

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 66 - June 2010



Mountain pass along the Katun River going to Teletskoe Lake in the sacred landscape of the Telengit peoples in Altaiisky Biosphere Reserve (set up by UNESCO 2-3 years ago). There are many well-studied archaeological sites which might merit the Reserve being considered for World Heritage as a Cultural Landscape, as well as its recognized natural values.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Yuri Badenkov

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Have you gazed on naked grandeur
Where there's nothing else to gaze on,
Set pieces and drop-curtain scenes galore,
Big mountains heaved to heaven, which the blinding sunsets blazon,
Black canyons where the rapids rip and roar?

Have you camped among the foothills,
Have you galloped o'er the ranges,

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UPDATE Newsletter Editor



Dr. Larry Hamilton

*The Mountain Protected Areas
UPDATE is a quarterly newsletter
edited by Dr. Lawrence Hamilton*

*It is distributed to members
of our Mountain Protected Areas
Network*

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

IUCN - WCPA

Dr. Graeme Worboys
Vice Chairman

Have you roamed the arid sun-lands through and through?
Have you chummed up with the mesa
Do you know its moods and changes?
Then listen to the Wild -it's calling you.

~ Taken from *Robert Service's Call of the Wild (1916)*



From the Editor:

I suppose there likely to be at least one serious mistake in each UPDATE. Last issue (March) I reported that Wilderness Visionary and Sierra Club icon Edgar Wayburn was deceased. Not so, --he was alive at 103 years when that issue went out. But, very strangely, Ed passed away shortly thereafter, on March 5. He was a towering figure on the national stage, particularly in connection with wilderness and parks such as Redwoods NP, Alaska public land protection and Marin County Headlands conservation. He had also strong international interests and influence: When he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999, President Clinton said of him "He has saved more of our wilderness than any person alive."

--Larry Hamilton

Climbing for World Heritage Mountains

An intriguing project is being undertaken by a Portuguese group known as ICECARE. It is a civil society initiative to make climate change impacts more highly visible to the public and governments. The group proposes to climb 5 mountains having glaciers that are also World Heritage Sites, between 2009 and 2012. Those selected are: Jungfrau (Switzerland), Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Huascarán (Perú), Ilulissat, Greenland (Denmark), and Sagarmatha (Nepal). The team of climbers is joined in each case by a team of researchers who will assess and report on the human consequences of this aspect of global warming. Jungfrau and Kilimanjaro have been completed, the latter in December 2009. The two principal organizers are José María Abecasis Soares and José Diogo Tavares. The interesting website is www.icecare.org/enl. Details on the forthcoming Huascarán expedition are not yet available as of this writing but will soon be on the website.

Climate Change and Altai-Sayan Connectivity Conservation Workshop

July 23-27, 2010

This is one of the major events on the map of the WCPA Connectivity and Mountains Theme in our three year plan. Unfortunately, it must be limited to 40 invited participants. Also unfortunately, international participants had a deadline of May 15 due to border control permit regulations. But, it is a significant transboundary/connectivity event, --hence this brief item in UPDATE. Held in Altai Republic, Gorno-Altai-Ust-Korska, it is being organized by UNDP-GEF Project, Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve, Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences and WWF Russia. Supporters include Russia's and Altai Republic's Ministries of Natural Resources, IUCN/WCPA, and Gorno-Altai State University.



It opens with key presentations by *Graeme Worboys*, *Yuri Badenkov* and *Harvey Locke*, followed soon after by *Nakul Chettri*. The contact person is the Chair of WCPA Transboundary Group, *Tatjana Yashina* (katunskiy@mail.ru). It involves Russia, China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. There are at least 13 different Mt PAs in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion. The region has experienced a 2-8 degree C temperature increase over the last 50 years, increased seasonal variation, precipitation changes and melting glaciers. One of the best defenses we have to conserve biodiversity in the face of climate change is connectivity of habitats. This workshop and the new *Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide* by *Worboys*, *Francis* and *Lockwood*, are addressing this. One of the important case studies in the book is the Altai Mountain Knot: Between Conservation and Development by *Yuri Badenkov*. His maps of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion and potential Transboundary Biosphere Reserves are very helpful in understanding the situation. *Yuri* states that the snow leopard and the argali mountain sheep are the special symbols of this ecoregion. *Yuri* has over many years been an ardent supporter of cooperative government action to conserve this key area, identified by WWF as one of the world's major critical ecoregions.

(Photo above: Ceremony of setting a Russian Orthodox cross at the shore of Teletskoe Lake in the Altai Biosphere Reserve (BR) designated by UNESCO in 2009. Photo includes the BR staff and locals. Other indigenous groups in the BR (Tubalars, Chelkans, Telengits, and Kumandins) also have their cultural traditions protected under BR management policies, according to Yuri Badenkov. Photo by Altai Biosphere Reserve.)

Kure Mountains National Park (Turkey)

It is always of interest when PAN PARKS is considering or has certified one of its wilderness PAs, because at least 9 times out of 10, these will be in mountains. That is indeed the case with one currently being considered as the first certified wilderness in Turkey, --Kure Mountains NP. The objective is certification by 2011 after verification and development of a management plan has occurred. This relatively low range close to the Black Sea (roughly 1,000-1,200 m; 3,280-3,900 ft in elevation) is extremely rough topography, bisected by many quite spectacular gorges such as the Valla Gorge which has vertical limestone rock walls 700 m (2,300 ft). The highest point in the Park is over 1,250 m.

The inaccessibility of this mountain range with its karstic structure and deep dissections has led to the preservation of relatively large areas of basically untouched forests, deciduous at lower elevations and coniferous at heights. The variety of corresponding fauna, many of them endangered, has led to its classification by WWF as one of the **Biodiversity Hot Spots of Europe** and it is part of WWF's Living Planet Campaign. Here in this 117,000 ha PA (289,000 acres), especially in the 37,000 ha core area are found 40 species of Turkey's 130 mammal species, including the brown bear, wolf and marten. It contains 147 bird species, of which 46 are rare or endangered. PAN PARKS is also working with the Turkish Park Management to develop a Sustainable Tourism Strategy. Turkey's National Dog, the Kangal Dog, used as guardians of sheep and goats originated in this area of the country.

Promote Your Protected Area

This is a great idea! The following was received from WCPA Chair *Nik Lopoukhine*, and is passed on, hoping that some of you will take action for your M+PA.

Following recommendations from the WCPA Steering Committee meeting in Quito and from the Protected Areas Program Review on the need to enhance communication and awareness of Protected Areas, PAP and WCPA have a new communication project which focuses on **one protected area each week**. This will be done by creating fact sheets on the protected area which will be on the homepage of IUCN website, the WCPA website and on twitter and igoogle. Each week PAP/WCPA will select and profile a protected area from a different region, a different biome, and facing different problems/threats. The following link is to the first of the series on a mountain world heritage site in Switzerland. http://www/oicj/prg/about/work/programmes/pa/pa_paday/?4918/Swiss-Tectonic-Arena-Sardona.

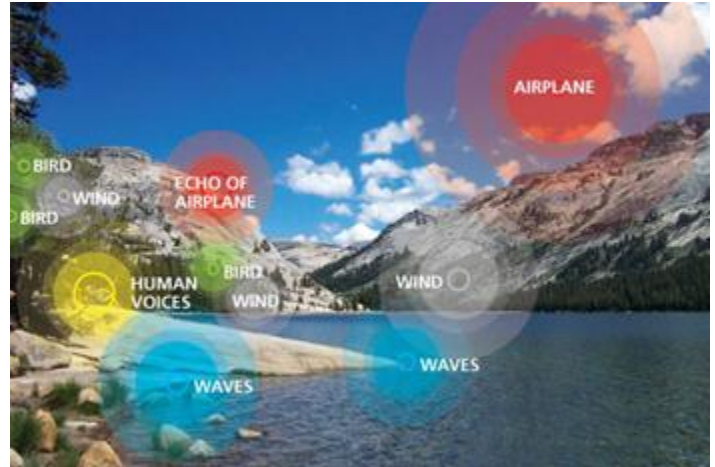
What is needed for the fact sheets is the following:

- Details on the PA
- Who is managing it
- Location
- Map
- Quick facts
- Area, date created, IUCN category (including category definition)
- Why is it important/why has it been created
- Items: at least 15 photos on which we have the copyrights for Flickr, maps, any other interesting links. Please note that in the email providing this information you should include a note confirming that you agree with the use of the photos and maps provided
- Threats, problems and how they are addressed.

Of course you can use afterwards all the information provided by WCPA and IUCN colleagues for your own communication purposes. This information will also feed and contribute to UNEP-WCMC work on the Protected Planet Project.

Noise and Soundscapes in Mountain Protected Areas

Soundscapes are a vital, sensitive, natural and cultural component of ecosystems in MtPAs. Natural sounds are increasingly recognized as important aspects of resource conditions and visitor opportunities in national parks because, as a growing body of research suggests, human-caused noise can be disruptive to natural ecological processes and visitor experiences. Noise impacts the acoustic environment much as smog affects the visual environment, because it reduces the auditory horizon for both visitors and wildlife. In many cases, hearing is the only option for experiencing certain aspects of our environment, such as bird song or wildlife that can be heard at much greater distances than they can be seen (wolf howls).



Despite their importance, soundscapes are often overlooked or impacts to this resource are understated in PA planning and decision-making processes. For example, rationalizations include that the developed area already has noise impacts, so adding more will not make much difference; this is an urban area, so soundscapes are not an issue; or the area is so impacted there is no natural soundscape, nothing can be done about jet overflights. Establishing desired conditions and setting indicators and standards for soundscapes in planning documents give soundscape management additional political strength especially when external sources of noise threaten park soundscapes. In a previous issue we wrote up a brief piece on Gordon Hempton's search for "one square inch of silence" (now published as a book of same title). He could find no more than 3 minutes of total quiet at a large number of US National Parks he checked. He finally found, in Olympic NP in the Hoh River Forest portion, his mecca which had at least 15 minutes of no human-caused noise.

Many PAs in the USA are establishing either permanent grids or moveable ones of sound-monitoring devices, in order to assess existing status. Among Mt Pas, - Yosemite, Haleakāla, Grand Teton and Denali NPs for instance. Research is underway attempting to assess the impact of various unnatural sounds on wildlife behavior. There is a concerted effort under the Natural Sounds Program of the National Park Service, started in 2000 to step up scientific understanding and public perception and appreciation of the value of soundscapes. For those who would care to learn more about this work, the NPS Winter Issue (2009-10) of its journal *Park Science* (Vol 26 No 3) is a dandy. It contains 17 articles on this topic. The Editor is Network member *Jeff Selleck*. www.nature.nps.gov/ParkScience.

Summer Course on Protecting Mountain Biodiversity

Although the deadline for applications has passed (April 15 which I received email notice of 6 days after issuing the last UPDATE), this summer course will be held next year also and is of great interest. It is limited to 30 professionals (English language) who have a University degree in a natural science and relevant work experience in mountains. The course runs this year July 9-23. It is held in various locations in the Italian Alps: the first period in the higher Alps (Chisone Valley) then the group

will move to Sesia Valley close to Mount Rosa, and the third period will be in the South-western Alps close to the Mediterranean Sea (Tanaro Valley). The course, under the umbrella of IPROMO, is organized by the Mountain Partnership of FAO, UNESCO and the University of Turin Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Protection of Agroforestry Resources; it benefits from the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Main funding sources include the Piedmont Region, the Alta Valsesia Natural Park, the Vercelli Province, the Alagna town council and CAI Varallo Sesia. The total cost of the course (inclusive of full board, accommodation, taxes, teaching equipment, internal transfers) is 3,000 euros. A limited number of bursaries (full/on-site and travel costs) and partial (on-site costs only), are available for selected participants from developing countries. For information: rosalaura.romeo@fao.org. Perhaps get ready for next year.....

Tourism and Uluru World Heritage Site (Australia)

Nowhere is the PA manager's difficult task of reconciling the often conflicting situation between nature protection and facilitating visitor enjoyment than at Uluru Kata Tjuta NP (Location of the famous Ayers Rock or Uluru). In 1985 the land was returned to the local Anangu people. It was by them leased to the Australian Government as a jointly-managed PA. Until then, tourism interests largely held sway, though it was recognized that to Aboriginal peoples, it was a monolith of high cultural value, if not sacredness. Close overflights of sightseeing aircraft circled the well-publicized Ayers Rock, and there was a desert landing strip at its base. Thousands of tourists would try to ascend to the top in the hot, dry climate on a defined trail, some in outlandishly inappropriate footwear. Gradually, spiritual values are becoming more protected, as well as the rock itself, in spite of increasing tourism visitation.



The airstrip and lodgings close to the base were removed, and located nearby but outside the Park. Interpretation in the Visitor Center explained the sacred nature of the site, and visitors were asked to show respect and to refrain from climbing the Rock, but the trail (with hand rail in places) was not removed. Uluru is 863 m (2,831 ft) in elevation, not high (only 348 m above surroundings), but free-standing amid flatland, and famous as an imposing monolith of sandstone. The steep climb is 800 m. In 2009 in a Draft Management Plan for 2009-19, the Northern Territories Government inserted a no-climbing provision. Comments are still being received.

Alps-Carpathian Connectivity

Eleven partner organizations in Lower Austria and Slovakia have joined together, assisted with 2 million Euros funding from the EU in a cross border project to provide easier wildlife movement between the Alps and Carpathians. Vegetated overpasses for instance will assist animals to cross motorways and other infrastructure. The project which runs until summer of 2012 will involve nature conservancy, traffic, spatial planning, agriculture, forestry, hunting, tourism and municipalities. At the same time, the Austrian Ministry for Transportation Innovation and Technology is committed to establishing 20 green "corridors" of connection to the Carpathians, the first one in Pottsching by August. See www.alpenkarpatenkorridor.at.

European Alps: ECONNECT Project; Ecological Platform of the Alpine Convention; Ecological Continuum Initiative

There is much connectivity action occurring in the European Alps, which it may behoove Network members interested in this topic to check this out. A good place to get leads on these various initiatives is in the newsletter available at www.econnectproject.eu/cms or through contacting CIPRA at mateja.pirc@cipra.org. See for instance, its March 2010 newsletter. The aim of ECONNECT is to explore the best options for achieving ecological connectivity across the whole Alps range. Sub-projects include alpine river connectivity and barriers; wildlife crossings of transportation corridors; linking grassland habitats; and legal barriers. Sixteen partner institutions have joined in with EU financing, under the Alpine Convention. PAs in this group, where there are Network members include: Alpi Marittime; Hohe Tauern; Berchtesgaden; Swiss, and Gesause NPs.

The Great Himalayan Trail (Nepal)

Stretching for 1,700 km (1,055 miles) across Nepal's Himalayas the newly-mapped route may take one 157 days to complete. En route one has spectacular views (if weather is favorable) of 8 of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000m. The first guided treks will occur next year. It will pass through several of the MtPAs in the developing connectivity corridor in the Himalayas. Eventually it is hoped to make it an international route connecting Pakistan (starting at Nanga Parbat), India, Nepal, Bhutan and China (ending at Namche Bariva in Tibet), a distance of 4,500 km (2,790 miles): <http://www.thegreathimalayatrail.org/>. This has developed thanks to ICIMOD and the Dutch development agency SNV, and the vision and mapping work of an Australian named Robin Boustead. He has broken the GHT down into 9 sections which can be done independently. www.worldexpeditions.co.uk/travel/2010/mar/11/great-himalaya-trail-nepal.

Sagarmatha National Park and World Heritage Site (Nepal)

The Government of Nepal did not submit a report on the state of conservation of Sagarmatha NP in response to a request from the World Heritage Committee in 2007. The pressure is now on, for a response as to how threats to the integrity of the WH Site are to be met, with a deadline of the Committee's next meeting in July 2010 (in Brasilia). The threats to Sagarmatha's "outstanding universal values" include: 1) mining of rock, sand and turf; 2) pressure on forest and rangelands from wood gathering; 3) uncontrolled tourism (especially the Kongde View Resort), but including mountaineering; 4) airstrip development and air traffic; 5) climate change impacts and endangered species and habitats. WCPA members were asked for comments in March, but unfortunately with only a 6-day turnaround response time. However, our stalwart member **Bruce Jefferies** (of New Zealand) who has a long professional association with Sagarmatha, beginning in 1977, and has been a regular visitor over the last 25 years, submitted a very helpful review from his observations. He laid out some complex and tough-of-solution problems that need to be addressed. Stay tuned.

Sherpa Heritage House and Other Doings in Khumjung (Nepal)

Building modernization in the Khumbu has left very few traditional Sherpa houses. The house of Pertemba Sherpa, who has climbed Everest three times and guided the Prince of Wales through Annapurna in 1981, has been donated by him to the Sherpa Heritage Trust (whose President is Prince Charles). It will become a museum thanks to the Trust, to maintain elements of the Sherpa culture and customs. It adjoins a Buddhist temple in the village of Khumjung.



An October fundraising trek will be led by Sir Chris Bonnington, the famous mountaineer and Patron of the Trust, along with Pertemba Sherpa (shown here pointing out details of the home's ancient carved windows). This is within Sagarmatha NP. Khumjung is also the site of the 2010 Imja Tsho Action Event on June 4 (described in previous UPDATES - festival and run from the glacial lake outburst). **Linda McMillan** again will be present at that event, after participating in the International Everest Days on May 29, and giving the keynote talk at the Save the Himalayas Conference on the 28th. **Linda**, you will recall is also President of the Mountain Protection Commission of the UIAA as well as being our Deputy Vice-Chair for Communications, and UPDATE Production Editor and is Chair of the Yosemite Committee of the American Alpine Club.

What Global Warming is Doing to One Park

Of the roughly 150 glaciers in the MtPA known as Glacier National Park (USA) in 1850, perhaps 37 remain, and at the current rate of loss, most of these will disappear over the next 10 years. (Twelve of these are now so small that the US Geological Survey does not even consider them true glaciers anymore.) Between 1900 and 1979 the Park experienced an average 181 days of below freezing temperatures; from 1980 to 2005 that number fell to 152 days. The area now experiences on the average 8 more days each year when the temperatures top 90 degrees F (32 degrees C) and 8 fewer days when the temperature fell below freezing.

It is speculated that river flows will lessen and warm, affecting cold water fish and that the area will experience more frequent and severe wildfires. The tourism industry which currently grosses about US\$1 billion per year in the Glacier region is worried about the adverse impacts on visitation. While the adverse effects of not experiencing glaciers is difficult to foretell (though surveys in adjacent Waterton Park suggest 40% of visitors would visit less often and 20% would not return), the past effects of fires in the Park are documented, and are serious.

In April the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization and the Natural Resources Defense Council released a report: "Glacier National Park in Peril: The Threats of Climate Disruption". Glacier NP celebrates its 100th birthday this year. It will still be a spectacular PA even when all glaciers are gone. But sadly, we would probably need to change its name?????

Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative



The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative, a collaborative effort of ICIMOD, UNEP, and regional partners in three countries, was initiated through an extensive consultative process, and launched with an Inception Workshop and Regional Consultation held in Kathmandu in July 2009. The Conservation Initiative seeks to facilitate transboundary and ecosystem management approaches for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development through regional cooperation.

The proposed Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) includes an area of the remote southwestern portion of the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, and adjacent parts of northwestern Nepal, and northern India, and encompasses the cultural geography of the greater Mt. Kailash area. This region, famous from ancient times, represents **a sacred landscape significant to hundreds of millions of people in Asia, and around the globe**. It is an important cultural and religious transboundary landscape with significance to Hindu, Buddhist, Bon Po, Jain, Sikh and other related religious traditions, attracting thousands of pilgrims every year. The KSL comprises the source of four of Asia's great rivers: the Indus, the Brahmaputra, the Karnali and the Sutleg, which are lifelines for large parts of Asia and the Indian sub-continent. These rivers provide essential transboundary ecosystem goods and services vitally important within the greater Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, and beyond. (Photo courtesy of *Ed Bernbaum*)

Bits and Pieces

We have previously reported on the wonderful activities of *Doug and Kris Tompkins*, as they go about buying land and assembling large areas to become reserves and parks (e.g., Pumalin National Park) in Chile, and others in Argentina. As they develop the future **Patagonia National Park**, they want to make it **100% energy self-sufficient**. *Kris* writes, asking if any of the Executive Committee knows of any other park in the world which has achieved such a goal. We do not, but send out an appeal to readers who may know of such an exemplar. Please send any candidates to your Editor, for passing along.

The Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development Area (South Africa/Lesotho) is being supported in eco-friendly/socially-responsible tourism development by the **Peace Parks Foundation**. Currently a Batlokoa Community Trust is being financed to upgrade and manage the Witsiehoek Resort. The Resort has also received funds from the Department of Environmental Affairs. A tourism strategy for the Mokhotlong area in Lesotho has been completed. This transfrontier area is also a World Heritage Site.

An item slipped by us in 2001. It was that year, at the EUROPARC meeting in Hohe Tauern NP (Austria) that my great friend *Malcolm Payne* was presented with the EUROPARC Medal, by then-President *Patrizia Rossi*. This was in recognition of his 30 years of campaigning for Scottish National

Parks. Malcolm is an Honorary Life Member. Apologies to him for missing this honor.

World Ranger Day this year is July 31. This will highlight the work of rangers around the world as the folks who are always out in the field in PAs. Sponsored by the International Ranger Federation. We should honor these dedicated people.

Research to develop a management model for the **Appenine wolf** that could be exported to other M+PAs having the species is being developed in **Majella NP** (Italy). The 4-year project aims to reduce wolf-livestock conflict, combat illegal deaths, reduce the health risk of the populations (*e.g.* from dogs) and reduce the adverse human impacts at reproductive sites. Other cooperating parks are: **Pollino** and **Foreste Casentinesi** (where my wife **Linda** and I have spent several wonderful days hiking from a base at an organic agrotourism home).

With approval of the Russian Cabinet, there are plans to re-open the **Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill** which was closed in 2008 due to violations of environmental regulations. **Lake Baikal** is a World Heritage Site, and the re-opening of BPPM even for a few authorized years represents a blow to its integrity.

We have previously brought before readers the topic of the widespread infestation damage inflicted by the **mountain pine beetle** to the higher elevation conifer forests of Western North America. This includes the resulting impact on food sources of birds and even large mammals such as the bears. New research indicates that climate change is aggravating the situation. In Montana, instead of flying only two weeks, beetles are flying continuously from May through October; and decreased cold temperatures are reducing the two-year life cycle to one year, and permitting beetles to attack once untouched forests on mountain tops; and now immature stands are being infested in addition to mature and over-mature forests. Similar, increasing, forest mortality due to insects is being experienced around the world since 2000. It is estimated that 4 beetle species in the Rocky Mountains of the USA and Canada have killed an area of 70,000 mi² (181,000 km²) of pine, spruce and fir forest.

This year's Women's Environmental Prize (Terre des Femmes) for Switzerland was awarded to **Barbara Ehringhaus**. And in a follow-up competition among 15 participating countries, at a ceremony in Paris, she was honored with the Grand Prix. The award was for her long-time work in environmental education in mountain protection, with particular focus on Mont Blanc as a three-country M+PA. Warm congratulations. Well deserved, Barbara!

I recently came upon an intriguing item from the past of **Alec Marr**, Executive Director of the Australian Wilderness Society. Apparently he holds the record for tree sitting in front of bulldozers, in defending some of Tasmania's forests. In 1980, he spent 16 days of tree sitting at Farmhouse Creek, which became part of the World Heritage Site in 1982.

Despite occupation by rebel group since 2007, when Park rangers were thrown out of the Mikeno section of **Virunga NP** (Democratic Republic of the Congo), the endangered (and habituated) mountain gorilla population increased from 72 animals to 81. Rangers have been back in the Park under a negotiated agreement for the past year, and this re-inventory produced these rather surprising results. And this in spite of removal of 400 illegal snares for smaller animals which can also injure the gorillas.

A relatively new newsletter *Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research* is available electronically, and *Elizabeth Fox*, who is Communications and Information Assistant at Biodiversity International encourages Network members to check out the current issue (#5 March 2010) and previous issues at www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?page_id=306.

Stephan Doempke has taken a new position as Heritage Tourism Coordinator with the Gjirokastra Conservation and Development Organization (GCDO) in Albania.

WWF/US working in Bhutan, has helped to establish a new MtPA, -Bhutan's second largest, called **Wangchuck Centennial Park**. It connects existing parks to west and east to form a continuous PA corridor along the country's northern frontier at the highest elevation. Good news in connectivity for snow leopards, black bears and red pandas. *Jon Miceler*, a new Network member, is Managing Director of the Eastern Himalayas, and Director of the Mainland Asia Program for WWF/US, and we welcome him, as we welcome this news.

Many of the Protected Area professionals in South Africa have received their training and educational degrees from the renowned **Southern African Wildlife College** in Kruger NP. (Not to be confused with the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania.) SAWC began in 1997. It has just been awarded 9.59 million rand (roughly US\$132,000) by the South Africa National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

The Silene Association has a Documentation Center which has been made available to resources and documents on the world's spiritual and cultural heritage. It is offered especially to members of WCPA's Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas. Service is provided in English, Spanish, French and Catalan. Individuals are encouraged to use it and to submit documents to it. www.silene.es (Then go to documentation center).

Again this year there will be an **Eco-Everest Expedition**, climbing in an eco-sensitive manner, and litter, garbage and human waste will be carried down from high on the mountain within Sagarmatha NP. This year will focus on clean-up between altitudes of 6,500 m to 8,000 m. A team of 10 high altitude Sherpas will be hired for such high altitude work. Under the leadership of *Dawa Steven Sherpa*, they hope to bring down 1,000 kgs of debris from above Camp 2 (6,500 m) and 6,000 kgs from Camp 2 and below. The team will use parabolic solar cookers and Steri PENS for water purification. Apa Sherpa who has summited 19 times, will try for his 20th. He has been given some of the ashes of the late Sir Edmund Hillary, to be scattered on top of Everest.

Network member *Dawa Steven Sherpa* has also been presented with the International Olympic Committee Award for Sports and Environment, especially for his Eco-Everest Expeditions (see previous item).

According to *Bas Verschuuren*, at a recent meeting of the 3rd Meso American Congress of Protected Areas, in Mérida, Mexico, in a special event organized by the WCPA Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas, a methodology was presented for inventorying sacred natural sites with high biodiversity value at the national level. Interested readers may contact him to be put in touch with the individual in Pronatura Mexico who developed this. bas@earthcollective.net.

Mountaintop removal for coal mining in the USA, particularly in the Appalachian Mountains, has had a devastating effect on mountain forests, mountain streams and small communities. Finally, under the Obama Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency has announced new policies that set tough requirements for mining near streams, dumping waste in valleys and affecting local communities adversely. We await a verdict as to how rigorously these will be enforced. This practice has already buried almost 2,000 miles (3,200 m) of Appalachian streams under toxic waste and debris.

We welcome three new members to the Network as follows:

- **Joseph Smith Abbott**, Director, National Parks Trust of Virgin Islands, and Regional WCPA Vice-Chair for Caribbean
- Professor **Neil Burgess**, University of Copenhagen and WWF, working in Eastern Africa's mountains
- **Jon Miceler**, Head, Eastern Himalayas Program and Director of Mainland Asia Program for WWF/US

Our good friend and faithful Russian correspondent, **Yuri Badenkov** has received the Diploma and Memory Medal from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation and the National Commission for UNESCO Affairs. It recognizes **Yuri's** personal contribution to real cooperation between Russian Federation and UNESCO. **Yuri** has been active in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program for decades.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Ecology & Wonder in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site. Athabasca University Press, 2010, by Robert William Sandford. The natural and human history of the UNESCO Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site, which includes Banff, Jasper, Robson, Hamber, Yoho, Kootenay and Mount Assiniboine Parks. The launch (May 20th at the Banff Centre) celebrates the 125th anniversary of the creation of Canada's National Park System. Foreword by Network veteran **Dr. Jim Thorsell**, whose efforts led to the designation of Canada's mountain parks as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tropical Montane Cloud Forests, Science for Conservation and Management. 2010. Eds. **L.A. Bruijnzeel**, F.N. Scatena and **L.S. Hamilton**. Comprehensive and up-to-date overview of current knowledge about these important forests, many of them in MtPAs. A major work! The new cloud forest Bible. 74 chapters, 750 pp, 291 illus, 38 color illus, 69 maps. Cambridge University Press. £65. As well as two of the Editors, several other members of the MtPA Network have chapters. www.cambridge.org.

The Atlas of Global Conservation. 2010. The Nature Conservancy. Ed. J.L. Molnar. Subtitled: *Changes, Challenges and Opportunities to Make a Difference*, this is a multi-authored book with 100 full-color maps and charts. It is based on information collected from some 70 institutions worldwide representing hundreds of scientists. Getting this to produce a global atlas is a ground-breaking effort. The Nature Conservancy and University of California Press. www.nature.org/atlas.

The Sacred Dimension of Protected Areas. 2010. Ed. by **Thymio Papayannis** and **Josep-Maria Mallarach**. This handsome little book, mainly of case studies is the product of the second workshop of the WCPA Delos Initiative (Greece, 2007). Contributors from our Network, in addition to the Editors

are: **Bas Verschuuren, Robert Wild** and **Larry Hamilton**. Mountain PAs are the focus of 6 of the 12 case studies: San Francisco Peaks (USA), Jabal La'lam (Morocco), Mount Athos (2 studies) (Greece), Mount Mani (Republic of Korea), Mount Rila (Bulgaria), and NP Casentine, Monte Falterona and Campigna (Italy). The book is produced by IUCN/WCPA and Med-INA. www.iucn.org/publications.

Last of the Wild: Overview of status and monitoring of some wilderness related species in the Natura 2000 Network. 2009. PANPARKS Foundation. Text and editing by Edil Borza and **Vlado Vancura**. Species selected were: chamois, ibex, brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and white-tailed eagle. Points to the need for large, unfragmented wilderness areas. Recommendations to the European Commission. To download a pdf, visit www.panparks.org.

As Nature Intended, Best practice examples of wilderness management in the Natura 2000 Network. 2009. Another by PANPARKS Foundation. Text and Edit by Edil Borza and **Vlado Vancura**. Contains analyses of 11 PAs, 8 of them MtPAs which include: Fulufjallet (Sweden), Tatra (Slovakia), Bavarian Forest (Germany), Sumava (Czech Republic), Swiss (Switzerland), Kalkalpen (Austria), Majella (Italy), and Central Balkan (Bulgaria). In each case, it gives information on size, size of wilderness, and dominant habitats, types of wilderness, then it analyses a best practice example. Download pdf at www.panparks.org.

Ecosystem Based Management: Beyond Boundaries. 2010. Ed. by S. Bondrup-Nielsen *et al.* Proceedings of the Sixth SAMPAA (Science and Management of Protected Areas Association), Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. Available as downloads from www.sampaa.org/publications/conferenceproceedings2007.

GMBA/GBIF Mountain Biodiversity Portal (<http://www.mountainbiodiversity.org>). Network member **Dr. Eva Spehn** of the University of Basel reports that you can now explore and download GBIFs biodiversity data for the mountains of the world, and search mountain areas from region to globe, or select by mountain life zones (such as the treeless alpine zone) on an interactive map at: <http://www.gbif.org>. There is a demo video on how to use it: <http://vimeo.com/11552863>. The Mountain Biodiversity Portal is a contribution to the Mountain Program of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Useful Links

UPDATE Archive: More recent editions are posted on our website <http://www.iucn.org/mtnpa-update/>

Earlier editions are hosted by The Mountain Forum: <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ol/periodicals.cfm?periodid=30>

IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome website: <http://ProtectMountains.org/>

IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Theme:

http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_what/wcpa_conservingds/

Connectivity Conservation website: <http://connectivityconservation.org/>

Some Meetings and Events of Interest

Conserving the Integrity of Sacred Natural Sites in Technologically Developed Countries, June 30 - July 4, 2010 in Inori (Lapland, Finland). This is the third in the Delos Initiative, under the WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas. While focused particularly on the Sammi culture of northern Scandinavia, the objective is principles and methods for respecting and conserving sacred natural sites worldwide in developed countries. Planning by *Irini Lyratzaki*, *Josep-Maria Mallarach* and *Thymio Papayannis*. Information on Delos at www.med-ina.org/delos. By invitation only to workshop. Contact ilyralzaki@medi-ina.org.

International Conference on Biodiversity in Transboundary Tropical Forests. July 21-24, 2010. Quito, Ecuador. International Tropical Timber Organization. While much of this will undoubtedly be focused on lowland tropical rainforest, it is also concerned with highland forests in PAs. www.itto.int

Exit Strategies: Managing Human Waste in the Wild. July 30-August 1, 2010. In Golden, Colorado, USA. An international workshop of the American Alpine Club. *Dawa Steven Sherpa* will be a keynote presenter concerning Mount Everest. Denali's system of waste handling will be featured also. Participants expected from Mt Kenya, Aconcagua, Patagonia PAs as well as Canadian and American PAs. *Linda McMillan* will be an added attraction. This "sustainably designed" conference offers local low-cost accommodations at the Colorado School of Mines, which is a short walk from the venue. Ground transport (shuttles) between Denver Airport and Golden is easy to arrange via the Internet. Information about the conference, low-cost local accommodations, and registration at: www.americanalpineclub.org/exitstrategies

Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Development. August 23-27, 2010. Avignon, France. Seventh Society of Ecological Restoration European Conference. English and French. Deadlines are past for papers and posters, but attendance open. www.seravignon2010.org

Forum Carpathicum: Integrating Nature and Society Towards Sustainability, September 15-17, 2010 in Krakow, Poland. An event in the Science for the Carpathian Initiative. www.forumcarpathicum.org

Global Change and the World's Mountains, September 27 - October 1, 2010 in Perth, Scotland. Sponsored by Centre for Mountain Studies (Perth College); UNESCO; Mountain Research Institute; Uni Twin; and Uni Millenium Institute. Focuses on physical and biological research updates, monitoring and changing social/cultural aspects. Members of the Organizing Committee include: *Linda McMillan*, *Graeme Worboys*, *Martin Price*, *Thomas Schaaf*, *Eklabya Sharma*. *Fausto Sarmiento* (fsarmiento@uga.edu) is organizing a session on the Americas Cordillera Transect Network. For program details: martin.price@perth.uhi.ac.uk. General information at www.perth.uhi.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010.

Advanced Course in World Heritage Conservation and Management. Certificate Program, September 2010 - January 2011. Diploma Program September 2010 - July 2011. Put on by the WH Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and Pacific Region at Beijing University. Targeted at professionals, decision-makers and practitioners working with World Heritage. For details on funding, requirements *etc.* contact whcm@whitrap.org.

VII. General Assembly and International Conference of the ALPARC Network, October 21-23, 2010 in Zernez, Switzerland. Theme: Wilderness and Biodiversity: Can we leave the natural world to its own devices? ALPARC and Swiss NP. info@alparc.org.

Parks, Protected Areas and Cultural Sites, March 14-18, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The George Wright Society Conference for 2011 - Early Notice. Focus is on US, but always participants from Canada and Mexico, and papers from overseas are welcome at this lively meeting. To be on mailing list for notices contact info@georgewright.org. (*Dave Harmon* is Executive Director).

Science and Management of Protected Areas Association #7, April 17-22, 2011 in Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada. conference@sampaa.org. To learn more about the nature of this meeting, the papers from a previous SAMPAA #6 held in May 2007 are available for downloading (see publications section for availability).

Mountains Biome E-News Production - News Flash / UPDATE
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(Photo of Teletskoe Lake in the Transition Altai-Sayan area, courtesy of Dr. Yuri Badenkov)