

MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS UPDATE

*Lawrence S. Hamilton, Vice-Chair for Mountains¹
Graeme W. Worboys, Deputy Vice-Chair
World Commission on Protected Areas/IUCN*

No. 39, September 1, 2003

*You cannot stay on the summit forever.
You have to come down again.
So why bother in the first place?
Just this..
What is above knows what is below;
But what is below does not know what is above.
One climbs,
One sees,
One descends,
One sees no longer.
But, one has seen.
There is an art of conducting oneself
In the lower regions by the memory
Of what one saw higher up.
When one can no longer see
One can at least still know.*

Recited by Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman prior to re-entry of the Space Shuttle Discovery, April 1985.
Source unknown.

Changing Leadership in the Mountain Theme

Shortly after this issue of UPDATE is mailed out, many Mt PA Network members will be participating in the World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, and some will be part of the 60-person pre-Congress Mountain Workshop in the Drakensbergs. At the Congress, *Larry Hamilton*² will complete his time as Vice-Chair, WCPA (Mountains), after 12 years of developing and championing the Mountain Theme. Taking over the leadership role will be *Graeme Worboys*, who has been Deputy Vice-Chair for the last year and who brings abundant energy and enthusiasm to the work. Graeme built a stellar career in the New South Wales national Parks and Wildlife Service, winding up as South Eastern Regional Manager. He has resigned from NSWNPWS and Greenglobe Asia Pacific, and is now the principal in Jagumba Consulting Pty. Ltd. At 3 Rischbeith Crescent, Gilmore, ACT 2905 Australia (Tel/fax 61 2 629 299 08, g.worboys@bigpond.com) . In vernacular

¹ **Note:** New email address for Hamilton is druid@qmavt.net.

² Names of Mountain Protected Area Network members appear in italics.

Australianese "He is a beaut bloke." The theme is in good hands, and as an added bonus, Graeme has a high tolerance for bureaucracy!

The current duties of Vice-Chair for Mountains call for a large commitment of time and money, and Graeme plans to devote about half of his professional time to this *pro bono* work. Larry will continue for another year as Editor of UPDATE, partly to help Graeme and partly because he enjoys it so much! So, readers will please keep sending material for UPDATE to Larry, but WCPA mountain matters will now go to *Mountain Man Worboys*.

Two New Mountain PA World Heritage Sites

From *Jim Thorsell* comes the following information. Out of the five new Natural Sites inscribed on the WH List at the annual meeting of the WH Committee in July 2003, two are Mt PAs. The first is the Three Parallel Rivers in Yunnan, China. One of those special sites that meets all four natural criteria, this 1.7 million ha site is located in the eastern Himalayas and contains a vertical range of habitats extending from 1,600 m to 6,740 m. Indeed, over 100 peaks higher than 5,000 m are found in the site, many of which are considered sacred by the local minorities and are off limits to climbing. The area is named after the headwaters of the three main rivers of Asia, the Salween, Yangtze and Mekong which cut canyons up to 3,000 m deep as they plunge off the Tibetan Plateau. The site is also one of the world's 25 main biodiversity hotspots. Let us hope that this designation does not result in unbridled tourism, --a possible threat. The second mountain site inscribed was the Uvs Nuur Basin which is an area of steppe grassland, lakes and the eastern edge of the Altai Mountains. This is a transboundary site shared by Russian and Mongolia and extends over 1 million ha.

IUCN provides the technical advice to the Committee. The WCPA delegation included *Jim Thorsell, Adrian Phillips, Pedro Rosabal* and *Georgia Peard*. There were 44 nominations examined and 130 state-of-conservation reports. Two Mt Pa WH Sites came up for discussion on the "In Danger" List. Yellowstone NP, after lengthy deliberation over conflicting statements about whether or not the required remedial actions had taken place, was removed from the List, but with monitoring and reporting provisos. Lake Baikal had been proposed for Danger listing largely due to a proposed oil and gas pipeline through the area between China and Russia. Upon assurances from the Russian Vice-Minister for Natural Resources that the pipeline was "unlikely", the WH Site was not put on the Danger List. Details of the meeting are interesting and have been posted by Georgia on <http://iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wheritage/wheritageindex.htm>.

Wolves Again

Natural recolonization and re-introduction of wolves into restored habitat continues to be of interest, and an issue in mountain PAs from the Adirondacks in New York State to the European Alps, and from the Appenines to Yellowstone area. We have previously reported on the hostile reception which wolves have had as they recolonized from Alpi Marittime Nature Park (Italy) to Mercantour NP in France (where they are not protected). Currently a French parliamentary commission is bringing in experts from Italy to try to work out how to handle the wolf "invasion" and its effect on sheep. They are interested in the methods used in Abruzzo NP which were innovatively developed by *Franco Tassi*, and included breeding and distributing puppies of Abruzzo mastiffs which are excellent sheep guardians. There is some move in the Italian government however, to authorize hunting of wolves in the reserves and to remove the ban on poaching!!

Maine Woods National Park (USA)

Baxter State Park (Maine) whose centerpiece is Mount Khatadin (1,607 m) and whose Director is Network member *Buzz Caverly* may itself become a "centerpiece" for a surrounding, proposed Main Woods National Park. This famous State Park of 80,800 ha (Category II) would maintain its status, but the proposal is to gradually acquire private (mostly timber company) lands that might eventually result in an area larger than Yellowstone and Yosemite NPs combined. It would be the second NP in Maine after Acadia, which is largely supported by local "Mainiacs", but this proposed one has a great deal of local opposition, partly due to the large size of a Federal government land holding, in a State which prides itself on its independence from Washington.

The proposal comes from an organization, RESTORE: The North Woods. It has assembled an unusual roster of supporters from among nationally (and internationally?) known celebrities. From the nature writers, there are such well-known authors as: *Wendell Berry*, *Dave Foreman*, *John Hay*, *Anne LaBastille*, *Peter Matthiessen*, *Bill McKibben*, and *Terry Tempest Williams*. From movies and TV come *Harry Belafonte*, *Walter Crokite*, *Harrison Ford*, *Morgan Freeman*, *Anthony Hopkins*, *Robert Redford*, *Christopher Reeve*, and *Meryl Streep*. It has always been thought that those attempting to sway public opinion in favor of nature protection would do well to enlist "celebrities". (Graeme, I do not see your "Crocodile Dundee" bloke herein!) RESTORE has certainly puled out all stops to do this, and include astronaut *Buzz Aldrin* and eco-businessman *Paul Hawken* as well. Nor is the scientific community ignored, for among the many are such individuals as *Jane Goodall*, *Reed Noss*, *Michael Soulé*, *John Terborgh*, and *E. O. Wilson*. We will keep an eye on this ambitious proposal.

Impact of Terrorism Concern on Trekking and Mountaineering

During the "Maoist" problems in Nepal last year, many reports surfaced about the adverse impact on tourism visits to Mt PAs, and *Pralad Yonzon* is presenting a fine analysis of the situation at the World Parks Congress. The UIAA has recently published some startling information from Pakistan for IYM 2002 reflecting a concern about safety. There were only 24 treks, with 97 trekkers, down from 2001 when there were 245 treks with 1,319 trekkers. While 39 mountaineering expeditions were registered, only 29 materialized (K2 -8 expeditions, Nanga Parbat -2, Goshierbrum I -2, Goshierbrum II -2, Groad Peak -6, others above 6,000 m -9. In 2001, 70 mountaneering expeditions occurred above 6,000 m or in restricted zones. Tourism in general dropped incredibly, from around 500,000 in 2001, to 45,000 in 2002! Incidentally, in the USA since the September 11, 2001 events, attendance at US National Parks has been dropping: 2000 -285.9 million; 2001 -279.9 million; 2002 -277.3 million. In Rocky Mountain NP, visitor numbers dropped 6.7% between 1999 and 2002, and it is being attributed to travel and immigration security issues.

No Rest for Cairngorms NP (Scotland)

From *Malcolm Payne* comes further word on the recently established Cairngorms NP, on which we have been reporting from time to time. An alliance of organizations has come together to press Scottish politicians to include 700 km² of Highland Perthshire in the Cairngorms NP. For reasons unknown, the whole of Highland Perthshire was excluded from the designated boundary of the NP by Government in Scotland, against the advice of its advisor, Scottish Natural Heritage. The Cairngorms NP, already set to be the biggest in the UK, is seen by P.a.r.c. (Perthshire Alliance for the Real Cairngorms) as lacking crucial mountain areas and natural heritage sites of the Southern Cairngorms as well as the natural "gateway" of the historic village of Blair Atholl, in the Government's decision on boundaries. There is a very strong feeling that the boundary decision was a political one, rather than being based on the coherent identity of the most extensive area of high mountain massif in Britain. The P.a.r.c. Alliance is quite unprecedented, comprising all of the major national environmental and outdoor organizations in Scotland, along with the Perth and Kinross Council local authority, tourism, community and land ownership representatives. Pressure will be put on Scottish politicians in the forthcoming Scottish elections to make a commitment to ensuring that the Cairngorms NP will have sensible and coherent boundaries which will encompass the area's natural heritage qualities and its recreational and tourism potential.

Bwindi Impenetrable NP (Uganda)

I have always been fascinated with the name of this place, first when it was the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, and more recently (1991) National Park. It would seem to discourage visitation. Yet this 32,000 ha area in Uganda has much to attract serious visitors. Mountain gorillas and chimpanzees, and 8 other primate species live there, as well as around 400 bird species. It is the locale of the Bwindi Impenetrable great Ape Project (BIG APE) which is studying the interaction of gorillas and chimpanzees who are sharing this wet afro-montane forests habitat. In early 1999 Rwandan rebels killed a warden, and kidnapped 14 people from a tourist camp (murdering 8 of them). Since that event, the Ugandan government has worked diligently to ensure that the area is secure, and both ecotourism and research are thriving. Bwindi's mountainous terrain rises to 2,500 m, making it a warmer habitat for mountain gorilla than the Virunga Volcanoes (only 40 km to the south) which rise to 4,500 m. Apparently for this reason (more fruit trees) the gorillas here are more arboreal rather than ground foragers. For more details see *Natural History* 112(5):46-51, 2003).

"Centennial" for Nahuel Huapi NP (Argentina)

While the official date of establishment of this Andean PA of 77,150 ha is given in the UN list as 1934, *Daniel Paz Barreto* informs us that it is celebrating its 100 year anniversary. This is because the original land donation was given by Francisco P. Moreno at that time. There are a number of events planned during 2003. This item comes from the fine newsletter which Daniel puts out, under the Association of Argentine Park Rangers (*Asociación de Guardaparques Argentinos*). Last issue was No. 18.

Daniel is with the Olrog Institute. It is a continuation and enlarged in scope of the old Park Warden School of the National Parks Administration (NPA) which was created in 1968 on Victoria Island, Nahuel Huapi NP. From that date to the present time, there have been educated nearly 700 park wardens of Argentina (participants of the NPA, Provincial systems and NGOs), Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela. The Olrog Institute is also involved in the training of the technical personnel of the NPA and other jurisdictions, and organizes other events like the one recently carried out in Iguazú NP, the Sub-Regional Seminar on Formation of Capacities on Administration and Management of World Heritage Sites, with financing from UNESCO. In fact, the Olrog Institute works as a regional center of training, with important accumulated experience. These educational and training activities are financed basically by the budget of the National Park Administration of Argentina, with occasional partial support from agencies like UNESCO or the US Fish and Wildlife Service (for foreign scholarship holders).

Wind Energy Farms and Mountains

Those long-term readers of Mt PA UPDATE and WCPA Steering Committee especially recall the continuous mock rivalry between the Mountain Theme and Marine Theme in competing for a place on the WCPA/IUCN stage. Times when we have come together, such as in protected sea mounts, have been heralded with trumpets. Currently both face a new threat which is mixed with opportunity, and we may be able to learn from each other on how to handle the situation.

No question but that industrialized countries (especially USA) must get unhooked from overwhelming reliance on fossil fuels as energy sources. In the current economic situation wind power is a competitive, non-polluting, not exhaustible (a flow rather than a fixed resource), source of energy. It is most competitive if it can be generated by wind "farms" rather than by individuals with their own wind turbine. Low to middle mountain tops or passes have the reliable winds, are "out in the wilds" rather than "in your face" of masses of people, and are often public land. Hence handy targets for siting of wind generating complexes. Shallow coastal waters in bays, are likewise prime targets. The aesthetic impacts, even though the modern towers can be considered otherwise attractive, are the principle concern, especially by recreationists and home owners within the viewshed. Also, because sited in unpopulated areas, there is a need for perhaps more lengthy transmission lines to service facilities, and these lines have their own problems with aesthetics, herbicide use for vegetation control, and service roads. Our power developers in USA say that underground transmission is not economically feasible, though we have seen an example of this is in Australia.

Here in Vermont, the existing commercial wind farm of 5 towers is slated to be increased to 30 new ones, and all 5 new sites are on ridgelines on mountains, between 675m and 1,075 m. They bear aircraft warning lights. The Vermont Natural Resources Council is undertaking a community consulting process, along with wind energy developers, to work out siting guidelines that are technically feasible and yet meet aesthetic, environmental and social concerns. Mt PA managers, --perhaps yours is next on the list! Have guidelines ready? Are some places too beautiful for windpower?

New Protected Areas in Lesotho

Bill Bainbridge, Bainbridge Resource Management, South Africa

The Kingdom of Lesotho is an independent landlocked country which is entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. It is one of the smallest southern African countries (about 3 million ha) and with a population of about 2 million people, is also one of the most densely populated. It is also one of the most mountainous, often referred to as the Mountain Kingdom, and is said to be the only country in the world which lies entirely above 2,000 m. The outstanding physical feature of Lesotho is the Maloti-Drakensberg

Mountain range, which is shared between Lesotho and South Africa and which has an international reputation for its scenic, biodiversity, water and cultural resources. The range is internationally recognized as a Center of Endemism. Just over 51% of the plants of this unique floristic region are endemic, and it is also an endemic bird area. It is recognized as one of the world's most important ecoregions by WWF International. The cultural resources refer to rock art painted by the locally-extinct San people, which also has an international reputation, and other archaeological artifacts.

Until recently Lesotho had set aside only two protected areas to conserve these important natural and cultural resources. These are Sehlabathebe NP (6,475 ha) and Masitise Nature Reserve (20 ha). However, three new protected areas have recently been established. Two of these, Ts'ehlanyane NP (5,333 ha) and Bokong Nature Reserve (4,000 ha) qualify as IUCN Category II Protected Areas. Liphofung Cave Cultural Heritage Site is much smaller (4 ha), to protect the archaeological and historical heritage of the site. *[Editor's Note: This is of particular interest since it is adjacent to the site where our Pre-World Parks Congress Mountain PA Workshop will be held in September.]*

Goshaka-Gumti NP, Nigeria

The NP protects a portion (6,500 km²) of the only montane system in West Africa, and a part of the dwindling Afromontane forest resource of the continent. It was created in 1991 through the merging of two game reserves and is the largest and most remote of Nigeria's eight national parks. About 50% of the trees in Goshaka-Gumti are Afromontane endemics or near endemics, and are at their westerly limits. Twenty-four IUCN Red Data List tree species have been found here. Five hundred bird species have been identified and the most significant primate populations in West Africa are here. The forests range from 1,650 to 2,300 m, and include significant cloud forests. Highest peak is 2,420 m.

The park is managed by the Nigerian National Park Service with help from the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. WWF-UK, with support from the UK Department for International development has been collaborating on a research and management improvement project for over 10 years. Enclaves within the park are occupied by Fulani pastoralists, some settlements dating back to the 18th century. Cattle grazing is increasing however, as Fulani and others from outside the park move their herds into it. There has also been a concomitant increase in fuelwood cutting and poaching of both fauna and flora. As in many parts of the world, Goshaka-Gumti raises the challenge of how subsistence needs of local, increasing populations can be balanced with the need for conservation of an unique and threatened biota.

This material is based on an article in Plant Talk (No. 32) describing an October 2002 New Zealand-based forest survey of the park.

Masters Degree in World Heritage Management

Starting in October 2003 a unique new course in natural World Heritage Management is being run by the University College Dublin in cooperation with UNESCO's World Heritage Center in Paris. This is a two-year, full time degree course designed to provide the theoretical and practical basis for the conservation and management of the world's natural heritage. The Masters is comprised of two parts: part 1 being a mandatory taught Higher Diploma, and part 2 being a six-month research component to be carried out at a World Heritage Site. During the first year, the following modules will be taken: Man and the Environment; International Strategies, Institutions and Legislation; World Heritage Convention; Sustainable Development; Interpretation, Conservation Education and Public Awareness; Project Development and Business Management; Global Biodiversity; Conservation Biology; Animal Resource Management; Ecological Assessment; Habitat Management and Restoration; Exploitation of Natural Resources. For application forms and further information, contact: Continuing Professional Education, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland; tel +353-1-716-87121 fax +353-1-283-0669; email cpe@ucd.ie; or www.ucd.ie/~cpe.

China Expands Panda Habitat in Qinling Mountains

Endangered giant pandas of China's Qinling Mountains received an additional 4,500 km² of protected habitat in April when the Chinese government announced the creation of an additional five new panda reserves. By June 2004, China plans to add an additional 2,250 km², or seven more panda reserves, to the existing protected habitat in the Qinling. Doing so will triple the protected areas for giant pandas.

WWF first teamed up with Chinese authorities and researchers in 1980 to protect panda habitats, and in 1993, helped the Chinese government create a comprehensive giant panda management plan. The Qinling region is a key component to the plan. Approximately 220 of the world's 1,000 giant pandas live in the Qinling Mountains, which lie in Shaanxi Province. The Qinling area is located within one of WWF's Global 200 ecoregions, which represent the most important habitats in the world.

Condition of Denali NP, Alaska, USA

In 2000 the National Parks Conservation Association launched a "State of the Parks" assessment. This program is directed by Network member *Mark Peterson*. We reported in issue No. 37 on the assessment for Waterton-Glacier International Peace park. The assessment for Denali NP (containing Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America at 6,194 m), has just been released. Some excerpts from the report follow.

According to NPCA's report, current overall conditions of Denali's natural resources rated 94 out of a possible 100, the highest score of any park that NPCA has assessed to date. Declared a Biosphere Reserve by the UN in 1976, Denali National Park and Preserve attracts nearly 300,000 visitors annually, inspired by the massive scale of the park's mountains, sweeping natural landscape, and abundant wildlife. The majority of visitors tour the park via its highly successful bus system, which allows more than 80% of those who take the bus to see bear, caribou, and Dall sheep. However, Denali's high score could be significantly downgraded if a proposed 90-mile road or railroad is built on the park's northern side. Denali's often-overlooked cultural resources received a poor rating of 56 out of 100. Of particular concern are the park's archaeological sites, likely to hold clues to a better understanding of how and when the Americas were populated from Asia. Without a full-time archaeologist and adequate funding, sites remain unexamined, unprotected, and unappreciated by visitors. Denali also lacks a full-time museum curator, so 88% of the park's 340,000 archival documents, including historic photographs, are not processed and are inaccessible to researchers, staff and park visitors.

This kind of assessment by external NGOs could well be adopted in other countries. We will report on the assessment made of Rocky Mountain NP in the next issue.

Mountain Grasslands

Those PA managers who are dealing with mountain grasslands will be interested in the May 2003 (Vol 23, No 2) issue of *Mountain Research and Development* (see Publications section) which focuses on grasslands. You may also be interested in keeping in touch with or joining the WCPA Task Force on Grasslands Protected Areas, being chaired by *Bill Henwood* of Parks Canada (bill.henwood@pc.gc.ca). Bill summarizes the Task Force in the journal:

Grassland biomes, including both tropical grasslands, or savannas, and temperate grasslands, occupy about 27% (excluding tundra) of the earth's terrestrial surface and occur on every continent except Antarctica. Grasslands are one of the most geographically extensive of the globe's 15 recognized biomes, and are also among the most diverse and productive. Levels of protection among grassland types vary widely, where tropical grasslands have a relatively high level of protection approximating 9%, while temperate grasslands have the lowest level of protection of all biomes, at about 1%.

The central mission for the Grasslands Protected Areas Task Force is to attempt to raise the level of protection for grassland ecosystems. In cooperation with WCPA's Mountain Theme, the Task Force endeavors also to pursue increased levels of protection for high elevation grasslands, particularly in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush region and the Andes of Chile, Ecuador and Perú.

To achieve a modest level of protection for temperate grasslands worldwide of 10% means about a ten-fold increase over what is protected today. In many parts of this biome, however, the impact of man has been enormous; in these areas, most of the grassland ecosystems no longer exist, and restoration may be necessary. Furthermore, current management practices on both protected and unprotected grasslands may not be conducive to the long-term maintenance of biological diversity. Developing best management practices for the management of grassland protected areas will also be a focus of attention for the Task Force.

Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Project

While many of you are reading this, 60 members or soon-to-be members of the Mt PA Network are meeting in a pre-World Parks Congress Mountain Workshop in the Drakensberg Mountains. It seems fitting therefore to include in this issue of UPDATE some information about this area and its most valuable product, --water, though not neglecting the great biodiversity value. We have taken the opening lines from *Kevan Zunckel's* article in the last issue of *Mountain Research and Development*, entitled "Managing and Conserving Southern African Grasslands with High Endemism":

The geology of the region is relatively simple, with sedimentary layers of sandstone, mudstone, and shale (approximately 160-220 million years old) forming the lower slopes or "little berg" from 1,400 to 1,800 m and igneous basalts rising from this layer to well over 3,000 m, forming the ramparts, spires, cliffs, and buttresses of the main escarpment. The region is characterized by dramatic topography. The escarpment of the continental divide between the Indian and Atlantic Oceans drops dramatically to the east into South Africa, sloping away more gently to the west into Lesotho. The region's function as a water catchment is important because it is one of only a few in southern Africa where long-term precipitation exceeds evaporation. Biologically and hydrologically important wetlands are characteristic features of the high-altitude grasslands, helping to ensure a sustained flow of high-quality water into major rivers such as the Senqu (in Lesotho), the Orange (in South Africa), and the Thukela. This water supplies a number of interbasin transfer schemes that feed Gauteng Province, the economic hub of South Africa, and its provision is currently the most obviously important ecosystem service. The listing of the entire Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park as a Wetland of International Importance in terms of the Ramsar Convention and a pending application for the listing of the Lesotho wetlands are testimony to this important feature.

The Maloti-Drakensberg is recognized internationally as a center of endemism, with an estimated 51.5% of the plant species occurring only in this region. The World Wide Fund for Nature International has listed the Drakensberg as one of the world's 200 most important ecoregions, with 119 of the plant and animal species listed in the International

Red Data Books. There are 43 southern African bird species in the region; 41 breed there and 32 are endemic. Eleven of the region's mammals are also endemic. The region is considered one of 8 major centers of reptile and amphibian diversity in southern Africa.

Mountain Research Initiative

This initiative was launched in July 2001, and is now shifting into "drive" position. *Mel Reasoner*, a Canadian researcher is our contact. He is at the Coordination Office, Barenplatz 2, 3011 Berne, Switzerland (mel.reasoner@sanw.unibe.ch). The objectives of MRI are to:

- Develop strategies for detecting signals of global environmental change in mountain environments;
- Define the consequences of these changes for mountain regions as well as lowland areas dependent on mountain resources; and
- Facilitate the development of sustainable resource management policies for mountain regions.

MRI and UNESCO are cooperating in research activities within Biosphere Reserves on global change impacts. For more information, see www.mri.unibe.ch.

Comments Welcome on Draft WCPA Mountains Biome Strategy

We have introduced our draft IUCN WCPA (2004-2008) Mountains Strategy to you in previous issues of UPDATE. As you are aware, we are seeking comments on this important document up until October 2003. The good news is that we have already received some feedback and thank you for this! To encourage further feedback, we have posted the draft Strategy on the IUCN WCPA Mountain Biome website, and have booked for a special side event at the World Parks Congress. If you are attending the Congress, and have time to be involved, we would love to meet you and discuss the strategy. We have requested a venue for lunch time on Thursday 16th September; please look for additional information supplied at the Congress. Written comments from all of you who can access the strategy from the web will be most welcome also!

The draft strategy envisages a very busy four years. It proposes workshops on familiar (Transboundary) themes and new (Mountain Ecotourism) and other actions. Right now we are seeking your views. Have we got it right? Are these the most important projects that our network could do? Your comments are very important to us. This draft Strategy, when it has been upgraded and approved, takes effect during 2004. Remember, the strategy is deliberately modest reflecting the current resources available to undertake this work. Your comments will be very welcome. Please note that the end of October 2003 is the final deadline for these. See

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biomes/.html>, and contact Graeme at g.worboys@bigpond.com

Climate Change, Mountains and Tourism

Reports arising from the April 2003 International Conference on Climate Change and Tourism held in Djerba, Tunisia have special relevance to our network members. Firstly, this was the first conference of its kind to be held, and secondly, it prominently featured mountains. An entire session was dedicated to mountains, with impacts of climate change on winter snow sports and summer tourism discussed. Reports advised for example that if climate change predictions for the Swiss Alps for the period 2030-2050 hold true, the Swiss winter tourism industry is under threat. Conversely, the length and quality of the summer tourism in Canada's western mountain parks and in Rocky Mountains National Park in the USA are forecast to improve under climate change, increasing visitor numbers, local economic output and tourism employment. Nevertheless, it is predicted that these increases will cause ecological stress in 24 of Canada's 38 National Parks. The final reports arising from the Conference provide rich reading. Access is through the World Tourism Organization's website. <http://www.world-tourism.org/sustainable/climate/brochure.htm>.

Sad Loss of Life in the Drakensberg

Greig Stewart of the Mountain Club of South Africa, was tragically killed on August 9 in an ice-climbing accident in the Sani area of the Drakensberg. Greig has been assisting with the field arrangements for our pre-Congress Mountain Workshop, and planning to lead part of our workshop group up The Sentinel Peak; this climb will take place now *in memorium*. Greig's enthusiasm was contagious and he worked unstintingly on behalf of the Maloti-Drakensberg Transborder Project. He will be sorely missed. *Derek Potter* of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service states: "A HUGE tragedy, --we have lost a person larger than life."

Royal Geographic Society "Patron's Medal"

On June 2, 2003, *Harish Kapadia* received Her Majesty the Queen's "Patron's Medal" of the Royal Geographical Society for contributions to geographical discovery and mountaineering in the Himalaya. This was the 50th anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, and the 1st Ascent of Everest. Harish is the first Indian (or Asian) to receive this medal in the last 125 years. He has dedicated the award to his son Lt. Nawang Kapadia, a Gorkha officer of the 4th battalion of the 3rd Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army, saying "He shared my passion for mountains and gave his life defending the Himalaya."

Editor's Note: Harish's son was killed at the Siachen Glacier, being fought over by India and Pakistan as to border location. We have previously informed you of efforts for a Siachen Peace Park. Harish is an active member of the *Ad Hoc* Committee operating under general oversight of IUCN and WCPA, fostered by the Mountain Theme. The Peace Park concept, and Siachen specifically will be a feature of the World Parks Congress. *Giuliano Tallone* is making a presentation on Siachen, under the auspices of the Italian Committee Ev-K2 CNR (key person *Beth Schommer*). A petition drive is under way in India (see info@sanctuaryasia.com).

Recent Publications of Interest

Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas, Protected Landscapes/Seascapes. *Adrian Phillips*. WCPA/IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guideline Series No. 9. 2002 (but only released in 2003). From IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK; www.iucn.org/bookstore.

Mountain Research and Development, Vol 23. Special focus issue on Mountain Protected Areas. Guest Editor *Lawrence Hamilton*. Contributions by the following Mt PA Network members: *Silvia Benitez, Edgard Yerena, Per Wallsten, Hans Hurni, Alejandro Velazquez, Graeme Worboys, Martin Price, Roger Payne* and *Ian Pulsford*. Single issue sales: orders@allenpress.com. Subscriptions (quarterly): USA \$70, other countries \$90 (students \$40/\$60); contact mrd@allenpress.com. The previous issue, Vol 22 was devoted to Grasslands in Mountains, and would be of interest to any Mt PA managers or researchers working in grasslands. (Also see articles in this issue of UPDATE, on the contents of Vol 22.)

Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age. Readers of UPDATE will, we hope, understand a digression from Mt PAs to call attention to a recent book (spring 2003) by Network member *Bill McKibben*, who lives in the Green Mountains of Vermont. If you share concern about the ramifications of using "designer genes" in the new germline genetic engineering threshold upon which we stand, you should read this book. Bill calls the policy decision of whether to step over the threshold and start making "enhanced babies" the biggest decision humans will ever make, and he makes a compelling case for this statement. Times Books; \$24; in UK it is available from Bloomsbury Press, and will soon be published in Germany and Japan.

Hands Around Everest. Transboundary Cooperation for Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods. *Lhakpa Sherpa, Brian Peniston, Wendy Lama* and *Camille Richard*. April 2003, 84 pp, 44 color plates. ICIMOD, PO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal; distri@icimod.org.np. Developed countries US\$15, ICIMOD member countries US\$7.50, others US\$10. The

book summarizes experience and progress in a program of transboundary cooperation begun in 1994 by The Mountain Institute, ICIMOD and the Governments of China and Nepal, involving MtPAs Qomolangma Nature Preserve in Tibet and Sagarmatha, Makalu-Barun and Langtang NPs in Nepal.

Some Upcoming Meetings of Interest

CANCELLED MEETING: **Planetary Garden: Mountains' Future** October 26-30 in Savoie Technolac, Chambéry, Savoie, France.

Mountains as Water Towers, November 23-26 in Banff, Canada. Organized by Mountain Culture at Banff Centre, *Bernadette McDonald* and *Leslie Taylor*, as another in their series of "Mountain Summits". Speakers include *Bruno Messerli* (Switzerland), *Graeme Enders* (Australia), and *Larry Hamilton* (USA). See www.banffcentre.ab.ca/cmcc.

Third International Wildlife Management Conference December 1-5 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Several organizations from New Zealand, Australia and USA. Theme is From North to South - from mountains to sea. www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/wildlife2003 or wildlife@cont.canterbury.ac.nz.

The Great Himalayas: Climate, Health, Ecology, Management and Conservation January 12-15, 2004 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Organized by Kathmandu University and the Himalayan Resources Institute in cooperation with the Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Management Society of Canada. Topics scheduled include: nature reserves and wildlife management, biodiversity and ecology, watershed management and ecosystem health. Registration and abstract submission by September 1; full paper by November 17. Contact *Ram Bhandari*, Lirinepal@mail.com.np.

Montane Cloud Forests July 27 - August 1, 2004 on Island of Hawai`i, Hawai`i. Science, management and protection of these valuable ecosystems. Deadline for paper abstracts is past, but participants welcome. Contact *Larry Hamilton* druid@gmavt.net.

IUCN

World Conservation Union

Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Fax 41 22 999 0002
mail@hq.iucn.org



Mountain Theme

Lawrence S. Hamilton and Linda S. Hamilton
ISLANDS AND HIGHLANDS, Environmental Consultancy
342 Bittersweet Lane, Charlotte, Vermont 05445 USA
Telephone/fax 802 425-6509
NEW Email: druid@gmavt.net