

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE

No. 90 June 2016



**Kosciuszko National Park - part of Australian Alps national parks**

*I lay my dreams at your feet...walk softly for you walk on my dreams*

*Uncle Ernie Innes Taungurung Elder (Australian Alps Traditional Owner)*

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

## A note from the editor

Welcome to this 90th edition of the Mountain Update, my first as sole editor, taking over from Larry's (Dr Larry Hamilton for those that don't know him) previous 89 editions.

It must be auspicious given both the UPDATE and Larry are 90—a wonderful achievement. And for the many that are long time admirers, friends and colleagues of Larry's let me assure you he is still very much in the picture!

We also have the pleasure of welcoming a number of regional mountain correspondents (long standing Mountain group members) and 2 global youth correspondents.

This edition seems to have a mountain wildlife theme from butterflies to gorillas. Appropriate as World Environment Day in several days (June 5) is focussed on the devastating impacts of the illegal wildlife trade.

As well as all the regular 'newsy' updates there is some more information on the IUCN WCC in Hawai'i where the Mountains group is hosting a 'knowledge café'.

And finally, yes, we do have mountain protected areas in Australia...with snow!

So please read on ...there is more than enough to keep you going until the next edition!

IUCN WCPA Mountain Update # 90

Editor: Gillian Anderson [peopleinnature@bigpond.com](mailto:peopleinnature@bigpond.com)

## New Members

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*Jennifer Hoffman*, Development and Communications Director, Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Conservation Initiative. Her involvement in mountains is both personal and professional: living, working and recreating in the Canadian Rockies.

*Javier Beltran*, Coordinator of Working Landscape Program for Argentina's Nature Conservancy (TNC).

*Valerie Thoni*, Project Coordinator Mountain Protection & Mountaineering UIAA (International Mountaineering and Climbing Association) Switzerland.

*Dr Karma Tshering*, lives in Bhutan. Karma worked for National Parks in the Himalaya mountain region for over 20 years - specializing in development and management of ecotourism. Karma now has a business through which he hopes to build partnerships and provide technical assistance to strengthen sustainable livelihood programs.

*Becky Summers*, works for the Mount Kenya Trust, a mountain conservation NGO set up in 1999 that works to protect and conserve the wildlife, indigenous forest and moorlands and wildlife of Mount Kenya.

*Washington Wachira*, works for Nature Kenya and is coordinating a bird atlas project called Kenya Bird Map.

*Dr Michele Menegon*, has been working in the Eastern Afromontane for about 15 years, mainly on taxonomy, biogeography and evolution of reptiles and amphibians. She is also involved in conservation of biodiversity of montane areas.

I have attempted to put Network *members names* are in italics throughout the UPDATE.

## From People and Mountains around the World:

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### Global

#### *Mountains at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) Hawai'i*

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As reported in the last UPDATE, the WCPA Mountains Group will be hosting a Knowledge Café at the WCC (September 1- 10 2016) - the title is **Mountain Protected Areas: Leadership for Adapting to a Changing World**.

The Knowledge Café will be a facilitated group conversation and exchange of ideas. It will develop a deeper understanding of the threats and future challenges to conservation of mountain protected areas around the world by drawing on the wisdom and knowledge of the international mountains network and its various organisations and key people. The group will collaboratively develop actions that will be put to the IUCN/WCPA for support to contribute to achieving the goals of the IUCN 2017-2020 Programme.

Engaging and provocative questions for discussion will be framed around:

- **Climate:** Building resilience to the impact of projected climate futures on the alpine belt of mountain protected areas.
- **Protected area coverage in mountains:** Prioritising and activating protection of mountainous Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) that are not protected.

Mountains Knowledge Café web space is

<https://portals.iucn.org/congress/session/10360>

The web space will be continually updated as we get closer to the Congress. The session is being arranged by *Peter Jacobs*, from the WCPA Mountains Executive. If you are planning on attending the IUCN WCC in Hawaii, Peter would greatly appreciate it if you were able to attend the Mountains Knowledge Café on the 4 September 1430 – 1630. If you have a particular item you would like to speak to, that would be welcome.

Please let *Peter* know of your interest by email:

[buffalo\\_springs@bigpond.com](mailto:buffalo_springs@bigpond.com)

#### *Mountains Dinner*

The Mountains Executive is planning, as tradition insists, to host a Mountains Dinner at the World Conservation Congress.

This is an event not to be missed, particularly if you are part of the Mountains Network and attending the WCC. It would help greatly with planning if you could let us know if you would like to attend the dinner.

Please drop an email to *Gillian Anderson* at [peopleinnature@bigpond.com](mailto:peopleinnature@bigpond.com) if would like to attend.

## *No-Go Protected Areas*

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From *Larry Hamilton*: Possibly the greatest threats, even to World Heritage Sites, come from powerful industries such as mining. This topic of great interest to Mt PAs is extracted from an Editorial in an issue of PARKS (21:2, 2015) by *Nigel Dudley, Mark Hockings and Bas Verschuuren*. The editorial covers many other activities in protected areas, but emphasises mining.

The large majority of countries that have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity and agreed to its Aichi targets have made a legal commitment to protected areas. But in reality protection is almost always partial. Human rights, social concerns and the presence of indigenous or local communities mean that many protected areas are designed to accommodate human presence. Most also allow and indeed encourage visitors to enter. Marine protected areas permit shipping to pass as required under international law and very few protected areas have restrictions on air traffic. Some apparently strict protected areas have no control over mineral prospecting, fishing, hunting, use of snowmobiles, etc. Marine protected areas may only protect a certain part of the water column. Many national parks in developing countries that once strictly controlled access are opening up to forms of use such as collection of medicinal herbs, fodder and limited use of other natural resources. The situation is changing all the time.

It concludes with the following:

Protected areas need a comprehensive policy response to these challenges; one that recognises that a powerful sector in general rejects any concept of protected areas that exclude natural resources use. There have already been important initiatives to build better links with industry, both by IUCN and through groups such as Energy and Biodiversity Initiative. These efforts have undoubtedly improved practice, through best practice guidelines and the use of BAPs.

So on paper the situation is depressing. For instance, many governments have proved reluctant to impose any kind of blanket protection of protected areas from mining and there is potential for a massive increase in mining activity in protected areas. Nonetheless, in some countries there has been strong support for a ban on mining in protected areas.

In 2010, the New Zealand government abandoned a proposal to open up some of their protected areas to mining after a very vocal public and scientific community opposition to the proposal. It is also clear that many in the oil and mining sector do not relish risking a public relations disaster and boycotts through trampling over conservation policies. It is probable that boardrooms and shareholders from a wide range of companies around the world are increasingly split on these issues.

***Maintaining public pressure against mining in protected areas and areas of high conservation value; through advocacy, law suits and policy lobbying is currently the conservation lobby's best chance of preventing widespread damage from mining in hitherto pristine areas, although we would be naive to expect that changes will not come easily.***

## **America (north – central - south)**

### *Part of the Mountain Protected Area legacy of a frustrated President*

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From *Larry Hamilton*

With a deadlocked, ineffective USA Federal Congress, President Obama has been using the power he possesses under the Antiquities Act to single-handedly declare National Monuments. If warranted these may subsequently become National Parks.

A wild area known as **Boulder-White Clouds** of some 112,000 ha has now been given permanent protection - capping a 30-year campaign by mountain wildlands lovers. And, being just east of the Sawtooth Wilderness, it forms part of an important connector between central Idaho and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the most intact wild ecosystem in the lower 48 states. Top predators such as gray wolf, wolverine, lynx and mountain lion find refuge herein, among the five usual ungulates-mountain goat, bighorn sheep, moose, elk and antelope.

**Boulder-White Clouds** is headwaters spawning and birth area for salmon and steelhead trout that journey to the Pacific in one of the largest salmon migration routes in the world.

***In his final year in office, Barak Obama is leaving a wonderful legacy of mountain protection.***

## Another Reason to Protect Mountain Tops

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A giant insect-eating plant and a 100-tonne tree were among the 149 species of plants and fungi described for the first time by scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew last year.

**More than 2,000 species new to science were discovered worldwide the same year, but a new report warns that one in five of the world's plant species is threatened with extinction.**

In Brazil, a new insect-eating plant, *Drosera magnifica*, was discovered. This species grows to an incredible size of 1.5m, making it one of the three largest sundews known to science. Known only from a single small population at the top of a mountain in Minas Gerais, this species was first discovered on Facebook when a sundew specialist was reviewing photos taken years earlier by an orchid hunter. Researchers say it meets the criteria to be listed as "critically endangered" by the IUCN.



In addition to the limited size of its habitat, the mountain is surrounded by cattle ranches as well as coffee and eucalyptus plantations and most nearby forest cover has already been cleared.

"The conservation of this region is crucial, as it hosts unique and still poorly known flora and fauna that are severely threatened by human interference and invasive plant species," Gonella says,

"We are aware of a movement of local citizens that are fighting to turn this region into a state park and we are actively helping them to make this come true."

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters> and <http://www.theguardian.com/au>

Sundews represent one of the largest groups of carnivorous plants on Earth, with around 200 species discovered so far. They attract and trap insects using sticky, hair-like glands spread across the surface of their leaves, then slowly roll up their leaf edges and produce digestive enzymes to consume their prey.

*Drosera magnifica* Photo: Paulo Gonella - Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

## Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)

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From Larry Hamilton

The plight of the monarch butterfly has been a topic in previous issues of UPDATE. Not only North America's (Canada, USA and Mexico) but global concern has arisen as this fragile, champion migratory species has suffered calamitous population declines. While agricultural monocultures and pesticides along its 1,930-4,020 km migration route have been implicated, another serious impactor has been logging of its major wintering grounds in the Mexican State of Michoacan. The trees where the butterflies (mariposas) congregate in vast numbers in a limited area are the oyamel firs, or "sacred firs" mostly in the **Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve**. The scientific name *Abies religiosa*, signifies their sacred status to many Mexicans (apparently not the loggers).

This Reserve is mainly in cloud forests of the **Sierra Madre del Sur** at elevations from 2,100 to 3,600 meters and comprises some 56,259 ha of which 13,532 ha are in the core protected zone. It was originally given protection in 1980 by the Mexican President as a special reserve. It became a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2000, and in 2008 was also given the status of **World Heritage Site**.

Given these efforts of conservation in its wintering range, it behooves other States and other countries (USA and Canada) to provide safe stepping stones and summer habitats for this iconic species of our international migratory wild fauna.

***Mexicans are planting the sacred firs farther up the mountain to compensate for habitat loss on the lower edges due to climate warming.***

## Africa

### *Decline of Grauer's gorilla in mountains of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo*

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From *Andrew Plumptre* we have a depiction of the plight of the Grauer's gorilla and the DRC.

Confined to the mountains and highland areas of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Grauer's gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*) is the World's largest primate. Together with the mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), these are the only two subspecies of eastern gorilla (*Gorilla beringei*). This species lives in remote rugged mountains and massifs far from people and generally in intact forest.

A prolonged and deadly civil war between 1996 and 2003 resulted in a proliferation of firearms and led to the establishment of many militia and rebel factions who continue to operate today. These groups control territory which includes artisanal mining sites within Grauer's gorilla's range. Miners subsist on bushmeat because they live in remote camps deep in the forest and gorillas are targeted because they are large and relatively easy to kill despite their full legal protection.

***The juxtaposition of this civil conflict, the remoteness of mining sites controlled by rebel factions and the presence of Grauer's gorilla has led to a drastic decline in this great ape.***

Using three survey methods to assess population abundance at different scales, scientists from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) measured declines in this subspecies across its range.

Survey findings move the eastern gorilla from Endangered to Critically Endangered, making both eastern and western gorilla species critically endangered. A press event in April 2016 in Kinshasa with ICCN and the Ministry of Environment launched a report (Plumptre et al. 2016) detailing these findings and raised awareness about of the plight of these apes in DRC. Press coverage following this event has been good and has led to some funds being raised to help conserve them.

WCS and FFI is calling on the government of DRC to gazette the Itombwe massif and the Punia Gorilla Reserve. To finalise the process consultations with local communities have been taking place about the gazettal of a protected area. This would protect about 60% of the remaining gorillas that live outside existing protected areas.

English and French versions available at:

<http://www.albertinerift.org/About-Us/News/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/8664/Catastrophic-decline-in-Grauers-gorilla.aspx>

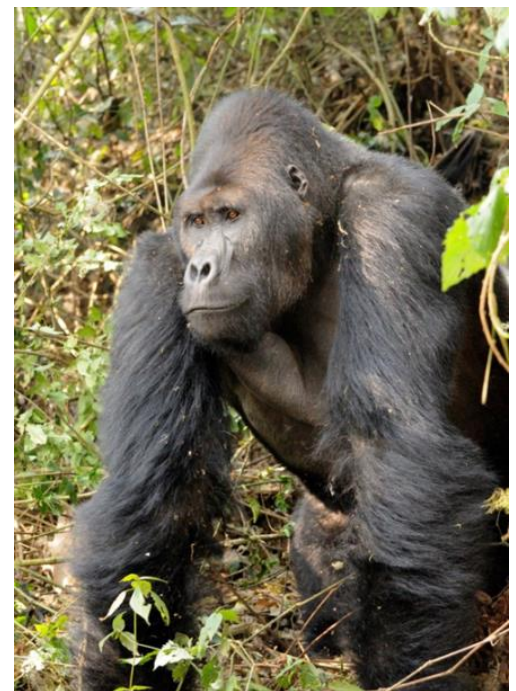
### *Mountain Elephants*

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From Mount Kenya Trust - an NGO that works to protect area surrounding Africa's second highest peak, **Mount Kenya**.

Threats arise from all **Mount Kenya National Park** (soon to be fenced by the Rhino Ark Comprehensive Fence Project) 450km boundary. Illegal logging, livestock grazing, charcoal production, poaching and honey harvesting poaching, marijuana farming and fires are just some of the persistent, on-going issues that threaten the future of the ecosystem.

Mount Kenya National Park is the largest contiguous forest remaining in Kenya and an UNESCO World Heritage Site described in 1999 as: 'one of the most impressive landscapes of Eastern Africa, with its rugged glacier clad summits, Afro-Alpine Moorlands and diverse forests, which illustrate outstanding ecological processes.'



*Grauer's gorilla is being revised on the IUCN Red List*

### *Relinking habitats*

The Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor (14km traditional elephant migratory pathway) is one project that helps to mitigate the elephant population pressures on the mountain as they move seasonally in search of food, mates and minerals.

***Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) is a significant issue at the forefront of conservation issues, especially in Kenya, where dangerous mega fauna still exist.***

The need for wildlife corridors in a populous agricultural area such as Central Kenya cannot be understated to reduce clashes. Loss of life for both man and animal is not uncommon.

### *Success for people and wildlife*

A recent survey concluded that the elephant population has remained relatively stable since 2001 with a speculative slight reduction due to potential poaching and/or migration due to the opening of the Northern Corridor. This is a great result in an era where elephant numbers are dwindling so rapidly.

Before construction the initial numbers of crossings in the area were around 15 per year. Last year over 1000 elephants used the underpass. Not only elephants but other wildlife are frequently recorded including bushbuck, duicker, jackal, leopard, zebras, porcupine, reedbuck, serval cat, spotted hyena, warthog and wild dog. Even a lost rhino wandered in!



*Family of elephants make their way through the corridor- Photo: Mt Kenya Trust*

***Global recognition of the project's success was awarded when the UNESCO World Heritage Site for Mount Kenya National Park and Reserve was extended to include the Corridor and adjacent conservancies.***

### *Cableway for the Drakensbergs (South Africa) – the debate continues...*

This article by *Larry Hamilton* first appeared in the UPDATE a few years ago. Larry drew attention to the Drakensberg Mountain Workshop in 2003 and the Mnweni indigenous lands field trip, the climb up Sentinel to the Lesotho frontier as a Transborder Peace gesture and the reading of the declaration supporting transboundary cooperation.

There is a proposal for a Drakensberg Cableway, just south of **Royal Natal Provincial Park** to bring tourists to the summit of **Mount Amery**. This would include an extensive resort development at the cableway base in the Busingatha Valley. The hope is for an annual visitation of around 180,000, but rising to 300,000 as an achievable target. There would also be restaurant, shops and interpretive facilities at the summit. It does call for a fenced conservation area under the cableway which would be added to Royal Natal. It is also proposed to connect the summit of **Mount Amery** and the famous **Mont-Aux-Sources**.

The proximity of this development to the **Ukhuhlamba-Drakensberg World Heritage Site** (within 100m) raises some serious concerns.

The native AmaZizi and Mweni people of Busingatha are opposed to the cableway which transgresses their cherished wild lands, and the Mweni Wilderness Working Team and AmaZizi Wilderness Group are asking for support against this development. It is their hope that this land, located between two parts of the WH Site can be recognized as a Natural and Living Cultural WH Site. Kwazulu Natal Wildlife ENVELO has also registered concerns and called for a full disclosure, impartial assessment of impacts and the business plan.

More recently *Linda McMillan* in her work with the UIAA (International Mountaineering and Climbing Association) was asked by the Mountaineering Club of South Africa to once again spread the word amongst our Mountain Network. If you would like more information or interested in adding your opinion to the debate go to <http://www.maloti-drakensberg.co.za>

## Australia

### Decision Support Tools for the Australian Alps National Parks

***A new decision support tool has been developed for application to large multi-jurisdictional and cross border protected area landscapes.***

The Natural Icons and Threats Framework (NITF) is designed to support landscape scale management, in collaboration with State based systems. The NITF was developed through Australia's National Environment Research Program and has been tested in the Australian Alps as a case study.

The **Australian Alps national parks** comprise 11 protected areas spanning 1.6 million hectares across the states of Victoria and New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory and listed as part of Australia's National Heritage. Interagency cooperation is promoted through the Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program. There is however, no single management plan, environmental management system or strategic assessment of focal values to support decision making across the protected area landscape.

This provided a challenging situation to test the NITF. The NITF engaged with managers and stakeholders across the landscape, ignoring borders, to identify seven key common iconic natural values and nine key threats to those values.

The Multi Criteria Analysis Shell (MCAS-S) is a desktop decision support tool used to interrogate and present the information, to inform priorities for attention as well as investment by protected area managers. Further information about the Icons and Threats Framework can be found in the Parks Journal 22-1 at:

[Natural Icons and Threats: An Approach to Landscape Conservation Planning](#) *Brendan Mackey, Peter Jacobs, Luciana Porfirio and Sonia Hugh*

To access the supplementary material go to [www.terranova.org.au](http://www.terranova.org.au) and search for alps icons and threats.

### Common Vegetation Mapping

The common values and threats datasets to support the NITF need to be developed by integrating State based information. A significant and common issue is the existence of different vegetation classifications systems across jurisdictions. To overcome this, a common vegetation classification system and map was developed for the Australian Alps national parks.

Further information about the development of the Australian Alps vegetation classification system and map can be found at:

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Science-Conservation/Scientific-Publications/Cunninghamia> Volume 15.

To discuss these initiatives, you can contact *Brendan Mackey* [b.mackey@griffith.edu.au](mailto:b.mackey@griffith.edu.au) or *Peter Jacobs* [buffalo\\_springs@bigpond.com](mailto:buffalo_springs@bigpond.com)



*Along with feral horses, deer are an increasing threat to the 'iconic' alpine treeless areas of the Australian Alps.*

## Central Asia – Himalayas

### *Kashmir (India) – Dachigam N P*

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From *Larry Hamilton*: Wildlife-human conflicts in or near PAs are often part of the management problem scenario. A study of this in Kashmir (an area we hear little about, in terms of Mt Pas was published in a recent issue of *Mountain Research and Development*.

An extract from this follows:

The study was conducted in the temperate western Himalayan human-dominated landscape around **Dachigam National Park** in Kashmir, India. Elevation in the NP ranges from 1650 to 4400 masl. The park covers 141 km<sup>2</sup> and about 1000 km<sup>2</sup> together with adjacent protected areas. The mountains enclosing the Park and the adjoining landscape are part of the **Zaskar Range**, which forms the NW branch of the central Himalayan axis. 19 villages were selected for study of which 2 are within the NP.



***The majority of respondents expressed a positive attitude toward wildlife conservation but said that conservationists and the government seemed to care more about wildlife than about human well-being. This perception needs to be challenged by displays of goodwill from park management, which could help build trust and improve relationships between the park and local people. Previous studies indicate that education can improve tolerance for carnivores.***

Livestock losses and crop damage were the major factors responsible for negative attitudes toward wildlife conservation policy around the park.

**Dachigam National Park** and the landscape surrounding it has one of the highest-density populations of the Asiatic black bear in India, and the Park is surrounded by other regional PAs, though human settlements have fragmented protection.

Corridors between these protected areas need to be secured to reduce the chances of conflict while animals move from one protected area to another.

Public information efforts are needed to educate landowners on the best ways to prevent livestock predation and crop raiding—such as providing proper nocturnal management of livestock, using guard dogs, properly fencing crop fields wherever possible, and ensuring that domestic animals are accompanied by humans when grazing. Moreover, farmers should be encouraged to properly dispose of agricultural and horticultural wastes to avoid attracting wild animals.

Government and nongovernmental organizations should introduce compensation and livestock insurance schemes to make up for losses caused by wildlife; no such schemes currently exist. While important for the conservation of wildlife in this region of Jammu and Kashmir, the results of this study have wide applicability to conservationists and policy-makers throughout the developing world and can support efforts to protect rare species and involve local people in conservation.

### *Development Impacts of Conservation Areas on Central Asia's Mountain Societies*

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From *Dr J Marc Foggin*, Mountain Societies Research Institute- an extract from an ambitious program proposal to 'balance' conservation and development in the mountains of Central Asia

#### *Background*

Mountains make excellent protected areas. Typically sparsely populated, and minimally developed, mountains nonetheless provide essential ecosystem services (water, biodiversity, sustainable tourism) for local and downstream populations.

Yet, even in globally recognized biodiversity hotspots, conservation measures tend to be relatively weak as other socio-political priorities take precedence (development, energy demands, security).



**Experience demonstrates that a key to successful regional conservation is the adoption of effective processes that integrate ecological protection with societies' other aspirations for the future.**

In Central Asia (a vast area that ranges from the Caucasus across post-Soviet countries all the way to Mongolia and Bhutan) a desire among governments and environmental stakeholders to strengthen the existing protected area networks has to be balanced with pressures from other sectors.

The key to success will therefore be to initiate a robust, systematic process that encourages and enables locally influential development stakeholders to consider socioeconomic needs while also ensuring adequate protection of natural resources (biodiversity) and other ecosystem services at a landscape level.

### *The Proposal*

With a goal to enhance support for conservation from development practitioners and policy makers, and to enhance the effectiveness of protected area systems, this project will review the current Central Asia network of mountain PAs, and subsequently analyse selected development datasets in relation to proximity to conservation areas and affiliated management approaches.

Drawing on the cumulative expertise of Working Group members (local development and conservation practitioners in the mountains of Central Asia) and their respective networks, and facilitated by a series of workshops over the next couple years, strategic research on the impact of governance and management of PAs will, for the first time, be enabled in Central Asia.

### *Outputs*

- Review of PAs in the mountains of Central Asia, including identification of key conservation sites and areas, their description and preliminary mapping;
- Evaluation of the relationship between conservation areas with socioeconomic wellbeing of mountain communities;
- Policy recommendations for selected development sectors or actors, including but not limited to government agencies that are responsible for PAs and/or for regional conservation – with specific output being evidence-based 'key messages' and 'best practice guidelines' for policy makers, donors and practitioners
- An inclusive network of experts interested in the connections between PAs, biodiversity and other ecosystem services, and socioeconomic development; and
- A Central Asia Federation of Mountain Protected Areas also is planned.

This program of work has been developed in the context of the SNAPP (Science for Nature and People Partnership) program. If the SNAPP funds are not forthcoming the proposed outcomes may need to be modified to some extent. For more information: *Dr J Marc Foggin*, Mountain Societies Research Institute University of Central Asia | Tajikistan | Kyrgyz Republic | Kazakhstan

[marc.foggin@ucentralasia.org](mailto:marc.foggin@ucentralasia.org) and <http://www.ucentralasia.org>



*Panj R marks border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan with Hindi Kush mountains in background (2015)*



*Tibetan pastoralists traditionally move livestock (2009)  
Photos: Marc Foggin*

## Europe

### *Wolf in the Spotlight...again*

The following is adapted from *Zoltan Kun* on the wolf conservation efforts of Juraj Lukac in Slovakia (Apr 29, 2016) and an article written by Alejandro Carra for ABC Natural.

The estimated total number of wolves in Europe seems to be around 10,000 individuals. While the population has been increasing or stable in most European countries since 2005, some countries including Slovakia have seen the wolf population estimates decreasing. And some countries are moving toward wolf hunting exemptions and changes to the Habitats Directive.

***But there are already areas that have wolves that make ten times more money through tourism related activities such as organizing sightseeing tours than for shooting them.***

The wolf is the symbol of survival. No other large predator has managed to withstand the pressure of humans as well as the wolf. Persecuted as vermin until the 1970s after which it was considered an important species for biodiversity, it is now slowly recovering. However that has caused conflict with farmers who want their numbers controlled.

The legal status of wolves in the European Union member state countries is directly specified in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). By default wolf populations are listed under Annexes II and IV. Annex II requires the establishment of Natura 2000 sites for the species while annex IV requires strict protection, prohibiting any destruction or damage to the population (but with exemption still possible under Article 16).

Wolf environmentalists and tourism entrepreneurs however defend the presence of the wolf. Again the wolf is in the spotlight.

Farmers incorrectly believe that the presence of wolves is incompatible with their herds of livestock. They support the Spanish and French governments call for changes to the Habitats Directive. Conservation groups however consider it a mistake as hunting does not solve anything. A recent study by Alberto Fernández Gil shows that if you kill the alpha male or female the group is unstructured and more likely to attack livestock.

Living together is not easy but is possible with traditional methods of grazing; with livestock guarding dogs and cattle gathered at night. Furthermore wolf tourism has shown a live wolf is worth more than a dead one.

The Sierra de la Culebra is a particularly good area for sightings of wolves says Javier Talegón a biologist who also runs a company dedicated to organizing wolf sightseeing and teaching the heritage of the region linked to the wolf. In Spain there is strong wolf ethnography throughout the northwest. There are some particular architectural structures such as the two wolves of Cortello Lubiano, unique to this region and some trans-Himalayan areas.

#### *Enlarging no-hunting zone for wolf in Slovakia*

The Wolf (Vlk) Foundation with the leadership of Juraj Lukac ran a successful campaign in 2015 in order to enlarge the no-hunting zone for wolf in Slovakia.

The country is at a crucial geographical location in terms of recovering healthy wolf population in Central Europe. Slovakia lies in the Western part of the **Carpathian Mountains** and might connect the healthy population of wolf in Romania and Ukraine with Czech Republic and Austria where the species does not yet have a stable population. Slovakia also serves as a source of wolves to Hungary where the population is still very low (only 2-3 packs).

During Slovakia's European Union accession negotiation process in the late 90s Slovakia managed to get exemption and hunting of wolf (despite of its 'strict' protection) remained possible in the country.

In 2013 and 2014, WOLF Forest Protection Association managed to achieve legislative changes providing for year-round protection of the wolf zone bordering with Poland. In order to secure other wolf migration corridors Wolf Foundation suggested enlargement of the no hunting zone for the species.

The foundation started a public campaign (entitled We Love Wolf - Mára Radi Vlkov in Slovakian) in order to generate public support for its proposal. A petition of 25,000 signatures was presented to the Ministry of Environment of Slovakia which finally accepted all requirements of the We Love Wolves campaign.

***This achievement gives hope for a successful wolf recovery in the Central European region and for strengthening wilderness conservation in Europe.***

Recently featured in UPDATE [LIFE WOLFALPS](#) is managed by **Parco Alpi Marittime** with many other alpine partners. The proceedings of [LIFE WOLFALPS](#) conference held in Cuneo (Italy) on 22 January 2016 is a useful reference document for the status on the wolf in the European Alps.

Information and FAQ on wolves in European Alps go to: <http://www.lifewolfalps.eu>



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## *Mating (hopefully, wings crossed!) Bearded Vultures sighted in Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy*

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From *Patrizia Rossi*

The Park Keepers of **Gran Paradiso National Park** have sighted in the Valle d'Aosta section of the protected area a new couple of mating Bearded Vulture specimens.

"The preparation of the nest and the mating could be the prelude to the egg laying and therefore to nesting" explains Luigino Jocoll, Inspector of the Park surveillance service. "However, at the moment we can't be sure whether this will happen or not".

The monitoring activity of the Bearded Vultures carried out by the Park Keepers in collaboration with Valle d'Aosta Forest Service is an activity implying patience and discretion, not to disturb the specimens of this big vulture, whose wingspan can reach the 280cm.

***Extinct in the alpine chain from the early 20th century and reintroduced in the 1980s, the Bearded Vulture is one of the biggest vultures in Europe.***

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## **Scree and Talus**

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### *The Shasta Pack*

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The State of California whose original wolf population had been exterminated, welcomed a lone transient wolf last year, but today it has been established that a new resident family has occupied an area around **Mount Shasta NP**. Named the Shasta Pack, it is composed of two adults and five pups. Welcome back friends! Rewilding and connectivity pay off.

The Wildlands Network (USA) has launched a program called "**Adopt Your Wildlife Corridor**" which is designed to foster a sense of place and stewardship among residents of key corridors of connectivity—many of them in mountain areas. It is hoped that through "grassroots" effort protection policies can be influenced in a positive way - giving decision makers needed support. [www.wildlandsnetwork.org](http://www.wildlandsnetwork.org)

### *Parco Nazionale Appennino Toscano*

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*Patrizia Rossi* let us know that **Parco Nazionale Appennino Toscano** recently received the recognition as a MAB Biosphere Reserve. It is developing a specific action plan. Further information at: [www.mabappennino.it](http://www.mabappennino.it)

### *The Book*

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*Graeme Worboys* reports that the **Protected Area Governance and Management** book is proving very popular with **17,812 downloads** in the 12 months to the end of March 2016! For the publisher, ANU Press, this is their second highest download for 2015. In addition, the book has attracted visitors from **155 countries** from around the world, with most visitors downloading information. There is no formal marketing for this book, so your word of mouth/passing on the message is important!

<http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/protected-area-governance-and-management>



The B3P vision: a transnational park in the rugged, mountainous region spanning Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo/a; where communities from all three countries work together to protect their environment, stimulate local employment and promote sustainable visitor activities.

**Volunteer for a 2-week Summer Programme: July and August, 2016**

The programmes are based in beautiful mountain villages in the cross-border regions: Albania in Thethi, Lepushë-Vermosh and Valbona; Montenegro in Grbaja and Babino Polje and in Rugova, Kosovo.

Teaching experience is useful but not essential. Other skills and interests which are equally useful: construction, music, drama, art, photography, environmental studies, trekking & way-marking.

*Gillian (editor) and Peter Jacobs spent 12 days in 2014 trekking the “Peaks of the Balkans” and can without doubt recommend visiting / volunteering / working in this stunning mountainous region which crosses 3 countries and is home to some of the most hospitable people in the world.*

One night in the mountains of Kosovo we stayed unexpectedly with a summer herder and his boys. Luckily we had food to share– but the youngest son cooked the best flat bread ever tasted!

We also had a police escort near Kosovo - Montenegro border – where I got my pack carried uphill for several kilometres. They ‘reported’ constantly on the radio back to base – but no need for concern as it turned out their Chief was just checking we were all prepared for the mountain conditions!

During the trek we talked a lot about how these people have suffered, their generosity and also volunteering with B3P.



Summer mountain hut, Kosovo



Near Kosovo-Montenegro border



Thethi, Albania

More information on volunteering: Angela Selmani B3P Summer Programme Co-ordinator: [angela315@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela315@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.balkanspeacepark.org](http://www.balkanspeacepark.org)

*Nominations for the 2016 Mountain Protection Award*

**International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation-UIAA**

Open to associations and travel agencies working in the mountain environment who are engaged in at least one of the following activities:

- Conservation of biodiversity - including plant and animal species;
- Sustainable energy and resource management;
- Sustainable waste management and disposal;
- Adaptation to/mitigation of effects of climate change; and
- Protection of the environment through culture and education.

Even if not intending to apply for the award the web site [www.mountainprotection.theuiaa.org](http://www.mountainprotection.theuiaa.org) is well worth visiting for an inspiring glimpse of mountain related projects being undertaken around the world.

Apply at: [www.mountainprotection.theuiaa.org/initiatives/apply](http://www.mountainprotection.theuiaa.org/initiatives/apply) Applications close 15 June 2016.

### *Four Films – 2 long 2 short – all worth watching*

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1. *Sherpa- trouble on Everest* by Australian film maker Jennifer Peedom. This documentary was filmed during 2014 climbing season, when 16 Sherpa guides were killed while moving across the ice fall to assist Western climbers. It exposes many truths about money and privilege, how Sherpas suffer a hugely disproportionate share of the climbing risk, Nepal, and the meeting of first and third worlds on this alluring and spiritual peak.
2. A new short film focused on the issue of boundaries and wildlife, particularly the US-Mexico border wall. View via the link: <http://nautil.us/issue/35/boundaries/the-other-crisis-on-the-mexican-border>  
Dr Jon P. Beckmann, Conservation Scientist, North America Program Wildlife Conservation Society <http://www.wcsnorthamerica.org>
3. *Corridors of Life* explores the cutting edge of Conservation Biology to discover how the world's parks and preserves can be connected and better function as the last enclaves of wild nature. This is an important film that has been years in the making and 'stars' some of our IUCN Mountains and Connectivity Conservation champions. For details on this impressive program see: [www.wildways.us](http://www.wildways.us)
4. The European Wilderness Society together with Sami Fayed produced a great video to raise awareness to protect Europe's last wilderness. Enjoy a glimpse into their work, what they stand for and why wilderness is worth saving. [Wilderness video: Help us protect it! - European Wilderness Society](#)

The tragedies of the past 2 years have continued with both Sherpas and climbers reported killed this climbing season. Following on from last year's devastating earthquake where 22 died at Base Camp many continue to question the future of climbing on the world's highest peak.

### *ARCOS - Albertine Rift Conservation Society*

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ARCOS was established in 1995 with the following mission: "To enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the Albertine Rift region through the promotion of collaborative conservation action for nature and people." ARCOS now hosts the Secretariat for the African Mountains Regional Forum, also the Mountain Partnership. ARCOS are planning the "World Mountain Forum" (see below under events)

Dr Sam Kanyamibwa, Executive Director, Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS) Email: [skanyamibwa@arcosnetwork.org](mailto:skanyamibwa@arcosnetwork.org); Web: [www.arcosnetwork.org](http://www.arcosnetwork.org)

### *New Japanese Holiday*

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Dawning August 11 2016 will be a new public holiday in Japan, National Mountain Day. The new public holiday will celebrate all things mountain-related in Japan, a nation whose culture is founded on nature inspired Shintoism. Lobbied by the Japanese Alpine Club and other mountain-related groups the objective is to share "opportunities to get familiar with mountains and appreciate blessings from Mountains". Wow! As *Andrew Nixon* (Australian Alps Program Manager) suggested, perhaps an objective for many countries with mountains and mountain protected areas.

### *International Mountain Day 2016 "Mountain Cultures: celebrating diversity and strengthening identity"*

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**International Mountain Day 2016** (December 11) provides an occasion to highlight the variety and richness of mountain cultures, promote the vast array of mountain identities and ensure that indigenous rights are recognized and traditional ways endure. In the coming months communication materials will be made available on [website](#) and distributed as hard copies to those who request them. Please contact [sara.manuelli@fao.org](mailto:sara.manuelli@fao.org) with news of the celebrations you are planning so they can be posted on the interactive map.

## Some Recent Publications of Interest

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Related to an earlier article about DRC and Gorillas...

*“Transboundary collaboration in the Greater Virunga Landscape: from gorilla conservation to conflict - sensitive transboundary landscape management”*

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Johannes Refisch is a Transboundary Conservation SG member and program manager for the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP), an alliance of nearly one hundred nations, United Nations agencies, research institutions, conservation organizations, and private supporters.

The chapter is part of the book *Governance, Natural Resources and Post - Conflict Peacebuilding* (2016) <http://environmentalpeacebuilding.org/publications/books/governance-natural-resources-and-post-conflict-peacebuilding/>.

*The Australian Alps*

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In a similar genre to a book mentioned in our last Mountain Update “A Thinking Person’s Guide to America's National Parks”2016. Robert Manning, *Rolf Diamant, Nora Mitchell and David Harmon* this is a book on the Australian Alps by Mountain network member *Deirdre Slattery*.

It covers the geology of the landforms, weather & climate, vegetation and the fauna as well as taking the reader through a wonderful series of stories associated with the Alps: on Aboriginal life, settlers and pastoralists, mining, water & electricity, science & research, and conservation. Published by the CSIRO Australia

*Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*

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One of the foremost and distinguished biologists of our times makes an impassioned plea in this 256-page book for the "mantra" articulated by member *Harvey Locke*, at the 2009 Wilderness Congress in Merida, Mexico: "Nature Needs Half". Edward O.Wilson points out where in the world this is possible. 2016 W.W. Norton and Company

*Wilderness Protection in Europe*

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A new book on the role of law in the protection of wilderness in Europe is available through Cambridge University Press. You can order to book here [Wilderness Protection in Europe](#)

Or contact [zoltankun71@yahoo.com](mailto:zoltankun71@yahoo.com)

*3 papers from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)*

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**Reconciling the Mountain Biodiversity Conservation and Human Wellbeing: Drivers of Biodiversity Loss and New Approaches in the Hindu-Kush Himalayas** *Nakul Chettri* and *Eklabya Sharma*

This paper reviews the state of knowledge on five principle pressures, driving biodiversity loss in the HKH region, and describes evolving processes that highlight reconciliation of the conservation and development perspectives.

**Biodiversity research trends and gap analysis from a transboundary landscape, Eastern Himalayas**

*Pratikshya Kandel, Janita Gurung, Nakul Chettri, Wu Ning, Eklabya Sharma*

The **Kangchenjunga** landscape, a transboundary complex shared by Bhutan, India, and Nepal, is one of the biologically richest regions in the Eastern Himalayas. There is a need for systematic research with long-term monitoring that would allow us to understand changes occurring within the landscape.

**Long-Term Environmental and Socio-ecological Monitoring in Transboundary Landscapes (LTESM)**

ICIMOD Working Paper 2015/2 *Nakul Chettri, et al*

The LTESM framework is a long-term transdisciplinary monitoring framework designed for implementation in ICIMOD’s Transboundary Landscapes Regional Programme together with the Centre’s partners in the region. It focuses on improving understanding of spatial and temporal changes to the biodiversity of the HKH, the drivers and consequences. For more information: Email [info@icimod.org](mailto:info@icimod.org) Web [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org)

## Some forthcoming meetings and events of interest

**Sustainable Summits Conference 2016**, August 7-11, 2016. Aoraki (Mount Cook) NP. Organized by the New Zealand Alpine Club and NZ Dept. of Conservation. The conference focuses on practical solutions to issues of sustainability on the mountains. <http://sustainable-summits.com> gives further details. There is a great range of speakers from around the world and from New Zealand. If you are interested in attending please register - spaces are limited to the first 120 attendees. So far, several Network members are involved: *Dave Bamford, Janet MacKay, Dawa Steven Sherpa, Roger Robinson and Peter Rupitsch.*

**IUCN World Conservation Congress**, September 1-10, 2016. Convention Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA. See above re the Mountain Group hosting a Knowledge Café and your needed support.

Program details as they develop: [www.iucn.worldconservationcongress.org](http://www.iucn.worldconservationcongress.org)



**The Future of Wild Europe** September 12 – 14, 2016. University of Leeds, UK. Further questions: *Zoltan Kun* [kun.zoltan@innosystem.hu](mailto:kun.zoltan@innosystem.hu)

**Hands Across Borders** September 13-18, 2016. Glacier Park Lodge at East Glacier Park Village, Montana, USA. A weeklong event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and celebrate and advance transboundary conservation and international peace parks. The event includes an intensive workshop for Transboundary conservation practitioners, field trips in **Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park**, and the 84th Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly. Contact: Wylie Project Coordinator [wylie.carr@umontana.edu](mailto:wylie.carr@umontana.edu)

**Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreation and Protected Areas (MMV)**, September 26-30, 2016. Novi Sad, Serbia. The 8th MMV will focus on the sub-theme “**Cooperation across borders and scales**” with the emphasis on policies, problems, practices and innovative solutions that connect different areas and regions in order to collaborate on the same focus. For more information: [mmv8@dgt.uns.ac.rs](mailto:mmv8@dgt.uns.ac.rs) or <http://www.dgt.uns.ac.rs/mmv8/>

**Future of the Carpathians: Smart, Sustainable, Inclusive.** September 28-30, 2016. Bucharest, Romania. For details: [www.forumcarpatcium.org](http://www.forumcarpatcium.org) and [www.carpathianscience.org](http://www.carpathianscience.org)

**AlpWeek 2016. Alps and People; Living Culture** October 11-15, 2016. Grassau, Germany. Organized by CIPRA with the Alpine Convention and others. Organizational and individual contributions are invited on themes: demography, culture, and quality of life. There should be space under this umbrella for MtPA topics. [www.alpweek.org/2016](http://www.alpweek.org/2016)

**The World Mountain Forum – Mountains for Our Future** October 17-19 Mbale, Uganda

- followed by the Fifth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership on 21-22 October (Mountain Partnership members only)

**The World Mountain Forum** brings together mountain stakeholders from around the globe, and provides a platform for exchange, promotion of collaborative action and fostering political dialogue among different levels of society. The goal is to engage dialogue with articulated, concrete actions and concerted efforts to address the plight of mountain ecosystems towards Sustainable Mountain Development. Website <http://wmf.mtnforum.org>.

The Forum will cover four themes:

1. Mountains and Climate Change
2. Mountain Communities and Livelihoods
3. Mountain Ecosystem Services
4. Sustainable Mountain Agriculture

**17-21 October 2016, Leavenworth, USA** The 2016 Mountain Climate Conference will continue its decade-long tradition of excellence working at the intersection between climate and a host of other scientific disciplines including hydrology, ecology, and glaciology. This 7th Mountain Climate (MtnClim) Conference will explore the central theme: Mountains Without Snow: What are the Consequences? Contact: [info@mtncim.org](mailto:info@mtncim.org)

**IV Mobile Seminar on Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas.** September 9–24, 2016. Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. This is an intensive, 2.5 -week field-based training event aimed at professionals working to promote sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation in parks globally (given in English).

<http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-tourism-course> or for more information on the range of CPAM training courses visit: <http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-protected-areas-course>

Online Mountains course by Parks Canada and the University of Alberta. <http://www.mountains.ualberta.ca> UAlberta's *Mountains 101* will be the world's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in interdisciplinary mountain studies, available either for university credit *or* for free – to anyone, anywhere in the world where there's an internet connection.



### **Master of Protected Area Governance & Management Course**

This new course aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills required by contemporary protected area professionals working in middle or senior governance or management roles. This initiative is being led by a Steering Committee comprising representatives from UTAS, Tasmania Parks & Wildlife Service, Tasmanian Land Conservancy, Parks Victoria, Parks Australia, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, James Cook University, Murdoch University and Charles Darwin University.

<http://www.utas.edu.au/courses/set/courses/k7e-master-of-protected-area-governanceandmanagement>

## **Important Links**

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**Mountain Protected Areas Network** [www.protectmountains.com](http://www.protectmountains.com)

**International Connectivity Conservation Network** is a WCPA voluntary network of managers working on individual terrestrial and marine large-scale connectivity conservation projects and initiatives around the world [www.connectivity.squarespace.com](http://www.connectivity.squarespace.com)

The **World Parks Congress** in Sydney provided ideas on how protected areas will progress the IUCN agenda of a just world which values and conserves nature. The key outcomes can be found at:

[http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise\\_of\\_sydney.html](http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney.html)

**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)

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

**IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas** Please note that as the Connectivity Conservation and Mountains (CCM) Group is in transition (splitting into two Specialist Groups) we are at present not represented under WCPA "What we do". This will be rectified very shortly. <http://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa>

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.