

MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS UPDATE

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Do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am, -- a reluctant enthusiast - a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here. So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, encounter the grizz, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much: I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound people with their hearts in a safe deposit box and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this: you will outlive the bastards.

~Edward Abbey

Funding Gratitude and Concerns

This issue of UPDATE is underwritten by IUCN/US, through Executive Director and Network member *Scott Hajost*¹. Thanks from the 495 members!

We have now come to a crossroads. There is enough funding for one more issue, and then a void. I have been unable to secure either stable funding, or even another single issue after that. Thus may end another newsletter. This one has had a good run, since its beginning in 1992. I do appeal to any readers with access to institutional funds to consider support to continue UPDATE as the hard copy publication which most readers prefer. Each issue costs approximately US\$900 to print and distribute, --a very reasonable sum.

Without funding, UPDATE will have to either discontinue, or go electronic. Frankly I do not favor the impersonal electronic route, but I would be willing to continue as Editor if an electronic publisher home is found and they are interested in that arrangement. So

¹ Names of Mountain Protected Areas Network members appear in italics.

Network members, after 15 years as a friendly reader-driven information and networking tool, the fate of UPDATE is in your hands. Ideas and offers welcome. Soon.

Great Eastern Ranges Corridor (Australia)

Early this year a continental-scale corridor of connectivity embracing PAs was approved by all the governments of the eastern part of Australia. This momentous event is a tribute to WCPA Mountain Biome's leader, *Graeme Worboys*. Graeme has long had the vision of a series of connected PAs along the southern part of the Great Eastern Escarpment and connected to the Australian Alps, and he presented this to the Parks, Peaks and People Conference which *Jim Thorsell* and I organized in 1991 at Hawai`i Volcanoes NP. It has gradually been accepted, mostly implemented, and now magnificently expanded north to Cape York. Currently work on this vision is led by *Ian Pulsford*.

Graeme sent the following message:

The government announcement in the Sydney Morning Herald of a 2,800 km wildlife corridor along the Great Eastern Ranges of Australia was inspiring. It is an outstanding response to the many threats of climate change. The Great Eastern Ranges are our best watered lands, the best of our eastern forests, the richest areas for our wildlife, and the source of water supplies for towns all along the east coast of Australia. Climate change will change these forests and our rainfall patterns, but keeping the corridor conserved gives the best chance for our future water supplies, the health of most Australians and importantly, the conservation of our wildlife. This is smart thinking and great leadership. In fact it is a leadership step which will seize the attention of the world, for there are no other continents on earth where multiple governments have championed a "whole of continent response" to the impacts of climate change. I take my hat off to all concerned.

Altaiisky Zapovednik Keeps Its Protected Status

Adapted from Russian Conservation News No 42, 2007

Altaiisky Zapovednik was established in 1932 as an 881,000 ha national nature park. In 1998 it was declared a World Heritage Site. When Network member *Slava Trigubovich* became its director in 2003, he found 11 tourist camps that had been constructed in the 1990s without proper permits. Trigubovich asked for their removal and subsequently challenged the legality of these properties in court. Last year the first three cases were decided in Altaiisky's favor, declaring the incursion illegal and requiring the eviction of the owners and demolition of the structures. The situation was volatile. Trigubovich was repeatedly threatened. In 2006 three men broke into the home of Vladimir Trulyev, a deputy director of the reserve, beat him and attempted to hang him. He was saved by a neighbor who raised an alarm. Two motor launches belonging to Altaiisky were blown up and the zapovednik office building was set on fire. In 2006 the current governor of the Altai

Republic, Aleksander Berdnikov, interested in making protected wilderness available to private enterprise, criticized the management of Altaisky Zapovednik and accused Trigubovich of a number of violations. He appealed to the Russian Minister of Natural Resources and proposed a change in the status of Altaisky from a strictly protected zapovednik. Reclassification would enable the Altai Republic governor to exercise full authority over the territory that now lies within the zapovednik, with the degree of protection to be determined by the governor. Berdnikov demanded Trigubovich's resignation. Altaisky was inspected by a team from the Ministry of Natural Resources in Moscow, and the Deputy Minister declared that Altaisky would remain protected as a zapovednik. Trigubovich was commended. And now, the Altai Foundation was the recipient of the 2006 Environmental Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations. *Slava Trigubovich* received the award for "truly inspiring and critical work."

Unveiling of Sculpture on Sacred Volcanoes of Hawai`i Volcanoes NP

Edwin Bernbaum, Director of The Mountain Institute's Sacred Mountains Program, spoke at Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park at the March 7 blessing and unveiling of a major outdoor sculpture highlighting the Hawaiian concept of wahi kapu or sacred place as it relates to the active volcanoes of Mauna Loa and Kilauea. The Sacred Mountains Program played a key role in enabling the park and its Kūpuna Consultation Committee of Hawaiian elders to commission this 11-foot high sculpture of lava and `ōhi`a wood, titled *Ulamau Pohaku Pele, Forever Growing Rock of Pele*. More than 30 artists submitted concept proposals, and Hawaiian-born artist John Kalewa Matsushita was chosen to create the work, which depicts a dream vision of the late Emma Kauhi, an elder and member of the Kūpuna Committee. A 7-ton natural rock in the shape of a mountain, shows the face of volcano goddess Pele on one side and a stream of lava winding down the other side. Four wooden panels around the base depict Pele's past, present and future, --her journey to Hawai`i, her home at Kilauea and Mauna Loa, and her new home at Kama`ehu, a submarine volcano. The sculpture helps to strengthen the role of Native Hawaiian culture and to instill a sense of awe, reverence, fear and love that connects people to the sacred volcanoes and inspires them to care for the natural environment of the park. The ceremony opened with the blowing of a pū (conch shell), an oli (chant) and pule (blessing) by Hawaiian elders. Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando, Park Interpreter Keola Awong, and the artist, Kalewa Matsushita, spoke about the historic importance of the event and the meaning of the sculpture for Hawaiians and Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park.

Yosemite (USA)/Torres del Paine (Chile) Sister Parks

This May, a ceremonial signing of a sister park relationship agreement took place in Santiago, Chile between Yosemite and Torres del Paine. *Michael Tollefson* (Yosemite

Superintendent), Chris Stern (Chief of Interpretation), and Corporación Nacional Forestal negotiated a 2-year action plan covering a myriad of park management activities of mutual interest. It is envisioned that there will be short-term staff exchanges.

This agreement grew out of a 2006 visit to Yosemite by a group of Chilean park rangers and officials. Since it will further the objectives of an Environmental Cooperation Agreement between the two countries, and is supported by the US State Department and the National Park Service, it is more than a simple agreement between the two PAs. We depend on Michael to keep us informed as this partnership develops.

Corridor Along Spine of the Americas

An American Cordillera Transect for Global Change Research has been spawned by The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI). The transect mimics the older concept advanced by *Jim Thorsell* and *Jim Barborak* and then by the WCPA Mountain Biome and EcoAmericas, for a Corridor of the Americas from Tierra del Fuego to the Bering Straits. This group produces a quarterly newsletter called The American Cordillera Transect, and number 4 has just appeared. It is available on the MRI website:

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/view/172/67/> This issue carries an article by *Graeme Worboys* about the Mountain Biome's Connectivity Workshop recently held last year in Papallacta, Ecuador. It also has a brief report by *Jorge Recharte* on the consultations with Andean communities in Peru's Cordillera Blanca that could lead to effective research on these communities' adjustment to climate change.

Russia's First Zapovednik, Barguzinski, Is 90 Years Old

Adapted from Russian Conservation News No. 42, 2007

The sable (*Martes zibellina*) has long played an important economic and cultural role in Russian history, at least since the 16th century. Overharvesting caused such a decline that by 1913 a complete ban on hunting was imposed, and scientific expeditions were sent to the three mountain areas where sable occurred, -- Sayan Mountains, Kamchka Mountains and Lake Baikal. At the latter, on the western slope of the Barguzin Mountain Range, the first zapovednik (totally protected area) was established in 1916. This was Barguzinski. By the 1940s the sable population had rebounded, and management emphasis shifted from single-species recovery to concern for the welfare of the sables' predators and foraging competitors such as bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx, Siberian weasel and ermine. In 1996 Barguzinski (347,327 ha) was listed as a World Heritage Site (part of 8,800,000 ha Lake Baikal).

The Mountain Areas Conservancy Project (MACP) – Pakistan

Adapted from Mirjam Macchi, Centre for Mountain Studies/IUCN

The Karakorum, Western Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges are globally known for their great diversity of species and the wide variety of fragile ecosystems. The region is also recognized for the rich cultural diversity of its peoples who over centuries have adapted their lives to steep terrain and harsh conditions and are highly dependent on the available natural resources for maintaining their livelihoods. In the past, natural resources of the area have been exploited for various reasons, leading to severe degradation of pasture land, depletion of medicinal and aromatic herbs, fragmented habitat, forest loss, and unsustainable hunting practices. In 1999, the Government of Pakistan, with the support of the UN Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF), and in collaboration with IUCN, launched the Mountain Areas Conservancy Project (MACP). This community-based project, which is now in its sixth and final year of implementation, is focusing on 7 geographically distinct conservancy areas in the Karakorum, Western Himalayan and Hindu Kush mountain ranges. Its efforts have resulted in significant changes in peoples' attitudes and practices, from the implementation of grazing management practices, to the conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants through *in-* and *ex-situ* conservation practices and the development of joint forest management plans and activities. A special feature of MACP is the involvement of religious leaders in its environmental campaigns, in order to boost the acceptance of the Project, especially in more conservative areas. Religious leaders in Islam are highly respected in communities. This approach was supported by WWF Pakistan and led to the publication of the book, *Conservation and Islam* (2003), which helps Islamic scholars brief communities on the importance and necessity of the sensible use of natural resources, as set out by Islamic teachings. In addition to the work being done through MACP, IUCN Pakistan is undertaking similar successful initiatives with religious leaders in the province of Balochistan. Work is currently underway to develop a second phase of the MACP in order to build on the success achieved during phase one (1999-2006).

Changbaishan (China)/Paekdu (Korea) Transborder Biosphere Reserve

I have long had a particular interest in the Changbaishan National Nature Reserve (and Biosphere Reserve) in China. This volcanic peak rises to 2,741 m and sits on the border with North Korea. It contains Lake Tianchi, the largest and highest crater lake in northeast Asia (2,100 m), and the international border cuts across it. On the Korean side, the mountain is called Mount Paekdu, and this is also a Biosphere Reserve. The forests of Changbaishan are a mosaic of several distinct communities with a clear altitudinal zonation but are also influenced by aspect, local topography and drainage patterns. The zones include alpine tundra on the highest peaks, subalpine birch and larch forest, mixed conifer forests, swamps, and rich forests of broadleaved trees mixed with Korean pine. These vegetation types contain an extraordinary wealth of plant and animal species.

Changbaishan remains the largest, best preserved and protected example of representative forest types in northeast China and has many huge, ancient trees. The Reserve also contains many economically important species including more than 800 species of the flora used in traditional Chinese medicine.

John MacKinnon, in a recent article in *Oryx* (41:1) points out some of the more striking features of the mountain:

- The altitudinal range (400-2,700 m) provides a variety of habitats and allows altitudinal migrants to adjust their vertical range with both season and climate change;
- With humid conditions and warm summers there is no annual desiccation as in many other alpine regions and the benign summers support a rich fauna;
- The physical complexity resulting from tectonic and volcanic history has resulted in a complex topography with peaks, depressions and lakes, and deep valleys that serve as shelters and cloud and moisture traps, allowing many species to survive the cold winds; and
- The long north-south axis ensures the reserve has a wide range of climatic conditions from warm temperate to cold temperate, and there are even a few subtropical elements in the lowland flora.

The WCPA East Asian Steering committee has an action plan for the establishment of a Baekdu-Daegan ecological corridor of connected protected areas along the entire Korean Peninsula. Changbaishan would form the natural head of such a chain.

Transboundary Woes in the Flathead Valley (Canada/USA)

The Flathead River Valley abuts the Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park and World Heritage Site. The importance of adequate PA buffer zones is well illustrated by the proposal of the Cline Mining Company to remove some 40 million tons of coal from the British Columbia headwaters. This would involve mountaintop removal, waste dumps and settling ponds that affect this fine river which subsequently flows into the US State of Montana along the Glacier NP border. The valley is home to the largest concentration of grizzly bears in the Rocky Mountains. Other significant transborder migrating species would also be adversely impacted: wolves, lynx, and bull and cutthroat trout. The Natural Resources Defense Council is joining with several Montana government officials to urge the BC government to complete a more thorough study of how the mining would affect water quality and wildlife habitat both sides of the border.

Sacred Sites Trail Project in Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

Sagarmatha NP is one of the world's premier mountain tourism (mostly trekking) regions, containing 4 peaks over 8,000 m and spectacular scenery. From 3,600 visitors in

1979, numbers increased to 21,520 by 2001. This increase has not been without some serious ecological and cultural impairments, which are being rectified. Trekking tourism economic benefits accrued mainly on the major established routes. In 2003, The Mountain Institute launched a Sacred Sites Trail Project in the Khumbu Region, to encourage visitors to take in less known sacred sites and villages to distribute benefits more widely.

This circular route goes clockwise from Namche Bazaar, through the Thame Valley, passing by 10 monasteries, caves, chortens, hermitages and nunneries and ending at famed Tengboche Monastery. The project seeks to engage the Sherpa communities in more effective preservation of the historical, cultural and natural sites of the Park and its buffer zone. It also includes the objective of conserving and restoring the fragile upper forests and alpine zones of the Mount Everest Region. TMI has been awarded a US\$10,000 grant from the organization Tourism Cares. Congratulations! *Alton Byers* and *Ang Rita Sherpa* of TMI have been heavily involved. For more information on the project, see www.mountain.org/work/himalayas/sacredsites.cfm.

Also of interest is the Khumbu Alpine Conservation Council, a Sherpa NGO whose mission is not only to improve the well-being of the thousands of porters working in the region, but to work on restoration of the alpine zone. In its first two years of work (cooperatively with TMI), it has banned all harvesting of shrub juniper used for fuel in tourist lodges, established a kerosene and stove depot and a shrub/medicinal plant nursery and renovated a porters' rest house. It is undertaking an alpine education program, and holding workshops on improving working conditions for porters.

These developments are one jewel in a necklace on a proposed Sacred Himalayas Landscape Project led by ICIMOD, with collaboration by WWF Nepal and TMI. This attempts to expand on the trio's Kanchenjunga Transboundary Landscape Initiative in Eastern Nepal, across the range of the Himalayas through Makalu-Burun to the east. There are 12 PAs in Nepal, India and Bhutan that have the possibility of being connected, from the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area through to Jingme Dorji NP in Bhutan in this Kanchenjunga Landscape Initiative, --a great connectivity enterprise in itself.

Threats to Two Mountain World Heritage Sites

Two mountain World Heritage Sites will come under review at the June World Heritage Committee meeting. The first is the Aeolian Islands (Italy), remarkable volcanic islands off the coast of Sicily. They have been threatened by pumice mining and lack of a management plan and regime, and *Larry Hamilton* was one of a three-member IUCN/UNESCO inspection team in late March. Fortunately, impending large hotel development and an airport of concern to the Committee, have been negated. Proposed

port expansion on Lipari island however, brings the new threat of 2,000-passenger cruise ships visiting these small islands.

The second is the Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China). Hydro dams on the Nu River (Salween) have been the major threat. In 2004, 13 dams had been proposed and there was an international outcry, and concern expressed by UNESCO/IUCN. A halt was announced, and down-scaling began, and a change in WH boundaries was mentioned. There was also concern that there might be a shifting of the dams to the Lancang (Mekong) and the Jinsha (Yangtze). Some mining activity is also of concern. A monitoring mission was carried out last year, and based on this, the Committee has asked for specific and detailed proposals and clear statement of development plans.

Controversial Wood Harvesting in Tatra NP (Slovak Republic)

Source: World Wildlife Federation

Storm-damaged trees are being harvested in Ticha and Koprova Nature Reserves within Tatra National Park. The World Wildlife Federation (WWF) has strongly criticized the move as clearly contravening both national and EU nature conservation legislation. Both Ticha and Koprova nature reserves are among the sites proposed by the Slovak government for inclusion in the EU's Natura 2000 network of specially protected sites. The forest administration and the Ministry of Environment have justified the harvesting of trees felled by a 2004 windstorm. A WWF-commissioned evaluation has strongly criticized the government-financed study for not meeting requirements for assessments as laid out in Article 6.3 and 6.4 of the EU Habitats Directive. The evaluation found the study to be one-sided, ignoring generally recognized facts regarding ecology and the dynamics of ecosystems, and methodologically flawed. "From the perspective of nature conservation, there is not a single reason for harvesting wood toppled by the wind storm in the Ticha and Koprova Nature Reserves," said Dr. Zdenka Krenova of Sumava National Park in the Czech Republic and a co-author of the evaluation. WWF has called on the Slovak State Forestry Administration to stop harvesting in the two valleys immediately, and called on the relevant authorities to undertake a proper assessment of the planned harvesting according to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

Implementing a National Trail System in Taiwan

This island country has 52% of its territory covered in mountains, with more than 100 exceeding 3,000 m in elevation. Many areas are protected in a fine park and reserve system, especially in the Central Cordillera. Many of these are linked in a Ridges of Central Cordillera National Trail System, 350 km in length. Since 2002, the International Year of Mountains, the Forest Bureau has been planning an expanded and comprehensive Trail System, linking many more prime hiking and scenic places. The main participants in

the project include professionals from the Forest Bureau, scholars in conservation, ecologists, experts in hiking and experts in ecological tourism, headed by a 16-person committee including Professor *Monica Kuo*. The preliminary work of classifying the National Trail Systems has been completed, with 21 major historical trails identified, including the coastal mountain trails, urban natural trails, ridge trails and historical trails. These trails will not only provide better facilities for domestic and international hiking activities, but also contribute to optimized utilization of the mountain PAs. The organizers welcome participation, advice and personal experience from international scholars and experts, as well as lovers of mountains and wilderness hiking. Contact *Monica Kuo* at seki@landscape.org.tw.

Entlebuch Biosphere Reserve (Switzerland): Benefits to Local Communities

In the well-settled landscapes of Europe, new nature protection projects must carry benefits to those in the buffer zone and surrounding neighbors. Entlebuch BR in the Swiss low mountains near Interlaken has achieved impressively wide community acceptance.

About 50% of its 395 km² are agriculturally usable though not rich, and 43% is in forest. The Entlebuch protects rare "mires", raised bogs and peat bogs. Until recently, the Director was *Engelbert Ruoss* (now with UNESCO in Venice), and he worked with stakeholders from 1998 to develop innovative activities that engaged the communities. By the time a vote was taken to establish the Reserve in 2000, on average, in the 8 communes, 94% of the citizens supported it. Among the actions, was a "brand" (Echt Entlebuch) certification scheme for services and products, involving restaurants, inns, bakeries and butcheries. The criteria for restaurants are:

- From products available from the area, 75% must be organic, such as meat (pork, beef, horse, sheep), milk products (milk, cream, cheese), eggs, fruits, soft drinks, fruit juice, alcoholic drinks, sweets, cakes, wine;
- Origin and the producer must be indicated on the menu card, and the meals must contain seasonal food.
- 50% of the products used in the restaurant must originate from local or other Biosphere Reserves;

Criteria concerning the services are:

- Typical meals must be offered daily;
- The collaborators must be inform guests about the Biosphere Reserve;
- Promotion material must be available and well-presented;
- Information must to be included in the menu cards and placed in the hotel rooms.

This is increasing the use of local products and adding value to local resources. In addition, of course, there is the promotion of agri-tourism, new opportunities for summer hiking to reduce reliance on the one ski area, nature interpretation, work with farmers to

promote more organic production, packages for seminars, congresses and excursions. It seems like a model worth copying for other protected areas.

Bits and Pieces

Mt PA managers can get a reading on what many people who live in mountain regions consider their most important needs and problems through the **Mountain Voices** project of the Panos London Institute. These testimonies are available at www.mountainvoices.org.

The new Executive Director for Mountain Culture at the Banff Center is *David Cox*. He has educational degrees in environmental studies, law and physical education. The Mountain Biome looks forward to continuing the synergy we have had with the Centre over the past decade by engaging David in the MtPA Network. Incidentally, the famous **Banff Mountain Film and Book Festivals** this year are October 27 to November 4. See www.banffmountainfestivals.ca.

Bighorn sheep in the American West are mountain dwellers, surviving even at 3,500 m over winters. Their numbers are alarmingly decreasing. While some of this can be attributed to disease transmission from domestic livestock and even increased losses due to an expanding mountain lion population, it is felt that the greatest threat comes from global warming. The upward shift of the tree line is shrinking the open alpine terrain required by bighorns. The endangered mountain pika of alpine zones has been considered as a "miner's canary" for climate change impacts, but we now have another canary, apparently. Both of these mountain species are mostly found in MtPAs, and need to be considered in PA management plans.

The Institute of Systems Biology & Ecology, National Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic has recently been awarded a four-year grant from the Czech Science Foundation to study comparatively and forecast **amenity migration** in three rural areas of the Czech Republic. The three areas (two mountainous) are rich in both natural and cultural amenities, including national parks and protected landscapes, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites. The research's principals are a four-person team of three Czech scientists and *Laurence Moss* (International Amenity Migration Center, Spokane, USA).

We have previously reported on the discovery of the Wollemi Pine in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, Australia and the establishment of **Wollemi National Park**. Now, in this remote and rugged area discovery of a number of fine aboriginal rock art sites has excited the archaeological and anthropological community in Australia.

Gabriel Campbell, after 7 years of service as Director General of ICIMOD in Kathmandu, has become Senior Fellow at The Mountain Institute, where he worked before joining ICIMOD. He will also engage in part-time consulting with local and international organizations, and will spend part of each year in Kathmandu.

Another retirement(?): **Steve McCool** who has engaged in research and teaching in the arena of recreational planning in national parks for umpty-ump years in the School of Forestry at the University of Montana USA, is changing careers, to take up writing and consulting. His latest book is announced in the Publications section below.

Pro-Mont Blanc (in which *Barbara Ehringhaus* is a leader) has launched an information campaign to foster the mountain's nomination by the three State Parties (Switzerland, France, Italy) as a World Heritage Site. At present it has no tri-partite protection, a situation that Barbara and others have worked on for a dozen years. www.pro-mont-blanc.org gives a brief summary of the case being made for its nomination and provides information on the organization.

The Western Governors' Association (USA) at its February meeting, struck a blow for the integrity of **wildlife migration corridors** and connectivity. This was in response to the Bush Administration sponsored Energy Policy Act of 2005 which excluded oil and gas drilling on federal lands from review under the National Environmental Policy Act. The policy resolution seeks an amendment to the Act which would place "a moratorium on all such exclusions in crucial habitat or migration corridors." Good for them!

The **Resources Himalaya Foundation** (www.resourcehimalaya.org, Coordinator *Pralad Yonzon*) has received a MacArthur Award for "Creative and Effective Institutions, 2007". It will use its US\$350,000 MacArthur Award for permanent office space and for research on the relationship between conservation and development. Resources Himalaya has 22 years of operation in conservation management planning and related fields. It has entered a new phase with a board of prominent academics, scientists and conservationists, and this will enable a huge leap forward. Congratulations, Pralad!

James Cook University in Townsville and Cairnes of Queensland Australia, offers an educational program in Protected Area Management. It is offered at the Bachelor or Masters levels, and may be taken in the School of Tropical Environmental Studies and Geography, the School of Tropical Biology or the School of Marine Biology and Aquaculture. Visit www.tesag.jcu.edu.au or contact my very good friend and colleague peter.valentine@jcu.edu.au.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Mountain Forum Bulletin Vol VIII Issue 1, January 2007. c/o ICIMOD, GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal. Edited by *Elizabeth Fox*. This issue's theme is *Managing Mountain Biodiversity for Better Lives*. Elizabeth has done an excellent job on the attractive and multi-faceted bulletin. Network members contributing include: *Stephan Fuller, John Cusick, Bernardino Romano, Amy Krause* and *Jane Ross*. It includes a "launch" of the *Thomas Hofer/Bruno Messerli* book on floods in Bangladesh, and a picture and write-up of our Mountain Biome's connectivity workshop of last November in Papallacta, Ecuador.
www.mtnforum.org.

World Heritage: Challenges for the Millennium. 2007. Edited by Sophia Labadi. UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris. This attractive publication presents a myriad of short articles on the very many facets of the World Heritage Convention, related instruments and thematic briefs as well as 5 Regional summary presentations. The brief on Mountains is based on the report by *Thorsell* and *Hamilton* in the famous *Harmon* and *Worboys* book of 2003. Network contributors to the new publication include: *Mechtild Rossler, Paul Dingwall* and *Natajaran Ishwaran*.

Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage, UNESCO. 2007. Several mountain WH Sites are included in this document such as Huascarán, Blue Mountains, Golden Mountains of Altai, and Kilimanjaro. May be viewed at http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_climatechange.pdf.

Linkages in Practice: A Review of Their Conservation Value. Undated. *Graham Bennett*. IUCN, Gland and Cambridge. This excellent review covers the experience of various kinds of conservation connectivity, from overpasses of motorways (ecoducts) to regional-scale corridors and coastal linkages, to stepping stones, and moreover reports on results achieved. It is 24 pages of succinct, no-nonsense writing. books@iucn.org, www.iucn.org/bookstore or Graham states that it is available as a pdf at www.syzygy.nl/documenten/linkages_in_Practice.pdf.

An Assessment of Frameworks Useful for Public Land Recreational Planning. 2007. *Stephen B. McCool, Roger N. Clark* and *George H. Stankey*. This 136 page book is the result of the authors' decades of experience, and should be of interest and use to MtPA managers. It is now available in print form from Pacific Northwest Research Station, P O Box 3890, Portland, Oregon 97208 as publication PNW-GTR-705. www.fs.fed.us/pnw/

Some Upcoming Meetings of Interest

3rd International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks. June 22-26, 2007 in Osnabrück, Germany in the Terra vita Nature Park (a Natura 200 area). www.naturepark-terravita.de or escherh@LKOS.de. Global geopark status was first designated in 2004 by UNESCO, and there are now 50 parks worldwide, many of them in mountains.

Society of Conservation Biology Annual Meeting. July 1-5, 2007 in Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. www.conbio.org/2007. Deadline for submissions is past, but attendees welcome.

A Global Change Research Network in African Mountains. July 23-25, 2007. Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. Part of the GLOCHAMORE strategy, of the Mountain Research Initiative. Focus on Biosphere Reserves. Date for abstracts is past. Information greenwood@scnatch.

Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference. September 9-12, 2007 in Waterton Park, Alberta, Canada. 75th anniversary of first International Peace Park. www.peaceparks2007.org. The WCPA Mountain Biome/Transboundary Task Force is in charge of a session, organized by *Larry Hamilton* entitled: Making Transboundary Cooperation Work: Experiences from the Field. Presenters include *Patrizia Rossi, Roland Stein, Barbara Ehringhaus, Dave Mihalic, Peter Jacobs, Gill Anderson* and *Robert Brunner*, and many other Network members will be there.

Mountain Agriculture and the Management of Nature 2000 Sites in Alpine Protected Areas. Hopfgarten im Defereggental, Austria. Organized by Hohe Tauern National Park. Specific inquiries to chloe.manfredi@alparc.org.

Nature - A Bridge Over Borders. EUROPARC 2007. September 26-30, 2007 in Cesky Krumlov, a World Heritage city in Czech Republic. www.europarc2007.com. The focus is on transboundary cooperation between PAs, especially in the areas of biodiversity conservation, migration corridors, monitoring climate change impacts, and common ecotourism strategies.

Countdown 2010: People, Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation. September 24 - October 13. Majella National Park, Italy. A 3-week International Seminar for up to 30 participants. Cost = 3,500 euros. A few scholarships available for developing country candidates. Applications due by June 15 to Instituto Pangea-onlus campus@istpangea.it. Supported by IUCN WCPA and CEC Commissions, Federparchi and others.

II Latin American Protected Areas Congress. September 30 - October 6, 2007 in Bariloche, Argentina. Co-sponsored by IUCN, this is held every 10 years. The four themes

are: Protected areas and biodiversity conservation; Advances and challenges in knowledge and information about PA management; Strengthening management capacity and support for PAs; Governance, equity and quality of life issues. For information contact *Carmen Miranda* cmiranda@ibsasbolivia.com.

Managing Alpine Future: Strategies for Sustainability in Times of Change. October 15-17. Innsbruck, Austria. Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Innsbruck. Core topics: ecology, tourism, natural hazards, mobility, energy, spatial planning, health and social affairs. 15-minute talks or posters. Abstracts due June 15 to alpinefuture@alps-gmbh.com.

Global Change and Consequences for the Protected Areas. October 18-19. Trafoi, Italy. Co-sponsored by Alpine Network of Protected Areas and Stelvio National Park. www.alparc.org (calendar > events) or email directly to climate-change@alparc.org.

Global Mountain In-migration Conference. May 15-19, 2008. Banff, Canada. International Amenity Center and Banff Centre for Mountain Culture Program. Being organized with a focus on managing in-migration and its impacts by *Laurie Moss*. He seeks to identify persons with experience in dealing with this issue from Europe, New Zealand, South Asia and North and West Africa. Contact him at laurencemoss@peoplepc.com.

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