

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 64 - December 2009



Attendees at the WILD9 - World Wilderness Congress came together to learn how to more effectively preserve wild nature and biodiversity. They also sent a message to the world about the crucial importance of preserving it: *The Mérida Message - Mensaje de Mérida*

Photo courtesy of Graeme Worboys

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So these are the Himalayas.
Mountains racing to the moon.
The moment of their start recorded
On the startling, ripped canvas of the sky.
Holes punched in a desert of clouds.
Thrust into nothing.
Echo - a white mute.

~ *Poems New And Collected*
by Wistawa Szymborska. 1998.

UPDATE Newsletter Editor



[Dr. Larry Hamilton](#)

The Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE is a quarterly newsletter edited by Dr. Lawrence Hamilton and distributed to members of our Mountain Protected Areas Network.

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

IUCN - WCPA Vice Chairman

[Dr. Graeme Worboys](#)

A message from E-News
Production Editor

[Linda McMillan](#)

To prevent problems for our text-only recipients, URLs are NOT hyper-linked in our newsletter. This prevents the newsletter software from

Of Note ...

1. 2010 is The International Year of Biological Diversity. Coming up-- revisions to **Plans of Work for the CBD** on Protected Areas and for Mountain Biodiversity. Mountain Biome/WCPA is making inputs into both

2. Remember December 11 is International Mountain Day. Go out and hug a mountain, or at least pause a moment to thank a mountain. Network member **Dawa Steven Sherpa** who has climbed Mount Everest again (see photo at right), will be in Copenhagen along with climbing companion Apa Sherpa, for the WWF Climate for Life Campaign, and suggests that other mountain people in Copenhagen rally for a march on that day (see article below on the Summiters Summit to Save the Himalaya).



A Few Items From an Important Meeting - World Wilderness Congress (WILD 9)

The WILD 9 Congress which took place November 6-13 in Mérida, Mexico continued the Wild Foundation's fine tradition of combining nature and culture with a focus on protecting wild land and marine areas. I can't help but break from our policy of not reporting on past meetings because this one was such a "winner", and has very important follow-up of interest to readers.

At least 48 members of the MPA Network participated in the program. Five of the principal organizers are members: **Vance Martin, Cyril Kourmos, Harvey Locke, Alan Watson** and **Jim Barborak**. Approximately 4,000 people were involved with this international congress, -- 1,500 attendees plus those brought in through the interactive website during the week. The **Kenton Miller Award for Innovation** (focus on wilderness) was awarded by WCPA to Ernest Enkerlin, the President of Mexico's National Commission on Protected Areas. His Excellency President Felipe Calderón H. was present, and announced the signing of a formal memorandum of understanding on Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation between Mexico, USA and Canada, --a first for continental wilderness protection. See www.wild9.org for more details on the program and activities.

A WCPA meeting was held of members present, under Chair **Nik Lopoukhine**. One important item he reported was that an independent study of IUCN's Program on Protected Areas was underway in the wake of the cancellation of the Head of the Protected Areas Program position.

Our Mountain PA dinner was attended by 34 persons, including **Nik** who came directly from the airport. The winner of the mountain trivia quiz this time was **Jim Barborak**. Our own Mountain Biome Chief, **Graeme Worboys**, by popular demand did not sing "Waltzing Matilda". Thank you, **Graeme**. **Jim Thorsell** presented an award to the Biome's most senior tennis player, a framed photo of **your Editor's** face on a young tennis star's body from the cover of Tennis magazine. A good time was had by all, at this collegial social evening.

inserting its link-tracking coding, which excessively expands the URLs in links.

You can highlight and copy the non-hyperlinked URLs shown in the text; paste them into your web browser to view links.

To increase font size while you read this with your browser just click on the "view" tab at the top of your browser window, scroll down to "Text Size" and choose "Increase". This change can be reversed using the same path.

The Congress itself emphasized repeatedly the urgency of reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels to no more than 350 ppm in order to save wild nature from catastrophic harm or collapse. (First to go, if the current level of 385 ppm is continued, will be all coral reefs and the fisheries which depend on them.) The science was compellingly laid out by world authorities. It resulted in a **Message from Mérida (Mensaje de Mérida)** signed by the world's foremost environmental NGOs present, IUCN/WCPA, the US National Park Service and a host of individuals. **See the News Flash from Linda McWhirter urging network members to take action to sign on as individuals, organizations and governmental bodies.** This strong Climate Change message will be sent to delegates to the UN FCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) in Copenhagen in December in order to hopefully influence the international agreements negotiated. This is extremely important since currently the draft agreements include no reference to the role of intact wild ecosystems in the slowing and reducing of global warming, -- and, as it turns out, their role is absolutely vital.

I urge you to lend your support to this effort to protect biological diversity and wild nature as a vital part of dealing effectively with global warming.

~ Larry Hamilton



Tongariro National Park and World Heritage Site

Each issue, we feature one Mt PA for a short birdseye view, with the hope that many readers will find it of interest. This issue's selection is triggered by a major article on **Tongariro** in the *National Geographic* July issue, bearing the title "Between Fire and Ice". The fire, of course refers to the active volcano of Mt. Ruapehu which also is the only peak in the Park having perpetual snow and ice. Ruapehu at 2,797 m (9,176 ft) is the tallest peak in New Zealand's North Island. The winter snow led to its being developed back in 1913 for skiing, and it is North Island's most popular ski area. Management problems for agency staff!

Also within the Park is Mt. Ngauruhoe (2,287 m) a splendid, perfectly shaped volcanic cone (Mount Doom in the film *Lord of the Rings*). It has exploded 70 times since 1839. The third peak in the complex is Mt. Tongariro (1,967 m) which gives its name to the Park. The Park and World Heritage Site today constitute some 78,618 ha (194,270 acres). It meets WH criteria for both Natural and Cultural status, and was the first PA to be double nominated under the two classes. The cultural component is due to the sacredness of the mountain complex to the Maori people. Fearing for the integrity of their revered site due to European land occupancy and development, the Paramount Chief gave the land to Queen Victoria to keep forever in trust. It became New Zealand's first National Park in 1894. It became a World Heritage Site in 1990.

Network member **Paul Green** is the long-time Conservator at Tongariro. He provides below a brief account of a growing tension in management, which the Park is attempting to resolve:

The Treaty of Waitangi provides an opportunity for *iwi* (tribes) to lodge claims in respect to land and other grievances. The claims are heard by a Tribunal who then report to the Government. The Government then establish a negotiation process with *iwi* to settle their claim.

Thirty-two claims were lodged in respect of **Tongariro IIP**. The Tribunal has heard the claims but their report back to the Government is not expected until 2010. At sites like Tongariro NP there is an increasing desire for joint management between *iwi* and the Crown. Tongariro is a dual World Heritage Site inscribed for both its natural and cultural values. As we move towards increasing *iwi* involvement in management, perhaps leading to joint management there is a need to carefully balance the tension that can occur between respecting and preserving the cultural values and enjoying the recreational and commercial opportunities that are in high demand. To illustrate this Mt. Ruapehu has two commercial ski fields that extend into the "Gift Area".

"The Gift" was an area of 1 mile radius from the summits of Mt. Ruapehu Tongariro and Ngauruhoe (excluding the southern slopes of Mt. Ruapehu). The gift from Te Heuheu Horonuku Tukino the Paramount Chief of the Ngati Tuwharetoa tribe in 1887 established Tongariro National Park, the 4th oldest in the world. The mountains are sacred to Maori and there is therefore tension that the ski field partially exists within the "Gift Area" along with the popular walking track over Mt. Tongariro and climbing routes to the summit peaks of Mt. Ruapehu and Mt. Ngauruhoe. These are tensions that must be carefully worked through by the parties with mutual understanding and respect. www.tongariro.org.nz.

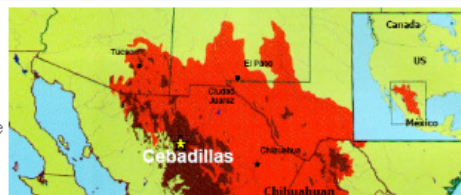
Potential Problems in New Zealand PAs

From IUCN Regional Vice-Chair for Oceania, **Penny Figgis** comes some disturbing news about a threat from mining in NZ's conservation estate. In a recent address to the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy 2009, the NZ Minister of Energy and Resources spoke on "Unlocking our Minerals Potential". In it he stated: "In my short time as Minister, I have become acutely aware that one of the fundamental barriers to mineral exploration and development is access to prospective land, particularly to land administered by the Department of Conservation."

Reasonable access to the mineral estate in Crown-owned land, particularly conservation land, is a key issue. Kiwi **Bruce Jefferies** has written expressing concern, and **Nik Lopoukhine**, WCPA Chair has written on behalf of the Commission. He has reminded the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Energy and Resources, and of Conservation, that NZ as an IUCN member, supported the resolution on mining passed at the 2000 World Conservation Congress in Amman, Jordan. It called for no mining in IUCN Categories I-IV. The mining industry itself in 2003 agreed not to exploit any World Heritage areas. It is hoped that the NZ Government will not permit this to move forward, especially in view of the PA leadership NZ has exhibited to date.

Thick-Billed Parrot and Spine of the Continent

The endangered thick-billed parrot occurs in Mexico's Sierra Madre Occidental. The Nature Conservancy has been working on protection efforts, as have other concerned organizations. A recent success has been announced by the Wildlands Network,



Naturalia, Pronatura, TNC and partners that help to achieve conservation land in the Spine of the Continent Initiative, a North American transborder vision previously described in UPDATE. Back in 2000, in an area around Cebadillas (see map), **Kim Vicaria** of Wildlands Network reports that working with the *Ejido Tutuaca* they have protected some 2,430 ha (6,000 acres). This is the northernmost nesting area for the parrot. **Kim** provides the following progress report:



The protection occurred via an innovative conservation lease with *Ejido Tutuaca*, a private agricultural cooperative. The lease was a 15-year agreement between the conservation groups and the *ejido* based on the buyout of an imminent logging contract that would have clearcut old growth parrot habitat on *ejido* lands. The group has worked to secure the reserve, build eco-tourism cabins, and make yearly lease payments to *ejido* members in lieu of logging income.

Pronatura and its partners, leveraging the success of the original lease, have now reached a similar agreement with a neighboring *ejido* that expands the original acreage under protection to 3,035 ha (7,500 acres). This is a welcome achievement, but even more so, the legal combining of these acreages also resulted in both *ejidos* agreeing to protect all the acreage in perpetuity, which means that concerns for the *ejidos* returning to logging for income after the lease expired have been extinguished.

This habitat protection effort, once fully completed, will result in the connection of a large landscape vital to the implementation of the southern portion of the Spine of the Continent Wildway.

Conservation Leadership Through Learning (CLTL)

CLTL is a partnership between the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (Fort Collins) and El Colegio de la Frontera Sur in Mexico. It is a 17-month specialization within the Masters of Science degree program in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Department. CLTL will prepare students to be a part of the next generation of conservation leaders who will tackle these dynamic challenges.

In August 2010, the first group of students will begin an intensive educational journey in the United States and Mexico. CLTL merges transdisciplinary university education with real world action to train leaders who can deliver on-the-ground benefits for conservation and communities. By reaching far beyond the classroom walls, students will develop the knowledge and real world skills to become effective conservation leaders making a difference for the environment and people's lives. For more information see <http://Leadershipthroughlearning.org/>

For Network Golfers Only

We include in UPDATE items relating to sacred places in mountains, since they are "protected" by cultural values. Network golfers take note: There is apparently an unique Zen shrine devoted to golf at the base of Zuirin Mountain about 3 hours northwest of Tokyo. This is 430 year old Zenshoji temple. The great monk Seiko Omi, who is a golfer, introduced this feature, including a "golf altar" to Kannon, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. She holds a putter in her right hand and a golf ball in her left. Does this make Zuirin a sacred mountain? my question to **Edwin (Dr. Sacred Mountains) Bernbaum**.

And while on the subject of golf, my friend Paul Sochaczewski (from whom the above choice bit was obtained) also reports on the highest golf course in the world. It is "protected" by the Indian Army and is located in Leh, Ladakh at 3,445 m. Built in 1967 as Trishul Golf Course, it was re-named Fire and Fury in 1999, as 18 holes, in that dry arid land. Paul reports that Perú's Tuctu course at 4,335 m has been abandoned for over a decade.

Global Carbon Dioxide - 350

Network member, author and activist **Bill McKibben**, with the organization he co-founded called 350.org, was responsible for the occurrence on October 24 of what was probably the world's most widespread political action/party/celebration ever. The purpose was to call attention to climate change and encourage delegates to agree to decisive action at December climate change meeting in Denmark. 350 parts per million is the estimated concentration level of carbon dioxide to which the world must reduce, if the worst effects of climate change are to be avoided. Widespread participation in October 24 events around the world was impressive and heartening. The seriousness of climate change effects on mountains and Mt PAs is of utmost concern.



In the words of **Bill McKibben**:

It was so sweet to watch the day move around the globe, with thousands upon thousands of pictures appearing, sometimes a dozen a minute! There were photos of climbers high on the glaciers of Switzerland holding 350 banners, of bicycle parades from Copenhagen to San Francisco, of organizers in Papua New Guinea beating their church gong 350 times which churches in Barcelona rang their bells 350 times. Photos of activists protesting coal plants and celebrating wind farms, of students in 350 shirts in the streets of Bogotá and Kathmandu. Photos of people from different races and classes, religions and nationalities, coming together around a simple and powerful number to save our planet. Thousands took to the streets in Addis Ababa and Mexico City; we had huge parades in places like Togo and Seattle. There were at least 5,200 actions in 181 countries.

You were by far the biggest news story on Google, on CNN, on the front pages of newspapers around the planet. And these pictures were seen around the world, in newspapers from Beijing to Boston, on TV stations from New Delhi to New York, and on blogs, social networks, and websites across the internet.

Together, we've shown the world that a global climate movement is possible and set a bold new agenda for the upcoming United Nations Climate Meetings in Copenhagen this December. The 350 target is the new bottom line for climate action and world leaders must now meet that target.

In Bolivia, at the now-gone Chacaltaya Glacier, the indigenous Aymara and a group of scientists performed funeral rites for the glacier, to protect other glaciers. Here in our village, my wife **Linda** and I joined neighbors in ringing the church bell 350 times starting at 3:50 pm. This was followed by a 350 dance and fellowship. **Your Editor** tried out his new knees on the dance-floor for the first time, and did well (stepping on **Linda's** toes only once). As Duke Ellington said, "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing".





Summiteers' Summit to Save the Himalaya

The Government of Nepal and the Everest Summiters Association has organized a "Summiteers' Summit" for International Mountain Day as a side event of the 15th Conference of the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (COP-15). The event will take place at Parliament Square, Christianborg, Slotsplads in Copenhagen, between 9am and 3pm.

Nepal is sending 19-times Everest summiter Apa Sherpa and our Network member **Dawa Steven Sherpa** (2-times Everest summiter) to lead a march through the streets of Copenhagen of famous mountaineers such as Junko Tabei (first woman to climb Mt. Everest), Reinhold Messner, Peter Habeler, Maurice Herzog, Kurt Diemberger, Chris Bonington, Ken Noguichi, Ed Viesturs, Veikka Gustafsson, and Al Gore (who has climbed Mt. Rainier with his son). They will also issue a **Declaration to Save The Himalayas**. The goal of the event is to raise awareness of the severe impacts of climate change on the Himalayan region, and urge governments, international agencies, and the public to take urgent action to save the Himalayas from this major threat. Network members **Elizabeth Fox**, **Judith Safford**, and **Linda McMillan** will also participate in the march.



Nepal's Minister of Forest and Soil Conservation has pointed out that "Although Nepal is one of the least Green House Gas (GHG) emitting countries in the world, the country ranks among one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This fact largely remains unrepresented in the global climate debate so far." As a follow-on event to this march, the Minister has proposed to hold a cabinet meeting at Everest Base Camp later this year. For further information about the Summiters' Summit to Save the Himalaya, please visit: www.savehimalayas.org



Buddhist Ceremony on Mount Hustai (Mongolia)

We seldom have news items for UPDATE about Mongolia's Mt PAs, so that when I heard that **Bas Verschuuren** (was in Australia, now in Mexico) had engaged in a ceremony on this sacred mountain, I persuaded him to send in an account of his experience. Hustai of 50,000 ha was given reserve status in 1993, based on a former hunting reserve of the last ruling Khan, but including the sacred Mount Hustai. It became a National Park in 1998, and with the addition of Moltsoog Els sand dune, became a Biosphere Reserve in 2002. One of the objectives of park management is to re-introduce the Przewalski horse (shown left). It is a mountain steppe area, with several endemics including the endangered *Juniperus sabina*. Roughly 90% of the park is steppe vegetation and shrubland. It shows many traces of ancient human use including Neolithic graves, reported to be over 4,000 years old. Some grave stones dating to about 1,200 years ago are carved to resemble human beings, by people of Turkik origin.

The sacred Hustai Mountain (Birch Mountain) has long been an object of worship by local people, and a ceremonial site for Buddhists. Tourists are not allowed at the summit. **Bas Verschuuren** had the privilege of being invited to participate in a ceremony on the mountain. He points out that Mongolian Buddhism adopted many of the pre-existing prevailing shamanistic practices, for example healing springs, holy paths and memorial piles of rocks known as ovoos. No women are allowed on this male mountain. After travelling by jeep (loaded with offerings) and on foot for the final ascent, they came to an immense ovoo, surrounded by a colorful crowd of people and horses. Prayer flags and scarves and gifts of food covered the ovoo. Most people were in traditional dress, including park rangers, local government officials plus five visiting lamas from Ulan Bataar and local lamas in their orange robes. Mantras were chanted and readings from scrolls. Then everyone shared in the food and drink (including vodka) that had been brought as offerings. After walking clockwise around the ovoo three times to pay respects to the mountain (and making a wish), all descended the mountain. Surrounded by mounted Mongolian horsemen, Bas was transported back in time to when their ancestors conquered most of Asia and the Euro-Asiatic plains. Thanks for sharing this with us, **Bas!**

Morne Trois Pitons World Heritage Site Buffer Zonet PAs, Tourism and Climate Change

Morne Trois Pitons National Park, in Dominica, became a World Heritage Site in 1997, the earliest designation on a Caribbean island. The mountain forests here are often referred to in the literature as the most luxuriant and finest in the Caribbean, exceeded in floral richness only by Cuba's montane forests. Significant cloud forests occur above 915 m. A *Podocarpus* species is the island's only native conifer. In an article over twelve years ago, **Jim (Muddy Boots) Thorsell** called it "The Greenest Place on Earth" as he was assessing it for WH status. It has 3 volcanic peaks, 50 fumaroles, hot springs and lakes in its 6,870 ha. The 1,400 m peaks occur within 8 km of the sea. Technical assistance provided by Parks Canada, the Canadian Nature Federation and funding from CIDA helped the Dominican Government establish this area as a National Park in 1975.

Dominica is participating in a GEF funded Special Program for [Adaptation to Climate Change](#). And Morne Trois Pitons NP is one of two NPs to serve as a project site (the other is Morne Diablotin). The program specifies: 1) the detailed design of pilot adaptation measures to reduce negative impacts of climate change on marine and terrestrial biodiversity and land degradation; and 2) the implementation of pilot adaptation measures. A recent report discusses the use of buffer zones to meet these objectives in the two parks, but especially for buffering the WH Site, where clear guidelines are available from the WH Center. Report available from

Threatened Grizzly Bears and Loss of Food Due to Global Warming

While the grizzly bear inside Yellowstone NP is protected (as are other wildlife), these wide ranging animals have not been protected under the US Endangered Species Act in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem since 2007 when they were taken off the list. The GYE is really a bioregional conservation planning area embracing the NP, National Forests and private land and is important habitat needed for many wide ranging species that would find Yellowstone alone an insufficient habitat. In September a federal district court ordered Endangered Species Act protection reinstated for the grizzly based largely on the adverse impact of climate change on one of the bear's primary food sources, --the white bark pine. UPDATE has previously carried an article on this relationship between bear and pine tree seed in MTPAs of the American West. The direct causal agent is the mountain pine beetle whose range has been moving to higher altitudes (and latitudes) due to warming temperatures.

Bruce Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director of the Sierra Club, which had pushed this action issued the following press release (in part):

Grizzly bears depend on high-fat white bark pine seeds in order to prepare for hibernation each year. As a result of warmer temperatures, mountain pine beetles have begun to wipe out the bear's key food source. Without this traditional high-altitude food source, grizzlies are less likely to bear healthy cubs. They are also forced to seek food at lower elevations, where they are more likely to encounter humans and other threats.

With Federal protection in place, the Fish and Wildlife Service can now develop a new bear recovery plan that addresses the impacts of global warming. The grizzly bear is one of the lasting icons of America's wild legacy. Today's decision will help ensure that future generations have a chance to experience the awe of this magnificent wild creature.

Picos de Europa National Park and Biosphere Reserve (Spain)

A key Mt PA in the "being-assembled-conservation-corridor" along the Cantabria and Pyrenees is **Picos de Europa**, Spain's first NP, then called Montaña de Covadonga in 1918. It was renamed in 1935, and has also subsequently become a Biosphere Reserve. It consists of three important massifs: Andara (Eastern), Urieles (Central) and Cornion (Western). These are in the Cordillera Cantabria the western edge of a grand vision that links to the Pyrenees, then across France's Central Massif to the European Alps. **Miquel Rafa** is the key person promoting this connectivity.



Picos de Europa NP had 1,712,668 visitors in 2008, the second highest number of any park in the country. It even has provision for handicapped persons. It embraces some 64,660 ha. It has more than 200 summits above 2,000 m. The highest, at 2,648 m is Torre de Cerrado. It contains the famous Covadonga Lakes in the western massif. It has the best Atlantic forest in Spain (only 20 km from the sea) of beech, oak, maple, hazel, chestnut and walnut, and hosts fauna such as wolves, Cantabrian brown bear, lynx and capercaillie (the giant grouse). The Cantabrians host two separated populations of the brown bear and Fundación Oso Pardo is promoting a bridging project across the intervening landscape, working for biopermeability in spite of transportation corridors running north-south. It was much interested in results of the now famous Banff NP wildlife overpass, when shown this by **Harvey Locke**.

International Peace Parks: Seeking Formal Designation

Sarah Pasenko, a Canadian graduate student from the University of Calgary, recently completed a thesis exploring a formal international designation for International Peace Parks. The project was supervised by **Dr. Michael Quinn** (University of Calgary) and **Dr. Len Broberg** (University of Montana). This research was conducted with the collaboration of the Transboundary Conservation Task Force under the IUCN's WCPA. Key informant interviews and an international survey of protected areas practitioners and experts were used to generate an analysis of opinions and to develop a set of recommendations for the pursuit of formal designation of International Peace Parks.

The results of the research indicated that there was support and relevance in pursuing an International Peace Park designation. However, there were mixed opinions regarding what this designation would look like and how it would be pursued. The research employed the following themes to inform the design recommendations: Formal vs. Informal Designation, International vs. National Designation, Flexible vs. Rigid Designation, and a Separate Designation vs. Integration within Existing Conventions or Treaties.

The analysis resulted in two proposed alternative frameworks: an Informal International Designation and a Tiered Formal International Designation. The latter framework was the preferred option recommended to the Transboundary Conservation Task Force. This framework is motivated by the creation of an exclusive International Peace Park niche that enables global participation and is administered by the United Nations. Sustainable finances, political will, and a global appetite for Peace Parks offer significant challenges to formalized designation. The following table provides an abbreviated summary of the recommended designation process and characteristics:

First Tier

- Informal International Designation, which works towards formal instruments.
- Parks labeled as: International Peace Park Initiatives (includes marine and sub-national boundaries). Celebratory Peace Gardens/Monuments are included to represent non-protected transboundary areas. These parks are proposed with modified definitions.
- Governments are charged with initiating this process and are only responsible to each other. This provides an enabling environment to build confidence and trust.
- An Informal Model Declaration is signed to solidify and initiate the common goal of working toward formal agreements, and to acknowledge an understanding of Peace Park goals, objectives, and best practices.
- Provides an implementation manual, which integrates IUCN and other related Peace Park guidelines and principles into a diagnostic tool and guide for interested countries to modify to their specific sites and context.

Second Tier

- International Formal Designation - exclusive criteria for appointing these Peace Parks
- Criteria based on an Inter-Conventional Designation where existing conventions, treaties, principles, and guidelines are integrated into a formal binding instrument specific to International Peace Parks (environment, security, human rights, & military issues included). Therefore, security and military professionals would be actively engaged.
- Formation of an international advisory body representing these diverse fields.

- These parks would be labeled as International Peace Parks (dropping the "initiative"), with an associated definition.

For more information please contact Sarah at spasemko@gmail.com.

Bits and Pieces

We welcome as new members of the Network the following:

Professor John All, Western Kentucky University and American Alpine Club, now working in Himalayas, and has worked in Andes also.

Jesse McGehey, Climbing Manager, Wilderness Branch, Yosemite National Park. Concerned with wilderness throughout Sierra Nevada range. Has backpacked in mountains of North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Joerg Eibers, Protected Areas Program, IUCN South American Regional Office in Quito, Ecuador.

And, resulting from encounters at the 9th World Wilderness Congress (see article) the following:

Kabelle Alvarez, Consultant, Sustainable Tourism and Protected Areas (Canada)

Erika Stanciu, Carpathian Forests and PA Leader, WWF (Romania)

Ghana Shyam Gurung, Conservation Program Director, WWF (Nepal)

John Bergenske, Executive Director, Wildsight (Canada)

Tatjana Yaskina, Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve (Russia)

Martin Carver (reinstatement), Aqua Environmental Associates (Canada)

Lisa Graumlich, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona (USA)

Olivier Chassot, Latin American School of Protected Areas, University for International Cooperation (Costa Rica). Olivier is the new Deputy Vice-Chair for Connectivity in the Mountain Biome, WCPA.

Zdenka Krenova, Sumava NP (Czech Republic)

Hans Kiener, Bayerischer Wald NP (Germany)

Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Associate Director, US National Park Service

Jan van Wageningen, Emeritus Scientist, US Geological Survey

Bas Verschuuren, Earth Collective, Netherlands (currently in Mexico)

Our colleague and good friend, **David Sheppard**, whose Head of Protected Areas Program position at IUCN was recently cancelled/eliminated, has landed on his feet. He is now Director (CEO) of the Secretariat of the **South Pacific Regional Environment Program**, an organization he worked with earlier in his career, in the 1980s. He is based in Apia, Western Samoa. It's a return to a part of the world **David** loves, so, as his Australian compatriots would say, "Good on yer, mate!" He arrived in time to experience the damaging tsunami generated by a nearby earthquake in October. **David** was always a strong supporter of the Mountain Biome, and its Mountain PA Network, and we miss him greatly. IUCN is the poorer for his departure.

Chile's **Torres del Paine National Park** is not among the easier parks to get into, yet in one month (July) in 2009 it received 1,846 visitors. Happily, 1,351 were Chilean nationals, and 495 were foreign visitors. While it is good to see foreign money coming into the area and the country, it is even better to see this magnificent park being visited by Chileños.

The last meeting of the World Heritage Committee continued the listing of the following **Mt WH Sites on the In Danger list**:

Simien NP (Ethiopia)-grazing problems

Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea) mining threat and security concerns)

Virunga NP (Democratic Republic of the Congo)- security from armed conflict, oil exploitation and poaching of mountain gorillas)

Kahuzi-Biega NP (D. R.C.)- armed conflict, road and mining)

Aire and Tenere Natural Reserves (Niger)- forest degradation

Galapagos Islands (Ecuador)- unregulated tourism and invasive species.

When the United Nations focused on Climate Change at its headquarters meeting on September 22, a rock from Mt. Everest in **Sagarmatha H.P.** was presented to President Barack Obama by the Nepalese Prime Minister. This had been presented to him by **Dawa Steven Sherpa**, a **WWF Climate for Life Ambassador**. This was to indicate to the world something of the vulnerability of the Sagarmatha Sherpa community to the effects of global warming. UN Secretary General H. E. Ban Ki-moon also received a Nepalese petition signed by 207,552 students who are concerned about climate change.

Update on the Save the Peaks campaign for the **sacred San Francisco Peaks (Arizona, USA)**: After the US Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of the Coalition to Save the Peaks (reported in last issue of UPDATE, September 2009), an injunction against start-up of the ski development expansion has been lodged by the Coalition and nine citizens. This lawsuit against the US Forest Service alleges that the Environmental Impact Statement prepared by it ignored the possibility of human ingestion of snow made from treated sewage effluent. Treated sewage has been found to contain pharmaceuticals, hormones, endocrine disrupters, industrial chemical pollutants, narcotics, antibiotics and viruses. Since the Peaks cannot seem to be protected on the basis of their sacred values to the Native American Tribes, this challenge uses human health criteria. Also being considered is purchase by the Navajo Nation of the ski development lease from the US Forest Service!! Stay tuned.

The **Mountain Partnership** Secretariat (at FAO headquarters) is working with several of its member organizations to organize a Side Event at the Convention of the Parties of CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) in Copenhagen, December 7-18. This CoP 15 is focused on Climate Change, and is a key milestone if we are to get global warming under restraint, and influence the international Climate Change agreements to be negotiated later next month. The Side Event will focus on mountains and climate change. As of this writing, it is not known whether the proposal was successful. Details at www.mountainpartnership.org.

The **Crown of the Continent** at Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is undergoing review by the World Heritage Committee, based on the threat of nearby energy exploration in Canada. But **The Nature Conservancy** has good news. It recently assembled the largest private land conservation deal in our history, --485 mi² (1,256 km²) of forest in a US\$500 million transaction. In this it partnered with the Trust for Public Land and is working toward an additional 250,000 acres (101,000 ha) over the next three years along the Rocky Mountain Front in the USA.

Two new PAs have been added last August to the **Swiss Parks System**, --Wilderness Park Zurich (Sihlwald) and the Nature Regional Park Thal. Fourteen potential parks have been deemed candidates for formal PA designation pending further investigation of management regimes.

An Italian **Natural Park Mont Avic** (www.montavic.it) has recently been enlarged in the Aosta Valley so that it now abuts National Park Gran Paradiso, thus improving conservation connectivity. It now covers 5,747 ha of mountains and valleys and includes unusual areas of serpentine vegetation of alpine plants and largest area of mountain pine (*Pinus uncinata*) forest in Aosta.

Elizabeth Fox is now with Biodiversity International in Rome as Communication and Information Assistant for their Global Partnerships Program, with a focus on agrobiodiversity. She has accepted responsibility for Communication in the WCPATask Force on Transboundary Pas. News of TBC activity may be sent to her at elyfox@hotmail.com

Marie Odile Guth from the French Ministry of Environment is the new President of the Platform Ecological Network. The Platform

supports and participates in the methodological and technical bases for implementation of ecological networks in the European Alps. It works with the EConnect and Ecological Continuum Projects.

Protect the Adirondacks! Is the new combination name for two organizations which have joined together for the protection and stewardship of all the public and private lands within the 2.4 million ha Adirondack Park in New York State (USA). **Dave Gibson**, the Executive Director of the former Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks has informed us of this merger with the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks.

New MtPA Network member **Jesse McGahey** is the lead for Climbing Management in the Wilderness Branch of the US National Park Service, Protection Division. He has sent the following brief note about some of his work:

Yosemite is positioned to be a leader in innovative wilderness management strategies, and climbing management in particular. We do have the funding for a traditional law enforcement approach to gain compliance in the "front country", but this is neither cost-effective nor appropriate management for wilderness protection. For climbing and wilderness use we rely on education, outreach, and public involvement to create a culture of accepted norms for mountain behavior. The results we see are exciting, not only for the treatment of the environment here in the park, but also for the message of conservation, protecting public lands, and sustainability that visitors take home with them. **Linda McNeillan**, as we know has been involved deeply in climbing management and education in Yosemite NP, and in developing climbers as "citizen scientists" to aid the Park Service.

A **Protected Areas Executive Leadership Seminar** is being held in Yosemite NP and other sites from April 27 - May 7, 2010. The application deadline is past, but it is of interest to note this event. Twenty-four PA executives from around the world will be participating to develop leadership capability. It is organized by Yosemite NP, the University of California (Merced) and the National Parks Institute at Golden Gate NP. Hopefully if there are more of these in the future, we will hear of them in time to alert members. **Linda McNeillan** has been invited to visit one of the sessions at UC Merced, where President Jimmy Carter has been asked to speak. She will report back to UPDATE on this visionary seminar focused on leadership, innovation, and organizational renewal for protected areas around the world.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Regional Experience Sharing Consultation on the Landscape Approach to Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Eastern Himalayas: Towards Developing the Brahmaputra-Sahween Landscape. 2009. ICIMOD Consultation Workshop Report. Experts from Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar and Nepal and ICIMOD and UNEP Regional Office. http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-consultation_workshop_report.pdf.

Kamchatka: Wilderness at the Edge by Igor Shpilenok and Patricio Robles Gill (both of the International League of Conservation Photographers). 2009. Edited by Laura Williams. Color photos, 121 pp, hard cover. US\$29. Stunningly depicts this amazing mountain peninsula in the Ring of Fire. Site of a World Heritage Nature Reserve. WILD Foundation www.wild.org/wild-store/Kamchatkawilderness-at-the-edge/

Ecological Economics and Sustainable Forest Management: Developing a Trans-Disciplinary Approach for the Carpathian Mountains. 2009. Eds I. Solovy and **W. S. Keeton**. Ukrainian National Forestry University Press, Lviv, Ukraine. 416 pp. The product from an international workshop on Forest Management and Protected Areas held in fall, 2007.

Plundering Appalachia: The Tragedy of Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining. 2009. Eds **Tom Butler** and **George Wuertner**. Earth Aware Editions. Often called "strip mining on steroids", this method of getting at coal is by far the most environmentally destructive of all methods. Chapters by such well-known figures as Wendell Berry, Carl Pope, David Orr and Robert F. Kennedy J. www.plunderingappalachia.org. We congratulate our two Network members on editing this important advocacy large format book with its horrifying pictures and message. The Foreword was written by conservation philanthropist **Doug Tompkins**, and his Foundation for Deep Ecology assisted in giving birth to this book.

Arguments for Protected Areas - Multiple Benefits for Conservation and Use. Early 2010. Edited by **Sue Stofton** and **Nigel Dudley**. Earthscan, 256 pages. Paperback £25. A persuasive case for PAs. Case study examples from several Mt PAs: La Amistad (Costa Rica), Torngat (Canada), Sierra de Manatlán (Mexico), Guatopo (Venezuela). www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=101795. This will be launched at the April, 2010 Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress (see meetings) and a workshop at that event has been organized by **Sue** and **Nigel**.

Mountain Biodiversity and Climate Change, The need for long-term research and action in the Hindu-Kush-Himalayas. 2009. Compiled by **Eklavya Sharma**, Isabella Khadka and Greta Rana. ICIMOD. Kathmandu. Also contains a CD-ROM with pdf files. www.icimod.org.

The Wealth of Nature: Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity and Human Well-Being. 2009. J. A. McNeely, R.A. Mittermeier, T. M. Brooks, F. Boltz and N. Ash. This is the 17th volume in the Conservation Book Series by CEMEX. It has been produced in cooperation with IUCN, CI, the International League of Conservation Photographers and the WILD Foundation.

Useful Links

UPDATE Archive Past editions, hosted by The Mountain Forum: <http://www.mtnforum.org/rs/ol/periodicals.cfm?periodid=30>

IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome: <http://mountains-wcpa.org/>

IUCN-WCPA Connectivity Theme: http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_what/wcpa_conservingds/

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

Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

Healthy Parks Healthy People International Congress. April 11-16, 2010 in Melbourne, Australia. Major sponsors: Parks Victoria; IUCN; Beyond Blue; Deakin University; Australia Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Information at www.healthyparkshealthypeoplecongress.org. Call for proposals has closed. The WCPA Steering Committee meeting (Ecuador in June) discussed establishing a new Task Force with this same name: Healthy Parks, Healthy People.

Conservation for a Changing Planet. July 3-7, 2010 in Edmonton, Canada. This is 24th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology. Major themes: Conservation Science, Conservation Management, Policy and Education. www.conservationbiology.org. Abstracts by 20 January.

VIII International Mobile Seminar on Protected Areas. July 5-20, 2010 in Guatemala and Belize. CATIE, cooperatively with

Colorado State University (*Jim Barborak*) and CI. Application Deadline April 30, 2010. US\$2,850 plus travel to CATIE, Costa Rica. Partial financial assistance available. English proficiency needed as well as Spanish. capacitation@catie.ac.cr.

Functional Significance of Mountain Biodiversity, International Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment - Diversitas Conference, July 27-30, 2010 in Chandolin (Valais), Switzerland. Paper/poster submission deadline December 15. Registration deadline is April 30. www.gmba.unibas.ch/2010conference/registration.htm.

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 Twinn; 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.uki.ac.uk. General information at www.perth.uki.ac.uk/mountainstudies/2010.

**Mountains Biome E-News Production
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