

Mountain Protected Areas Update - June 15, 1996

MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS UPDATE

Lawrence S. Hamilton, Vice-Chair for Mountains June 15, 1996
Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas/IUCN

Holy mountains are meant to be hard to climb, arduous to explore, for in that struggle lies humility. To build cable cars is not just to disturb the natural balance. It is to deprive us of a sense of awe. ~ Zhang Huane (China Taoist Association)

Australian Alps National Parks

Back when this Mountain Protected Area Network had its origin at a "Parks, Peaks and People" meeting in Hawaii in 1991, Graeme Worboys from New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service presented a case for adding a key piece of the Brindabella range as an important addition to the Australian Alps National Parks. This was accomplished finally in April of this year with the addition of the 12,050 ha Brindabella National Park at the northern end of the Alps. Important fauna and flora found herein are the powerful owl, common bent-wing bat, yellow-bellied glider, koala, peregrine falcon, alpine tea tree and 58 subalpine plants at the northern limit of their distribution. Some 33,000 ha of designated wilderness have been declared in two parcels in the northern part of Kosciusko National Park (Goobarrogandra and Bimberi Wildernesses). Some good news with respect to Mount Kosciusko, the highest peak in the Australian Alps (2,228 m). This item will be of particular interest to those hardy souls in last year's Mountain Protected Area Transboundary Traveling Workshop and Seminar who braved the rain, snow and wind on Kosciusko. An Australian Commonwealth Ecotourism grant of A\$220,000 has been made for improvements in visitor facilities, interpretation and rehabilitation of eroded areas in the alpine summit area where there is high visitation. Congratulations to the Snowy Mountain Region, and to Gregor Manson the Regional Manager.

The Wildlands Project

We would like to call to the attention of our 260 Network Members the existence of an important and intriguing activity which has grown out of the desire to implement concepts out of the field of conservation biology in the United States. A growing group of scientists and managers is supporting a Wildlands Project, whose goal is to restore and protect the ecological richness and native biodiversity of North America through the establishment of a connected system of reserves, --large bioregions of essentially wilderness lands. Since much of the basic building material for such large connected reserves is in mountain areas many of the locally generated projects under this overall umbrella have involved mountain ranges. Noteworthy among these have been: Yellowstone to Yukon Rocky Mountain Wild Corridor (5 states in USA/2 Canadian provinces) ~ Southern Appalachian Mountains Bioregion (Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia) International Cascades National Park (Washington USA/British Columbia, Canada) Gila River - Sky Island Region (Arizona/New Mexico) Klamath/Siskiyou Region (California/Oregon)

These are all being conceptualized, planned and implemented with many local and national partners and coalitions. It is recognized that implementation is a long and rocky road. The address for the Wildlands Project is P O Box 5365, Tucson, Arizona 85703 USA. Three Mountain Protected Area Network members are on the Board of Directors: John Davis, Dave Foreman and Harvey Locke. The journal for the project is called "Wild Earth" (Editor John Davis), and is published in a small village about 13 miles from our abode. It is for me the most stimulating and valuable journal that comes before my eyes! And the illustrative art work is superb! It is a quarterly, costing \$25 in USA, \$30 in Canada and \$45 overseas airmail. Available from Wild Earth, P O Box 455, Richmond, Vermont 05477 USA.

The Project staff have assembled a selection of papers on bioregions which they label "Reserve Design Framework Package". This contains many good articles from the field of conservation biology giving the concepts and principles of reserve design, guidelines for mapping, suggestions for political strategies, and tips

on implementation plus some good references. Many of these are reprints from past issues of Wild Earth. Cost is \$25, from the Project office in Tucson. Overseas postage will be extra (\$810). A bargain for a lot of good material!

These bioregion corridors being fostered by the Wildlands Project give concrete examples for the current thrust of the CNPPA Mountain PA Theme which relates to this topic. The MtPA Theme interest crystallized at the IUCN General Assembly in 1994 when Jim Thorsell enunciated the idea of a Cordillera of the Americas Conservation Corridor. This was furthered by the IUCN South American members' proposal for an Integrated Program for Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Andean Cordillera, now called the Andean Initiative (see news item). Several of these Wildland Projects will be the subject of presentations at the mountain workshop in Montreal at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October, along with large corridors from elsewhere in the world.

World Heritage Sites in Danger

Three mountain World Heritage Sites, on the list of sites in danger, have come in for special examination and concern at the last meeting of the World Heritage Committee. These are: 1. Sangay Natural Park (Ecuador), -- plans to build a road in the park; 2. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India), -poaching and civil unrest; 3 Yellowstone National Park (USA), --tourism pressures, road construction, disease in the bison herd, and a proposed nearby mining project having downstream impacts in the park.

Asia-Pacific Mountain Network Initiated

A communication network for mountain sustainable development workers in Asia and the Pacific has been initiated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, with a special grant from the Swiss Development Cooperation. (I'm glad there is one network dealing with mountains that is well-funded!) Volume 1, Number 1 of their first APMN Bulletin is dated April 18, and has just been received. While dealing with more than protected areas in mountains, it would be very appropriate for MtPA Network members to receive this, and to contribute news. Contact: Dr. Mahesh Banskota, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD, GPO Box 3226, Kathmandu, Nepal; fax 977 15 24 509; email . This first bulletin has borrowed heavily from our newsletter UPDATE, and we will be borrowing from theirs in the future. Good luck APMN!

Threat Analysis and Conflict Resolution Begins in Canaima National Park, Venezuela

(sent in by Chris Sharpe, of EcoNatura) Canaima National Park is one of the world's largest national parks and is globally important for its unique table mountain formations (the Tepuis), and the large numbers of endemic taxa they harbor. Until recently the 3 million ha park was without staff, although now has a small team of 10 park guards and 3 technicians. The park is threatened by a number of factors including; excessive burning, tourism, rapidly increasing indigenous population and (most importantly) weak management.

In November 1995, EcoNatura began a project to resolve conflicts and confront some of the threats, with finance from The Nature Conservancy's Parks-in-Peril Program and the approval and involvement of the National Institute of Parks (INPARQUES). The project is designed and run by sociologist Lokine Rodriguez, a specialist in participatory management of protected areas. The first phase, which is now drawing to a close, has managed, through a series of workshops and interviews, to obtain a consensus on key threats and to identify some mechanisms to solve these.

The methodology has included workshops with park guards, workshops with local communities, and an exercise in which department heads from INPARQUES central office were taken to visit the park to discuss management problems with local institutions and communities in order to get "hands-on" experience of the issues at stake. In this way it is hoped to carry forward action at a variety of levels from grassroots to decision-makers. The approach is novel for Venezuela and has been welcomed by local communities as a first step in reconciling their needs with park management. This methodology is also being successfully utilized in Aguaro-Guariquito NP, and the project is now seeking funding to continue work in these parks.

Getty Award to Park Staff in Parc National des Volcans

Roughly half of the world's 650 remaining mountain gorillas reside in the Virunga mountain range of Rwanda and Zaire. Long beset by poachers, these gorillas faced a potentially even greater threat to their survival in 1994 when Rwanda's bloody civil war spread to the Parc National des Volcans. For risking their lives to stay at their posts and guard endangered mountain gorillas during the Rwandan civil war, the staff of Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans received the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Award. The \$50,000 prize, administered by World Wildlife Fund, is one of the largest awards given for outstanding achievement in the conservation of wildlife and its habitats.

Andean Initiatives

On May 8, 17 persons from 7 Andean countries met together at the IUCN South American members' meeting in Yucay, Perú and gave their support to a rejuvenated version of what will be called the Andean Initiative. Network member Danilo Silva of ECOCIENCIA, in Ecuador is the Coordinator. It will become more a part of the IUCN South American program through the regional office in Quito, where Bernardo Ortiz van Halle is the IUCN officer working with CNPPA and the Species Survival Commission.

Meanwhile, down on the Chile/Argentine border, Allen Putney is involved with parks people from both countries in a transboundary meeting to discuss issues between Nahuel Huapi and its adjacent Chilean parks Vicente Perez Rosales and Puyehue. This was to have occurred in May, and will be reported on subsequently.

Devil's Tower, Wyoming

A controversy at this unusual mountain has parallels at Uluru (Ayers Rock - Mt. Olga) National Park and other sacred mountains. Devil's Tower National Monument has religious significance to Plains Indian Tribes, especially during the summer solstice in June. A voluntary moratorium to reduce the number of climbers around the solstice by 85% has been in effect. This year the National Park Service banned commercial guides for the month of June and are now facing a lawsuit from a coalition of so-called "Wise Use" organizations claiming that this is a violation of the US Constitution's provisions for individual freedom. According to Chief Ranger Jim Schlinkmann, the voluntary restraint has been working these first days of June. As of going to press with this UPDATE, the federal judge has not issued a ruling. An Executive Order by President Clinton in late May endorsing the protection of sacred sites gives added weight to the Park Service's case. Other sacred mountains such as Nanda Devi have also had such conflicts between those who hold them to be holy and those who would climb to reach the summits.

Some Recently Established Mountain Protected Areas

Picos de Europa National Park in Spain's Catabrian Mountains (up to 2600 m). This is an expansion of Covadonga National Park, Spain's first protected area (1918) and it covers 65,000 ha to make it the country's largest national park. The park harbors populations of brown bear and wolf.

Massif de Bauges Regional Nature Park in the French Alps was established on December 7. The other four regional nature parks in the Alps are Veriors, Queyras, Lubéron and Chartreuse. Bauges RNP covers 80,000 ha and 57 communes (46,000 inhabitants) in Savoie and Haute-Savoie between Annecy, Chambéry and Albertville which are, with Aix-les-Bains, "door cities" for the park. These Nature Parks usually are classified as IUCN Category V, Protected Landscapes. The elevation ranges from 400 to 2200 m. A national game reserve pre-existing since 1955 offers "a tiny piece of wilderness" of 5200 ha as the heart of the RNP. Some 2000 chamois, the Bearded vulture (recently reintroduced) among others are representatives of a very rich fauna, which unfortunately includes also Corsica mouflon, once introduced for hunting purposes. The area has been neglected by the economic development. It is threatened both by the decline of traditional activities and the departure of the population, and by the pressure of the surrounding big cities. The park aims to make the protection of the natural and cultural resources an initiator for local development.

Udzungwa Mountains National Park in Tanzania. The Udzungwa mountain rainforests support at least 55 mammal species, including such native primates as the red colobus monkey, and more than 276 tree species, of which approximately half are believed to be endemic. Now these mountains are the site of a new national park that WWF/US helped to create with the Tanzanian government. Udzungwa Mountains National Park conserves an important block of the remaining unfragmented evergreen forest within the biologically diverse Eastern Arc

Mountains. WWF funds will also help sponsor a tree nursery and a conservation education program showing local people how to plant and care for trees and crops outside the forest. Tanzania's other mountain protected area is the legendary Kilimanjaro National Park.

Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya National Park in Indonesia's Kalimantan is a 181,000 ha area of equatorial forest whose core is the rugged Schwaner Mountain Range. The highest summit here is Bukit Raya at 2270 m. Dan Taylor (formerly Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, now on a USAID funded project in this park) reports the following: The parks' forests are dominated by Dipterocarp species. Typically there are extremely diverse tree, vine, shrub, and herb associates. The forest supports an amazing diversity of animal forms: at least 6 primate species, 4 ungulates, 3 cats, a bear, many dozens of birds, reptiles, and an-counted invertebrates. A recent survey of 800 households in the region indicates that most people who live and

work in the area around the park recognize the value of the park as a watershed, as a source of biological diversity, and as a potential source of economic growth. Contingent valuation analysis suggests the conservation value of the park is at least equal to the potential monetary value of the timber resources.

Parco Naturale delle Alpi Marittime is the new name for an expanded Argentera Nature Park in Italy. The addition of a neighboring Nature Reserve "Bosco e Laghi di Palanfre" of 1,000 ha brings the park to almost 30,000 ha. Park staff level is now 36 according to Director Patrizia Rossi. Alpi Marittime abuts the French Parc National de Mercantour, and a fine cooperative relationship across the frontier characterizes the management regimes of these mountain protected areas. Part of this stems from an enthusiastic and personally friendly relationship between Director Rossi and her French counterpart Director Marie Odile Guth. At the Australian Transboundary Mountain Workshop last November these two were christened "The Dynamic Duo"! Linda and I had the great pleasure of spending several days last month in each of these splendid parks with their two exceptional PA directors.

Environmental Mountaineering

Climbing expeditions and trekking groups can cause serious negative impacts on the scenic, cultural, biological and physical resources of popular mountains, --many of them in protected areas. The government of Pakistan reports that during the summer of 1995, 30,000 persons went through the camping sites of the Baltoro Glacier alone! Mountain Wilderness International (Executive Office in Rome) has initiated training courses to promote environmentally softer mountaineering, and has been working with governments in the Himalayas to develop tighter controls on the conduct of mountain climbers and trekkers. In September 1995 the first training course was carried out in Hunza (Karakorams) for the liaison officers assigned to expeditions. Based on this success, Mountain Wilderness is holding a training program this year for future instructors who will then teach these liaison officers, again in the Hunza Valley. Given funds, MWI hopes to meet the expressions of interest that have come from Nepal and India.

Summit Structures

The Psalmist wrote: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills...", and he found solace and inspiration there. If the present trend in erecting transmission towers for radio stations and cellular telephones continues, we will soon lift up our eyes and see mainly summit pollution from structures. It is particularly a problem in the USA where the explosive growth in cellular telephones is escalating the demand for transmission sites. The telecommunications industry is a formidable foe to those who would have our mountain skylines visually untrashed. Your Editor has been calling attention to this problem in the State of Vermont by pushing for overall policies that have regard to cumulative impacts, and which give the natural resource agencies whose lands are involved a greater amount of control. Unfortunately a recent legislative act in Vermont has given control to the Commerce Agency, even where state forest and parklands are involved. There are currently at least six controversial tower sitings on mountains. Even more unfortunate, on the national level, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted, and this permits the erection of such structures on federal lands, including national parks. To oppose construction the National Park Service would have to prove an "unavoidable direct conflict of mission" with the telecommunications industry. This trend in the USA may portend future action in many other countries.

Sustainable Tourism Charter for Protected Areas

In Europe, with funding from the European Union's LIFE program, an initiative is underway to produce a Charter for Sustainable Tourism and a three-year action plan to be tested in 10 parks. This is being guided by the Federation of French Regional Nature Parks, but participating parks are also in Spain, Italy, Austria, Luxemburg, Belgium and Great Britain. Five of these parks are mountain protected areas: Alpi Marittime, Abruzzo, Hohe Tauern, Sierras de Cazorla/Segura y Las Villas, and Cévennes. We hope to report further as this is implemented.

A Few Activity Notes About Network Members

Martin Price is currently Focal Point for Mountain Activities in IUCN's European Program. Network members having news items may send them to Dr. Price at Environmental Change Unit, University of Oxford, 37A St. Giles, Oxford OX1 3LD, UK; fax 44 1 86 52 80 581; email . He has also recently been asked to serve as Coordinator for IUFRO's Task Force on Forests in Mountain Development, which is a new group seeking to implement the mountain chapter of Agenda 21, oriented toward forestry.

Miriam Torres has left ProNaturaleza, the Peruvian NGO where she was Coordinator of Projects in Lima, and has begun work with The Mountain Institute at their project office in Huaráz near Huascarán National Park. Last fall she received a fellowship from the Atlantic Center for the Environment for a course on land stewardship in New England. We were happily able to meet with her, since one of the sessions was only 30 miles from our location here in Vermont.

Allen Putney is working with the Argentinean National Parks Administration to develop visitor plans for the most heavily used portions of Nahuel Huapi and Lanin National Parks. Major themes for these Andean mountain parks include concession management, visitor facility design, backcountry use, interpretive programs and resource management.

Marija Zupancic Vicar, the Regional Vice-Chair of CNPPA for Europe continues with boundless energy and enthusiasm to work on behalf of protected areas in Europe in implementing the European Action Plan "Parks for Life". After organizing and hosting an excellent CNPPA Steering Committee meeting in Triglav National Park (Slovenia's foremost mountain PA), she was two days later in France running a meeting of the institutional partners of the European Action Plan.

Merv Syroteuk retires this month as Superintendent of Waterton Lakes National Park (Canada). The MtPA Network sends best wishes to you, Merv, for an interesting and productive new phase of life, and welcomes your replacement Ian Syme as a new member.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

Dans Les Montagnes de Grece by Network member Constantinos Tsipiras. This guide (in French) to mountain walking and trekking covers not only mainland Greece but Crete, the Isles and Peloponnese. It has suggested itineraries and maps classified by length and difficulty and some fine photos in its 269 pages. Published by Editions Olizane SA, Geneva. No price known.

While not dealing mainly with protected areas, those interested in PAs in Nepal will find an excellent matrix of the land use situation and pressures relevant to maintaining protected areas of all kinds, in a chapter by Narpat Jodha on The Nepal Middle Mountains in the 1995 UNU Press book **Regions at Risk: Comparisons of Threatened Environments**.

And, for lovers and students of mountains, we call to your attention the beautifully written and illustrated large format book entitled **Mountains**, one of the Illustrated Library of the Earth series. The Consulting Editor is Jack Ives. The 11 chapters are: Mountains of the World; How Mountains are Formed; Mountains of Fire; Mountain Weather and Climate; Plants of the Mountaintops; Animals of the Mountains; Mountain People; Farming on the Slopes; Scaling the Peaks; Mining and Damming; The Future of the Mountains. Rodale Press, 33 East Minor Street, Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18098 USA or bookstores, US\$35. It was published in 1994.

Jim Thorsell is recommending that compatriots with an interest in China obtain and read Martin Palmer's book **A Guide to the Sacred Life of China**. While dealing with the many aspects of religious tradition and various elements of sacred landscapes, it does have a significant section on sacred mountains (some 30 pages out of the 336+ page book). Published by Thorsons, London. Many of China's mountain protected areas are sacred sites.

Developing the Antarctic Protected Area System has been published by IUCN as the formal proceedings of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research/IUCN Workshop on Protected Areas held in 1992. Since so much of Antarctica is mountainous including the Ellsworth Mountains (up to 5,140 m), the Trans Antarctic Mountains and Ross Island, the booklet of 137 pages is of interest to this Network. There is one Treaty Territory mountain protected area the Barwick Valley of 29,000 ha which meets the rigid Thorsell/Harrison criteria (>1,500 m, >10,000 ha). Four Network members, Lorne Kriwoken, Peter Keage, Jerry Harrison and Paul Dingwall are paper authors. The book is edited by R.I. Lewis Smith, D.W.H. Walton and P.R. Dingwall and is available from IUCN Publication Services Unit, 219 C Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL UK; email .

Volume 9, No 22 for December 1995 of **Flora, Fauna y Áreas Silvestres** has 6 articles out of 8 written by members of the MtPA Network and dealing with mountain protected areas. This is the journal emanating from the Regional Office of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish language). The authors are Carlos Ponce, Edgard Yerena, José Pedro de Oliveira Costa, Danilo Silva, Tage Michaelsen, Jim Thorsell and Larry Hamilton. The theme of this bulletin is on protecting biodiversity in Andean protected area systems.

Forthcoming Meetings of Potential Interest

Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe; June 26-30, in Elbe Sandstones, "Bohemian-Saxonian Switzerland" Transboundary Park. The Mountain Theme of CNPPA is joining with the Czech ECOPOINT Foundation and several other partners in co-sponsoring this conference which is designed to advance the work of the Parks for Life European Action Plan project on support to transfrontier protected areas. Network members Jan Cerovsky, Zbig Krazan and Emanuel de Guillebon will be presenting papers; Larry Hamilton will give one on transboundary cooperation based on last November's Australian Alps workshop, and one on behalf of himself and Jim Thorsell on transfrontier mountain parks in Europe. Contact: Jan Cerovsk;, ECOPOINT, Kalisnická 4, CZ-13000, Prague 3, Czech Republic; fax 42 2 27 04 17.

CNPPA(EA-2); June 30 - July 5 in Kushiro, Japan. The Second Conference on National Parks and Protected Areas of East Asia is coming up. It is hoped that MtPA Network members in the region will participate and will have a formal or informal session on mountains. I have asked David Sheppard, Woo Bo-Myeong and Hsu Kuo-Shin to get a mountain group together. Conference Secretariat: c/a InterGroup Corp., 7-5-17 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107 Japan; fax 81 3 55 70 61 50.

Current Techniques in Alpine Ecological Research; August 26-31, in the High Tatras, Slovakia. Technical sessions on alpine flora and fauna research methods, plus tours, mainly in Tatra National Park. Papers will be published in a special volume of *Oecologia Montana*. Deadline for submission is past. Presumably self-funded observers would be welcome. Contact Dr. Marián Janiga, TANAP Research Centre, 05960 T Lomnica, Slovak Republic; fax 42 96 99 67 958.

Workshop on Effective Management of National Parks and Protected Areas in East Asia and South Asia; August 25 - September 2 in Jinzhagou, Sichuan, China. Meeting is in a mountain setting (Mt. Minshan), and the area has giant pandas and golden monkeys as well as the lovely dove trees. There is a post conference tour of 10 days to Qomolangma Nature Preserve on the Tibet/Nepal border where the world's tallest mountain is located. Contact Network member Li Bosheng, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, 141 Xiwai Dajie, Beijing 100044, PR China; fax 86 1 08 31 95 34; email <libs~bepc2.ihep.ac.cn>.

Sacred Mountains of Asia: World Heritage for Now and for the Future. September 20-30, in the Altai Mountains concurrently with Strategies for Ecological Sustainable Development of the Altai Republic and of Adjacent Mountain Countries. These are the second and third workshops in a series of three in the Altai, the first one having been in May. Contact address: Ye. F. Veldiaev, State Assembly, El Kumltai, Altai Republic, Commission on Ecology, 659700 Gono - Altaisk nl. Erkemena Palkina; fax 7 38 37999105.

Bishkek. Kyrgyzstan Mountain Research Conference, October 14-18. Although protected areas are not mentioned as a theme for this meeting, it is important that they be on the agenda as an institutional device for achieving conservator of the flora, fauna, water, soil, landscapes and cultures that are given as "themes". Sponsored by the AAAS and the International University of Kyrgyzstan. Abstracts deadline is past. Contact: Dr. Elizabeth Kirk, Director, Europe and Countries of the Former Soviet Union Project, AAAS, 1333 H street NVV, Washington DC 20005.

Second European Sustainable Mountain Development Conference, week of October 7 in Trento, Italy. This is a follow-up to the initial meeting held in April in Aviemore, Scotland. It is by invitation only, and this notice is put in simply to indicate what is going on in connection with the global Mountain Agenda.

When man moves away from nature his heart becomes hard.
~ Lakota Tribe Proverb

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Please note change of mailing address (yes, again!), and check that you have the correct e-mail addresses

Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas - Mountain Theme
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Fax 4122 999 0002; mail@hq.iucn.org

Lawrence S. Hamilton and Linda S. Hamilton
ISLANDS AND HIGHLANDS, Environmental Consultancy
342 Bittersweet Lane, Charlotte, Vermont 05445 USA
Telephone/fax 802 425 6509; LSx2_Hamiltoni@together.org

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