

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



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In This Issue

- Follow-up to Dhulikhel
- Kenton R. Miller Award
- Arne Naess, Mountain Man
- Spine of the Continent
- Kronotsky Zapovednik
- Swiss Landscape Protection
- Silence in the Parks
- Ecological Continuum Project
- Recent Mountain Zapovedniks
- Winter Olympic Games Again
- Bits & Pieces
- Recent Publications
- Useful Links

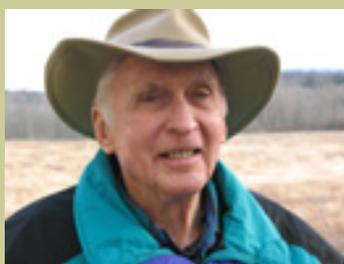
*I love the pines of Mount Hua,
Tall, noble, solemn and dignified.
Their thrusting trunks vie with the sun and moon.
Resisting cold winds throughout the years,
They shake their arms at the sky-scraping ridge
And hold high their heads, like striding blue dragons.
They support the clouds forever,
Without taking flight to the heavens.*

~ Shih Lu

Shih Lu painted the pines on sacred Mount Hua in the 1970s as a dissident during the period of oppression in China. He was expressing his admiration for the spirit of freedom and resistance and comparing it to the pines.



UPDATE Newsletter Editor



[Dr. Larry Hamilton](#)

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

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

IUCN - WCPA Vice Chairman

[Dr. Graeme Worboys](#)

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

To prevent problems for our text-only recipients, URLs

Note from the Editor

I sincerely thank all of you who sent either notes of support, or thought waves of encouragement during my convalescence from a leg break on top of knee replacement. Finally returned home and am making good progress to getting strength and flexibility back. I hope that you find this issue of UPDATE of value, some of it written or assembled in a nursing home. Hope to see some of you "on the trail."

I am sure that all of us send our support to our colleagues in Southeastern Australia (including to our "Chief", **Graeme**) as some of them have faced or could be facing the severe forest fires of this hot, dry season, that have already taken many lives and consumed much property and "bush".

Note: Names of Network members are *italicised*.

Follow-up to the Dhulikhel (Kathmandu) Connectivity Conservation Workshop of November 2008

The WCPA Mountain Biome's major activity in 2008 was the Connectivity Conservation Workshop held in Nepal in cooperation with ICIMOD and WWF. This was one more step in a suite of building blocks that included: Drakensberg, South Africa (2003), Banff, Canada (2004), Cantabria-Pyrenees, Spain (2005) and Papallacta, Ecuador (2006). Emanating from this immediate past workshop are the following actions:



- Fostering in any feasible way an Altai-Sayan Connectivity Corridor by working with a newly-formed ASCC Initiative group (**Yuri Badenkov** is a key member).
- Assisting in a planning meeting in July 2009 with ASCCI and governments of China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Russia in the Altai Mountains. This group would confirm governments' support.
- Organize with the Mountain Biome, an ASCCI International Congress for July 2010 to further the Corridor.
- Making specific additions and changes to the final draft of the Conservation Connectivity

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.

Management book including an improved Conceptual Framework. Publication is still scheduled for 2009 (see Publications section).

- Supporting where possible the other connectivity corridor initiatives that were presented at the workshop: ASCC (details above), Karakoram-Pamir Conservation Area, Brahmaputra-Salween Complex, Terai Arc Landscape, Greater Virunga Landscape, and Australian Alps to Atherton.

The next major Mountain Biome event will be strong participation in the WILD 9 Congress in Mexico, November 2009 (see Meetings section). More information about the Dhulikhel Connectivity Conservation Workshop can be found on our website: <http://www.wcpa-mountains.org/transboundaryconservation/>

Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation - 2009

The 2009 Award will focus on Wilderness Areas, and will be presented at the WILD 9 World Wilderness Congress in Mexico in November (see Forthcoming Meetings section). It will recognize individuals who have innovated a new tool, policy, mechanism or field practice that promotes sustainability of Wilderness Areas (Categories 1a and 1b.) Closing date for nominations is June 1, 2009. Detailed criteria and nomination forms are found at www.iucn/wcpa.com.

Mountain Man Arne Naess

Although he was not a member of the MtPA Network, we write this tribute to a mountain man who contributed so much to ecological philosophy, and who died in January. It was Naess who made the term "deep ecology" a part of our lexicon. He gained much of his inspiration from his home Tvergastein on Mount Hallingskarvet. He was a mountaineer, ecologist, philosopher and peace activist. I recall his contributions to IUCN deliberations back in the 1970s, early years of the so-called environmental movement. Arne was impatient with superficial environmentalism. A collection of his writings has just been published (2008) under the title *The Ecology of Wisdom*, edited by Drengson and Devall (Counterpoint, 320 pages). For those readers not familiar with his work, this is an excellent selection.



Spine of the Continent (USA)

Bruce Hamilton, Sierra Club

A Western Conservation Summit was convened January 27-29 in California to discuss ways to advance a 5,000 mile (8,000km) long North American connected corridor proposal called **Spine of the Continent**. Some refer to it as the "**Western Wildway**". The gathering attracted 40 top conservation biologists, environmental leaders, and funders from Canada, Mexico, Australia, and the United States. The group explored ways of designing large landscapes for ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, habitat fragmentation, and the absence of critical, strongly interactive species (predators), and how to advance this agenda collectively on a continental scale. The event was organized by the Wildlands Network, and included groups as diverse as Yellowstone to Yukon, Naturalia, The Wildlife Conservation Society, Trout Unlimited and the Sierra Club.

Dr. E. O. Wilson of Harvard University sent a video address to the conference endorsing The Spine of the Continent as one of the most important initiatives of our time. Wilson's most provocative proposal was to consider transferring the National Forest System in the United States to the National Park System to make sure the lands were managed for biodiversity protection rather than commodity extraction. Dr. Michael Soule of the Wildlands Network called on the group to apply connectivity (ecological corridors) on the ground but also among conservation groups because no single group, by itself, can protect, reconnect, and restore the Spine. At the conclusion of the summit, the group established committees to focus on public message development and delivery, mapping and science, influencing public policy, and fundraising. For more information contact **Kim Vacariu** at kim@wildlandsnetwork.org.

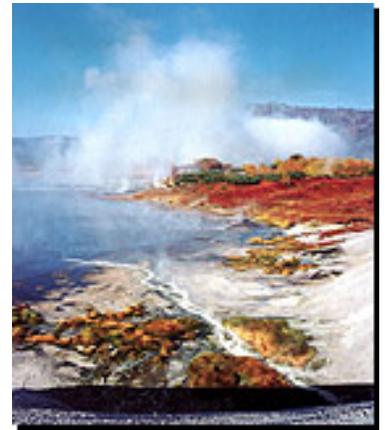
org Interest from Australia was shown by the presence of **Alec Marr** of **The Wilderness Society**. You can view a more detailed copy of this map at: <http://www.restoretherockies.org/media/Copy%20of%20NewSpineMap.jpg>

Kronotsky Zapovednik, Kamchatka (Russia) and Tourism

A strong case on behalf of wilderness, has been made in the January 2009 issue of *National Geographic*, in suggesting that Kronotsky Volcano (3,521 m/11,552 ft) and its surrounding reserve be designated as **wilderness**. Originally set aside as a sable refuge in 1882, it became a *Zapovednik* in 1934, and now has some 1,133,000 ha (2.8 million acres) of spectacular mountains, forests, rivers, geyser fields, tundra, flora and fauna (including at least 700 of the large brown bears). *Zapovedniks* are set aside for biodiversity conservation and the study and protection of flora, fauna and geology. Tourism is a tension factor, either forbidden or strictly limited. There is increasing pressure for allowing more tourism as an economic development measure and to provide local benefits. In Kronotsky, about 3,000 visitors are allowed per year. There are no roads within the reserve and no roads into the reserve from more settled parts. Transport is by Mi-8 helicopters and a limited number of helipads are provided, but no overnight tourism accommodation. Tourism is therefore limited to wealthy (US\$700 per trip) Russians and Europeans on adventure holiday and the occasional North American. Scientists do monitor visitor impacts. This seems like a unique type of MTPA tourism. The *Zapovednik* is part of the Kamchatka Volcanoes World Heritage complex.

The *National Geographic* article writer David Quammen raises the question of whether in view of the area's richness, fragility and lack of infrastructure should we simply "leave it alone and appreciate it from afar?" Should we send in carefully selected observers only, who will absorb much, walk lightly and report back, as Neil Armstrong did from the moon?

One of the main attractions, the Valley of the Geysers, has strangely enough been lost, according to *Russian Conservation News*. The area was buried with water and mud from a massive landslide of June 2007 which blocked the Geyser River. One geyser remains active below the surface of the water. It is still a remarkable place. Life is difficult for the *Zapovednik* staff but the landslide tongue stopped just short of the hostel, scientist's house and a ranger's house. Another tongue stopped one meter short of a parked helicopter. Kamchatka Volcanoes WH Site is indeed a dynamic place.



Recent Swiss Landscape Protection Opportunities

We were remiss in not reporting on a December 2007 law in Switzerland which provided for the establishment of Regional Nature Parks. According to the law "a Regional Nature Park is a vast and less urbanized territory that distinguishes itself by a rich natural and cultural heritage, and where buildings and infrastructures are well integrated in the rural landscape and in the appearance of localities. It aims at a) conserving and developing the quality of nature and landscapes, b) reinforcing economic qualities, based on sustainable development, which are carried out in its territory, and fostering the marketing of goods and services that they produce." (translation) This sounds like a good fit with IUCN Category V "Protected Landscapes and Seascapes. It is thought that tourism and more diversified farming might be the principal types of development. Protecting "landscape", which is not a legal entity, is a tricky business, since much of the land included is private land. Yet landscape users attempt to cover it with a mantle of conservation through various regulations because it is a public good. Countries do this in various ways (see for example the United Kingdom's National Parks). This recent law is Switzerland's response to the need.

Silence in the Parks

Silence and natural soundscapes are listed as natural resources to be conserved in the US National Parks, but difficulties abound in preserving silence. A freedom-from-human-created sound champion has emerged in the person of Gordon Hampton. He has been engaged in recording natural sounds of the world, and is promoting a project called "One Square Inch of Silence". Following various leads, he criss-crossed the United States searching for a square inch where he could listen for 15 minutes and not hear a human sound. He included several National Parks.

In Olympic NP, where 95% of the area is protected as wilderness, he found the widest diversity of soundscapes, and the longest periods of natural quiet of any unit in the national park system. He believes that if he can protect a square inch of silence that he will enhance the natural soundscape of roughly 1,000 square miles of surrounding land. He monitors his mapped and ground-located square inch in Olympic, and makes official complaints if aircraft overflights interfere. He and the Park had one letter of apology from Hawaiian Air that it was a test flight path and would not be repeated. Alaska Air continues to be a problem. The Park management staff are committed to preserving natural soundscapes along with all of the other functions of a national park.

Ecological Continuum Project (Europe)

An important initiative is underway in the European Alps, in a program with the above title, ECP. Its purpose is to create or restore ecological connectivity between important areas for nature conservation in mountain areas. Could anything be more in line with the aims of WCPA Mountain Biome? Many of the current and proposed activities are congruent with the methodologies and tools which have been formulated in our several workshops, and which are consolidated in the soon-to-be-published book ***Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide*** (see Publications section).

The program is a result of collaboration between ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR and WWF's European Alpine Program. It is using the results of a Swiss National Research Program "Landscapes and Habitats of the Alps". Four pilot areas have been selected for initial action as follows:

- Bechtesgaden-Salzburg transboundary region (Germany/Austria, including the Kalkhochalpen Nature Reserve).
- Eastern Austrian, including the National Parks Kalkalpen and Gesause and getting within striking distance of the Carpathians.
- Engadine-Alto Adige-Valle dell'Adige. Transborder between Switzerland, Austria and Italy including the following PAs: Swiss NP, Stelvio NP, Adamello-Brenta, Nature Parks in Italy's South Tyrol, and Hohe Tauern NP.
- The French Department de l'Isere. This includes the PAs of Les Ecrins, Vercors, Chartreuse and Bauges. Having connectivity here is important due to heavy and increasing human occupancy.



Ultimately the Ecological Continuum Project will make an important contribution to the Ecological Network Platform of the Alpine Convention, thus feeding into the governmental policy arena. (See www.alpine-ecological-network.org.) **Guido Plassman** and **Yann Kohler** of ALPARC are key players in this.

Three Recent Mountain Zapovedniks in Russia's Far East

At various times during 2007, three new National Parks (*Zapovedniks*) were created which are of critical importance in the protection of the Siberian tiger. These constitute stepping stones (and a potential corridor) along the Sikhote-Alin Mountains.



Zov Tigra (Road of the Tiger) is an area of 82,152 ha (200,000 acres) in the south. It is claimed that no other area in Russian has as great a diversity of rare predators and hoofed animals. Among the 47 mammal species, 6 are in the Russian Red Data Book and 2 of them in the IUCN Red Data Book (Siberian tiger and *ghoral*).

The second is the 88,600 ha (219,000 acre) Udege Legend, an area of taiga and cedar- broadleaf forest on the western slope of the Central Sikhote-Alin. As well as tiger habitat, it provides for both the Siberian brown bear and its southern congener, the Asiatic black bear. It also offers opportunity to help preserve the cultural heritage of the Udege people, whose population has dwindled to approximately 1,650 persons.

The Anuisky Zapovednik was established, containing 429,000 ha (1,060,000 acres in the north of the range of the Siberian tiger, in the Middle Sikhote-Alin Mountains. Two-thirds of the park consists of tiger habitat.

The Fall 2008 *Russian Conservation News* article from which this information was taken concludes: "The world's tiger lovers can all sleep just a little bit easier on the heels of Russia's recent national park declarations."

Winter Olympic Games Again

Too many times over the last decades have conflicts arisen between winter Olympic facility development and protected areas. It is happening again in 2014 in Sochi, Western Caucasus, Russia. Environmentalists in Russia are girding for action (Russian NGOs, WWF, Greenpeace and Clear World).

The Western Caucasus Region was designated in 1999 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, and this included Sochi NP and the adjacent Kavkazsky Zapovednik. It was based on the remarkable diversity of geology, ecosystems and species and its global significance as a center of plant diversity.

At last July's WH Session in Quebec, Canada, based on an UNESCO Mission report, the Committee called on Russia to:

- Avoid construction of buildings and infrastructure connected with the 2014 Olympics on the territory of the World Heritage Site, on territories near the sites, and in particular, on especially sensitive regions such as the Grushevoy Range.
- Establish alternative sites for the Olympic Village, sledding-bobsled center and roads and infrastructure located in territories adjoining the Sochi National Park, and territories near the southern border of the Park. Qualified international experts on biodiversity should be brought into this process to ensure its transparency and credibility.
- Ensure that full and independent environmental impact statements are developed for all construction projects for buildings and infrastructure for the 2014 Olympics, which give due consideration to their possible impact on World Heritage Territories and the Sochi National Park.

Concurrently, Prime Minister Putin announced that the sites of the sledding-bobsled complex and the Olympic Village would be moved, and that neither would be built in the Grushevoy Range which affects Sochi NP. Russia's WWF Director, Igor Chestin says that there is still a great deal of work to do, but that the worst dangers are past.

Sustainable management of the Overland Track within the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park, part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Eddie Staier - Parks and Reserves Manager

Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park makes up 161,586 hectares of the 1.38 Million hectare Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and is located in the northwest portion of the WHA in northwest Tasmania, Australia.

The 65 kilometre Overland Track is a walking track running from Cradle Mountain south through the park, past some of Tasmania's highest mountains to Lake St Clair. The Overland Track is classed as Tasmania's premier bushwalking experience and is rated as one of the top ten bushwalks in the world. Popularity of this walk through the summer walking season from 1st November until the 30th April, led to an increase of walkers from about 3,000 walkers in 1990 to over 8,000 in 2002.

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To maintain the world class reputation of this walk and the World Heritage values of the National Park a track management strategy was introduced in 2004. This involved the introduction of a departure management system which introduced a peak season booking system and user fee, with revenue retained for the operation and maintenance of the track.

A set of 10 variables were established to measure the sustainability of the management system. These included environmental sustainability measured through water quality, track condition, campsite condition, litter, and walker displacement; social quality measured through walker numbers, social conditions, demographic mix, and satisfaction rating; and economic management measured through cost recovery.



The "2008 Overland Track Sustainable Management Report" from the Tasmanian Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, has found that seven of the variables have exceeded the proposed standard and indicators are stable or improving; one of the variables (campsite condition) exceeded the proposed standard; but one or more variables were in decline. These variables indicated that two camping areas showed an increase in seriously impacted campsites and recommends that further monitoring be conducted during 2009. Two other variables, water quality and track condition had deficient data to accurately measure sustainability as some measurements were prior to the introduction of the track management system. These also require further surveys to be conducted during 2009. The report concluded that management changes implemented over the last four years have had demonstrable benefits across the three areas of sustainability measured.

[Photo above: Barn Bluff on Cradle plateau in spring. Overland Track in foreground - Photo by Eddie Staier]

Young Sherpa Conservationists Race to Push Ideas into Actions

World Press invited to attend the Imja Tsho Action Event in mid-June 2009

While some rest on their laurels after receiving awards for high achievement, Nepali mountaineer and conservationist **Dawa Steven Sherpa** and his young Sherpa conservation colleagues have chosen instead to don their running shoes and dash down a high-altitude river gorge to save people and their way of life.

After being lauded by several international organizations for the innovative clean-up successes he achieved in his 2008 Eco-Everest Expedition, **Dawa Steven** launched a new non-profit organization in Nepal named iDEAS (Initiatives for Development and Eco Action Support). This spring iDEAS is helping a group of young adult Sherpa conservationists, **Sherwi Yondhen Tshokpa**, to organise the Imja Tsho Action Event 2009 slated to take place June 18-19. The highlight of the event will be the Beat the GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) Action Run. For more information about this visit: http://ideas-action.org/home/what_we_are_doing.php

Bits and Pieces

On January 1, **Linda McMillan** became President of the Mountain Protection Commission of the **UIAA (International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation)**. In this capacity, she will promote the further development of projects at MtPAs which utilize climbing and trekking volunteer groups to serve the PA as "**citizen scientists**" for biodiversity inventories in difficult-to-access sites. (See for example in the previous **UPDATE** her article on lichen sampling in Yosemite NP.)

Perhaps a name just given by Russia's Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin to a 10,788 foot (3,290 m) mountain will assure its protection through a formidable name. Located in North Ossetia, in the Caucasus Range, the peak is now called **Peak of the Russian Counterintelligence Agents**. Names are important!

From an investigator with The Nature Conservancy, working in China's **Wolong Nature Reserve**, comes an important result about aspects of preferred habitat by Giant Pandas. It had been intuitively surmised that old-growth forest was preferred over once-logged or restored forest. The scientist found, however, that the steep slopes were more of a negative factor, and that ridge tops and shallow slopes, even though logged, became suitable habitat (better than "virgin" forests on steeply inclined terrain). This finding will influence forest restoration programs elsewhere in panda country.

On December 26, Chitwan NP held its **5th International Elephant Festival**. Although he did not ride an elephant in the race, **Pralad Yonzon** was there awarded the Distinguished Conservation Achievement Award by the Tourism Industry sponsors. This is in recognition of his activities as Chair of the **Resources Himalaya Foundation**. For an account of the Foundation's work see www.resourcehimalaya.org.

Margaret Williams, who founded and formerly edited **Russian Conservation News** is now managing WWF's Bering Sea Program, though she will continue to provide input to the **News**. As indicated in the last issue of **UPDATE**, the **News** is now downloadable at www.actr.org/newsdetail.php?news_id+MTg1. We welcome new Editor **Judith Deane** to the Network.

A project to list the **New Seven Wonders of Nature** is underway. More than a billion persons are expected to vote on more than 200 sites. Prominent among them are the Grand Canyon, Mount Everest and Loch Ness according to a wire report from Geneva. IT would amaze me if mountains were not in the majority of the final 7. Seventy-seven semi-finalists have been nominated by internet. www.new7wonders.com/hp/.

After several years of working in Eastern Europe, particularly in Bulgaria, on conservation projects, **Pierre Galland** will be working in his native Switzerland for the Federal Department of the Environment. He will assist in identifying and assessing opportunities for new **Swiss Regional Nature Parks**. **Pierre** is the Network's premier wine maker. Delicious wines from his vineyards near Neuchatel, as your Editor well knows. **Pierre** hosted a meeting of the WCPA Steering Committee at his "estate" several years ago.

Sam Pearsall, after a long career with The Nature Conservancy and/or the Natural Heritage Programs in North Carolina, has taken on the task of being South East Regional Director for Land, Water and Wildlife with the **Environmental Defense Fund**. This will entail more active engagement in environmental controversies and a larger geographic focus. Good luck, **Sam**!

The world's only remaining non-domesticated herds of **Caucasian bison** find protection in the Kavkazky Zapovednik in the Western Caucasus Mountains.

And, scientists are working to develop a vaccine against rabies which threatens the endangered **Ethiopian wolf**. Less than 500 of these wolves remain in the remote parts of the Bale Mountains, in mountain protected areas.

The importance of connectivity corridors is aptly demonstrated by the appearance of a **wild wolf pack** in the northern part of the State of Washington, USA. These wolves, according to genetic testing, have migrated in from Canada.

We think most recipients of **UPDATE** (along with the large majority of Americans) join us in rejoicing at the election of **President Barak Obama**. This promises an end to and a reversal of at least some of the environmental damage sanctioned by George Bush. Many of these Mt PAs were damaged by factors such as snowmobiles in Yellowstone NP, air pollution affecting many mountain parks in both East and West, Endangered Species policy, oil, gas and mining adjacent to NPs *etc.* Hallelujah!!

Some press reports have insisted that the **glacier melting** which is occurring in most parts of the world, is giving us more water, rather than less. Recent research in Peru's **Cordillera Blanca** however, indicates that predictions for the coming decades suggest that flows will decrease and be more variable across seasons.

A transfrontier cooperative Natural Park has been established between Germany and Austria, with the name **Nagelfluhkette**. It consists of around 400 km² and includes 15 communes in the Alps, between Obergallgau (Germany) and Vorderer Bregezerwald (Austria). The mountains here have great variety: limestone plateaus of the pre-Alps, great mounds of schists, granite needles, moraine and scree. The scenic variety of forests meadows and farms, caves, streams and waterfalls is enhanced by old villages.

From **Franco Zunio** (of Wilderness Italia) comes news of the recent creation in Italy of three new wilderness areas. These are within or adjacent to the famous Abruzzo NP in the Central Apennines. These are: Monti Ernici Orientali, Serra Traversa e Colle Nero and Le Mainarde. According to **Franco** there are now 58 wilderness areas in Italy, totalling some 35,000 ha.

We welcome my granddaughter, **Kate Hamilton** to the Network. She has become Development Director for **NatureBridge**, formerly **Yosemite National Institute**. The organization is in partnership with the US National Park Service, in Mt PAs Yosemite and Olympic, and is planning to expand to other PAs. It works with youth from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds to become active and leaders in conservation.

Other new Network Members include:

Hope Robertson (Consultant); **Tom Sengalama** (Regional Coordinator/Executive Secretary, Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration), **Ashiq Ahmad Khan** (Advisor, WWF-Pakistan), **Dr. Liu Linshan** (Department of Land Use/Cover Change and Land Resources, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, China), **Naw Thant** (Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department, Myanmar), **Hem Sagar Baral** (CEO, Bird Conservation Nepal), **Karma Jigme** (Nature Conservation Division, Department of Forest, Bhutan), **Shivraj Bhatta**, (Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal), **Marie-Eve Marchand**, (Executive director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Quebec Chapter), **Farooq Ahmad** (Team Leader Biodiversity Conservation and Coordinator Honeybee Program, ICIMOD, Nepal), **Yves Paiz Merino** (Volcanic Chain Program Manager, Guatemala), and **Judith Deane** as noted above. We welcome back into the fold, **Kim Vicariu** (Western Director, Wildlands Network). For non-interaction we have dropped two Members.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

The World Heritage Sites of UNESCO: Nature Sanctuaries. 2003. While there are many beautiful "coffee table books" showing and briefly describing the Natural Sites on the WH List, this large volume (400 pages) seems to me to be the most splendid. While the text is brief and fairly prosaic, the illustrations are superb. It was prepared with the patronage of the Italian National Commission of UNESCO. From the roughly 170 Natural Sites the editors Marco Cattaneo and Jasmina Trifoni have selected 100 sites, giving geographic coverage and uniqueness of patrimony. Photos have been selected from an army of hundreds of photographers. Would make a fine special gift. White Star Publishers, Vercelli, Italy. www.whitestar.it.

Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide. 2009 Eds. **Graeme Worboys, Wendy Francis, and Michael Lockwood.** Publication expected before end of the year by Earthscan.

Forests and Water. 2008. **L. S. Hamilton.** FAO Forestry Paper No. 155. Although not dealing directly with MtPAs, most of this 78 page manual deals with the need to maintain and protect water resources, particularly in the steep uplands, --through special conservation status of key landscape situations. These include: montane cloud forests, riparian buffer zones, municipal water supply areas, avalanche protection zones, landslip-prone area conservation areas, and the special case of mountainous small islands. Network members **Nigel Dudley** and **Sue Stolton** contributed.

Mountain Research and Development. Published by United Nations University and the International Mountain Society at the Centre for Development and Environment, University of Berne, Berne, Switzerland. This fine journal has been hard copy for 28 volumes (since 1981). It was founded by **Jack Ives**. Beginning in 2009 this quarterly will be online and open access through the BioOne program (www.bioone.org). See www.mrd-journal.org. Many members of the MtPA Network are associated with this journal which has been the major vehicle of publication and information for the mountain community of scholars. On the Editorial Board are: **Hans Hurni** (Editor in Chief), **Ted Wachs, Jack Ives, Martin Price, Eklebya Sharma, Fausto Sarmiento, Salome Misona** and **Alton Byers**. Members of the International Editorial Advisory Board include: **Yuri Badenkov, Roger Barry, Gerardo Budowski, Jose M. Garcia-Ruiz, Lawrence Hamilton, Thomas Hofer, Bruno Messerli, Jane Pratt, Chrishtoph Stadel, and Teji Watanabe.** Highly recommended that all Network members take advantage of this new opportunity, and hopefully that many will use it as a publication outlet, and support it financially as a "Friend of MRD."

Protected Landscapes and Cultural and Spiritual Values. 2008. Ed. by **Josep M. Mallarach.** IUCN, GTZ and Obra Social de Caixa Catalunya. This is number 2 in a series on Values of Protected Landscapes and Seascapes. Following an overview chapter by **Josep**, there are 16 case studies, 7 of which involve mountain areas or sites. Among Network authors are **Thymio Papayannis, Jeremy Spoon, Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa, Fausto Sarmiento, Sue Stolton, Nigel Dudley** and **Adrian Phillips**, as well as **Josep.**

Enfants des Montagnes du Monde. 2008. **Fausto Sarmiento, Sylvie Brunel, Hervé Gumuchian, Valerie Potolskaya** and **P. S. Ramakrishnan.** In French. While we usually limit our publications list to those dealing expressly with MtPAs, we occasionally include a special work by some member of the Network, which is not MtPA focused, but has relevance. This is such an item. It focuses on the youth of marginal mountain communities around the world. Beautifully illustrated. 160 pages; Euro 39. Glenat, Grenoble.

Watch for the new **eco.mont**, a journal of protected mountain areas research, which will be published in June 2009 in both email and print versions. It is a venture of The Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR), Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Innsbruck Press. www.oeaw.ac.at/ecomont. **Guido Plassman** and **Thomas Schaurer** are on the Editorial Board.

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

International Conference on Indigenous Sacred and Cultural Sites. April 5-11, 2009 in Cuzco, Perú. Organized by Yachay Wasi ("House of Learning" in Quechua), an NGO based in New York and Cuzco. Details at 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.

Healthy Parks/Healthy People International Congress. April 11-16, 2010. Melbourne, Australia. Major sponsors: Parks Victoria/IUCN/Beyond Blue/Deakin University/Australia Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Information: www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org

International Seminar on Protected Area Management. July 13 - August 1, 2009. Missoula, Montana, USA. This seminar has a long history (10 years) of successful operation in a collaborative arrangement between the Universities of Montana, Idaho and Colorado State, plus the US Forest Service. It is designed for mid-career planners and managers of PAs. Participants will visit several PAs of the Rocky Mountain region and Washington DC. Themes include: Integrated Planning for Protected Areas; Community Involvement; Tourism, Concessions and Visitor Management; and Transboundary Management in the Face of Climate Change. Tuition cost, including travel during the Seminar is US\$5,500. No funding support is available from the organizers. Participants must also cover their expenses to Missoula and from Washington. Network member **Wayne Freimund** is Seminar Co-Director. Details at www.fs.fed.us/global/is/ispam/welcome.htm. Applications are due by April 2.

36th Annual Natural Areas Conference. September 15-18. Vancouver, Washington, USA. Organized and hosted by Natural Areas Association and State of Washington Department of Natural Resources. Focus is in "Edges" in land management for species, habitats, human society and the earth. Abstracts due by March 27. See www.naturalarea.org for themes, and abstract details.

4th International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas. September 17-19, 2009. Held in Hohe Tauern NP (Austria) and organized by the Park, ALPARC, ISCAR and IGF. Topics include long-term monitoring in PAs, climate change evidence, transdisciplinary research. nationalpark@salzburg.gv.at.

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.

Mountain Tourism in Natura 2000 Areas: Conflict or Opportunity. October 22-25, 2009 in Kudawa Zdroj, Poland. An international seminar on the use of mountain Natura 2000 areas for recreation and tourism and the role of NGOs and local communities. By International Friends of Nature, Polish Tourist Country Lovers' Society, Institute of Tourism and Recreation (Cracow) in cooperation with Gory Stolowe NP (The Sudetes). Information from **Piotr Dabrowski** dabrowski@eko-tourist.krakow.pl.

9th World Wilderness Congress. November 6-13, 2009. Mérida, Mexico. WILD Foundation and Unidos para la Conservación (UPC). Title: "Feel, Think, Act (Siente, Piensa, Actúa)!" www.wild9.org/. WILD President is **Vance Martin**. Playing a key organizing role is **Harvey Locke**. There is a Symposium on Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Areas. Abstract proposal deadline is April 1, to info@wild9.org.

Global Change and the World's Mountains. End of September 2010. Perth, Scotland University of Highlands and Islands/ Mountain Research Initiative/IUCN-WCPA-Mountain Biome. Preliminary announcement.

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



Linda McMillan

Deputy Vice-Chairman, Communications, WCPA Mountains Biome

After months of winter monsoon, March is normally the time for a brilliant blend of wildflowers in the foothills of the southern Sierra Nevada of California. However a growing drought means that this year Californians will see fewer flowers and face water rationing in some areas.