

# **"Mountain Protected Areas Update, December 30, 1994 " -Mtn-Forum On-Line Library Document**

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Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas/IUCN  
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Greetings and best wishes for the New Year. May 1995 witness great progress in mountain environment conservation, and may it be a professionally rewarding year for each of you. There seems to be a lot of material of potential interest to Network members, so we will try to produce an Update on a regular, quarterly basis (while funds last).

## **THREAT TO VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK/WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

Mountain man Jim Thorsell has revealed a story (snatched up by the press but perhaps not yet seen by many readers of this Update) of the damage being done by Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire inside and adjacent to the Park. Some 850,000 refugees are living in or next to the World Heritage Site, and the destruction of native vegetation and mountain gorilla habitat has been severe. Jim suggests that some 410 to 770 tons of forest products (mainly wood for fuel) are removed daily. He also said that the research station is in total disrepair and park personnel have not been paid for over a year by the Zaire authorities. And, on the Rwanda side of this transfrontier park, there has been abandonment of any protection. IUCN has faulted the UN High Commission on Refugees for ignoring its own guidelines adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with respect to refugee camps and national parks. This was the first national park in Africa, and the first one in Africa to be listed as a World Heritage Site.

## **CULTURE AND TOURISM IN HIGH MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE**

. Thomas Schaaf of UNESCO provided the following comments on this September 1-4 conference (held in Obergurgl, Austria), which was mentioned in the last Update. One hundred participants from Austrian, Bolivia, China (Tibet), Germany, Nepal, Switzerland, and USA considered the problems and benefits of tourism on mountain environments and mountain cultures from various angles. The perspectives of scientists, protected area managers, journalists, experts from the communication and tourism sectors as well as governmental and non-governmental representatives enriched the discussions. Case studies were presented on the culture/tourism interface situation in mountains of Europe (Alps), the Bolivian Andes, Africa (Mt. Kilimanjaro), and the Himalayas (Nepal and Tibet). The symposium very well evidenced the fact that issues in mountain areas (e.g. environmental conservation, tourism, culture) cannot be looked at in isolation, but call for integrated and interdisciplinary approaches.

## **SACRED MOUNTAINS**

Many readers of this Update are familiar with Edwin Bernbaum 's wonderful book Sacred Mountains of the World (Sierra Club Press, San Francisco, California). Currently, and until September 1995, a selection of excellent photographs from Ed's book are on exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. The photos depict the inspirational aspects of mountains which lead to some measure to their conservation. We have seen this and confirm that it is worth a visit if you are in the Washington DC area.

## **MOUNTAIN CLOUD FORESTS**

Springer-Verlag has just published as its Ecological Studies 110, the book Tropical Montane Cloud Forests (Springer-Verlag, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010; US\$89). This book, edited by Network

members Larry Hamilton and Jim Juvik, together with Fred Scatena, was the product of a conference/workshop held in Puerto Rico in 1993. It contains 27 chapter contributions including a synthesis chapter by the editors, a bibliography of cloud forest publications, and a list of known locations of cloud forests. The importance of protected areas in the conservation of these biologically and hydrologically important forests is emphasized in many chapters. To build on this, the Mountain Theme of CNPPA has joined with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre is proposing a mountain cloud forests atlas. Funding for this is currently being sought. Meanwhile, any of you who have knowledge of mountain cloud forests are urged to send some documentation on this, or references to articles relating to these forests, to Larry Hamilton.

## **CENTRAL KARAKORAM NATIONAL PARK**

Progress toward full realization of the recently-declared Central Karakoram National Park was given major impetus by an IUCN/Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock workshop held in Skardu Pakistan, October 28-29, 1994. This park has approximately 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> of spectacular mountain environment, with the world's highest concentration of mountains above 8,000 meters. On behalf of IUCN, Jim Thorsell, Stephan Fuller and Abdul Latif Rao participated in the workshop which led to an 18-point action plan for the next stage of development. It was proposed to alter the boundaries substantially to exclude the local villages (local villagers were represented at the workshop), to extend the park to Rakaposhi, and to use natural boundaries as much as possible rather than political. A "zone of influence" or "buffer zone" around the park is proposed where human occupation or use is prevalent. Stephan, working with Abdul Latif and the Ministry, is working to integrate park planning into the formal Conservation Strategies that exist or are in the making at the various levels (National and Sarhad Provincial) and other programs. World Heritage nomination will await completion of some of the implementation activities. Stephan also reports that the Swiss Government has just agreed to fund IUCN's three-year program on Sustainable Mountain Development, which will permit him to continue work in the Karakorams and the Hindu Kush.

## **PEOPLE**

Jan Cerovsky (Czech Republic), was honored by the German Association of Nature Conservation Professionals by being awarded the Conwentz Award for his contributions to German-Czech cooperation in nature conservation. Jan is outgoing Vice-President and Regional Councillor of IUCN.

Juan Mayr Maldonado (Colombia), is a Regional Councillor for South America and has been appointed as IUCN Vice-President. He is with Fundación Pro Sierra Nevada.

The new Regional Vice-Chair for CNPPA/South America is Network member Gustavo Suárez de Freitas, Director of the Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza.

Clío Martín Echeburúa (USA), formerly Chief Scientist of Glacier National Park, is now Rocky Mountain Ecosystem Coordinator for the National Biological Survey. He is still located in Glacier, Montana.

Chandra Gurung (Nepal) has left the Annapurna Conservation Area and now is Project Coordinator of Establishing a Partnership for Quality Tourism, a UNDP project at P O Box 107, Kathmandu.

Bing Lucas (New Zealand), immediate Past Chair of CNPPA, and former Director General of Lands and Survey for New Zealand, did much to shape and nurture the National Parks system (and other protected areas) of his country, including some of the world's finest mountain environments. He was recognized for his conservation achievements by being awarded Honorary Membership in IUCN and being presented the Fred Packard Award in Buenos Aires at the January 1994 General Assembly. Our Mountain Network friend had his halo polished again in late October by being invited to the Palace by Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, and presented with the Order of the Yellow Ark. Our warm congratulations to the illustrious Silver Fox. Bing says that his

grandchildren are most impressed with the Yellow Ark award since they think it must have something to do with McDonalds and free hamburgers!

Anne LaBastille (USA) work on Lake Atitlán in the mountains of Guatemala, and her struggle to prevent the extinction of the Atitlán flightless grebe was documented in November by television and this remarkable story will be shown on European public television in January as a 30-minute documentary. She has also incorporated her work with the grebe into a novel, *Mama Poc: An Ecologist's Account of the Extinction of a Species* (Norton and Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10110; US\$20). Last July Anne received the 1994 Roger Tory Peterson Award for Outstanding Nature Educator.

### **TRANSFRONTIER NATIONAL PARKS**

A recent publication from WWF Italy and WWF France presents a status report and analysis of the mountain transboundary National Parks Gran Paradiso and Vanoise. The study was done by lawyer Sylvie Passet through the Centre International pour la Conservation de la Montagne (Chez Divoz, F-74500 Feternes, France). It is in French and Italian and deals primarily with the administrative, structural and political aspects of this cooperative effort at international protected area management.

The Centre International pour la Conservation de la Montagne, through its President Dominique Rambaud indicated that one of their prime objectives is to establish an international park in the Mont Blanc region, involving France, Italy and Switzerland. CICM has coordinated a working group made up of representatives of most of the concerned NGOs in the three countries over the past three years. Since sensitive natural areas and over-developed areas are in such close proximity, Dominique reports that the group is seeking to design a new kind of protected area, but one which might be applicable to many other such mountain areas in Europe or North America. We hope to hear more on this from CICM.

Plans are well underway for a Transboundary Mountain Protected Areas Workshop and Training Session to be held in the Australian Alps in November 1995. The Mountain Theme of CNPPA is joining with the Australian Alps Liaison Committee in planning this activity. Principal planners are Janet Machay (AALA), Jim Thorsell (IUCN) and Larry Hamilton. Announcements, inviting joint applications from pairs (or trios) of protected areas in mountains where cross-border cooperation is being attempted, have been sent out to all known areas of this nature. However, if any readers of this Update are involved in managing such an area and have not received a notice, please fax your errant Vice-Chair immediately, since the deadline for applications is January 31. Janet and her colleagues have laid out a great program of activity which will show and explain what has worked and what has not in cooperative management of seven park or reserve units in two very independent states and the Australian Capital Territory.

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PYRENEES**

The Pyrénées mountains are also receiving attention as an international resource which must be dealt with cooperatively by the various governmental authorities on both sides of the French-Spanish border. The first of a series of conferences, consultations and pilot projects on environment and development was held November 17-19 in Andorre. Major themes include natural patrimony, biological diversity and protected spaces, leading toward a 1997 plan for sustainable development. There was also a training course on "Ecosystems in the Pyrénées, Conservation Problems due to Land Use Change" held September 19-23 in Formigal, Spain. Pier Zingari of ICALPE gave a paper dealing with conservation management in the Alps and Juan Pablo Martinez Rica of the Instituto Pirenaico de Ecología made two presentations relating to biodiversity conservation needs in the Pyrénées.

**THE GEORGE WRIGHT SOCIETY CONFERENCE. APRIL 17-21, 1995**

The last issue of Update carried a brief note on The George Wright Society. Every two years they hold a conference bringing together professionals from cultural and natural fields of protected area management. The 1995 conference will be in Portland, Oregon during Earth Week, and the preliminary program shows a wide and very interesting array of accepted papers. Most, but not all, papers deal with North American protected area situations, although there are many which deal with issues which have no geographic limitations. Details are available from TGWS, P O Box 65, Hancock, Michigan 49930-0065.

### **MOUNTAIN SQUIRRELS VERSUS MOUNTAIN TELESCOPES**

A US Federal court agreed with the Sierra Club and the Mount Graham Coalition that protection of the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel warranted halting construction of a large binocular telescope on the mountain summit habitat of this species. An injunction against further site disturbance (e.g. tree cutting) requires a hill environmental review and impact analysis, which will include effects on other locally-rare species such as black bear, mountain lion, Apache trout, Mexican spotted owl, peregrine falcon and goshawk. The telescope proponent, the University of Arizona, had claimed exemption from environmental review. Another summit on Mount Graham already has two telescopes.

### **WORLD CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

This conference, supported by UNESCO MAB, UNEP, WTO, Insula and the government of Spain, will be held in April 1995 in Lanzarote, Canary Islands. This is an important topic in mountain protected areas, and it is hoped that some of you will be participating, especially since there will be some emphasis on Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites as trials for sustainable tourism models. ICALPE carried out a study for the European parliament on tourism-environment relationships in the Alpine region, and will present this as well as being rapporteur on mountain tourism. Information is available from Secretariat WCST, Viana 50, 38201-La Laguna, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

### **AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13 (MOUNTAIN CHAPTER!)**

December 13-15 saw the convening of the first of a series of intergovernmental conferences to be held in at least five regions concerned with implementation of the mountain chapter of Agenda 21 . This one was hosted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, Nepal, and was organized largely by Director General Egbert Pelinck and Mahesh Banskota. Many members of the MtPA Network were in attendance at this gathering of government representatives from over 20 Asian countries and several NGOs. Jack Ives reports that it was a very successful meeting from which messages will go to the Commission on Sustainable Development for their consideration of how to implement Chapter 13. The Task Manager for this Chapter 13 process is Tage Michaelsen of FAO. He is stimulating regional conferences, leading to a World Mountain Summit in 1997. The next regional intergovernmental meeting is for South American mountains, to be held in Lima, Peru in March. Tage has put together a report for the UN Secretary General with the assistance of a group of about 27 Focal Points, nine of whom are members of the MtPA Network. This will go to the CSD.

Another part of the process is a global NGO meeting being organized by the Mountain Institute (formerly Woodlands Mountain Institute) to be held in Lima February 22-27. This is by invitation, and President Jane Pratt and her advisory group have tried to achieve a balance of regional, gender, and topical interest representation. The chief purposes of this workshop are to develop a process for NGO input into the various intergovernmental regional meetings and to make direct input from the NGO community to the Commission on Sustainable Development. We will try to keep the Network informed about this whole process as it unfolds.

### **GETTING RESEARCHERS AND MANAGERS TOGETHER**

A fine book, coming out of the IV World Parks Congress, has just appeared with the title *Coordinating Research and Management to Enhance Protected Areas*. It is synthesized and edited by David Harmon, Deputy Executive Director of The George Wright Society, who did an excellent job in making things practical and clear. It is published by IUCN in collaboration with TGWS, the Science and Management of Protected Areas Association and the Commission of the European Union. It is available from either the IUCN Publication Services Unit, 219C Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL United Kingdom, or The George Wright Society, P O Box 65, Hancock, Michigan 49930 USA. This book has guidelines on how to bring together the two parties who "don't always see eye-to-eye" for more effective protection.

### **THIRD HINDU KUSH CULTURAL CONFERENCE**

This conference will be held August 26-30, 1995 in Chitral, Pakistan. For more information contact Dr. Elena Boshir, Secretary of Organizing Committee, 488/D-4, phase I, Hayatabad, Peshawar, Pakistan. Stephan Fuller states that this has strong environmental themes, and will be used by him and others as a sounding board for the proposed Tirich Mir National Park and Biosphere Reserve.

### **EUROPEAN MOUNTAINS**

There is much transpiring region-wide in the mountains of Europe, and space permits mentioning only a few significant items here. The European Science Foundation in Strasburg has just awarded a grant to ICALPE for a study of Trends in Mountain Biodiversity which will involve both Pier Zingari and Michel DMbost.

Progress continues toward an eight-country Alpine Convention. Six protocols (which have been reviewed by IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law and by the Mountain Vice-Chair) involve: Agriculture, Land Use Management, Forests, Nature Protection, Tourism, and Transport. These need to be ratified, and the last one is an especially tough one.

Coming out of the "Third European Conference on Mountain Regions" held at Chamonix, France in mid-September has been a draft European Charter of Mountain Regions for consideration by the Council of Europe.

An international congress, "Mediterranean High Mountains: Protect Nature, Protect Culture", was held October 22-23 in Tossa de Mar, Spain. It was organized by Mountain Wilderness of Catalonia and Mountain Wilderness International. It is the first in a series of three meetings organized under the Mountain Wilderness umbrella and is part of a campaign to Save Mount Olympus. The second congress will be in 1995 in Taormina, Italy, with the title "Mountains and Sacrality". The final meeting, "Protection of Mount Olymp", also in 1995, will be in Athens, Greece. This will be capped with a return of the "argonauts" who will have travelled by ship from Sicily to the Greek coast of the Olymp region. Hopefully Miquel Raffia, who was on the Technical Committee for the Catalonia meeting, or Patrizia Rossi, who gave a paper on Protection of the Maritime Alps can provide us with dates and contact persons for these subsequent meetings?

### **THE APPENINES**

An interesting Caramanico International Convention was held October 28-30 in the mountains of the Abruzzo Region in a temporary meeting complex on the edge of Valle del Orfento Nature Reserve which is part of a proposed large Parco Nazionale delta Majella. As well as government officials, there were natural and social scientists, philosophers, clerics, artists, space scientists, lawyers, photographers and writers; there also were land managers, industrialists and politicians. Their purpose in coming together was to show support for environmental conservation in the face of a new somewhat hostile national political climate, and to draft a Caramanico Charter for the Abruzzo Region. This charter is to emphasize nature protection, sustainable forestry, appropriate tourism and conservation of the rich cultural heritage. It was organized by the regional tourism organization, CARSA. Members of the MtPA Network presenting papers included: Yongyut Trisurat (Thailand), Pier Zingari (France), Bernhard Schoen (Austria), Arnold Olsen (USA) and Larry Hamilton (USA).

The Carla di Caramanico is scheduled to be produced by April 1995. Hopefully it will contribute to countering proposals to open the floodgates to mass tourism, reduce the size of the proposed Majella National Park, reduce park and reserve budgets, and allow hunting in protected areas.

Of particular interest is a proposal being advanced by Franco Tassi, (Director of Abruzzo National park and Chairman of the Italian Committee for National Parks and Equivalent Reserves), for an Abruzzo Green Region of Europe. His detailed proposal shows a series of linked protected areas (using protection corridors) covering much of the Appenine mountains in Abruzzo. It covers five national or regional parks and two new interregional parks for which the well-established Abruzzo National Park provides an organizing focus. It includes 19 smaller nature reserves, refuges or oases of various kinds, and would encompass some 600,000 hectares in the Central Appenines. In the next issue of Update, we propose to devote some space to detailing the remarkable success which Franco has had with re-introductions of fauna, a working volunteer program and a supportive set of communities within Abruzzo NP.

### **INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN SOCIETY**

May we recommend to you the International Mountain Society and its fine quarterly journal Mountain Research and Development? Many Network members already find it valuable. Many of the scientific articles deal with mountain protected areas. Those of us concerned with broader issues of sustainable mountain development can find in this journal much of value in putting protected areas into context with the rest of the mountain world, including the needs of mountain people. IMS President is Jack Ives (USA). Membership, including subscription, is US\$36 plus postage for outside of USA (plus US\$7 for sea mail; plus US\$36 for air mail). Checks, credit card charges or postal money orders can be made to Mountain Research and Development, University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94729 USA.

### **FINAL NOTE**

Thank you to the (very) few of you who responded to the request for feedback on the Guidelines for Mountain Protected Areas. More responses, critical or otherwise, are still welcome.

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