront of the push in North America for connectivity on a bioregional, large-landscape scale. It promoted the grand vision of 25 large corridors and complexes as early as the mid-1990s. These included such well-known initiatives as **Yellowstone-to-Yukon**, **Paseo Pantera** (now the **Meso-American Biological Corridor**), **Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project**, **Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project**, and **Sky Islands**. Several of these have been consolidated into one grand "**Spine of the Continent Initiative**" spanning some 8,000 km (5,000 miles) from Alaska's Brooks Range to the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico.

It has just changed its name to **Wildlands Network** to recognize a new phase of its mission. Next January, it will host a **Western Conservation Summit** to refine its proposed strategy for this ambitious Spine initiative.

## One Small Step for Climbers - One Giant Leap for Science



In September 2008 climbers from The American Alpine Club (AAC) donated their time and talents as Volunteers-in-Parks to help scientists from the National Park Service (NPS) literally "reach new heights" of lichen sampling techniques on the vertical cliffs of Yosemite NP. This innovative park stewardship project is part of the **National All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory**.

It utilized the low-cost, highly productive collaboration between rangers and climbers in Yosemite to increase the NPS' knowledge of species in Yosemite. This will help the NPS achieve their goals of understanding and effectively responding to impacts such as air pollution and climate change on the park's natural resources. Funding for the scientists and analysis was provided by **The Yosemite Fund** and **Centennial Challenge 2008**, part of the Centennial Initiative of the NPS to celebrate its centenary in 2016.

The project also gives climbers, who have historically been leaders in mountain conservation around the world (such as

Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir), the chance to become very valuable long-term "citizen scientists" in the parks they enjoy and cherish. It also shows land managers that climbers and other recreationists can be an unique and valuable part of the solution to understanding and protecting parks, wilderness, and wild lands around the world.

In the image above, an AAC climber helps NPS scientist Martin Hutten rappel down Vernal Falls during the seasonal low water stage to retrieve samples of lichens from the dramatic multi-colored streaks on this 100m wall. Scientists had previously thought these streaks were caused by minerals in the river water. One pollution-intolerant lichen thought to exist only in another part of California, *Altextoria sarmentosa*, was discovered on the Yosemite cliffs. According to Dr Niki Nicholas, Chief of Natural and Cultural Resources in Yosemite, about 100 unfamiliar species found among the lichen samples collected during the project could yield more rare or unique species, noting that "Already we have doubled the number of species known to be here, but we know we have lots more."

Projects such as the Yosemite Lichen Inventory demonstrate how rangers and other land managers can effectively preserve and protect ecosystems with protected area stakeholders, like recreationists. You can see more images from the project plus a video clip at: <http://lindamcmillan.info/climbers-stewards/>

## Bits and Pieces

We have previously had several items about the open conflict between India and Pakistan over the border at the **Siachen Glacier**, and of proposals for an International Peace Park or Science Peace Park made by **Aamir Ali, Harish Kapadia** and **Saleem Ali, Jim Thorsell** and **Larry Hamilton**. For those interested in the details of the struggle over this area, a recent book has appeared: **Heights of Madness: One Woman's Journey in Pursuit of a Secret War**. It is by Myra MacDonald who for many years was Reuters correspondent in Delhi. 242. pages. Rupa and Co., New Delhi. (Rs 395). After some initial promising beginnings of agreement between the two countries in 2006-07, things have stalled. What a pity!

**Mount Tongariro NP** (New Zealand)and **World Heritage Site** has initiated an exchange program with **Mount Fuji**, reports **Paul Green** in a recent World Heritage document. This is particularly relevant because of the strong spiritual values of both PAs. **Tongariro** was the first site to be inscribed (1993) under both cultural and natural landscape criteria. Exchanges are also taking place with some Australian cultural sites.



While **Virunga NP** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is beset with civil strife and lawlessness, and there have been killings of the wonderful mountain gorillas, there is some good news. In spite of the terrible problems, the rare **okapi** (shown right) has not only been sighted, but photographed. These are the first photographs of this rear-end striped animal in the wild. It is more evidence that mountain wild lands are often the last bastions of rare upland plant and animal species, -- treasurehouses of biodiversity.



**ALPARC (Alpine Network of Protected Areas)**, with over 300 areas) has developed a virtual tour of protected areas in the European Alps and is providing this to many of the visitor centers in this mountain region. It is available in five languages. For English, see Google Earth [www.alparc.org/visiteE.html](http://www.alparc.org/visiteE.html). For other languages, substitute for the E the appropriate letter: D for Deutsch, F for French, I for Italian and S for Slovenian.

At the March meeting of the Standing Committee of **The Alpine Convention**, special concern was raised over use of motorized land and air vehicles in the Alpine region. All 8 member states are to undertake studies of the situation.

Further honors for our colleague **Dawa Steven Sherpa** who was selected as one of the five top Young Conservationists of the World this year by **IUCN** and the **International Ranger Federation**. Meanwhile, his father Ang Tshering Sherpa is bringing together participants from the 20 countries of the **Union of Asian Alpine Associations** for a climbing expedition in Nepal in early 2009. See [www.asian-trekking.com](http://www.asian-trekking.com). Both were active during the Mountain Biome Workshop in Kathmandu in November.

**Australia's Great Eastern Ranges ... Our Vision to Protect Them Forever**, a visual on the "Alps to Atherton Conservation Corridor", was presented at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress** to wide acclaim, and was shown again to inspire participants at the November Connectivity Conservation Management Workshop in Kathmandu. **Graeme Worboys, Ian Pulsford**, and their colleagues are to be congratulated for this amazing initiative.

The latest issue of the **IUCN Bulletin** contained a roster, short write-up and photos (in psychedelic colors) of 20 "**Earth Movers**" ([http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/issue3\\_wc\\_earth.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/issue3_wc_earth.pdf)). These are persons who "are driving conservation at all levels from the village to the international policy arena." **Larry Hamilton** was one of these, recognized for "Moving Mountains", as was Graeme Kelleher ("Guardian of the Oceans"), former leader of WCPA's Marine Biome and Larry's jesting "arch rival". It is very gratifying to see hard work recognized and appreciated.

We have benefited from and much enjoyed receiving the newsletter **Russian Conservation News** for many years. It too has had to cut costs. It is now available as a download at [www.actr.org/newsDetail.php?news\\_id+MTg1](http://www.actr.org/newsDetail.php?news_id+MTg1). It is edited by Judith Deane for the **American Councils for International Education**.

**The African Wildlife Foundation** has a new Regional Director for Eastern Africa in the person of **Sam Kanyamibwa**. Fortunately for the **Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)**, Sam will continue to provide support as Secretary to the Board. To learn more about **AWF**, see [www.awf.org](http://www.awf.org).

**The Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre** is pressing for the establishment of 50 km-wide buffer zones around 7 Rocky Mountain NPs: **Banff, Yoho, Jasper, Kootenay, Glacier, Mount Revelstoke, and Waterton**. It bases this on the inadequate size of these PAs to maintain healthy populations of wolves, and to provide linkages that would facilitate gene flow among populations in Canada, and across the US border.

We must all applaud the government of **Ecuador** which has this past fall approved anew constitution that grants inalienable rights to nature. "Nature ... where life is reproduced and exists, has the right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structure, functions, and its processes in evolution. Every person, people, community or nationality will be able to demand the recognition of rights for nature before public bodies." WOW!! It also states that the State "will apply precaution and restriction measures in all activities that can lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of the ecosystems, or the permanent alteration of the natural cycles." WOW again!!

**Frans Neuman**, Executive Secretary of **The Mountain Forum Secretariat**, has joined our MtPA Network, and will repair the chain linking the two networks that has been broken recently due to personnel changes. Welcome **Frans**. Other recently added members include: **Shubash Lohani** (World Wildlife Fund - Eastern Himalayas), **April Johnston** (American Wildlands), **Don Weedon** (Weedon Foundation), **Michael Lockwood** (University of Tasmania), **Neil Berne** (Wilderness Scotland), returning member **Adriana Dinu** (UNDP/GEF Regional Advisor, Slovakia), **Michael Tollefson** (The Yosemite Fund), and **Lakew Berhanu** (Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Department).

## Some Recent Publications of Interest

**Mountain Gorillas: Biology, Conservation and Coexistence.** 2008 by Gene Eckhart and Annette Lanjouw. Johns Hopkins University Press. [www.press.jhu.edu](http://www.press.jhu.edu). It is difficult not to be enchanted with and concerned about these famous icons that inhabit the Virunga mountains, and whose welfare depends on Mountain PAs.

**Diccionario de la Biodiversidad.** 2008 by **Maarten Kapelle**. A valuable contribution to conservation in Spanish-speaking countries. Editorial INBio with 5 supporting organizations including The Nature Conservancy. [www.inbio.ac.cr/editorial](http://www.inbio.ac.cr/editorial). 385 pp; well illustrated with color photos. This is a major life's labor by one of our MtPA Network members.

**Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems.** 2003. Hansen *et al.* Though not recent, this is an excellent manual. See and download sections on Forests and Montane from the WWF website [www.panda.org/news\\_facts/publications](http://www.panda.org/news_facts/publications). Then, under Environmental and Conservation publications, search for "Climate change" month of September 2003.

## 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

**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](http://www.georgewright.org).

**International Conference on Indigenous Sacred and Cultural Sites.** April 5-11, 2009 in Cuzco, Peru. Organized by Yachay Wasi (House of Learning in Quechua), an NGO based in New York and Cuzco. Details at [www.fsd.nl/csvpa/76940](http://www.fsd.nl/csvpa/76940). This is supported by the **WCPA Task Force on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas**. Since so many sacred sites are in mountains, this is of special interest to our Network.

**Second DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference.** October 13-16, 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa. Biodiversity and society: understanding connections, adapting to change. First call for paper proposals deadline has passed, but see [www.diversitas-osc.org](http://www.diversitas-osc.org).

**IUCN/WCPA Mountains Biome, "Mountain Ecotourism Management Workshop".** October 2009 in **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](http://www.wild9.org).



**Mountains Biome E-News Production  
News Flash / UPDATE Production Editor**

Linda McMillan

Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications, WCPA Mountains Biome

*After our Transboundary Conservation Workshop in November, WCPA Mountains Biome trekkers explored the Khumbu region of Nepal to learn more about Sagarmatha National Park's precious natural and cultural resources and what is being done to protect this World Heritage Site. Bruce and Margaret Jeffries (far right) were our expert subject and site guides, while Kathmandu-based Asian Trekking provided great logistical support.*