

June 30, 1994

TO: The Mountain Protected Areas "Network"

FROM: Larry Hamilton, Vice-Chair (Mountains) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas/IUCN

Greetings! Whether you have realized it or not, you are on a "network" list of some 130 individuals who are carrying out research or management in mountain protected areas. This began with the 44 persons who participated in the Parks, Peaks and People consultation in Hawai i Volcanoes National Park in late 1991, who wanted to maintain some periodic contact with each other. Since then, almost 90 other mountain men and women have indicated a desire to be part of any action or information exchange. So far, communication has been spotty. Each network member was put on the mailing list of the World Mountain Network Newsletter from the International Mountain Society in Davis, California. Many individuals also are members of IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas and read the mountain column which I contribute to each issue of the CNPPA Newsletter. Also, the products from the Parks, Peaks and People meeting (the East West Center publication of the same name, and the IUCN Guidelines for Mountain Protected Areas) came out over the ensuing year and were sent to all members. Since then, however, lack of funding resulted in the discontinuance of the World Mountain Network Newsletter. (Last issue was June 1993.) Also, in November 1993, I left the East West Center and no longer had available that institutional support for communication expenses, to keep up the momentum. Consequently while I have been in correspondence or contact with many of you in mountain activities over the past year and a half, there has been no "total" networking. On the brighter side, I am aware that many of you who have become acquainted through some of these activities are in touch with each other; and this is where much of the benefit of a network comes in.

Thanks to outgoing CNPPA Chair "Bing" Lucas and new Chair Adrian Phillips, to Jim Thorsell and David Sheppard of the IUCN staff and especially to the new Director General David McDowell, I now have a modest budget for communication with the MtPA network. IUCN has also approved a formal proposal for a funded three-year Task Force Program which would permit the implementation of a viable set of activities. However, this is only an official hunting license, and donor support has to be found. Ideas are welcome.

By means of this update memo, I want to make sure that all of you are aware of some of the recent and substantial mountain protected area activities. It does give one hope.

Highlights of Mountain Activities 1993-94

- "Guidelines for Mountain Protected Areas" translated and published in Russian by Yuri Badenkov and Olga Galtseva, and in Spanish by Martha Suarez de Freitas Calmet (in Peru).
- "Parks, Peaks and People", edited by Hamilton, Bauer and Takeuchi produced by the East West Center.
- Meeting of the African Mountain Association, March 1993 in Nairobi, with a focus on Mount Kenya, and proposal for World Heritage nomination.
- Organizational meeting of an East Asia-Pacific Mountain Association, May 1993, Canterbury, New Zealand. Establishment of a Centre for Mountain Studies in Lincoln University.
- Mountain Cloud Forest Symposium, June 1993, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Focus on research synthesis and protection for these areas worldwide. Proceedings published in January 1994.
- Mountain National Parks and Biosphere Reserves: Monitoring and Management conference held in Krkonose National Park, Czech Republic, September 1993. Proposed a Centre for Management and Restoration of Disturbed Ecosystems in Hercynian Mountains.

- Oecologica Montana, a new journal produced out of High Tatras National Park, published by Prunella Publishers in Slovakia.
- World's largest international protected area of spectacular mountain nature was formally instituted as the Tatshenshini-Elsek Wilderness Park (Canada), to be joined with the St. Elias (US) as a World Heritage Site.
- Andean Mountain meeting convened by IUCN South America to launch an Integrated Programme of Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development, September 1993 in La Paz, Bolivia. The organizer was José Pedro de Oliveira Costa. An interesting concept of a cordillera-long protected area corridor was put forth. This will be followed up.
- A conference on "Threatened Mountain Forest of Europe" was held in Trento, Italy in October 1993.
- Management plan for Mount Kilimanjaro, one of the world's best-known mountains was prepared.
- The Prime Minister of Pakistan approved the proposal to designate the Central Karakoram (including K-2) as a national park, and put forward a proposal to list it as a World Heritage Site. Planning follow-up is underway, and a workshop is proposed for Skardu in September 1994 to lay out guidelines. A CNPPA meeting is proposed in connection with this workshop.
- James Thorsell produced a slide program of "Guidelines for Mountain Protected Areas", which he can adapt for regional use, and has done so on several occasions. (I am glad to book his services for a modest commission.)
- Mountain network luncheon was held for those members attending the IUCN General Assembly in Buenos Aires, January 1994, with 15 participating.
- Mountain protected areas were prominently featured in Vol 31, No 118 of the European bulletin "Nature and National Parks", and issue No 72 of "Naturopa" was devoted almost exclusively to mountain articles. A book on Western Australia's Sterling Range and its national park was published as "Mountains of Mystery, a Natural History of the Stirling Range".
- At Ponte di Legno, Italy, in June 1994 an international symposium on protection and development of mountains was held under the title Man and Mountain '94.
- Implementation of the mountain chapter (no. 13) of Agenda 21 was initiated at a meeting in late March 1994 in Rome, called by FAO. This UN inter-agency meeting plus key mountain NGOs has proposed a broad scenario for progress. The first stop will be a meeting of NGOs and some donors at Woodlands: the Mountain Institute, July 20-26, 1994. This is to be followed by regional meetings (Himalayas and Andes currently being planned) prior to a major global conference in 1995. (Hopefully many of you will be involved in this process.)
- Ecosystem Monitoring and Protected Areas international conference May 1994, Halifax, Canada. Relevant to MtPAs.
- Publication by IUCN of "Nature Reserves of the Himalaya and Mountains of Central Asia", prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre under Michael Green.

Activities Coming Up or Proposed

- The International Geographical Union, Commission on Mountain Geocology and Sustainable Development will hold its symposium and field excursion in three mountain protected areas August 13-21: Black Forest,

Berchtesgaden National Park, and Hohe Tauern National Park. The last information I had is that there were still a few openings. Contact Professor Jorg Stadelbauer, Institute for Cultural Geography, University of Freiburg, Werderring 4, D7800 Freiburg, Germany; fax 49 761 203 4464.

- July 20-26 NGO Workshop on Mountain Agenda at Spruce Knob, West Virginia, USA. By invitation, to plan for larger regional meetings and a World Consultation in February 1995 which will draft a scenario for implementing the mountain chapter of Agenda 21.
- September 1994, Workshop in Skardu, Pakistan, planning for a Central Karakoram National Park. CNPPA meeting in conjunction with this.
- End of October 1994, World Convention of Forest Rangers with a focus on human activity (especially forestry and tourism) within protected areas. Held in the mountainous Abruzzo Region, Italy, at the Maiella Massif.
- April 1995 in La Paz and Huaranilla, Bolivia, there will be an Andean Mountain symposium and workshops whose main themes under sustainable development will be: protected areas; watersheds; cloud forests; global climate change; improved communication between scientists, managers, decision-makers and land owners/users; and problems of data and information exchange. Details from Dr. Maximo Liberman, Institute of Ecology, Casilla 10077, Correo Central, La Paz, Bolivia. (Sponsored by UNU, FAO, IUCN, UNESCO, IMS, others.)
- November 1995 will hopefully see implemented a workshop on "Transfrontier Mountain Protected Areas: Achieving Real Collaboration". This would be hosted by the Australian Alps Liaison Committee and draw on their lessons learned of what does and does not work. Funds are being sought.

Other Bits and Pieces

- The Federation of European Nature and National Parks (FNNPE) has instituted a project of protected area partnership and exchange between Europe and parks in South America and Asia. Mountain Protected Area Network members are urged to investigate possible partners with common problems and to probe possibilities for support (possibly 15 sets of Winnings during the five years of the program). Mountain PAs particularly would seem to qualify. Details are available from the newly-appointed Coordinator Dr. Jens Bruggemann, FNNPE, Postfach 1153, D94475, Gralenau, Germany.
- World Wildlife Fund Malaysia has initiated a campaign to focus on conserving the mountain habitats of the Main Range in Peninsular Malaysia. A field project is collecting data and setting needs and priorities for the area between Cameron Highlands and Genting Highlands. Those habitats, including important cloud forests, are threatened by resort development, road construction, agriculture and logging. The important values of quality water production and biodiversity are under assault, and the WWF Malaysia program, which is receiving increasing governmental recognition, aims to improve protection of these important and sensitive areas.
- Sacred mountain of the world were the topic of a recent series of outstanding public lectures given by network member Dr. Edwin Bernbaum. These were presented in March at the University of Vermont, the Smithsonian Institution and the American Museum of Natural History in the USA. Ed is author of the beautifully-illustrated Sierra Club book, Sacred Mountains of the World. It is now available in soft cover for US\$25 (US\$50 for hard cover). Stimulated by Ed's message, I personally visited two of the holy hills of Ireland later that month: Saint Patrick's mountain and Queen Maeve's hill.
- Mountain conservation and increased protection in South Africa is receiving more attention in the Department of Environment Affairs according to Geoff Cowan who is responsible for ecosystem conservation. Involvement is sought in the Mountain Protected Areas Initiative of CNPPA. Mountains constitute about 10 percent of South Africa and harbor two-thirds of its indigenous forest cover. The state owns 15 percent of the mountain

catchments but has some degree of land use control over the 85 percent private mountain catchments in the interest of soil and water conservation, but increasing attention is being paid to other values. This is especially because the mountains are the Noah's Ark of natural plant communities including endangered species. One of our mountain network members, Peter Blignaut has proposed the establishment of a South African Land Heritage Trust in the new constitution, with an initial focus on the country's mountain heritage. It is hoped that the new national administration in South Africa continues to advance this implementation of mountain protection and conservation measures.

· Tongariro National Park, the first park in New Zealand, and already on the World Heritage List for its natural qualities, has been recognized for its cultural value to the Maori people, and has now a dual cultural landscape inscription.

Well Network Members, there is an update for you. Please write and send me items of interest which I may be able to use in the next update memo of this type. I will strive to pull together this kind of information for you periodically, --say once a year? E-mail is not an option for everyone at this time, but I would welcome any other suggestions from you for network communication.

Best regards.

Browsing Classification: General: Periodicals Généralités: Périodiques Generalidades: Publicaciones Periódicas:Global

Citation: Hamilton, L. 1994. Update Memo to the Mountain Protected Areas "Network". Hinesburg, VT.

[Return to the Main Library Page](#)

[Return to the The Mountain Forum Home Page](#)

The Mountain Forum / mfsupport@mtnforum.org / revised December 1998