

Mountain Protected Areas Update - 1 September 1999

*Lawrence S. Hamilton, Vice-Chair for Mountains
World Commission on Protected Areas/IUCN*

*Among the wild mountains shall still be my path,
Ilk stream foaming down its ain green narrow strath;
For there wi' my lassie, the day long I rove.
--Robert Burns*

Readers will pardon, I hope, a little emphasis on Scotland in this issue. In July, with my lassie Linda, indeed did I roam among the Scottish Highlands for a wee bit. With some members of the Scottish "mountain mafia", and on our own, we got a taste of these low, but impressive mountains of the Scottish Highlands. We congratulate our Scottish friends on the announced establishment of the first two National Parks under the new Scottish government. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs will become official on April 1, 2001 and Cairngorms on April 1, 2002 (the Year of Mountains). We explored both of these with excellent guides, and send our thanks to Scottish MtPA Network members John Foster, Dick Balharry, Dave Morris, Alan Blackshaw and Duncan Poore, and to John Mackay and Robert Aitken for their advice. The Network "works"! And, although the mountains are not cloud piercers, they are certainly grand and glorious.

"Virgin" Forest Area in Turkey

We welcome to the Mt PA Network our first member from Turkey, Mrs. Emil Anil, who is the Director of International Relations for the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA). Under the latter function, they have a project in the mountain area known as the Camili and Kaagol. Its original fauna and flora are relatively intact and the area has the remnant of the region's conifer forests. It adjoins the border with the State of Georgia. TEMA is trying to reduce pressure on the area by stimulating alternative income earning activities for the 3,000 villagers living in the vicinity. Nature-based tourism and development of bed and breakfasts are being promoted by TEMA. Also being fostered are: carpet production, trout farming and growing of medicinal and cosmetic plants indigenous to the area. Bee farming and honey production are being increased. And this is the focus of some interest, since the indigenous queen bee of the Caucasus region remains in "pure" state (genetically unaltered) in the area, particularly on the Georgian side in the Macahel area. Editor's note: This all sounds like a fine opportunity for a transfrontier protected area, and cooperation in managing resources.

We extend on behalf of the Network our deep sympathy over the earthquake tragedy which so recently had a truly devastating effect on Turkey. The poor maps I have would indicate that the fault line runs close along the Kuzey Anadolu Daglari mountain range whose eastern extent is in the area above, though the epicenter was in western Turkey. TEMA projects will be strongly affected throughout the country. Our best wishes are with our colleagues there.

Charter of Mt. Fuji, Japan

Susumu Takahashi, Regional Director, National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Environment Agency, Japan

Mt. Fuji, famous for its excellent shape, is designated as a national park, and is the highest mountain (3,776 m) in Japan. It attracts nearly 300,000 people to the top every year, including many foreigners. The large number of

tourists causes some serious problems such as litter and pollution by sewage from public toilets. To manage a national park, cooperation is essential between the Environment Agency (park authority), the other ministries (such as Forest Agency), local governments, local communities and private sector. Many national parks in Japan include private land, national forest, which is managed by Forest Agency.

In 1995 Environment Agency established a consortium to deal with these problems by cooperating with local governments and communities. In November 1998, Yamanashi and Shizuoka prefecture governments advocated a Charter for Mt. Fuji which consists of five codes aimed at handing over beautiful Mt. Fuji to future generations. The first meeting for enacting the charter was held in June 1999. Several activities were discussed and adopted to conserve nature in the Mt. Fuji area. Main activities are: cleaning up litter; coping with sewage from cottages and public toilets; reforestation; and public awareness. Control of the number of visitors is problematic because of current free access to the park. The Mt. Fuji project has just been launched and success is sincerely hoped for because Mt. Fuji is a symbol of Japan. Thanks to Susumu for sending in this material.

More on Problem of Access to "Fragile" Mountain Areas

Taken from an article by Jurg Meyer of Swiss Alpine Club, sent in by Aamir Ali

Increasing conflicts between climbers claiming the right to use any rock face available, and naturalists who want to protect a biotope, the Swiss Alpine Club, interested in both aspects, has had to adopt positions; it is sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other. It is now setting up a Commission of experts which could intervene in cases of serious conflict. It would include climbers, naturalists, legal experts. It would define the position of SAC. In May 1998, representatives of the European Federations of Alpinism and Rock Climbing of the UIAA held a seminar in Barcelona with representatives of the IUCN. The aim was to find common principles for rock climbing in medium mountains in Europe. In short, the principles are what the SCA believes: fair sharing, no global restrictions. Rules and restrictions should result from cooperative efforts between climbers, defenders of nature and local authorities. Even though Switzerland does not belong to the EU, it should support these principles. (See the recent UIAA/IUCN bulletin under the Publications of Interest section.)

Vanoise National Park, France

The last issue of UPDATE carried a brief article on Italy's Gran Paradiso National Park. Across the border in France and abutting it lies the oldest National Park in France, Vanoise. The Director, Emmanuel de Guillebon sent us a brief description of this extremely fine mountain area in the European Alps, and the following is taken from his text.

Created in 1963, Vanoise National Park was the first in France. This exceptional alpine natural heritage has a protected central zone of 53,000 ha. The high valleys of Maurienne and Tarentaise, which are the limits of the Vanoise, represent the peripheral zone of 145,000 ha, with 28 villages. The Park is a public service under the aegis of the Minister of Environment. The alpine ibex, which was disappearing, was key to creation of the park. In addition to the preservation of this animal, the Park has adopted 3 objectives: 1) The preservation of nature in a delimited territory, so that future generations can enjoy intact nature; consequently, regulations forbid the violation of the central zone; as a living laboratory, the Park makes regular observations and scientific research in order to improve knowledge of the species and to elaborate models of management of nature. 2) To welcome and to put this heritage at the people's disposal so that they are educated to a respect of nature; 600 km of sign-posted paths and about 40 refuges of which 18 belong to the park, allow the visitors to discover freely this exceptional area; in addition, the rangers of the park provide guided hikes and meetings during which the Park and its missions are presented (slide show). 3) To encourage the villages toward a more controlled and respectful development of the environment.

The promotion of tourism dedicated to nature, the support of local agriculture and the preservation of traditional housing are the main objectives of the Park in its association with local communities and partners, in order to conserve the natural and cultural aspects of the Vanoise. Transborder cooperation with Gran Paradiso in Italy has been successful in restoring the ibex to viable populations.

GLORIA - A Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments

MtPAs constitute the best sites for long-term monitoring of climate change, for alpine vegetation is particularly sensitive to warming and changes in snow cover, and human interference is less. Network members carrying out alpine vegetation research or having PAs where such research is on-going, should be aware of GLORIA. It was initiated by the Austrian IGBP/GCTE research at the University of Vienna and has become a global initiative. It focuses on Target Regions in all major mountain systems having natural environments from treeline upward through lower alpine belt to the nival belt within a relatively small area. GLORIA aims to establish a network of permanent observation sites in a global transect over major zoniomes. Any Network member having candidate sites or already having such vegetation study plots is invited to contact: Professor Georg Grabherr, Dept. of Vegetation Ecology and Conservation Biology, University of Vienna, Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Vienna, Austria. gloria@pflaphy.pph.univie.ac.at.

Tajikistan Association on Protection of Forests and Wild Animals

Tajikistan is a mountainous country with absolute altitudes from 300 to 7495 m. 93% of its territory is covered with mountain systems, and nearly half of the Republic is situated over 3000m above sea level. The intricate relief and great amplitude of the mountain systems produce a great diversity of flora and fauna. The flora of Tajikistan includes more than 4000 species of higher plants, among which are many endemics. 226 rare and disappearing plants have already entered the Red Data Book of Tajikistan. Forests primarily grow at the altitude of 1000-3000m. There are many valuable wood trees, fruit trees and shrubs in them such as pistachio, walnuts, alycha, juniper, almond, Turkestan maple, eastern plane trees, exochorda, hippophaea, caucasian persimmon, ephedra and other species. Fauna is also diverse. There are 81 species of mammals, more than 365 species and subspecies of birds, 44 species of reptiles, over 40 species of fish, and more than 10,000 species of invertebrates.

As a result of the 1991-92 civil war, the forests and fauna in Tajikistan suffered a great loss, their state has sharply deteriorated. Illegal cutting in forests and poaching acquired mass character; large tracts of valuable forests and secular trees were destroyed; the number of many animals and valuable species of herbs and other plants decreased. In this connection the Association on Protection of Forest and Wild Animals in Tajikistan has recently been established. It is a public association for protection and reproduction of forests, wild animals, rare plants and forest reserves. It is a non-governmental, non-commercial organization. The Association unifies the specialists of forestry and agriculture, scientific workers, and other physical and juridical persons. Subsidiaries and departments of this Association are formed in the regions of the Republic. The missions are: education; short courses for professional staff; clearing house center; expeditions to various regions to assess prospects for nature conservation; promoting tree and forest restoration on mountain slopes; captive breeding for later release of some threatened ungulates and birds; promoting threatened plant and animal species reserves, and inspecting existing ones for threats and protection effectiveness. The Association seeks links with other like-minded groups who might exchange information, or provide some support for this new (since 1998) organization. Contact: Dr. Kokul Kosirov, PB 11, Dushanbe 734025, Republic of Tajikistan. farhod@kokul.td.silk.org.

San Francisco Peaks (USA) and Mining

The United States National Forests are Protected Areas, listed as Category VI (Managed Resource Protected Areas). Indeed the mandate of the US Forest Service and the legal policies which govern the use of these lands fit very well the objectives and criteria of Category VI. Most of the National Forest Area would be considered mountainous, hence the interest of our Network. Many environmental activists in the USA feel that the mandate for multiple use and ecosystem management is being warped by excessive logging for wood production, especially in old growth forests of the West. (A major conservation campaign to halt all commercial logging on all Federal public land is underway, spearheaded by The Sierra Club.) Excessive yielding to mining on National Forests is also often an issue. Currently The Sierra Club is joining with some Native American groups to whom the San Francisco Peaks of Arizona are sacred and a source of important medicinal plants, in opposing the White Vulcan mine on Kaibab National Forest. They are also urging the Forest Service to deny all new mining claims in the San Francisco Peaks area. This area includes Arizona's highest mountain, Humphreys Peak at 3852 m. Mining in MtPAs worldwide is a persistent problem.

Eduardo Avaroa National Reserve, Bolivia

High in the Bolivian Andes, geysers, volcanoes and brilliantly colored lakes of scarlet red, emerald green and sky blue punctuate, and animate, the technicolor landscape of the Eduardo Avaroa national Reserve. Spanning 400,000 acres near the borders with Argentina and Chile, the reserve is home to the endangered vicuña, the majestic Andean corridor and a wealth of migratory and resident birds. Three of the six known species of flamingo find particularly important habitat here, including one lake that harbors a nesting site for half of the global population of the jamesi flamingo. Ecologists have recently identified Eduardo Avaroa as the highest priority for conservation in the country, for the reserve is also the tourism destination for more than 12,000 people each year, the greatest influx of visitors to any protected area in Bolivia. Unchecked tourism, combined with threats of mining and hunting, has inspired The Nature Conservancy and local partner organization TROPICO to build long-term conservation capacity for the Eduardo Avaroa reserve. With support from the US Agency for International Development, the Conservancy and TROPICO have launched a new program of on-site protection, research, compatible-use efforts and environmental education. The Conservancy and TROPICO must raise US\$120,000 over the next three years to match USAID funding and implement the conservation plan.

Some Thoughts for Mt PA Managers

The following words were taken from a brief note by Denis Galvin, Deputy Director of the US National Park Service. I thought that they might well be an appropriate message to others outside of the USA as well. They reflect the new interest in knowing more about what we have in our PAs (e.g. the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory that was noted in UPDATE last December).

For most of the 20th century we have practiced a curious combination of active management (deer are good, wolves are bad) and passive acceptance (if we leave it alone, it will be all right), while becoming a superb visitor services agency. In the 21st century that management style is clearly insufficient. Regional, and in some cases global, influences impact the resources of parks and protected areas. Our ignorance of natural resources and their interrelationship remains profound. If we are to achieve our intergenerational task, we will need to expand existing inventory programs and develop effective techniques that monitor the vital signs of natural systems. We need to enlist others in the scientific community to help but also facilitate their inquiry. We need to integrate these efforts with an educational component so that child and adult, amateur and professional, benefit from the knowledge uncovered in these places. This information should be widely available, not just to those who visit the sites. The information contained in these places should be part of a larger continuum that assists the surrounding community (regional and global) in making choices. If we return to the heritage idea, these parks and protected places should become increasingly "useful" to surrounding communities as benchmarks of environmental information.

Scottish Highlands Wildlands - The Cairngorms and Funicular Madness

Though not high in elevation by world cloud-piercer standards, the Cairngorms massif is the highest, most extensive area of alpine or montane zone in the British Isles, and the largest self-contained block of truly high hill country. The geomorphology and flora values are an important part of national heritage. After many years without any management authority (a Cairngorms Partnership arrangement has recently prevailed), it is now slated to become Scotland's second National Park under the new Scottish Parliament. It has been a National Scenic Area since 1981. Appropriately it will be in April the year 2002, the International Year of Mountains. This area of sensitive wildlands faces increasing pressure from potentially damaging tourism and outdoor recreation, as these activities burgeon. Britain's best snow conditions for downhill skiing are found here, and a ski-industry infrastructure has developed which now serves summer visitors as well for hiking and climbing, photography, or using a small near-summit restaurant.

A regional development corporation called Highlands and Islands (no relation to Linda and Larry's partnership consultancy) is seeking economic uplift for the area by proposing to improve access to Cairngorm (4084 ft or 1245 m) by use of a funicular railway to the upper chairlift station from the valley, and an expanded restaurant at this site which is within 150 m of the summit. We have previously called attention to this proposal in UPDATE, and as a matter of fact it was the subject of an IUCN adverse resolution at the Montreal World Conservation Congress. To answer criticism about increased visitor impact, Highlands and Islands Enterprise

and the Cairngorm Chair Lift Company are now agreeing that funicular passengers will be allowed only into a sealed-off restaurant and not have access to the out-of-doors!! Can you imagine this being enforced? And why an interpretive center there when you cannot get out and experience nature? Groups opposed to this scheme, spearheaded by the Scottish Ramblers' Association have come up with much more rational proposals which provide for increased visitor use and access but giving much greater protection to the mountain. They involve gondolas and chairlifts rather than a heavy-impact funicular, removal of upper car park, location of restaurant down on the flanks of Cairngorm (but still above the planted forest treeline), and a visitor center and most parking down toward the foot of the mountain. After a look at the situation, the Vice-Chair for Mountains was interviewed by the press, and supported these alternative proposals as making both better ecological and economic sense. The funicular proposal seems like madness, an assault, when we should be moving into the 21st Century with healing and restoration as our watchwords. Scotland could lead the way as we approach International Mountain Year in showing how to treat a heavily used mountain area with sensitivity to nature. Perhaps a model for other similar areas with declining snow cover, new extreme-limit sporting uses, and increasing hordes of visitors of varying interests, skills and attitudes toward nature.

Mount Rainier National Park (USA) Celebrates Its One Hundredth

Mount Rainier National Park in the State of Washington is the next major Mt PA to celebrate a 100-year anniversary. This free-standing majestic volcanic mountain reaching to 4392 m (14,410 ft), has 25 glaciers and encompasses 95,104 ha (235,000 acres). It receives more than 2 million visitors per year, with annually around 10,000 climbers attempting the summit (about half make it). Soon to be completed is a 150 km (93 mi) circum-mountain "Wonderland Trail". Larry's son Bruce Hamilton, Director of Conservation for the Sierra Club recently hiked this trail and attests not only to its beauty, but difficulty, --for some daily gains and losses are as much as 1070 m (3500 ft). The Sierra Club incidentally was one of the key organizations responsible for the establishment of the Park in 1899. This August, as we prepare UPDATE, the well-known alpinist Lou Whittaker is leading a group of internationally renowned climbers to the summit. Uwe Nehring is Wilderness Manager at Mount Rainier, and hopefully Uwe will let us know more about this, and what other events are taking place?

Promoting Community-Based Conservation and Regional Information Exchange in Support of Albertine Rift Montane Forests

This priority-setting workshop, organized by the Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) was held in Kampala, Uganda 13-15 July. It brought together for the first time NGO and government representatives from the Albertine Rift region (area along the western branch of the Rift Valley crossing western Uganda, eastern D. R. Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania to northern Zambia), who continue to work despite the political instability in the region, towards the conservation of montane forests in the Albertine Rift region. For many it was the first opportunity to meet and tell each other about their work, and share experiences. These forests are recognized to be important in terms of biodiversity and provide various services ranging from watershed protection, climatic regulations to various services to local people; most of them are under increasing threat resulting mainly from an expansion of human demands for new land and resources from these forests, and also by the lack of effective conservation measures.

Working in facilitated groups, participants recorded information on the conservation and management status of individual forest areas, along with details of ongoing and planned conservation initiatives, many of which are community based. In addition the priority constraints to forest conservation in each country and regionally were identified. Future opportunities and priorities were then discussed, and a shortlist of priority and feasible short-to-medium term activities prepared together with responsibilities for follow up, which will be coordinated by ARCOS. A focal group was established in each country to monitor follow up activities. The workshop established a reporting and follow-up mechanism which includes preparation of a report on the status of conservation initiatives, priority needs and priority actions for montane forest conservation in the Albertine Rift, dissemination of information through the ARCOS regional newsletter "Backbone", and establishment of an overall focal group composed of national representatives. A concise summary of the workshop is also available and the final report in 2 months. For further information, contact: ARCOS c/o WCMC, 219 Huntingdon Road,

Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom; fax 44 1 12 23 27 71 36; samk@wcmc.org.uk. Thanks to Sam Kanyamibwa for this report.

More on Machu Picchu, Perú

The proposal for the construction of a cable car from the town of Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu, and of a large hotel complex on top of the mountain adjacent to the entrance to the site, continues to be unresolved, and a topic of growing controversy for preservationists in Perú, the World Heritage Center and everywhere in the world. At its January meeting, the World Heritage Bureau and Committee recommended that "no action should be taken on the implementation of a cable car system until an adequate master plan is in place." The Government of Perú has submitted the Master Plan that was adopted by the Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales and the Instituto Nacional de Cultura. Under the strategic plan's vision for the future, "there is an operational cable car, with minimal environmental, social and landscape impact." Elsewhere, the plan presents such contradictions as calling for "extensive tourism and recreational use [of the site] with low impact..." The World Heritage Committee has referred the Master Plan to IUCN and ICOMOS for in-depth analysis. The Committee further asked ICOMOS and IUCN to undertake a second mission to Perú to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the master plan, the cable car project, the planned hotel and other major works. The Committee instructed the Government of Perú not to undertake any action until the missions are completed and reports presented. Reports to US/ICIMOS from Perú indicate that in spite of opposition by many in the conservation community and the local press, the Government appears ready to undertake actions regardless of these recommendations, and before the work of ICOMOS is completed.

Mount Kenya National Park and Biosphere Reserve (Kenya)

Jomo Kenyatta stated in 1938 "The mountain of brightness is believed by the Kikuyu to be Ngai's (God's) official resting place, and in their prayers they turn towards Kere Nyaga (Mount Kenya) and, with their hands raised towards it, they offer their sacrifices, taking the mountain to be the holy earthly dwelling-place of Ngai." Ed Bernbaum in his book, *Sacred Mountains of the World* writes of the spirituality of Mount Kenya and the important role it plays in Kikuyu culture. He also recounts a wonderful story of a holy man who wearing plastic sandals was wont to climb to the summit of the technically very difficult second highest peak of Nelion.

Mount Kenya is situated in the Central Highlands of Kenya. The national park includes all land above 10,500 ft (3,200 m) and two salients, Sirimon and Naro Moru, which reach further down. The park is 715 km² and it was gazetted a national park in 1949. The surrounding forest reserves add another 1,820 km² of protected area, making Mount Kenya the largest area of natural forest in the country. With the main peak soaring 5,100 m above sea level, it is the highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest in Africa. Most of the surrounding forests are protected through forest reserves.

Threats to the surrounding forests include illegal logging, charcoal production, cultivation of bhang and encroachment. Higher up the mountain is heavily used by tourists, causing impacts like trail erosion, littering and water pollution. On a larger scale, the glaciers on the mountain are retreating quickly due to global warming and climate change.

The natural forest zone stretches from 1,500 to 3,300 m and it consists of various forest types characterized by dominant tree species including Camphor (*Ocotea usumbarensis*), Cedar (*Juniperus procera*), Podocarpus (*Podocarpus* spp) and Olive (*Olea africana*). However, in many places around the mountain this forest has disappeared long since and the areas have been converted into farmland. This is very obvious on the western and northwestern slopes. Around 3,000 m, a zone of bamboo is very conspicuous. Above this the parkland looking Hagenia zone is a beautiful part of the mountain. The Hagenias (or African Rosewood) (*Hagenia abyssinica*) are spread out in a parkland looking landscape with many shrubs and flowering plants. Above this, from 3,300 to 3,800 m, the heather zone displays a unique environment with giant heather and grass moorlands. Above this, between 3,500 and 4,500 m the similarly unique afro-alpine zone with its scattered gigantic *Senecios* and *Lobelias* creating an open alpine landscape. Above 4,500 m few plants survive and it is the zone of rock, snow and ice.

The East African mountains (Kilimanjaro, Elgon, Aberdares, the Rwenzoris and others) show many similarities and since they are "islands" in the sky, surrounded by "seas" of tropical lowlands they show a high degree of endemism. Mount Kenya has 81 plant species which are endemic. Management of Mount Kenya National Park is by the Kenya Wildlife Service. About 10,000 tourists visit each year. There are 14 huts and tourist lodges for visitors, and the tour operators in 1996 organized an Association of Mount Kenya Operators. In 1997 it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, but even so, logging continues to be a serious threat.

School for Mountain Studies of The Mountain Institute (USA)

Alton Byers, The Mountain Institute

The School for Mountain Studies began a year ago with a pilot course to Huascarán National Park and TMI's Andean Program in Perú. 17 students from West Virginia University participated, and the course theme was monitoring ecotourism impacts. About one week was spent in Huascarán National Park and two weeks on trek around the Huayhuash Cordillera. This was so successful that this year (May-June) we added a course in Nepal entitled Cultural and Environmental Change in the Sagarmatha National Park, where Francis Klatzel and I (Alton) had 30 students from 5 different universities on a study course throughout the Khumbu. Rex Linville and Ankur Tohan (former volunteer with the Andean Program), along with Dr. Jeff Marion from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, led 15 students in the Huascarán National Park and training on the quantification of backcountry trail erosion and other impacts (Ecotourism and Protected Area Management in the Peruvian Andes). We feel that our specific niches and competitive advantages as a School for Mountain Studies include: a) TMI programs and networks within the countries we lead student expeditions in, b) extensive in-country and mountain-specific experience/expertise of all trip leaders, c) a focus on mountain peoples and environments within each course, and d) academic rigor in all field/logistical/course content skills provided. Next year we are planning to run two trips to Nepal (Makalu-Barun and Sagarmatha), two to Perú (Huascarán and Huayhuash), and one to the Altai mountains. Semester abroad programs, starting with two-week cultural and field skill immersion course at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, are envisioned for fall 2000 or spring 2001. Demand is high and we are confident that we will fill all courses, and indeed had to turn away dozens of applicants last year. Each trip also gives us additional insights re the development of our mountain geography curricula, and we hope to keep developing a cadre of instructors such as from the newly formed Mountain Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers.

Bits and Pieces

One of the MtPA Networks' two professional writers, **Mark O'Connor** was signally honored at the end of June. Mark is currently the H.C. Coombs Creative Arts Fellow at Australian National University. We have several times used lines from his poetry on the Snowy Mountains as our newsletter's opening quotation. He jointly with Sir David Attenborough opened an historic conference on environment for a British Territories Conference entitled "A Breath of Fresh Air". The meeting brought Ministers and Directors of Environment from around 60 overseas territories (such as the Falkland Islands) to the London Zoo on June 29-30. While formerly of strategic importance, the important flora, fauna and geologic heritage they possess is now of paramount importance. Two of the British Territories are World heritage Sites (Gough and Henderson Islands), and perhaps more might qualify.

The second of our professional writers (and a wildlife ecologist, and licensed wilderness guide), **Anne LaBastille**, has just had another of her books published, with the title *Jaguar Totem* (West of the Wind Publications, Westport, New York 12993 USA). These are the author's real-life adventures in her career in nature conservation in many countries, mostly Caribbean and Central American. Many of the chapters deal with mountain conservation, starting out with her work with the quetzal in the cloud forests of Volcán Atitlán in Guatemala, and ending with Scotland's Torridon. With this book Anne is attempting through fascinating personal adventures to influence readers, old and young, toward a more caring attitude and commitment, to the natural world.

A signal honor to **Ed Wayburn**, who in a mid-August ceremony was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton for his long and distinguished service to conservation. This has been mainly in connection with the Sierra Club, the most effective conservation advocacy organization in the USA. Ed was

President of the Sierra Club five times, and is perhaps best known for his outstanding work to protect many Alaskan areas.

The **Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont** has shut down all summer logging operations due to a lawsuit threat by the Native Forest Network to assure compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The forests in the Green Mountains are summer residence of the endangered Indiana bat. The restriction will hold until the US Forest Service can identify areas of bat habitat and examine the effects of their logging on the small populations of this species. The bats winter in caves which are protected once they have been located.

The Government of Canada and the Nunavut people have agreed (in August) to establish what will be Canada's third largest national park in the mountain area of northern Baffin Island. **Sirmilik National Park** is 22,500 mi² (58,275 km²) and according to Jack Ives, who visited the area in 1964, the area is mountainous and quite spectacular. The Canadian Nature Federation, which has been pushing for this to happen, welcomes it as a cooperative agreement with aboriginal people that will protect these lands from damaging industrial development, provide for sustaining traditional ways of life and bring needed economic and social benefits to northern communities of the Arctic.

Any readers interested in problems of human waste disposal in MtPAs might benefit from getting in touch with Paul Lachapelle paullach@selway.umt.edu or c/o School of Forestry SC460, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812 USA. He has done work on **solar "hot box" toilets** in both Sagarmatha (Nepal) and Yosemite (USA) and relates the issue to problems of water quality in mountain areas.

UPDATE previously carried an item on the threat to the Polish Tatra National Park from the proposed **Winter Olympics 2006** with information from Zbigniew Krzan and Piotr Dabrowski. Larry wrote a letter from the Mountain Theme to the Olympic Committee cautioning them about potential ecological damage from skiing facilities within the park and visitor influx. Fortunately on June 19 the Committee voted to select Turin, Italy (much to the disappointment of Sion, Switzerland), but giving a reprieve to Tatra. This is a perennial issue, and WCPA Steering Committee has asked Marija Zupancic-Vicar and Larry Hamilton to constitute a study group to develop a WCPA and possibly IUCN position to be lodged with the Olympic Committee. Any Network members wishing to make input into this study, please get in touch with Larry. (We will do our work by correspondence.)

Chandra Gurung has left Jordan and has joined WWF as Country Representative for Nepal. Address for our wandering colleague is now P O Box 7660, Lal Durbar, Kathmandu cgurung@wwfnepal.org.np. Send us news of your activities Chandra, and keep up with your tennis for both Hamilton and Thorsell are gunning for you!

UPDATE has previously carried items about the situation at **Huascarán National Park and World Heritage Site (Perú)** and the "problem" Antamina mine, and the reasonable (?) compromise worked out largely spearheaded by The Mountain Institute. We just received a news report from Jorge Recharte of TMI that Peru's military have taken over control of Huaráz following a massive protest demonstration about the lack of local employment and return of some of the profits to the communities. According to the mayor of Huaráz (the Park headquarters village), who supports the protest, "The only things we have more of now are higher living costs and prostitution."

Within WCPA there is a tradition of friendly rivalry between the Mountain Theme and the Marine Theme. Lo and behold, they have come together off the coast of Australia where the government has established the **Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve**. It includes 70 submerged extinct volcanoes, 1000-2000 m deep on the continental slope. Unique and vulnerable deep-sea plants and animals are now protected in this "mountain" reserve.

In the continuing partnership between **Abruzzo National Park (Italy)** and **New York State's Adirondack Park (USA)**, 12 rangers (mostly women) from Abruzzo came to the Adirondacks for a 3-week study tour in

June, as part of an exchange program. The program was worked out and supervised by Graziella Tassi (daughter of Franco Tassi) through the recently established Abruzzo National Park office near New York City.

The Banff Centre for Mountain Culture has awarded one of its small grants to **Alton Byers** and **Frances Klatzel** for a photo exhibit on 40 years of change in Sherpa culture and Khumbu landscape, to be shown in Kathmandu in the fall of 2000 and permanently in Namche Bazaar at Sagarmatha National Park headquarters from March 2001. Another of the Centre's grants went to a Canadian, Karsten Hueur, who is hiking a major part of the Yellowstone to Yukon Corridor to raise public awareness about the need for connections between the string of "island" protected areas which constitute this grandly conceptualized Mt PA Corridor.

Those Mt PA managers interested in training programs for tour operators might capture some of the substantial experience from the Australian Alps National Parks. Since 1994 the Australian Alps Liaison Committee has held a series of very effective training workshops for tour operators. Working currently with the Canberra Institute of Technology and the Kosciuszko Training Centre of NSWNPWS, the AALC has developed an accredited training module. Our friend Brett McNamara at AALC might provide additional information; P O Box Tharwa, Canberra ACT 2620, Australia, brett_mcnamara@bigpond.com.

Publications of Interest

Perverse Subsidies: Tax \$s Undercutting Our Economies and Environments Alike, 1998, by Norman Myers and Jennifer V. Kent. International Institute for Sustainable Development, 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th floor, Winnipeg R3B 0Y4 Canada. 230 pp \$20. Though not a mountain book, this book is of immense interest to all who labor for a better environment. Habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss, pollutants, depletion of fisheries, overcutting of forests, and increased greenhouse gases are all strongly increased by perverse subsidies and the topic is therefore of concern to protected area managers, users and scientists. My old friend Norman never shuns being on the firing line, and he has certainly done it again.

Access and Conservation Strategies for Climbing Areas. Report bulletin of a joint Seminar of the International Union of Alpinist Associations (UIAA) and IUCN held in May 1998. This 32-page bulletin addresses a topic that we have commented on several times in UPDATE, including the lead article in the last issue: maintaining freedom of access to mountains and cliffs while protecting the biodiversity and physical environment of the sites. It does a fine job. Network members having a major hand in producing this include Alan Blackshaw, Miquel Rafa and Martin Price. Available from UIAA, Monbijoustrasse 61, Postfach CH 3000 Bern 23, Switzerland.

Community-Based Mountain Tourism: Practices for Linking Conservation with Enterprise. Edited by Pamela Godde as a synthesis of an electronic conference of The Mountain Forum, April 13 - May 18, 1998. Printed 1999. The Mountain Institute, P O Box 907, Franklin, West Virginia 26807 USA info@mtnforum.org.

Mountains of the World: A Global Priority, Edited by Bruno Messerli and Jack Ives, 1997, previously listed in UPDATE has recently appeared in Russian, thanks to Yuri Badenkov who did the translation with his wife Olga and a colleague. Spanish and Italian translations are in the mill, but Yuri got this one out first, in May of 1999. Well done!

Guidelines for Public Use Measurement and Reporting at Parks and Protected Areas, by Kenneth E. Hornback and Paul F. Eagles, 1999. This 90-page product from the WCPA Task Force on Tourism and PAs chaired by Paul will be of interest to MtPA managers. It is produced by the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism (Australia), Parks Canada and IUCN/WCPA, and is available from IUCN Publications Service Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK info@books.iucn.org.

Anaga Cloud Forest, A comparative study on evergreen-broadleaved forests and trees of the Canary Islands and Japan. Eds. Masahiko Ohsawa, Wolfredo Wildpret and Marcelino del Arco, 1999; Laboratory of Ecology, Chiba University, Chiba, Japan. This 315 page book has 14 chapters, by 11 authors or co-authors. It is the result

of a two-year project of comparative study of the laurel cloud forests of the two areas, but the focus is on the Anaga ridge, in Tenerife, at an elevation of 1000-1500 m, with comparisons drawn. Anaga is in a 14,400 ha Protected Spaces Network. The trees of the famous laurel cloud forests, --well known for their water-capture in these dry islands, are illustrated in a 50 page atlas of ecomorphology. Most of the book is botanically oriented.

Jaguar Totem. See "Bits and Pieces" on Anne LaBastille.

A Wilderness Revival is the Theme of the Winter 1998/99 issue of Wild Earth (Vol 8 No 4). For those interested in the philosophy, politics and progress in campaigns of The Wildlands Projects in the United States, and Canada, this is a notable issue. Those who are not subscribers to this superb quarterly journal and wish to sample a copy, could do no better than to obtain a copy of this issue. The Editor is Tom Butler, a Network member. Single copies are available postpaid at US\$10 in the USA; others inquire on rates from P O Box 455, Richmond, Vermont 05477. While you are doing this, you might also wish to lay your hands on two of the Special Papers of relevance to Mountain PA managers: "How to Design an Ecological Reserve System" by Stephen Trombulak, and "A Citizen's Guide to Ecosystem Management" by Reed Noss. Both are excellent. Same price.

Páramos by James Luteyn with contributions. Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458 USA. This 278 page book is a checklist of plant diversity, geographical distribution, and botanical literature, and will be useful to Mt PA researchers and managers dealing with areas of páramo. The book treats páramo areas in Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Venezuela, Perú and Ecuador.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

There will be a plethora of national, regional and even global, mountain meetings as we approach **IYM (International Year of Mountains) in 2002** (and also the Year of Tourism, so there will be some focus also on mountain tourism). At a meeting at FAO HQ in Rome in March, the Interagency Task Group for Mountains began compiling a roster of those already planned, and the list was formidable. These will focus mostly on "sustainable development" as the catch-all, though there will be many with more defined focus such as mountain music and arts or mountain biodiversity. We will report in UPDATE, only those which seem to have a particular relevance to MtPAs. FAO will maintain a list of planned meetings and a web page will be developed. At the present time that best contact is Thomas Hofer thomas.hofer@fao.org.

WCPA 3rd Conference on Protected Areas in East Asia, September 7-11, Seoul, Korea. Mountains are one of the themes in session 3. Chair of the Organizing Committee in Korea is Bo-Myeong Woo and the Conference Co-Chair is Makoto Numata. Let's have a strong mountain PA presence. Details bmwoo@plaza.snu.ac.kr or fax 82 33 12 96 77 87.

EUROPARC 1999, Transcending Borders - Parks for Europe, September 15-19, Zakopane, Poland (Tatra NP). Organized by Patrizia Rossi and will feature many of our transboundary friends. Details from Patrizia parcalma@tin.it, fax 17 19 75 42 or Zbigniew Krzan at Tatra fax 48 16 56 35 79, or EUROPARC europarc@t-online.de. David Sheppard will represent IUCN.

A European Park for the 21st Century, October 14-16, 1999, at Menton France, in the Maritime Alps and the final day in Tende. Organized by Mercantour National Park and Alpi Marittime Nature Park in another example of transborder collaboration (France/Italy).

Banff Mountain Book Festival, November 3-7, 1999 and Banff Mountain Film Festival, November 5-7, 1999, Banff Centre for Mountain Culture. Box 1020 Banff, Alberta T0L 0C0, Canada, <http://www.banffcentre.ab.ca/cmc/>.

Mediterranean Region Protected Areas Working Session, November 4-7, Cilento e Vallo di Diano National Park, Province of Salerno, Italy. Focus on mountain and marine protected areas, ecotourism and training. Co-

sponsored by WCPA. MountainTheme workshop organized by Larry Hamilton involving Mediterranean Mt PA Network members.

Ecoregional-based Conservation in the Eastern Himalayas: A Biological Assessment and Priority Setting (workshop titles are getting longer each year!), Kathmandu, Nepal. Hosted by WWF and ICIMOD. Workshop objectives: develop a biological vision for the eastern Himalayas based on important biological attributes, an analysis of landscape level ecoregions and conservation targets. Contact Dr. Khada Basnet, WWF Nepal; fax 977 1 43 45 37; corona@wwfnepal.org.np.

WCPA South East Asia Regional Working Session, December 6-12, Pakse, Lao PDR. Contact Effendy Sumardja chmcbdri@rad.net.id, fax 62 251 24 76 15.

SAMPA III Conference (Science and Management for Protected Areas), May 14-19, 2000. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. <http://landscape.acadiiau.ca/sampaa/>. Contact Neil Munro, fax 902 426 2728 Neil_munro@pch.gc.ca. Let's have a North American Mt PA get-together at this one?

World Mountain Forum, June 5-9, 2000, Chambéry, France. Themes include: globalization of trade, impeded development, over-exploitation of natural resources, weakening of mountain cultures, marginalization and dependence, and the suite of biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, tourism etc. No mention of protected areas, but they are relevant to several themes. Contact: Ville de Chambéry, BP 1105, F 73011, Chambéry, France; fax 33 4 79 60 20 74, forum@mairie-chambery.fr.

A Survey Regarding the Future of UPDATE

The Mt PA Network continues to grow, despite removing from the list those members who have not been in contact in some way for over a year. We try to keep it as an interactive Network rather than just a mailing list since we do not want to lose the sense of community and collegial family which now exists. The impact of UPDATE is multiplied through its translation and distribution in Russian by Natalia Danilina, and this issue and subsequent ones will be translated into Spanish thanks to Fausto Sarmiento and distributed to a wider audience in Latin America. In addition Brett McNamara reproduces and sends it to all staff in the Australian Alps National Parks. The Mountain Forum makes it available to others through its archive.

However, the continued growth the Mt PA Network (400 members in 64 countries) and the increased cost of postage, is putting a strain on the Mountain Theme budget which we receive from WCPA. This budget is roughly US\$8,000 per year and has to meet (ha! ha!) expenses of newsletter, all other communication, travel and any co-sponsoring of workshops, conferences etc. we can arrange with other organizations. The newsletter is now consuming almost half the budget, plus a small amount of support goes for the newsletter of the African Mt PA Network to which volunteer Peter Blignaut devotes a great deal of his time. During 1999 we were rescued by small grants from the Deep Ecology Foundation and the Australian Alps Liaison Committee who between them supported the costs of UPDATE, but nothing is in sight for 2000. We are now flying without a safety net!

The last survey of UPDATE readers we conducted was in March 1997. Given our financial situation, a survey of Network members is especially important at this time so that you can comment on the usefulness of UPDATE and your ideas for its future. (Those who do not respond will be dropped from the Network.) Specifically, we need advice on whether to reduce costs by distributing via email. We have been reluctant to do this, mainly because in our last survey, over 95% of you indicated that you preferred hard copy, and most of you passed it on to others. We know that many of you prefer hard copy because you do not have email, have some computer compatibility problems with long items, or incur long-distance charges while you are connected with your server. We also need your suggestions for how to put UPDATE on a more secure financial footing for next year and beyond.

Please take a few minutes to complete and return the following survey. It will help us very much. Thank you.

Questionnaire

For the Directory, please confirm your name, title, address, telephone, fax and email:

Do you prefer to receive Mt PA UPDATE via e-mail _____ or hard copy via mail _____?

Check those elements of UPDATE most useful to you. Leave non-useful ones blank.

- _____ Recent Publications
- _____ Reports on past workshops etc.
- _____ Network member news
- _____ Future Meetings
- _____ Bits and Pieces
- _____ Short pieces on specific Mt PAs

Suggestions for improving the usefulness of UPDATE:

Suggestions for funding the production and distribution of UPDATE (currently US\$3,500/year):

Suggestions for changing the way UPDATE is produced and distributed:

Would you like to receive a copy of the Mt PA Network Directory? _____

If yes, do you prefer a hard copy or via email?

Please send this information to us by airmail or email no later than October 31, 1999 if you wish to remain a member of the Network. Thanks!

IUCN

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Funding for the production and distribution of this newsletter is supported by small but sincerely appreciated grants from The Deep Ecology Foundation through The Wildlands Project, and the Australian Alps Liaison Committee.

Browsing Classification: General: Periodicals: Global: Mountain Protected Areas Update

Citation: Hamilton, L.S. (ed.). 1999. Mountain Protected Areas Update: September 1999.

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