

celebrating our 100th edition

Mountain Protected Areas

UPDATE

A note from the editor

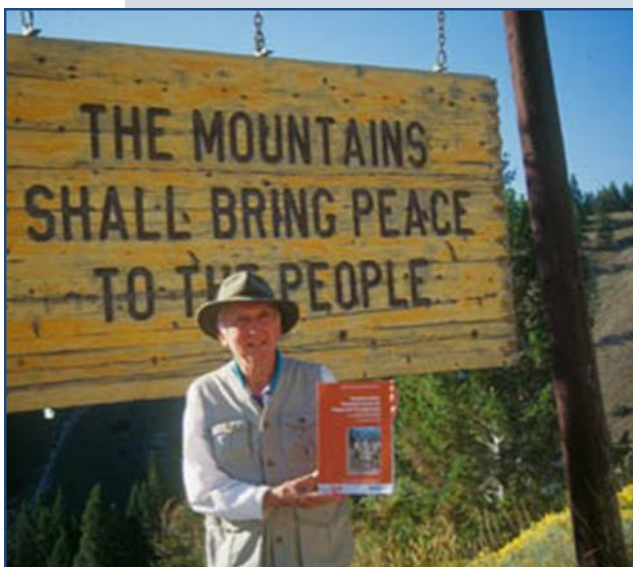
Welcome to the **100th edition** of the Mountain Protected Areas Update!

To focus on this significant landmark I returned to what I think is the first 'official' edition written and edited by *Dr Larry Hamilton* in June 1993. So where applicable throughout the UPDATE there are observations from 1993 and the very early days of the Mountain Protected Areas Network.

Please read *Dr Graeme Worboys* "UPDATE" recollections; along with some promising news of partnerships from Central Asia and North America Network members. Along with plenty of other pieces from around the world. Unfortunately news from 'my' Australian Alps is not so encouraging.

And of course happy **International Mountains Day** for 11 December.

In memory of Larry, our colleague, mentor and friend



Larry Hamilton, Radium, Kootenay NP (many years ago)

Mountains are powerful and wondrous parts of Nature which can bring peace to people and promote a peaceful relationship with Nature...if we apply our hearts and minds to experience, study and learn from them.

Larry Hamilton

Global

100 UPDATES—some recollections

From Dr Graeme Worboys IUCN WCPA Mountains Senior Adviser

It was at a Conference on the Big Island of Hawaii in 1991 that IUCN's Larry Hamilton, Bing Lucas and Jim Thorsell forged a group of mountain protected area specialists into the formative international World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Mountain Protected Areas Network. As well as taking on the role of Vice Chair, Larry's "Update" commenced. It soon became famous for its quality of writing, and creatively written insights into mountain protected area management.

In 2003, after 13 years of extraordinary productivity, Larry Hamilton decided to step down as Vice Chair, but he continued as Update Editor and accepted the role of Senior Adviser.

Graeme Worboys accepted the role of Vice Chair, working with Larry for another 13 years - running conferences, producing best practice management books and the first ever Connectivity Conservation Management book. "Update", all through this time continued to provide excellent intelligence to what was happening with Mountain Protected Area management, and those personnel who were involved.

In 2016 the fine tradition of managing the WCPA Mountains Network internationally was accepted by former Chief Ranger of Victoria's Alpine National Parks Peter Jacobs with Gill Anderson taking on the Update Editor's job. Their creative energy is continuing the excellent WCPA mountains tradition started by Larry 27 years ago in Hawaii.

Reaching the 100th edition of Update is a special occasion.

Larry was a powerhouse that generated so many useful products for the mountains constituency and beyond.

Every quarter, without fail, "Update" would be dispatched as a mail-out that meant hours of logistic work by both Linda Hamilton and Larry.



Happy 100th Birthday, MtPA UPDATE!

I know Larry would be very pleased and gratified to see the mountain newsletter he edited with enthusiasm for 27 years, reach this milestone. It is an affirmation of the usefulness of this tool for communication and professional connection.

Sincere thanks to all Mt PA Network members for the good work you do on behalf of mountains.

May the Mt PA Network remain strong and grow...because we need each other and Nature needs us to be Her advocates.

Peace to all.

Linda S. Hamilton (Larry's wife and fellow rabble-rouser)

Charlotte, Vermont

Global

Protecting Mountains—region by region

News from Peter Jacobs, Chair WCPA Mountain Specialist Group

The strength and resilience of the WCPA Mountain Network and Specialist Group needs no other indication than this being the 100th edition of the Mountain UPDATE. It is a privilege to be Chair at this time and to see the legacy that Larry Hamilton started all those years ago valued and continued.

A highlight since the last UPDATE was the participation of three members of the Mountain Specialist Group Committee in the World Mountains Forum (Mountains in a Changing World) and following that the Silk Roads Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as reported in this UPDATE. Marc Foggin, Central Asia Representative on the Mountains Committee was key to the organisation of both events and great support.

This was an opportunity to advance the position and consideration of protected areas amongst the global sustainable mountain development community. A presentation and poster was prepared for the two forums based on the work we began at the IUCN WCC in Hawaii on “Global Priorities for New Mountain Protected Areas”.

This was great opportunity to get some feedback and I will now send this material out to the new Committee for comment.

We also prepared a poster specifically on **Mountains and Connectivity** based on one with a broad theme recently produced by the Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group and of course with their support.

At the end of the UPDATE is a list of all the members of the Committee including the new Regional Representatives. I encourage you to contact your respective regional representative to make yourself known to them.

Happy International Mountains Day for the 11th December!



Africa

Mount Kilimanjaro & Mount Kenya (revisited)

Adapted from current IUCN & World Bank websites

Kilimanjaro National Park (and World Heritage Area) has iconic status as the tallest mountain in Africa attracting thousands of visitors from across the world each year. Although a management plan has been in place for many years there are numerous management challenges.

Protecting both the visual and natural integrity are key management issues. Effective research and monitoring is also important, especially the impacts from threats such as retreating glaciers (climate change), invasive species, fire and tourism.

Careful planning of related infrastructure and access development is required. Human pressure on the property needs to be managed, which can result otherwise in illegal harvest of its resources, encroachments to park boundary and blockage of migratory routes.

Education programmes and integration of park management with all involved partners and stakeholders, including the surrounding rural population, is essential.

The revenue from the park supports approximately 400 guides, 10,000 porters, 500 cooks, and contributes 13% of the country's overall gross domestic product.

A recent World Bank report maintains that while **Mount Kilimanjaro** has been a successful at generating revenues for the park and for the locals there are challenges which need to be addressed. These include the dangerous working conditions for porters and guides as well as the increased environmental degradation around the slopes, particularly with regard to the trail erosion during the wet periods.

Key lessons for Tanzania's tourism from the report include:

- The success of Kilimanjaro includes its capacity to generate revenue for the park and the local people
- The Kilimanjaro National Park General Management Plan was developed with public involvement to ensure that all interests, cultures traditions and surroundings are respected
- Kilimanjaro staff associations must be strengthened to improve the local regulatory framework, safeguard the rights of members and increase the pro-poor benefits that hiking the Kilimanjaro brings to the community
- The government must enhance infrastructure to keep up with rising park prices and tourist expectations

The 1993 first edition Mountain PA's UPDATE mentioned

- *Management plan for Mount Kilimanjaro*
- *World Heritage nomination for Mt Kenya*



Mt Kilimanjaro photo: REI Co-op



Mt Kenya photo: Wikipedia

Mt Kenya National Park and Reserve World Heritage Area – inscribed 1997

At 5,199 m, Mount Kenya is an ancient extinct volcano and the second highest peak in Africa. There are 12 remnant glaciers on the mountain, all receding rapidly, and four secondary peaks that sit at the head of the U-shaped glacial valleys.

With its rugged glacier-clad summits and forested middle slopes, **Mount Kenya** is one of the most impressive landscapes in East Africa.

Oceania—Australia

park becomes a paddock

From Mountain Network member **Brett McNamara** Regional Manager ACT Parks & Conservation Service

A precious drop of rain falls from a cloud over the majestic **Namadgi Ranges**. It falls within a catchment set aside for protection over 100 years ago to supply a city of the future with crystal clear drinking water.

With endangered Corroboree Frogs, Alpine Skinks and native Broad-tooth Rats as companions, the rain drop begins an epic journey, through wetlands and cascading down mountain creeks which in turn meet to create the Cotter River.

In time the rain drop makes its way into our taps. This little drop of rain forms the basis of our morning rituals. *From a cloud to a coffee cup.* Many people take for granted how good our tap water is in Canberra (Australia's 'Bush' Capital City).

But on the border with **Kosciuszko National Park** a new threat looms.

An introduced, heavy-hoofed feral species has been afforded legislative protection by the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018. This Act elevates and prioritises an alien species above the inherent natural values of Kosciuszko National Park. The philosophy of protecting native wildlife and functioning ecosystems has been reversed. **It's no longer a park. It's a paddock.**

Untamed introduced NSW horses pose a direct threat to the life of our rain drop. The scientific evidence is clear. Stream bank erosion, sedimentation, pollution of our drinking water are the consequences of feral horses fouling pristine mountain landscape. Corroboree Frogs, Alpine Skinks and native Broad-tooth Rats are losing their habitat.

Over 140 leading scientists recently gathered in the bush capital. The calibre of their presentations, the rigour of their science was overwhelming. The evidence of destruction is undeniable. To learn more or support Save Kosci campaign: [Save Kosciuszko National Park](#) To read the science papers and the Accord: [kosciuszko science conference](#)

The 1993 first edition Mountain PA's UPDATE mentioned

- *Proposed workshop on "Transfrontier Mountain Protected Areas: Achieving Real Collaboration" Australian Alps national parks Cooperative Management Program*



Feral horse damage Kosciuszko NP (part of Australian Alps national parks)



Canberra – Australia's Capital

No feral horses at present (Namadgi NP)

1000's feral horses; protected (Kosciuszko NP)

1000's feral horses; can be controlled (Alpine NP)

Taken from the Kosciuszko Science Accord

"... Scientific evidence shows that there is a clear and present threat to the natural water catchments and the natural ecosystems of **Kosciuszko National Park** and other **Australian Alps national parks** caused directly by thousands of feral horses.

Research clearly shows that feral horses in the **Alpine National Park** (Victoria) and **Kosciuszko National Park** (New South Wales) have already caused widespread and, in some cases, irreparable damage to wetlands and streams.

...We are extremely concerned that the NSW Government has passed legislation giving special protected status to feral horses in **Kosciuszko National Park** via the NSW Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018."

Oceania—New Zealand

Alpine national parks management plans

From Mountain Network member *Shane Orchard (NZ Regional Specialist Group Representative)*

Management plans for New Zealand's alpine national parks are on the front line of current thinking on protected areas in the mountains.

Unfortunately, the first two draft Plan reviews that have been released for **Aoraki Mount Cook** and **Westland national parks** would signal a major change in park management and the underlying ethos of national parks, should they be adopted in their current form. These national parks contain some of New Zealand's most iconic alpine environments including the highest peaks.

The NZ Alpine Club (which is an NGO with 4000 members) conducted a survey of recreational access issues in **Aoraki Mount Cook** and **Westland national parks** to inform the current Management Plan review process.

The survey generated a lot of useful information including park user perspectives on contemporary issues, and some potential solutions. Importantly, it also identified a range of negative impacts that would result from proposals that have been put forward within the new draft Plans.

Please see survey summary [Access Survey](#), Alpine Club discussion [NZAC Discussion](#) and [Draft Plans 2018](#)

This project and its context highlights some of the pressing issues facing mountain environments -and protected areas in particular.

They include increased tourism pressure, impacts of glacial recession, and the need to adapt recreational and tourism access modes in a way that is compatible with the conservation values and protected area status of the parks.

This requires a focus on the impacts and sustainability of human interactions with environment, both now and looking forward, and may include the need to accept changes in accessibility that have arisen from climate change. Climate change adaptation is a central theme that has created tangible challenges for the contemporary parks planning. With several more plan reviews yet to come, the approach taken will have major consequences for New Zealand's mountains in the years ahead.

America-north

World's largest non-polar icefield!

Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Area—inscription 1997

These parks comprise an impressive complex of glaciers and high peaks on both sides of the border between Canada (Yukon Territory and British Columbia) and the United States (Alaska). The spectacular natural landscapes are home to many grizzly bears, caribou and Dall's sheep.

The 1993 first edition Mountain UPDATE mentioned

- *Tongariro National Park the first park in New Zealand, and already on the World Heritage List for its natural qualities, has been recognized for its cultural value to the Maori people, and has now a dual cultural landscape inscription.*



Tongariro NP



Hooker Valley, Aoraki Mount Cook NP

From 1993 first edition Mountain UPDATE

- *Tatshenshini-Alsek Wilderness Park (Canada), to be joined with the St. Elias (US) as a World Heritage Site*





From *Denise Joines* Mountain network member **Wilburforce Foundation**

The 700-mile-long **Cascade Mountain Range** of Western North America is comprised of forested ecosystems of incredible diversity, from the Western Red Cedar and Douglas Fir rainforests to Ponderosa Pine parklands; from glaciated volcanoes and alpine meadows to salmon rich rivers that run undammed to the sea.

After more than a century of industrial liquidation of ancient forests and extirpation (local extinction) of keystone species like grizzly bears, wolves, and wolverines, the federal court in the United States pulled the emergency lever of the Endangered Species Act in 1992 to stop the unraveling of these forests and their dependent species. The negotiated result was the first **science-based ecosystem management plan** in the country, the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan.

Twenty-five years on, the results are evident in the ecosystem; regrowing forests, clean rivers, and long-extirpated species like wolves and wolverines are returning to their ancestral homes. The plan changed the course of the Cascade Mountains from one of resource exploitation to ecosystem services.

But the plan isn't perfect: it doesn't address climate change or wildlife connectivity, and it made compromises for timber-dependent communities.

To help address these needs, a transboundary collaboration between scientists, advocates, agency staff, and funders in both Washington State and British Columbia, Canada, was established. This will foster a network of natural resource practitioners and build the adaptive capacity of the Northern Cascades.

Reaching from **Mt. Rainier** in Washington to **Mt. Truax** in BC the [Cascadia Partner Forum](#), objectives are to :

1. Identify and prioritize science and management needs and resources to increase the adaptive capacity in the Cascades
2. Highlight successes and challenges in implementation of adaptation actions
3. Facilitate communication to share ideas and expand implementation of adaptive actions
4. Draw attention to this unique landscape and its ecosystem values

With broad participation from diverse stakeholders, the Forum is completing its first [Climate Adaptation Strategy](#) for the ecoregion, envisioning a region resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Residents – rural and urban communities, landowners, Native Tribes and First Nations, and policy and decision-makers will understand the dynamic nature of the **Cascadian landscape**, and work together to conserve connected networks of lands and waters. The Forum sees the process of building and sharing its strategies to be as important as the product. Please visit [Cascadia Partner Forum](#)



Mt Rainier NP photo Tim Greyhavens



North Cascades Basin photo Denise Joines

America-south & central

Andes—a natural and cultural conservation priority

The 1993 first edition Mountain PA's UPDATE mentioned

- *South America concept of a cordillera-long protected area corridor in Andes*



The Andes Mountains stretch about 7,000km along the western coast of South America and spans 7 countries - Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina

From World Land Trust, TNC, LiveScience & Nature and Culture International

The Andes is also the longest mountain range in the world — known for its high peaks, volcanoes, tropical glaciers and ruins of long-ago civilizations. Most agree that the origin of the name Andes comes from the Quechua word *anti*, which translates to "high crest."

The Andes contain some of the greatest levels of biodiversity on Earth due to the extraordinary number of species found in its cloud forests and high altitude ecosystems.

The average elevation in the Andes is around 4,000m. The highest is **Mt Aconcagua** (6,962m) in Argentina.

Although the cordillera long protected area corridor has not been realised there are numerous NGO's and Government agencies working on the protection of both natural and cultural landscapes of the Andes.

Linking existing parks and reserves is an important aspect of this work such as the project in Ecuador to connect two protected areas, **Sangay National Park** and **Podocarpus National Park**, both of which are recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

There is also the long standing regional effort to link protected landscapes throughout the Andean region along the **Ruta Cóndor/Wiracocha**.

The project concept has been developed by a network of colleagues from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru and brings together cultural, natural, and spiritual elements in landscape protection.

In recent years glacier retreat and water conservation have been gaining urgent attention across the Andes. There is a growing awareness that a key strategy to secure water supply for livelihoods is to protect the mountain ecosystems that regulate water flow.

[4 Andean Cities Adapting to Glacier Retreat to Preserve Water Security](#)



From The Guardian November 2018

At the recent UN Conference on Biodiversity in Egypt, Indigenous groups in the Amazon have proposed the creation of the world's biggest protected area, a 200m-hectare sanctuary for people, wildlife and climate stability that would stretch across borders from the **Andes to the Atlantic**—a "sacred corridor of life and culture"

Asia

lobbying to protect Malaysia's mountains

From WWF & Global Forest Watch

Cameron Highlands Malaysia (WWF)

This ecoregion contains several distinct montane habitat blocks. The most extensive is the Main Range, which encompasses Malaysia's largest remaining area of pristine montane rain forest, reaching about 2,180 m around Cameron Highlands. Together with the Main Range, Fraser's Hill and Genting Highlands are botanically well known, but many other areas remain to be explored. On the east of the peninsula the outlying peak of **Mt. Tahan**, 2,187 m, in Taman Negara National Park has various endemic plants and a slightly impoverished fauna.

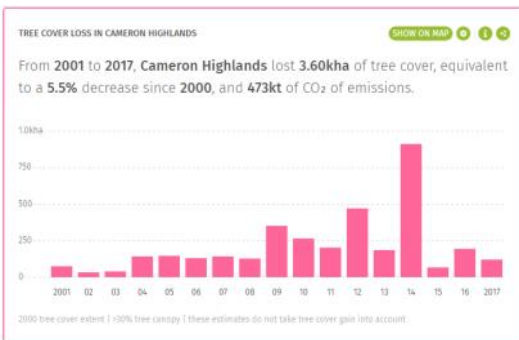
Current Status

Most of peninsular Malaysia's remaining forests are limited to the high, steep areas of this ecoregion. Approximately two-thirds of these forests remain intact, mainly in two large blocks of primary forest that cover the Main Range (the **Titi Wangsa Mountains**) and the **East Coast Range**.

Taman Negara National Park is one of the largest protected areas in southeast Asia. However, this park harbors only about 3% of the endemic tree species and about 30% of the palm species known in peninsular Malaysia. On paper there are four protected areas that cover 30% of the ecoregion area.

The **Royal Belum State Park** was legally gazetted by the Malaysian government as a protected area in 2007-although two-third of **Belum Temenggor** is still unprotected.

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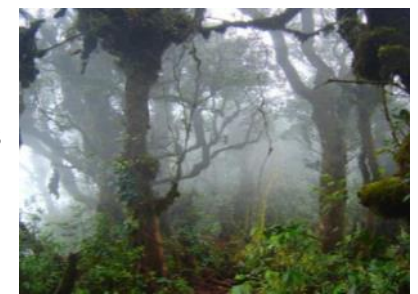


The 1993 first edition Mountain UPDATE mentioned

- *World Wildlife Fund Malaysia has initiated a campaign to focus on conserving the mountain habitats of the Main Range in Peninsular Malaysia - area between Cameron Highlands and Genting Highlands*



Tea Plantations (above) Cloud Forest (below) Cameron Highlands
Photos: Journey Malaysia



Central Asia—Himalayas

the highest park in the world

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

The **Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP)** was declared in 1993 and today is the largest protected area in Pakistan, covering over 10,500 km² in the Central Karakoram mountain range. It is on the World Heritage tentative list (2016).

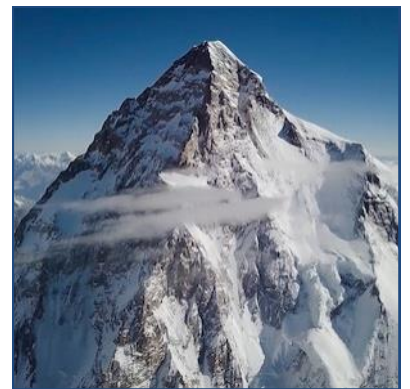
The area is part of the Asian high-mountain system of **Hindukush- Karakoram- West Himalaya**. **K2** is located in the **Karakoram Range** of the Himalaya on the border between the Gilgit-Baltistan region in Pakistan and Xinjiang in China.

There are 230 settlements of approximately 115,000 people living immediately adjacent to the park, the borders of which have been designed to exclude all villages and pasture lands. However, these communities have traditional rights in the park area to access seasonal pastures for grazing, hunting, collecting firewood, timber and medicinal plants.

Ed Note: see article "**Bunji – where 3 great ranges meet**" Sept 2018 Mountain UPDATE

The 1993 first edition Mountain PA's UPDATE mentioned

- *proposal to designate the Central Karakoram (including K-2) as a national park, and put forward a proposal to list it as a World Heritage Site*



K2 – world's second highest mountain 8,611m photo: Bartek Bargiel

Central Asia—Himalayas

'Bam-e-Duniya Network' connecting mountain landscapes along the Silk Route

From *J. Marc Foggin* WCPA Mountain SG Regional Representative Committee, Mountain Societies Research Institute, University of Central Asia (UCA)

During September around 40 partners from Central Asia and China gathered in Lanzhou (China) to discuss recent experiences and to highlight lessons learned in transboundary conservation, community-based conservation and protected areas management. Sponsored by UCA there was a special focus on the **Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape** (HKPL).

Building on long-term collaborations in conservation and development that have included partners from mountain protected areas, local communities, and academic and research institutions, this [strategic meeting](#) sought to strengthen emerging synergies in light of current trends and opportunities.

The stated purpose of the **Bam-e-Duniya Network** is to

harmonize and strengthen integrated landscape management for long-term conservation and sustainable mountain development in the Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape.

Three important elements should be highlighted.

- the focus of BDN is on **integrated landscape management**, which extends beyond the geographic extent of protected areas
- both the constraints and opportunities offered by mountains are recognized with an emphasis on promoting **sustainable mountain development**
- Taking into account the historic as well as current geopolitical realities, the **Silk Route** tagline encourages all partners to consider the natural and cultural heritage, as well as to recognize and build on emerging opportunities under China's new "Belt and Road Initiative".

For many centuries the Pamir region has been known as 'the roof of the world'. In Wakhi and other local languages, this rugged mountain region at the geopolitical intersection of present-day Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and China is known as **Bam-e-Duniya**.

It is fitting that the network of protected areas recently established at the meeting in Lanzhou was named, with great applause, the **Bam-e-Duniya Network** (BDN) with tagline, 'Connecting landscapes along the Silk Route.'



Photos: WCS
Afghanistan

The [Hindu Kush Karakoram Pamir Landscape \(HKPL\) conservation project](#), which has been supported by ICIMOD, has provided the initial foundation and context for several strategic collaborations to emerge as well as the primary impetus for creation of the **Bam-e-Duniya Network**.

The six protected areas included in this program are: **Wakhan National Park** (Afghanistan); **Zorkul Nature Reserve** (Tajikistan); **Khunjerab National Park**, **Broghil National Park**, **Qurumbur National Park** (Pakistan); **Taxkorgan Nature Reserve** (China).

In the future, other protected areas (also other forms of protected areas) may join the Network, such as community conservancies and indigenous and community conserved areas, as well as a range of experts, agencies, organizations and research institutions supportive of the over-arching goals of the Bam-e-Duniya Network.

Bam-e-Dunya Network: More info also can be seen here, [alliance-to-protect-roof-of-the-world](#)

Central Asia—Himalayas

4th World Mountain Forum 2018—Kyrgyzstan

From *Ashiq Khan*, Mountain SG Regional Representative (Ashiq attended WMF Bishkek 23-26 October 2018 with support from the WCPA).

With sustainable development in mountain regions as the core focus, around 250 scientists from around the globe came together to seek and share solutions for some of the major socio-ecological problems that are impacting the world's mountain ecosystems.

Although this was not the first conference to discuss and highlight challenges and opportunities of mountains at various levels, it was my first time to participate in such a global meeting with ample learning opportunities. To be honest, I was especially keen to seek solutions and good practices relevant for my own mountain regions in Pakistan, building on what has been found useful elsewhere by the participating scientists and professionals at the conference.

At the fundamental level, this global conference significantly increased awareness of mountain realities and implications for development, and thus helped to further mainstream mountain perspectives and voices in global development dialogues. It is commendable that the conference came up with brilliant thinking and strong expressions about the needful actions to address existing gaps related to sustainable mountain development.

Although the conference didn't prioritize the recommendations in terms of urgency at various levels (i.e. global, regional, national), this could be addressed quite effectively at relevant levels in each geographic region. [Conference Summary Report](#).



Overall, the deliberations clearly indicated that numerous issues are **deeply rooted in the socio-cultural systems of the beneficiary mountain communities, and thus solutions will also need to be linked to these** – together with strong support and facilitation from other partners who also understand the dynamics of complex mountain systems.

The ingredients for success seem similar around the world, however each region may wish for a unique recipe that highlights different flavors, as determined through stakeholder's consultations.



Envisioning future of 'Belt & Road Initiative' in Mountains of Central Asia

This follow-up one-day conference on the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) was also interesting and useful. Having numerous facets, the BRI was considered from various angles and concerns by a smaller group of around 35. While the absence of Chinese representatives limited some aspects, insights emerged vis-à-vis likely impacts and developments in Central Asia.

Specific topics ranged from trade corridors to mountain hazards, to various environmental and social perspectives, and the role of protected areas in national and regional landscapes.

The meeting also sought to identify areas of special concern in context of BRI. In order to compensate for potential losses due to the Belt & Road Initiative, I am convinced of the meeting's finding; notably that we must immediately create new or extend existing protected areas, and implement appropriate management approaches in mountain protected areas that will be traversed or otherwise affected by large infrastructure projects advanced under BRI.

The special roles of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) for global conservation also was highlighted in the meeting.



Valuable guidance toward appropriate management was made available in a presentation from WCPA Mountain Specialist Group, with initial focus on the identification of global priorities for the creation of new mountain protected areas (PAs)

Europe

Hercynian Mountains

Ed Note: if like me you are unsure of where or what the Hercynian Mountains are I hope the following helps...

The Hercynian (or Variscan) orogeny is a mountain-building event caused by Late Paleozoic continental collision between Africa (Gondwana) and a North American–North European continent (Laurussia) to form the supercontinent of Pangaea.

The Hercynian orogenic belt extends in western Europe for more than 3,000 km from Portugal, Ireland, and England in the west through Spain, France (Brittany, Massif Central, Vosges, and Corsica), and Germany (Black Forest, Harz) to the Czech Republic in the Bohemian Massif. Please see [Ecological Restoration Czech Republic](#)

Ancient Primeval Beech Forests

Adapted from European Wilderness Society August 2018

The Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests Network

Since the end of the last Ice Age, European beech forest has spread from a few isolated refuge areas to cover Europe. This happened over a short period of a few thousand years, although nowadays many beech forests have been or are currently logged. However the successful expansion across Europe is testament to the tree's adaptability and tolerance of different climatic, geographical and physical conditions.

In 2017, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the **World Heritage of Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe**. This was by extending the existing sites in Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany, to **cover over 40 protected areas in 12 European countries**. The transboundary property now covers 92 000 ha and consists of 78 component parts. An IUCN evaluation report of this nomination stated an:

Unprecedented level of both proposed international cooperation, but also challenge and complexity.

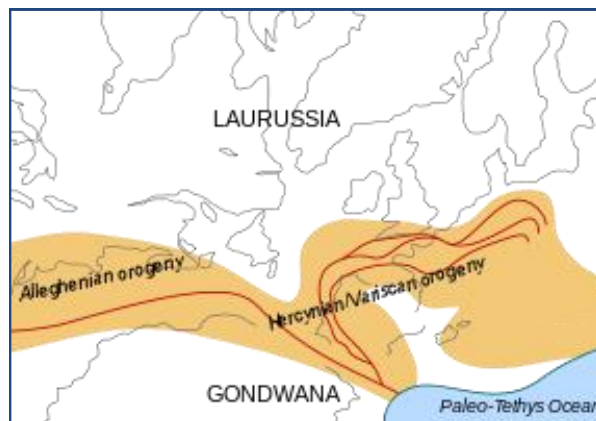
The evaluation also highlighted some shortcomings and called upon the States Parties to act.

- consider future enlargement of components and that extensions exceed minimum requirements
- strengthen the protection level within buffer zones and the improvement of ecological connectivity,
- ensure appropriate buffer zone management,
- ensure committed funding.

Please also read: [World Heritage Sites](#) and [European Beech Forest Network Resolution](#)

The 1993 first edition Mountain PA's UPDATE mentioned

- *proposed a Centre for Management and Restoration of Disturbed Ecosystems in Hercynian Mountains*



Hercynian orogeny



Ancient Beech Forest photos: European Wilderness Society



Scree and Talus

[Effectiveness of FSC eco-label](#) From European Wilderness Society Nov 2018

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has a widely-known eco-label that should ensure sustainable logging operations worldwide. “False documentations lead to unclear origin of timber, resulting in legal and illegal timber with the FSC label. In other countries they find more proof that the FSC certification system raises more questions than it provides answers.” ARTE journalists who carried out a critical documentary

For detailed information and analysis of FSC response: [website of FSC-Watch](#).

[8 new provincial parks for Alberta](#) From Jodi Hilty Y2Y & from Global News Nov 2018

The Alberta government is proposing eight new parks that would cover 4,000 square km along the front ranges of the [Rocky Mountains](#). Bighorn Country lies in west-central Alberta along the eastern edges of **Banff and Jasper national parks**. It features mountains, foothills, forests, lakes, streams and the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River that more than a million Albertans depend on for drinking water. The region is home to vulnerable species from grizzly bears to bull trout to harlequin ducks. Grazing leases would also continue and no existing trails would be closed. The plan comes with \$40 million over five years to build and improve infrastructure.

The plan also contains provisions for Indigenous co-management of the area, parts of which are heavily used for traditional ceremonies and other purposes.

[Living Planet Report 2018](#) From WWF October 2018

WWF’s Living Planet Report 2018 reveals that global wildlife numbers have plummeted by 60% in just over 40 years. That’s a 13.6% loss per decade. The biggest drivers of current biodiversity loss are overharvest of wildlife and habitat destruction for agriculture.

Another damning discovery: Australia is named as 1 of 11 global deforestation ‘hotspots’, alongside Borneo, East Africa, the Congo Basin and the Amazon. Australia is the only developed country on the list.

[Mountain Protection Award](#) From UIAA October 2018 Ed Note: have a look for an inspiring list of mountain projects.

Submissions for the 2018 UIAA Mountain Protection Award came from all corners of the globe with the project’s dedicated assessment team confirming the nomination of eighteen projects. Community Action Nepal (CAN), a charity and NGO/INGO which has been operating in Nepal for over 20 years, was announced as the sixth winner of the Award at the 2018 UIAA General Assembly in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. [UIAA MOUNTAIN PROTECTION AWARD](#)

[Unquulates - and the Australian Alps](#) From Phil Ingmells Victorian National Parks Association (Australia)

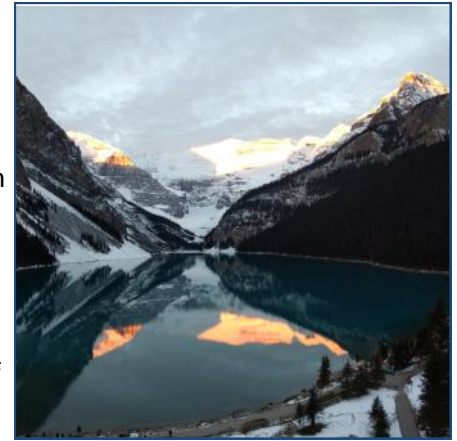
Not only are feral horses a problem in the Australian Alps but with a population of around 1 million deer in the state of Victoria alone, and growing prolifically, they are now poised to take over the nation.

Introduced deer are already seriously trashing our national parks and conservation reserves such as the Grampians, **Alpine, Mount Buffalo, Mitchell River** and Croajingolong national parks, as well as rainforest valleys and other threatened ecosystems throughout the state. They’re invading farms and front gardens, and a clear danger on our roads.

The Victorian Government has developed a *Draft Deer Management Strategy*, but it has been heavily influenced by a deer hunting fraternity keen to protect deer populations as a recreational resource.

Aerial shooting trial

A significant expansion of deer populations in the **Alpine and Mt Buffalo National Parks**, and surrounding areas, has been observed over the past decade, with increased impacts on environmental, social and economic assets. Parks Victoria introduced a deer control trial to try and address these issues. The focus to date has been on ground shooting; Parks Victoria has now adding aerial shooting to the trial.



Lake Louise, Banff NP (Rocky Mountains Canada) photo: D Foster



Introduced deer, Alpine NP photo: Parks Victoria

Scree and Talus cont.



50th anniversary From European Wilderness Society

Congratulations to **Carpathian Biosphere Reserve**, who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary in October! The European Wilderness Society works closely with Carpathian Biosphere Reserve to protect Wilderness in Ukraine. In dedication to the 50th Anniversary an [international scientific conference](#) was held in Ukraine in October 2018. 'Problems of mountain ecosystems conservation and sustainable use of biological resources in the Carpathians'.

Mountains Create Biodiversity From MRI October 2018 News

Mountains are among the most biodiverse places on Earth, but scientists have struggled to fully understand why they are so important in creating high species richness. Earlier this month, an international research team shed new light on this long-standing question in a paper published in *Nature Geoscience*. They were surprised to find not only the usual correlations with climate, but a significant relation between biodiversity, erosion history, relief and number of soil types. [Mountains Create Biodiversity](#)

Climate Change Postcard From BBC News

The snow-capped majesty of the Swiss Alps has dazzled many a tourist. And on Friday, the region played host to the planet's largest postcard. Laid out on the shrinking **Aletsch Glacier**, this huge mosaic is actually made from 125,000 drawings and messages about climate change.

They were created by children from all over the world. "WE ARE THE FUTURE GIVE US A CHANCE," urged one poster, standing out against the snow.

[Read more](#) News and Photo by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

UK government urged not to bury nuclear waste under national parks

Guardian September 2018

The National Trust and 18 other conservation groups have urged ministers to rule out burying nuclear waste below national parks as fears grow that the Lake District is being eyed as a potential site.

Dr Kathy MacKinnon wins top conservation prize

Dr MacKinnon, a British zoologist and Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, has won the prestigious Midori Prize for Biodiversity. "Protected areas of many kinds not only give sanctuary to the wonder of 4.5 billion years of evolution but, in holding species and ecosystems, they protect the fundamental underpinning of human livelihoods, economies and wellbeing. They are a key tool in maintaining the sustainability of life on earth and in combatting the ravages of climate change," said Dr MacKinnon.

The Yak From Nakul Chettri , Mountain Network member [ICIMOD Yaks](#)

The domestic yak – long a cornerstone of mountain cultures and economies across the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) – is facing an uncertain future. With the closing of international borders in the region in the early 1960s, the seasonal migration of yak herds between highland summer pastures and warmer lowland wintering areas is restricted within country boundaries. A recent festival (Haa Summer Festival) in Bhutan allowed for a yak herders meeting - organized by the Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative

chill through the global climate movement From The Guardian November 2018

Brazil's president-elect Jair Bolsonaro has chosen a new foreign minister who believes climate change is part of a plot by "cultural Marxists" to stifle western economies and promote the growth of China. Ernesto Araújo – until recently a mid-ranking official who blogs about the "criminalisation" of red meat and oil– will become the top diplomat of South America's biggest nation, representing 200 million people and the greatest biodiverse forest, the Amazon.



proMONT-BLANC From *Barbara Ehringhaus* Mountain Network member and PROMONT-BLANC

PROMONT-BLANC aims to promote the international protection of the Mont Blanc Massif and the sustainable development of the surrounding territories of the 3 French, Italian and Swiss slopes. The ambition is to make the Massif and the Mont Blanc territory an exemplary model of cross-border environmental protection.

For decades, PROMONT-BLANC has been talking about an inscription of the Mont Blanc massif on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Mont Blanc has been on the tentative list of France since 2000 and of Italy since 2008. Last year action was re-launched with local authorities signing a declaration of intent committing them to the path of the inscription of the massif to UNESCO's World Heritage. More information: www.pro-mont-blanc.org

Watch this space!

France is in charge of the presidency of the Alpine Convention in 2019/2020 and Mont-Blanc is finally preparing its dossier as a tri-national World Heritage site (France, Italy and Switzerland).

Some events and meetings of interest

- 11-15 December: **Mountains 2018** Nova Friburgo, Brazil. *Discuss and disseminate knowledge about mountains, based on lessons learned from scientific research and practical experiences.* See the official [Mountains 2018 Facebook page](#) Learn more about [LuMont](#)
- 13 Feb 2019 [Ecosystem Services Partnership Regional Conference | Africa 2019](#) Kpalimé, Togo *Management of Ecosystem Services for Nature Conservation and Human Well-being in Africa*
- March **World Protected Areas Leaders Forum** Parks Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 18 March [23rd Alpine Glaciology Meeting](#) University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria *Snow, glaciers, permafrost, and glacial geomorphology in all regions of the world*
- 17-20 March [III Latin America and Caribbean Protected Area Congress](#) Lima, Peru
- 7 April [Snow 2019 - Iceland](#) Siglufjörður, North Iceland *International Symposium on Mitigation Measures against Snow Avalanches*
- 27-29th May [European Wilderness Academy Days](#) UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Lungau, Austria. *Wilderness in Europe; Fire Management, Alien Species, the [European Wilderness Network](#), the new European Wilderness Quality Standard 2.0, Wilderness communication, sustainable tourism, legal issues, policy and more.*
- 15 – 20 July European Parks Academy on **Management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites** & Ecological monitoring [More details](#)
- 1 September [Species on the Move 2019](#) Skukuza, South Africa *Species on the Move is an interdisciplinary conference series crossing many research areas.*
- 22 – 26 September **Pathways: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference** hosted by Colorado State University Estes Park, Colorado *Global conference and training program designed to address the myriad of issues that arise as people and wildlife struggle to coexist in a sustainable and healthy manner.*
- October International Master “**Management of Conservation Areas**” The Carinthian University of Applied Sciences, Austria [More details](#)
- 1 October [International Mountain Conference 2019](#) Innsbruck, Austria *Towards a new understanding of mountain systems, their responses and resiliencies.*
- 11 – 17 November **9th World Ranger Congress**, Sauraha (on the border of Chitwan National Park), Nepal
- Late 2019 **African Parks Congress**, Kenya TBC

Tools, Publications and other Media

3rd edition of IUCN sustainable tourism guidelines, "[Tourism and Visitor Management in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Sustainability](#)" The rapidly expanding demand for tourism development associated with protected areas emphasizes the need to provide clear guidance that will contribute towards sustainable tourism consistent with the primary conservation objectives of protected areas. Initiative of the IUCN WCPA Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist (TAPAS) Group. Online: [Sustainable Tourism Guidelines](#)

Mountain Inventory GMBA NEWS

GMBA have released mountain inventory V1.2! This new version includes around 50 new mountain ranges, mostly in Asia and South America. It is available for unrestricted download and we welcome your feedback. If you use our inventory for a project or in a publication, please let us know such that we can advertise it on our website. [Link to the inventory](#)



Mountain Portal

GMBA have released a new version of the GMBA [Mountain Portal!](#) The new features include:

- [Online upload](#) functionalities for your occurrence data and inventories
- A [search tool](#) to easily find what datasets exist for a specific mountain range
- A tag identifying the datasets pertaining to a given species that specifically include data geo-localized in a chosen mountain range
- Portuguese as the 6th language

Protected Area Data Observatory

The European Commission-Joint Research Center have just launched the latest version of the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) Explorer with improvements such as complete update to the July 2018 version of the World Database on Protected Areas and many new metrics and indicators including near real time information on droughts, fires, floods, coral bleaching stress, and sea surface temperature anomalies Check it out: [Explorer](#)

Global patterns of protection of elevational gradients in mountain ranges From GMBA

Elsen et al. (2018). [PNAS Protection Mountain Gradients](#)

Most of the world's mountain ranges are narrowly protected and lack elevational distributions needed to preserve biodiversity. This could undermine the effectiveness of protected areas (PAs) under climate change.

[Disturbance from traditional fire management in subalpine heathlands increases Afro-alpine plant resilience to climate change](#). Johansson et al. (2018). Global Change Biology ([DOI: 10.1111/gcb.14121](#))

[Mapping mountain areas: learning from Global, European and Norwegian perspectives](#). Price et al. (2018). Journal of Mountain Sciences ([DOI: 10.1007/s11629-018-4916-3](#))

[Landscape Initiative for Far-Eastern Himalayas \(Hi-LIFE\)](#) Promotes a transboundary landscape approach to achieve the twin objectives of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development ICIMOD 2018

[WWF's Living Planet Report 2018](#) reveals that global wildlife numbers have plummeted by 60% in just over 40 years. [Living Planet Report 2018](#)

[IPCC Special Report On Global Warming Of 1.5°C – A Mountain Research Perspective](#) MRI October 2018

[Mountain warming through the seasons](#) MRI News July 2018 A new paper published in the International Journal of Climatology examines seasonal patterns of warming amplification at high elevations worldwide – and finds highly significant temperature trends. [Read more: Mountain warming through the seasons](#)



Important links

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for an outline of the role of Mountain Specialist Group [IUCN WCPA Mountains](#) and [Mountain UPDATE](#) and **IUCN World Conservation Congress** [IUCN World Congress Protected Area Governance and Management](#) (book) [Management Book ANU Press](#)
 IUCN WCPA sustainable tourism in protected areas [Sustainable Tourism Guidelines](#)
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. [Mountain Partnership](#)

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While Mountain Network members can choose not to be WCPA members and still be involved and receive the Mountain 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](#)

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!