



Dr Graeme L. Worboys, Vice Chair IUCN WCPA Mountains Biome  
3 Rischbieth Crescent, Gilmore, ACT, 2905, Australia  
Tel/Fax +61 (0)2 62929908; E-mail: g.worboys@bigpond.com  
[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org) ; [www.mountains-wcpa.org](http://www.mountains-wcpa.org)

29<sup>th</sup> April 2009

---

## 2008 WCPA Mountain Biome Theme Report

### A report on activities and accomplishments

This is an annual report of activities and accomplishments of the IUCN WCPA Mountains Biome Theme for the period **January-December 2008**.

#### Appreciation

Once again my special thanks go to Deputy Vice Chairs Linda McMillan (LM), Fausto Sarmiento (FS), and Senior Advisor to WCPA (and Update editor) Larry Hamilton (LH) for their outstanding efforts over the last 12 months (and for the entire 2004-2008 IUCN appointment period).

Special mention is deserved by our Mountains Biome volunteers and supporters who successfully represented WCPA and contributed important input at these major events during 2008:

- February - Madrid: *UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Conference*, (Graeme and Eduard Muller)
- May- Banff, Canada: *Understanding and Managing Amenity-led Migration in Mountain Regions*, LM
- July - Bozeman, Montana USA: *30th Anniversary of American Wildlands* celebration conference (Harvey Locke and Miquel Rafa)
- October - Barcelona: *IUCN World Conservation Congress* (Sally Barnes, Bob Debus, Harvey Locke, Linda McMillan, Eduard Muller, Miquel Rafa and Sorrel Wilby)
- November - Dhulikhel, Nepal: *Transboundary and Connectivity Conservation Workshop* run by our Mountains Biome team and Mountains Network members (Rod Atkins, Nakul Chettri, Wendy Francis, Michael Lockwood, Linda McMillan, Trevor Sandwith and Eklabya Sharma).

Our sponsors and supporters played a significant role in helping to achieve many initiatives during 2008, and we extend our special thanks to the **Australia Committee for IUCN** (Pam Eiser); **Australian Geographic** (Sorrel Wilby); the **Australia Region of IUCN WCPA** (Penny Figgis); the **Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society** (Chris Miller); the **East Africa Wildlife Society** (Ali Kaka); the **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development** (Nakul Chettri, Andreas Schild and Eklabya Sharma); **NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change** (Sally Barnes, Lisa Corbyn Ian Pulsford, Amy Roberts and Simon Smith); **The Nature Conservancy** (Ian Dutton and Trevor Sandwith); **The Wilburforce Foundation** (Jennifer Miller and Gary Tabor); **The Wilderness Society** (Lyndal Spear, Alex Marr and Virginia Young); **The World Bank** (Kathy McKinnon); and, the **World Wide Fund For Nature-Nepal** (Gharna Gurung and Jon Miceler).

The assistance of the staff of IUCN's Programme on Protected Areas for implementing all aspects of the Mountains Biome volunteer action was especially appreciated and in particular (in 2008) David Sheppard; Joanna Erfeni; Pedro Rosabel; Ann Erb; Delwyn Dupuis; Peter Shadie; Tim Badman and Bastian Bomhard.

Thanks also go to our very supportive 380 plus mountain protected area network members who have helped in multiple ways during the year.

Graeme L. Worboys, Vice Chair Mountains Biome, IUCN WCPA  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2008 was extraordinarily intensive with some outstanding highlights. These were:

- Special recognition by IUCN of our Mountains Biome champion Larry Hamilton as "**Honorary Member of IUCN**" for his extraordinary contribution to conservation and especially mountain protected areas at the Barcelona World Conservation Congress (WCC) in October. Larry was also named by IUCN as one of its 20 Global Earth Movers;
- The successful adoption of an **Ecological Networks - Connectivity Conservation Resolution** sponsored by the WCPA Mountains Biome (and eventually co-sponsored as a combined resolution with like-minded people) at the October WCC;
- The creation and successful **World Premiere of *Our Great Eastern Ranges***, a 14 minute film shown at the WCC about the Australian Alps to Atherton Connectivity Corridor. This is an IUCN WCPA-NSW DECC-Australian Geographic partnership film;
- The running of a very successful **Connectivity Conservation Workshop** at the WCC in partnership with the IUCN Secretariat; and
- The running of a very successful IUCN WCPA - ICIMOD - WWF **Transboundary and Connectivity Conservation Workshop** in Dhulikhel, Nepal.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WCPA AND MOUNTAINS BIOME STRATEGIC PLANS

The Mountains Biome Strategic Plan, a more detailed derivative of the IUCN WCPA 2005-2012 Plan, continued to be implemented throughout 2008 by the Mountains Team. (A complete description for the 4 year period 2005-2008 has been provided in a separate document). Some specific 2008 highlights include:

### 1. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (*Connectivity conservation*)

- Connectivity Conservation: regular input as a member of the NSW Environmental Trust Great Eastern Ranges Connectivity Corridor Subcommittee (This is the NSW part of A2A) (GW);
- Work on finalizing the book manuscript: "Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide" for Earthscan, to be published in 2009 (GW, Wendy Francis, Mike Lockwood)
- Co-author for a report: "Connectivity Conservation and The Great Eastern Ranges Corridor" (Mackey Watson and Worboys) to be published by NSW DECC in 2009 (GW)
- Keynote address, Alps to Atherton Connectivity Conservation, Australia, Wildlands 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Bozeman Montana, July 2008 (GW)
- Keynote address, "Connectivity Conservation", Taipei International Workshop on Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation, East Asia, Taipei, Taiwan, September 2008 (GW)
- Author of a book chapter on Children and Work in the French edition of the book "Enfants des Montagnes du Monde" printed by Editorial Glenat, Grenoble, edited by Prof, Bernard Debarbieux. (FS).
- Author of a book chapter on "Agrobiodiversity in the farmscapes of the Quijos River in the Tropical Andes of Ecuador" in the first volume of the series Protected Landscapes and Seascapes, on the theme "Protected Landscapes and Agrobiodiversity Values" published by IUCN-GTZ. (FS).
- Co-author of a book chapter on "Sacred Imbakucha: Intangibles in the Conservation of Cultural Landscapes in Ecuador" in the second volume of the series Protected Landscapes and Seascapes on "Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Landscapes" published by IUCN and GTZ. (FS).

- Running of the *Connectivity Conservation Workshop* at the IUCN Barcelona WCC workshop in partnership with IUCN Secretariat (GW, LM, Bastian Bomhard, Eduard Muller, Bob Debus, Harvey Locke)
- Running of the November 2008 Dhulikhel, Nepal Transboundary and Connectivity Conservation workshop (GW, LM, Rod Atkins, Nakul Chettri, Wendy Francis, Mike Lockwood, Trevor Sandwith)
- Participate at the "two countries-one forest" connectivity conservation meeting, Vermont-Quebec border, Northern Appalachians BioRegion, March 2008 (LH)
- Keynote presentation at the Wasgau Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Forum, Fischbein, Germany, October 21-24 2008. "How can Biosphere Reserve managers address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity: an overview of some global efforts" (LH)
- Presenter, Panel Discussion Moderator, and member of the Organizing Committee of the Banff Sustainable Mountain Communities international conference in May 2008 entitled "Understanding and Managing Amenity-led Migration in Mountain Regions". Gave presentation on "Turning Mountain Migrants into Mountain Stewards: Best Practices, Future Promise in Bridging Stakeholder Divides" which was also published as part of the conference Proceedings. Moderated a Panel Discussion of Mayors representing major mountain cities of the world (LM)
- Keynote Speaker and workshop Moderator at the Mountains of the World: Conservation, Ecology and Sustainable Development conference in February 2008, in the Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman. Book with proceedings has been produced edited by Prof. Victor, conference convener (FS)

## 2. **Science and management**

- Co-organiser for the third IUCN WCPA (Mountains Biome)-Australian Alps workshop on "Science and Management" in May 2008 for the theme "tourism management". The meeting was very successful with about 80 park staff from two Australian States and a Territory attending (GW)
- Science Advisory Board Member representing the International Human Dimension Program (IHDP) of the International Program on Global Environmental Change (IPGC) of the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) headquartered at the University of Bern, Switzerland to promote research outreach on mountains, particularly as it relates to the strategy for Global Climate Change in Mountains Regions (GLOCHAMORE). (FS).
- Organized, led, and helped to publicize worldwide a month-long "citizen scientist" project in Yosemite National Park in collaboration with the National Park Service and The American Alpine Club. This biodiversity stewardship project, part of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, fosters better understanding of impacts from climate change. It focused on sampling and assessing lichen populations on the park's vertical landscapes, and received attention from over 1,000 news outlets around the world, including Discovery Channel and the International Herald Tribune. (LM)
- Facilitated and participated in post-workshop educational trek through the Everest region after the Transboundary and Connectivity Conservation Workshop in Nepal in late 2008. After the trek, collaborated with Mtns Network member Dawa Steven Sherpa of Nepal to find logistical support for proposed Mountain Ecotourism Workshop in the future. Strong interest has been expressed by leaders from Sikkim. (LM)
- As part of the California Recreational Resource Advisory Committee, investigated new, low cost technologies for personalized human waste containment systems ("pack it in, pack it out"). Discovered and promoted to top federal land managers a system produced by a Climbing Ranger at the US Forest Service in the Mount Shasta area of northern California. His locally-produced system uses "off the shelf" ingredients and employs local mentally-challenged citizens to put

them together. It has a net cost of US \$0.60 per unit and has been widely accepted and appreciated by hikers and climbers in the Mount Shasta region.

### 3. Capacity building

- Montane Cloud Forest speech, Talamanca National Park, Panama (LH)
- Itinerary planning of 4 protected areas and the Smithsonian Research Station, Baro Colorado, January 2009 (LH)
- Preparation of four issues of the highly regarded Network quarterly "e-Update" for approximately 400 mountain biome members plus the WCPA executive during 2008 (LH)
- Forest training session, data base and GIS, Northern Appalachian BioRegion (LH)
- Northeast Alpine Stewardship Conference, Arcadia National Park, Minimizing impacts on fragile summit areas, June 2008 (LH)
- Editing work on a new book "Mountains in the Mist" to be published in 2009 (LH)
- Continued expanding and upgrading of the WCPA Mountains Biome Web site ([www.mountains-wcpa.org](http://www.mountains-wcpa.org)). Reserved additional domains to facilitate establishing in 2009 additional, affiliated websites or website sections focused on connectivity conservation, mountain protection, and citizen science. (LM)
- Began (starting Dec. 2007) electronic composition and distribution of Larry Hamilton's outstanding quarterly "Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE" newsletter; composed and distributed additional electronic News Flashes and Alerts when needed throughout the year, some targeted to distinct membership segments such as workshop attendees and various regions of the world (LM)
- At the invitation of Dr. Fausto Sarmiento, participated in a "tele-learning" session via Skype with his Mountain Geography students at the University of Georgia.
- Facilitated an on-site meeting for Graeme with Mike Tollefson and other leaders and top scientists in Yosemite National Park in July 2008 to discuss valuable collaboration opportunities with IUCN-WCPA projects.
- Collaborated with two WCPA task forces and continue to strongly promote young conservation leaders. Helped to facilitate press conference for the Task Force for Cities and Protected Areas at the WCC in Barcelona. Also gave a presentation on "Recreationists as Citizen Scientists" at their WCC session. Gave guidance to Steven McCool about establishing and publishing an electronic version of the quarterly newsletter of the Tourism Task Force.
- I continually promote the importance of including Youth in conservation efforts to sustain work in the future. Successfully promoted Dawa Steven Sherpa as a leading Young Conservationist. He was chosen and recognized as one of the top 5 Young Conservationists of the world by IUCN for 2008.(LM)
- Elected President of the Mountain Protection Commission of the UIAA, the International Mountaineering Federation. This will allow me to advance work on development of the proposed melting glaciers and climate change web-site projects in 2009.(LM)
- Guest Editor for PIRINEOS, the Journal of Mountain Ecology, special issue 163, on Global Change and Landscape Transformation in the Andes. (FS).
- Regional Editor for Latin America for the International Journal Mountain Research and Development, 2008 was the last year that the Journal appeared in printed format; starting 2009, MRD will become an open journal with free internet access. (FS).
- Member of the Advisory Board for Pirineos, the Journal of Mountain Ecology, with headquarters at the Institut of Pirenaic Ecology, in Jaca, Spain. (FS).
- Creation of the Americas Cordillera Transect (ACT) Network, within the structure of the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI). This virtual network keeps mountain scholars in the

Americas abreast with Newsflashes and Updates in relation to both physical and social science research on the Global Climate Change in Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE). (FS)

### **Publications**

Hamilton, L. (2008) 'A grand vision for the Region' (Greater Northern Appalachian Bioregion), *Northern Woodlands*, Spring, p12

Hamilton, L. (2008) 'Forests and Water', *Forestry paper 155*, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome 78p

Hamilton, L. (2008) 'Why protect mountain areas: a global perspective. Fjallenberor till falls', *Yearbook of Swedish Mountain Society*

Sarmiento, F. (With Aqsa Mahmud). 2008. Changing the role of rural women in Punjab Province, Pakistan. *Geographische Rundschau 4 (2): 4-9.*

Sarmiento, F. (With Debarbieux, B., S. Brunnel, H. Gumuchan, P.S. Ramakhrisnan, and V. Pototskaya (2008). *Enfants des Montagnes du Monde*. Editorial Glenat: Grenoble. 160pp