

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE

No. 96 December 2017



*Ecrins National Park – French Alps (July 2017)  
Photo peopleinnature*

*In every walk with nature  
one receives far more  
than he seeks.*

John Muir

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**Mountain UPDATE is a quarterly newsletter distributed to members of the Mountain Protected Areas Network**

**The views expressed in this UPDATE are not necessarily those of the IUCN WCPA.**

## Note from the editor

Summer mosaics of fragrant wildflowers in the southern hemisphere, snowy winter blizzards in the northern hemisphere – and around the equator majestic cloud forests ...the world of mountains is ever changing and the efforts to protect and conserve them unstinting.

Welcome to this 96<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mountain UPDATE with its smattering of articles from California to Iceland. And what do they all have in common, they are written by people that love and care for mountains.

Happy reading...and happy International Mountains Day for December 11!

## From *People and Mountains* around the World:

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### Global

#### *Fences in the Landscape...are we listening*

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Photo: Larry Hamilton

In erecting fences, the builders reveal something of their own personality, the area's land uses and history, materials available, and the purpose...these human made markers can tell a story to those who choose to listen and learn from the landscape.

As you think about the stories embedded in fences, you may see parallels between the physical fences we build and the psychological and cultural barriers we erect between ourselves. Realistically, the effectiveness of both is limited and temporary-because *no fences are permanent*. With time, all fences do break down. And understanding this may influence the fences you yourself build in your own life.

**Taken from a new book by *Larry Hamilton (1925 – 2016) and Linda Hamilton. Larry Hamilton* was instrumental in the establishment of the Mountain Protected Area Specialist Group and long-time editor of the Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE.**

#### *15,000 scientists from 180 nations: a second warning to humanity*

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##### **Bill Lawrence provided a short article in BioScience**

“It concerns a broad warning to humanity about our alarmingly unsustainable ways, concerning nearly every facet of our existence. The paper follows on from an initial warning to humanity made by leading scientists exactly 25 years ago.

Led by the eminent researcher Bill Ripple, the current paper has received remarkably wide endorsement internationally, with over 15,000 scientists signing on as supporters. These include representatives of over 180 nations, including innumerable researchers in developing nations.

It's clear that we cannot continue to make planet-changing decisions based on corporate quarterly-profit reports or short-term political goals.” [Read Article](#)

## Natural World Heritage sites affected by climate change

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From IUCN News November

The *IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2* – an update of the 2014 *IUCN World Heritage Outlook* report – assesses, for the first time, changes in the conservation prospects of all 241 natural World Heritage sites. It examines the threats, protection and management of the sites, and the state of their World Heritage values – the unique features which have earned them their prestigious World Heritage status.

According to the assessments, climate change impacts, such as coral bleaching and glacier loss, affect a quarter of all sites – compared to one in seven sites in 2014 – and **place coral reefs and glaciers among the most threatened ecosystems.**

Retreating glaciers, also resulting from rising temperatures, threaten sites such as **Kilimanjaro National Park** – which boasts Africa’s highest peak – and the **Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch** – home to the largest Alpine glacier.

“Natural World Heritage sites play a crucial role supporting local economies and livelihoods,” says Tim Badman, Director of IUCN’s World Heritage Programme. “Their destruction can thus have devastating consequences that go beyond their exceptional beauty and natural value. In Peru’s **Huascarán National Park**, for example, melting glaciers affect water supplies and contaminate water and soil due to the release of heavy metals previously trapped under ice. This adds to the urgency of our challenge to protect these places.”

The report is available [online](#) and its next edition is planned for 2020. All site assessments can be accessed at [worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org](http://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org)



## Treeline Patterns

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From Mountain Research Institute (MRI) September newsletter

Alpine treelines are prominent, globally-distributed ecological transition zones subject to functional, structural and positional shifts as a result of ongoing climate change.

**Such changes will have important implications for mountain ecosystem services and alpine biodiversity.**

In order to understand and predict treeline shifts in response to climatic changes, we need to learn to read the signs present in spatial treeline patterns. In a recent MRI Synthesis Workshop, held in Spain early September 2017, a group of nine treeline researchers discussed these patterns and how they can be used to infer the underlying processes and expected dynamics. [Read More](#)

## America (north & south)

### *Community-operated state parks*

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From Network member **Pamela Lanier**, an author in the travel and sustainability fields. She lives in Sonoma County California and loves to connect with other conservationists and her many friends made through IUCN conferences over the years. Email her at [pamelalanier@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelalanier@yahoo.com) or more on the projects she is involved with [www.EcoGo.org](http://www.EcoGo.org)

Four years after the advent of the Great Recession, the California Parks Department was still struggling as 70 parks across California were slated to close to save \$22 million.

One such park slated for closure was **Jack London State Historic Park**, located on the northeastern side of Sonoma Mountain. Unwilling to let their park and the rich history of the area be closed off, the local historical society, the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association (VMNHA), established its own organization to take over park upkeep.

#### **Locals began investing their own time and money to create something new.**

The Jack London Park Partners receives no funds from California State Parks to subsidize the management and operation of the park, depending entirely on private donations, park fees, and revenue from events hosted there to execute programming, maintain the grounds and administer operations.

#### **The second big success story to come out of Sonoma County is Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.**

Like Jack London State Historic Park, the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association took over operations of Sugarloaf from the state. Located within the **Mayacamas Mountain range**, Sugarloaf Ridge was able to highlight its natural attributes to attract visitors. By hosting events like Robert Ferguson Observatory monthly “Star Parties”, a 4th of July Fireworks Viewing Hike, Easter egg hunt in campground, the “Brunch on Bald Mountain” Fundraising Hike, and various other nature hikes that focused on things like Wildflowers, Mushrooms, History, and Geology they've been able to keep community involvement high. That community involvement has helped Sugarloaf triple in visitor numbers.



*Enthusiastic volunteers – Jack London State Historic Park*

This past October, Sonoma County experienced the deadliest wildfires the state has ever seen. Sadly, though Jack London Park escaped damage, its two sister parks saw significant burning. Both Sugarloaf Ridge and Annadel State Parks are currently closed and will likely be in recovery for years to come.

For more information on the effect of the fires on state parks, see the Press Democrat article here: [Fires](#)

### *Madidi is Madidi, where anything can happen*

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Adapted from an article in **National Geographic (November 2017)** by **Dr Rob Wallace** Bolivia-based conservation scientist **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**.

It refers to the seventh in a series of reports from WCS on the [Identidad Madidi](#) expedition currently taking place in Bolivia's **Madidi National Park**.

“In a place as diverse as **Madidi**, I am privileged every day to see a life form I have not encountered before. Every day there is something new to behold, and every now and then these personal revelations are discoveries for the broader scientific community.

The forests were shrouded in cloud, providing a spellbinding atmosphere and reinforcing the term “cloud forest,” but then we reached the more open and humid peak with an intricate, multicolored and textured garden of shrubs, flowers, mosses, and lichens as beautiful as any forest canopy.

Spanning 19,000 square kilometres and ranging from the glacier-covered peaks of the high Andes Mountains to the tropical rainforests of the Tuichi River, **Madidi NP** and its neighbours are recognized as one of the planet's most biologically diverse regions. (Wikipedia)



Bolivia's **Madidi National Park** continued...

As we desperately tried to photograph this miniature natural wonder, I noticed a number of large terrestrial *Guzmania* sp. bromeliads (from the same plant family as the pineapple) and half jokingly/half seriously declared that the tiny wells at the base of their deep, broad fronds might be a good hiding place for a new species of frog.

We fully expected to discover a few new species during the Identidad Madidi expedition. After all, we had previously been involved in the description of new species from the park. In 2005 the discovery of the Madidi titi monkey (*Plecturocebus aureipalatii*) raised \$650,000 for a permanent trust fund for the park.

Also, to our great surprise, a decade ago when we began working with local communities on the sustainable use of incense in the cloud forests at around 2,000 meters above sea level, the plant from which the incense was derived ended up being a new species for science. This aromatic resin harvested for over a century for use in religious and spiritual ceremonies was named *Clusia pachamamae*. The notion that a new species can be concealed right under our noses spawned the phrase "Madidi is Madidi, where anything can happen." **Rob Wallace**

## Africa

### *The Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) and African Mountains*

**Mountain UPDATE often has stories from ARCOS. Their 7th edition of African Mountains' Echo can be downloaded [African Mountains' Echo](#). From ARCOS website**

Mountains play an important role in economic development, poverty alleviation and environmental protection not only for upland areas but also for the lowlands. Mountains also provide a wide range of critical and indispensable ecological goods and services for a significant number of people in Africa. These include water for agriculture, hydropower, domestic and industrial use, ecotourism, etc. However they are among the most disadvantaged regions in the world with some of the highest poverty rates. Communities and ecosystems in mountain areas are also among those most vulnerable to climate change and related risks.

**Climate change, combined with reduced resilience (amongst other things) exacerbates the already existing challenges and increases pressure on mountain people and ecosystems. The latter induce unsustainable land management practices and land abandonment which in turn jeopardizes the provision of key mountain services. Climate change further leads to flooding, droughts and soil erosion.**

With financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), ARCOS is implementing in Africa a global initiative termed Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC).

Under this programme, an information Portal has been developed to promote exchange and information sharing on the drivers of change in African mountains and facilitate the management and dissemination of the information generated by research and other processes going on onto the continent.

You can browse information publications or take advantage of the various interactive mapping features that help users visualize available mountains related resources available through online database.

Please read/download a [pdf copy of SMD4GC-Africa Programme flyer here](#)



Photo: Eleanor Briqqs WCS Bolivia

To find out about the most recent new species please read the complete article [Madidi is Madidi: Discovering the Biodiversity of a Record-Breaking Park](#) or follow their progress in more detail on their [webpage](#), or on [Facebook](#), where updates are most frequent.

Identidad Madidi, has added almost 400 species to the official plant list for Madidi, which is now fast approaching 5,500 confirmed species in one park (roughly the same number in the entire country of Canada!).

## Australia

### Great Forest National Park – protecting the world’s tallest flowering plant

#### From Victorian National Parks Association

Gaps of at least three million hectares in Victoria’s (SE Australia) network of National Parks and conservation areas need to be filled.

Key to filling these gaps is establishing the **Great Forest National Park** in the central highlands. This is home to the world’s tallest flowering plant, the Mountain Ash *Eucalyptus regnans*, and one of Australia’s most endangered mammals, the Leadbeater’s Possum. Both are threatened by ongoing clear-fell logging and bushfires.

The **logging industry is currently exempt from national threatened species laws**, so without the added protection of National Park status, like ensuring that logging is stopped, there is a great risk of losing these threatened species in the wild.

“The maintenance of an intact ecological system is the only way to ensure the continued existence of biodiversity, safeguard water supplies and provide spiritual nourishment for ourselves and future generations. It is for these reasons, and for the survival of the critically endangered Leadbeater’s Possum, that I support the creation of the Great Forest National Park for Victoria.” Sir David Attenborough

And from eminent Australian ecologist David Lindenmayer

“To ensure their survival, I would argue we need to create a new national park, not only to protect possums and forests, but carbon stocks, water supplies, and lower the risk of bushfires.”

Please view: [Great Forest National Park](#)



Mountain Ash photo: wilderness.org.au

The signature tree of the proposed Great Forest National Park is the Mountain Ash. Ash forests provide habitat for a range of wildlife, threatened by decades of fire and logging. At least 40 of these animals need tree hollows to live and breed in. It takes around 200 years to create such habitat trees. The critically endangered Leadbeater’s Possum, the faunal emblem of Victoria, occurs nowhere else.

### Much ado about poo



#### MUCH ADO ABOUT POO

It’s funny how many of the issues wrapped around a dunny in a national park have parallels with the core concerns faced by anyone managing natural landscapes. Like access – both to use the loo and to service it. Visitor expectations – is the toilet where it needs to be; is it working; is it clean? Visual impact – how can we site our loos not to ruin the views? Yes, dunnies are a hot topic... |



#### From Australian Alps national parks Cooperative Management Program

**Ed Note: where you read *dunny* or *loo* it means toilet!**

It’s funny how many of the issues wrapped around a dunny in a national park have parallels with the core concerns faced by anyone managing natural landscapes. Like access – both to use the loo and to service it. Visitor expectations – is the toilet where it needs to be; is it working; is it clean? Visual impact – how can we site our loos not to ruin the views?

Yes, dunnies are a hot topic, and to help keep on top of it, the Australian Alps Program has for years been helping the agencies share their best-toilet-practice with each other.

As John McRae, the current Program Manager says, “We all know that toilets are really important to people, that they’ll have a great time visiting the park but they’ll remember a bad toilet. And here in the Alps any ranger will know about the extra things that can go wrong with them – the ice plugs, the burst pipes...” Here’s a look at some of what’s been happening loo-wise across the three agencies. To read just click [HERE](#)

## Asia

### *Geotourism & Ecotourism - Japanese style*

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Adapted from MRI blog written by Teiji Watanabe, Environmental Earth Science, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan.



*Daisetsuzan National Park Photo: Teiji Watanabe*

**Daisetsuzan National Park (DNP)**, located in central Hokkaido, is Japan's largest national park (226,764 ha). Residents in Sapporo (population 2 million) can access the park area in several hours by car, and enjoy hiking/trekking and hot springs in the park's volcanic landscape. In spite of its close location to such a large city and the large number of visitors, DNP is home to densely populated brown bears.

The creation of geoparks is expected to strengthen ties between the national park authority and the local communities through the development of geotourism and ecotourism.

Locals and other visitors have opportunities to learn about the volcanoes and permafrost, relationship between agricultural products and the soil originated from the volcanic deposits.

One of the challenges is severe trail erosion by human trampling. Maintaining and repairing the degraded trails require big budget and great manpower. The ministry, together with the local stakeholders, created a body to maintain and repair the trails by themselves.



*A tour to carry necessary materials to repair and maintain trails Daisetsuzan National Park Photo: Teiji Watanabe*

#### **2 new types of tourism!**

- **Trail erosion measurement tours organized by the local mountain guides with the support from the local township.**
- **Trail maintenance tours are also conducted. Local alpine clubs and the Ministry of the Environment occasionally collect citizens from various areas in Hokkaido to get helps to carry necessary materials to repair and maintain trails.**

The trail maintenance tour was organized by the Ministry of the Environment as an activity on the **Japanese Mountain Day** (a national holiday on every 11 August), which was started in 2017 after long discussion and preparation initiated by the International Year of Mountains.

The Ministry of the Environment has launched the Daisetsuzan Grade (DG) for both international and national trail users. Five grades were decided by the matrix of the combined factors of easiness/difficulty of trails and of degree of vulnerability of soil/alpine vegetation. Taking into account environmental vulnerability is important but often neglected in other trail classifications.

[Sustainable Tourism Daisetsuzan NP](#)

## Europe

### Protection for important ice gaps in Iceland

From Network member *Roger Crofts*



After many years of lobbying by Icelandic and international experts from WCPA, and after many setbacks, I am delighted to tell protected area colleagues that the Icelandic Minister for Environment and Natural Resources announced enhanced protected for one of the most important ice caps and adjacent wetland areas in the highlands of Iceland. It embraces the **Hofsjökull icecap and outlet glaciers** and the wetland of Þjórsárver (Thjorsarver in English).

To quote from a translation of the Order:

“The objective is to ensure an extensive and effective protection of the nature of Þjórsárver as a whole, natural habitats of the wetlands, palsa mire habitats, nesting areas of pink footed geese, wilderness, extraordinary landscape as a whole and cultural artefacts, as well as educating the public on the value of protecting the area. It’s designation should protect natural diversity, water flow and wetlands stemming from the glacial meltwater, including the vegetation mosaics and habitats of Þjórsárver which are the largest, most diverse and continuous natural oasis of the highlands and an important habitat for animals and plant. Cultural artefacts, for example goose roundup enclosures and ruins of shelters built by outlaws, are also strictly protected.”

Particular emphasis is to be placed on the strict protection’ according to the laws of nature’ for the area as a whole and especially for the sensitive palsas (ice-cored blister with limited vegetation cover).

The area is governed by a committee representing the local municipalities who have traditional rights and current responsibilities in the area, scientific experts from the national agency and from the university, and is headed by the national nature agency.

I judged that the protection now afforded, including restriction on access and bans on hunting, fully accords with IUCN Management Category II status.

Although many of us wished for a much larger area to be protected, we accept that the current area is better than previously and we will work with the authorities to extend it. *Roger Crofts*



## Scree and Talus

### *International Mountains Day - Mountains under Pressure*

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From Mountain Partnership

11 December is United Nations (FAO) International Mountain Day 2017. The theme chosen this year is “**Mountains under Pressure: climate, hunger, migration**”. Watch out for interesting case studies and fact sheets on the above theme compiled during the year by Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

### *A selection of ‘conservation’ headlines coming out of President Trump’s USA*

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From Australian edition The Guardian

#### ***Anger as US national parks plan high-season price hikes***

US National Park Service (NPS) reported more than 330 million visits in 2016 – 44 million more than at the turn of the century. This could be the real reason for NPS’s announcement last week that it is considering surge pricing at 17 popular parks during high season - **Yosemite, Yellowstone, Arches, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon, Zion, Acadia, Rocky Mountain and Mount Rainer** are just some that would interest mountain enthusiasts.

#### ***Trump administration is taking less interest in preservation than privatisation***

America’s national parks need a staggering \$11.5bn worth of overdue road and infrastructure repairs. But with the proposed National Park Service budget slashed by almost \$400m, the Trump administration says it will turn to privatizing public park services to address those deferred maintenance costs.

#### ***Trump urged to cut Bears Ears monument to ‘smallest area’ possible***

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urges president to shrink the 1.3m-acre national monument as administration continues push against federal public lands.

#### ***Trump supports more oil and gas extraction on public lands, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge***

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has proposed trimming the area of national monuments to open up land to fossil-fuel industries, and his proposed interior department budget, while cutting NPS funds, sought to pour tens of millions into coal, oil and gas investments on public lands.

#### ***Grand Canyon and Uranium Mining***

A coalition of influential officials in Arizona and Utah is urging the Trump administration to consider rolling back Obama-era environmental protections that ban new uranium mining near the Grand Canyon.

#### ***Lions next in line of fire as US rolls back curbs on African hunting trophies***

The Trump administration’s lifting of restrictions on importing elephant body parts from Zimbabwe and Zambia is not the last gift to hunting interests. As the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was announcing it was lifting a ban on the import of elephant “trophies” from Zimbabwe and Zambia, it also published new guidelines that showed lions shot in the two African countries will also be eligible to adorn American homes.

### *Mountain environment protects endangered fish*

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Mountain Partnership News November 2017

An endangered species of trout is returning from the brink of extinction in the mountains of the **Monti Sibillini National Park**. The *Salmo macrostigma*, or Mediterranean brown trout, is an autochthonous (indigenous) trout found in central and southern Italy.

The reasons for this trout becoming endangered were two-fold: water management in terms of water removed for human purposes (water abstraction) and competition with other non-native trout species such as the Atlantic brown trout, which for years has been used for restocking, usually for sport fishing, and with time this trout altered the genetic makeup of the others.

Scientists spawned Mediterranean brown trout in captivity. The fish bred during the 2016-2017 season were then moved to outdoor vats. Fifty trout were fitted with microchips for research.

Once the population of alien Atlantic trout was reduced, the endangered trout seemed able to make a rapid recovery. The project also succeeded in creating new laws that ensure genetic checks on all trout introduced into regional bodies of water and in stabilizing special protection areas to be 'genetic shelters' to ensure the indigenous trout population continues.

### *Call for papers, climate change and SMD*

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Mountain Partnership News November 2017

Mountain ecosystems and communities are critically affected by climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will include a cross-chapter paper on mountains in its 6th Assessment Report.

*Mountain Research and Development* (MRD) is looking for papers that systematically assess novel adaptation practices and present well-researched insights into the implications of climate change relevant to adaptation. Synthesis papers comparing case studies within and across different mountain regions are of particular interest, as MRD aims to contribute to the IPCC's assessment effort and to inform development policies.

Extended abstracts are due by 19 January 2018, full papers by 15 August 2018.

[Read more](#)

### *Illegal deforestation in old growth forests of universal value*

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**From Australian edition The Guardian**

Poland has been given two weeks to stop illegal deforestation in the UNESCO-protected **Białowieża forest** or face fines of at least €100,000 a day. In a precedent-setting ruling that will echo across the EU, the European court of justice ordered Poland to show it was acting lawfully in the ancient woodland, or face a €36.5m (£32m) annual penalty.

The **Białowieża Forest World Heritage** site, on the border between Poland and Belarus, is an immense range of primary forest including both conifers and broadleaved trees covering a total area of 141,885 hectares. Situated on the watershed of the Baltic Sea and Black Sea, this transboundary property is exceptional for the opportunities it offers for biodiversity conservation. It is home to the largest population of the property's iconic species, the European bison. **UNESCO**

### *Nature needs half: the next steps*

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**From WCPA Conservation Connectivity Specialist Group Newsletter October**

In April 2017, Dinerstein et al. published a [paper](#) in *BioScience* which took an ecoregion-based approach to assessing the feasibility of [Nature Needs Half](#), a proposal to protect 50% of Earth's land mass.

In a recent [publication](#) in *Nature's News and Views*, **James Watson** and **Oscar Venter** support this big and bold approach, calling upon the conservation science community to move the project forward through answering three big questions:

1. Which are the most important places to conserve?
2. What is the scope, severity, and trajectory of the threats to local biodiversity, and what are the processes that sustain them?
3. What measures will be needed to ensure that these areas maintain their natural integrity?

This article sparked a lively discussion on Basecamp, bringing up topics such as what knowledge we already have, the political barriers to conservation, and the importance of being willing to taking a long-term approach. View it [here](#).

## *New Technology Transforms Protected Area Management*

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**From WCS News October 2017**

Efforts to combat poaching of wildlife in Asia, Africa and Latin America have just gotten smarter with the release of a powerful new extension to the widely adopted Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) from the [SMART Partnership](#).

Called SMART Connect, the new technology allows rangers and conservation area managers to exchange critical information and transmit data in real time. SMART Connect delivers a revolutionary suite of services improving access to data for park staff and managers on pressing issues such as poaching and human wildlife conflict.

## *National Bison Day*

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For the fifth time in five years, the U.S. Senate has passed a resolution marking National Bison Day as the first Saturday in November. Last year, President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act on May 9, 2016, making the American bison the official National Mammal of the United States. The signing of that legislation was a milestone for an animal that once faced extinction.

## *Indigenous groups win greater climate recognition at Bonn summit*

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**Adapted from Australian edition The Guardian November by Jonathan Watts**

Indigenous groups claimed a victory at the UN climate talks in Bonn ([COP 23](#)) as governments acknowledged for the first time that they can play a leadership role in protecting forests and keeping global temperatures at a safe level.

This represents considerable progress for the world's 370 million indigenous peoples, whose territories are estimated to contain 20% of the world's tropical forest carbon and often have to defend it against encroachments by loggers and farmers.

The 2015 Paris accord recognised the contribution of indigenous knowledge in dealing with climate change, but the document approved in Bonn this week goes further by acknowledging that countries "should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities."

## *New dam disrupts connectivity of last free flowing big river in Romanian Carpathians*

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**Posted on Basecamp by Calin Dejeu on Jun 11 (Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group)**

It is so disturbing for me to see that, while in all corners of the world connectivity efforts are made, in my country, an EU country, everything goes backwards. The last free flowing river in the **Romanian Carpathians** is cut by two dams, and left almost without water for 33 kilometres, all the stretch in the national parks for which it represents the main feature.

## *Arctic and Hindu Kush Himalaya face similar challenges & opportunities*

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**By Udayan Mishra Nov 2017**

The Arctic and Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) are both climate change hotspots facing similar challenges related to high latitude and high altitude ecosystems. Both regions contend with air pollution, cryospheric change, and natural resource degradation, and both regions have large indigenous populations that are disproportionately affected by these challenges. Last week, during a side event at the 23rd session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties ([COP 23](#)) in Bonn, Germany, experts and representatives from these regions stressed the urgent need for sustainable development and environmental protection, which can be achieved through successful collaboration between the respective regional countries.

#### **From Mountain Research Institute October 2017**

A new tool gives the most detailed view yet of the world's mountains – and is as close as your computer or mobile phone. [Mountains at your Fingertips](#)

The Global Mountain Explorer, launched at the recent GEOWEEK 2017 in Washington DC, is a new, web-based tool that allows users to explore mountain regions in greater detail than ever before. Harnessing the best available data, the tool provides information ranging from global mountain distribution to local topography at a resolution 16 times greater than has been achieved in previous mapping efforts. In doing so, it is hoped that this tool will be of use to a variety of individuals and organizations, from scientists and policymakers to hikers planning their next adventure.

#### *Meet Mountain People Soul*

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For the past nine years, the International Mountain Summit (IMS) in South Tyrol has gathered mountain lovers together from all over the world.

"Meet your experiences" was the key message of the 2017 IMS.

The festival programme included speeches, group walks, and exhibitions. During the IMS, Mountain Partnership Goodwill Ambassador Reinhold Messner premiered his new movie "AMA DABLAM - The holy mountains".

**Ed Note: I would love to hear from anyone that attended this summit in Bressanone in October 2017.**

### **Some Recent Publications of interest**

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**Fences in the Landscape Talk – A whimsical photographic essay:** copies can be acquired through local independent bookstore anywhere or on line through Barnes & Noble or Amazon. Lawrence S. Hamilton, edited by Linda S.Hamilton. June 2017

#### **Free conservation biology text**

Freely available for download from the Society for Conservation Biology [ConservationBiologyforAll](#)

#### [Guidelines for Developing Ecolodges in Myanmar](#) (ICIMOD)

The aim of these guidelines is to promote sustainable tourism in and around Myanmar's protected areas.

New issue of **Mountain Research and Development Journal** available online [Read more](#)

#### **PARKS Journal 23.2**

The latest issue of PARKS discusses amongst other things using remotely sensed imagery to monitor impacts of feral horses on vegetation in Australia's alpine parks. The issue also contains an obituary for Wayne Lotter, whose targeted killing in Tanzania in August shocked and saddened the conservation world. [Read more](#)

#### [Shared Sacred Landscapes: Stories from Mount Kailas, Tise & Kang Rinpoche](#) (ICIMOD)

In this collection of folk stories from the Himalayas, retold and edited by writers Kamla K. Kapur and Prawin Adhikari, the reader is taken on an enchanted journey through the shared sacred landscape of India, Nepal, and Tibet/China.

## Some forthcoming events and meetings of interest

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### 2017

3-6 December: Kathmandu, Nepal. ICIMOD, jointly with Government of Nepal's Ministry of Population and Environment and with support from the European Union, is hosting this International Conference on "[Resilient Hindu Kush Himalaya: Developing Solutions towards a Sustainable Future for Asia](#)". Select [sessions](#) from the conference will be streamed live and made available through the conference website. To sign up for email updates – live stream information, daily briefs and others from the conference and ICIMOD thereafter, please use this registration [form](#). You can also join the dialogue by following [#resilientHKH](#) on all leading social media platforms.

11-13 December: Mountain Partnership's Global Conference, United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. Under the main theme "**Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration**", the focus will be on the challenges and the opportunities in sustainable mountain development and will launch a political process to support concrete actions and establish policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and environments. A training course on Collect Earth methodology related to the Mountain Green Cover Index will take place during the period 14-15 December and will be open to selected participants.

### 2018

24-26 January: Santiago, Chile. Global Congress Of The International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) "**From Communities to Countries: Visionary Conservation in a Changing World**". Join private, NGO, and local community land conservationists from around the world at the International Land Conservation Network's (ILCN) 2018 Global Congress! The ILCN is soliciting Congress presentations. [2018-global-congress-santiago-chile](#)

22 March: Canberra, Australia. Informal meeting of Australian members (others if happen to be in the country) WCPA Conservation Connectivity Specialist Group. Contact Gary Tabor or Grace Stonecipher [grace@largelandscapes.org](mailto:grace@largelandscapes.org) for invitation or more information.

28-30 May 2018 IUCN "**Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods**" Halifax, Canada. The IUCN in conjunction with 2 other international organisations will be presenting a highly-participatory gathering to explore the crucial role of local communities, around the world, in conserving local environments and at the same time supporting local economies and livelihoods. Conference [website](#)

2-5 October: Banff, Alberta, Canada. Interdisciplinary Summit, "**Thinking Mountains 2018**" will bring researchers, students, and teachers from across the scholarly disciplines into dialogue with activists, artists, Indigenous leaders, and community members, all of whom share a commitment to global mountain sustainability, and to the betterment of mountain peoples, places, and activities. <http://www.thinkingmountains.ca>

11-15 December: Nova Friburgo, Brazil. **Mountains 2018** second in a series of international conferences that will bring together scholars, professionals, policy-makers and other stakeholders from the mountain world. The conference seeks to stimulate discussion and disseminate knowledge about mountains, based on lessons learned from scientific research and practical experiences related to the use of mountain territories and the challenges of promoting sustainable development. This will include reflecting on how mountains can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. See the official [Mountains 2018 Facebook page](#) Learn more about [LuMont](#) Read about [Mountains 2016](#)

## Important Links

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IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for an outline of the role of Mountain Specialist Group [www.iucn.org/protected-areas/world-commission-protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/mountains](http://www.iucn.org/protected-areas/world-commission-protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/mountains)

IUCN World Conservation Congress [www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org](http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org)

Protected Area Governance and Management (book) <http://press.anu.edu.au/?p=312491>

The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. [www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org)

While Mountain Network members can choose not to be WCPA members and still be involved and receive the Mountain News UPDATE, the WCPA Chair Dr Kathy MacKinnon, and Mountain Specialist Group Executive and would like to encourage all to become WCPA members. This helps to secure good governance and management of the WCPA and the Mountains Group and enlightens all members to the wider activities of the WCPA.

To learn more about WCPA membership go to: [WCPA membership](http://www.wcpa.org/membership)

For any relevant mountain protected area news, please email me (Gill) on [peopleinnature@bigpond.com](mailto:peopleinnature@bigpond.com)

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

*Two more fences to finish with and think about...*

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Vanoise National Park, France photo: peopleinnature



Theth, Albania photo: peopleinnature