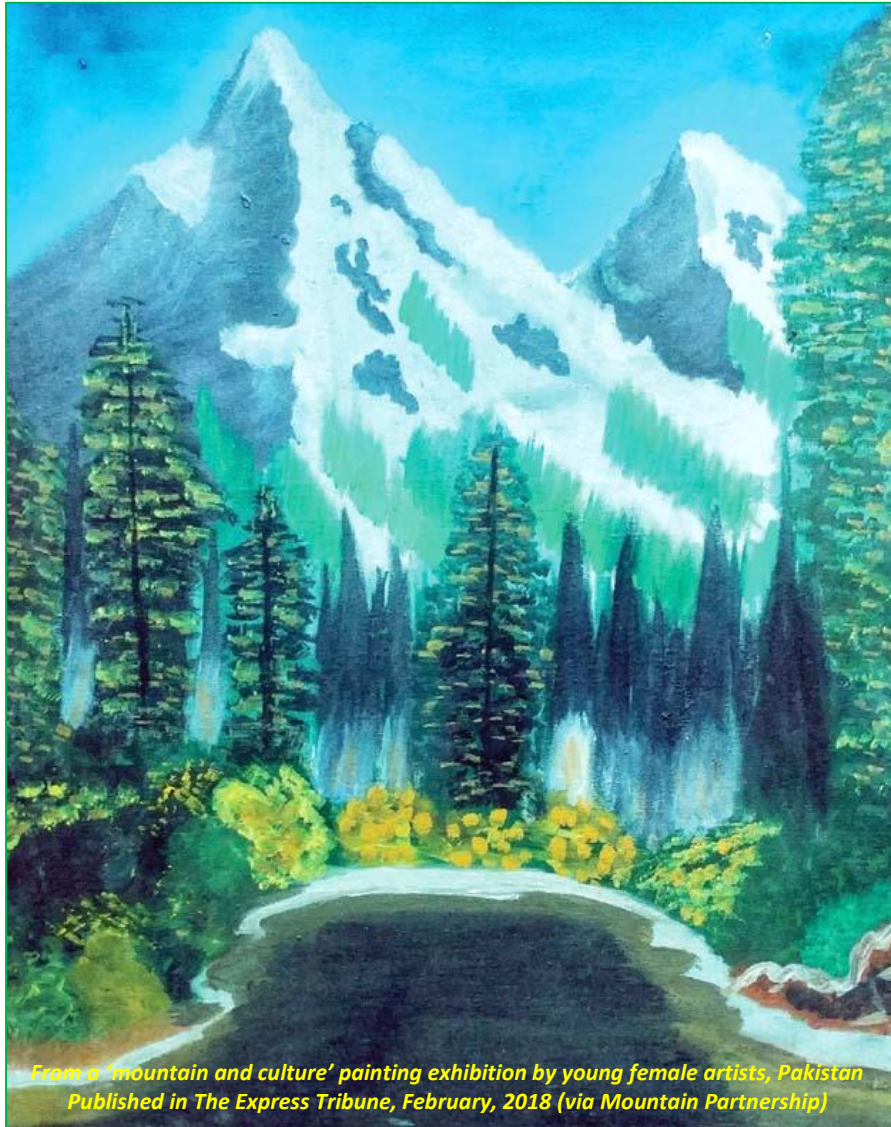


Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE

No. 98 June 2018



*From a 'mountain and culture' painting exhibition by young female artists, Pakistan
Published in The Express Tribune, February, 2018 (via Mountain Partnership)*

Note from the editor

Welcome to the 98th edition of the Mountain UPDATE – as usual it is an eclectic collection of mountain articles from around the world - the wonder and tragedy of volcanic eruptions to micro-plastics in the soil of Swiss Alps.

So on this **World Environment Day 2018**, I am going to pass on this year's message from the UN and host country India:

Beat Plastic Pollution – if you can't reuse it, refuse it!

Find out more on the World Environment Day web site.

*There is much fragmenting us,
and fragmenting nature for
personal gain.*

*People and nature, language and
culture, science and art, hard
edges and fluffy boundaries.*

*We are connected and we all
need to act generously and be
one in pushing this (connectivity
conservation) forward.*

**Gary Tabor Chair WCPA Connectivity
Conservation Specialist Group**

In this issue:

People and Mountains around the world:

Global
America
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Scree and Talus
Recent Publications of Interest
Meetings and Events / Links

WCPA Mountain Specialist Group
Committee:

- Peter Jacobs (Chair)
- Patrizia Rossi
- Fausto Sarmiento
- Mike Tollefson
- Linda McMillan
- Gill Anderson (Mountain UPDATE Editor)

WCPA Mountains Senior Advisor:

- Graeme Worboys

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

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

From *People and Mountains* around the World:

Global

Protecting Mountains – region by region

News from *Peter Jacobs*, Chair WCPA Mountain Specialist Group

Jack please put your message in this text box – you can make reference to the article below – it highlights some of the work you hope to undertake...???? Also perhaps a message about meeting members in Bishkek in late October at the World Mountain Forum – let you know if thinking of attending.

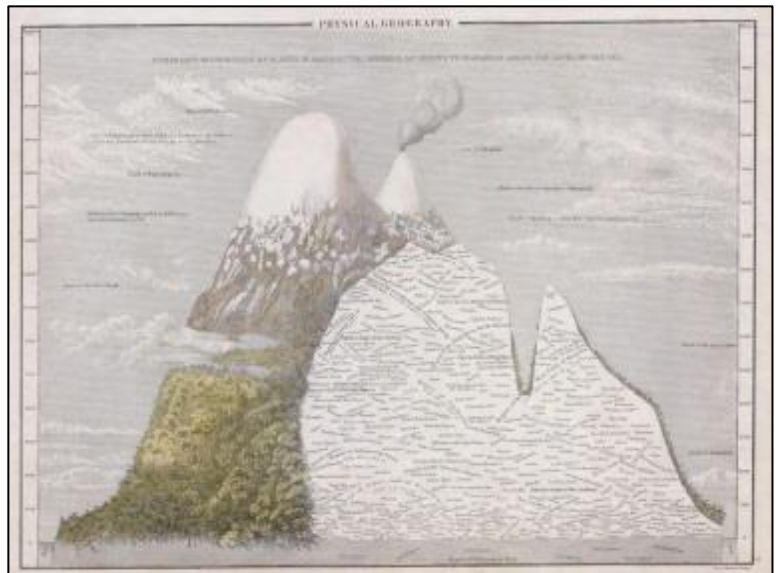
Protection going up (and down) the mountain

Taken from post on Basecamp by Paul Elsen (Connectivity Conservation SG)

Mountain ranges are biodiversity hotspots, but this diversity is currently in danger as mountain species shift their ranges up and down mountainsides under climate change.

Protection along elevational gradients has been mapped and evaluated in over **1,010 mountain ranges** to determine where protection meets the **CBD's Aichi Target 11 goal of 17% land protection**, and where it falls short.

- Nearly 40% of mountain ranges contain no strictly protected areas (IUCN category I-IV PAs)
- About 50% of mountain ranges fail to meet the 17% target at any elevation when considering strictly protected areas
- About 75% of mountain ranges fail to meet the 17% target for more than half of the elevational range when considering strictly protected areas
- Including less stringent protected areas can bolster elevational protection for most continents and many individual mountain ranges, but several ranges in biodiversity hotspots would require new or expanded PAs to increase elevational protection
- Strategic planning can dramatically reduce the amount of additional land area required under protection to meet the 17% target for all elevations



Please read the whole paper [Article PDF](#) *Global patterns of protection of elevational gradients in mountain ranges* Paul R. Elsen, William B. Monahan, and Adina M. Merenlender PNAS May 21, 2018. 201720141

Americas

Pele has awoken

From various sources: **The Guardian, US National Parks Service, Hawaii County and USGS**

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Big Island, Hawai'i remains closed since early May. Magma is draining underground from a sinking lava lake at **Kilauea's** 1,247-metre summit before flowing about 40km east and bursting from giant cracks, with two flows reaching the ocean just over 5km away.

The fresher, hotter magma will allow faster lava flows that can potentially cover more area, said a geologist with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Much of the lava that has emerged so far may have been underground for decades, perhaps since a 1955 eruption. Meanwhile, more explosive eruptions from the summit are possible.

"We have no way of knowing whether this is really the beginning or toward the end of this eruption. We're kind of all, right now, in this world of uncertainty" University of Hawaii volcanologist

Though lava destruction from the volcano is confined to a roughly 26 square km area, the eruption is hurting the island's tourist-driven economy as potential visitors fear ash fall or volcanic smog belching from Kilauea's summit.

"Pele has awoken and is wreaking her destruction upon us, but I never forget that without her I would not have this beautiful place to call home," Collier, a tourism operator said. "We all understand the balance of these forces here on Hawaii island." If tourism falters much longer, Collier reasoned, there's still plenty of work in the astronomy industry located on Mauna Kea, a 4207m dormant volcano - the largest peak in the world when measured from its base on the seabed.

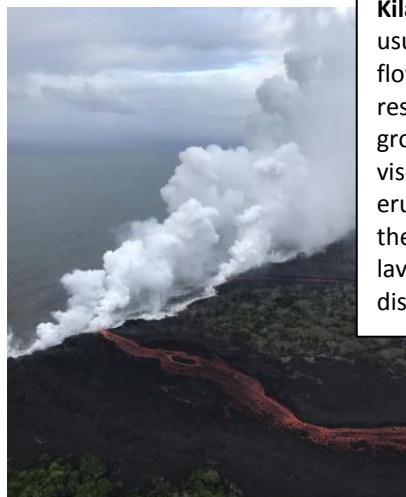


Photo: *Hawaiian Volcano Observatory*

Kilauea is a shield volcano a type of volcano usually composed almost entirely of fluid lava flows. It is named for its low profile, resembling a warrior's shield lying on the ground. This is caused by the highly fluid (low viscosity) lava, which travels farther than lava erupted from a stratovolcano, and results in the steady accumulation of broad sheets of lava, building up the shield volcano's distinctive form. wikipedia



Photo: *Santiago Billy/AP*

Fuego is a stratovolcano, also known as a composite volcano is a conical volcano built up by many layers (strata) of hardened lava, tephra, pumice, and volcanic ash. They are characterized by a steep profile and periodic explosive and effusive eruptions. wikipedia

Fuego means fire

From **Guardian & ABC June 5**

In the most violent eruption of Guatemala's Fuego volcano in more than four decades it is unknown how people have been killed and injured. Fuego spewed an 8km (five-mile) stream of lava and belched a thick plume of black smoke and ash that rained on to the capital and other regions. Dozens of communities on the southern slopes of Fuego were buried in a searing mix of mud, ash and rocks as the explosions continued for over 16 hours.

The director of Guatemala's seismological, volcanic and meteorological institute, warned of the danger of mud flows, saying: "Temperatures in the pyroclastic flow can exceed 700 degrees [Celsius] and volcanic ash can rain down on a 15km (nine-mile) radius. That could cause more mud flows and nearby rivers to burst their banks."

An estimated 1.7 million people – just over 10% of the population – are at risk from ash, toxic gases and waste emanating from the eruption.

Healthy mountains and ancestral water canals

Adapted from The Mountain Institute and The Mountain Partnership, May 2018

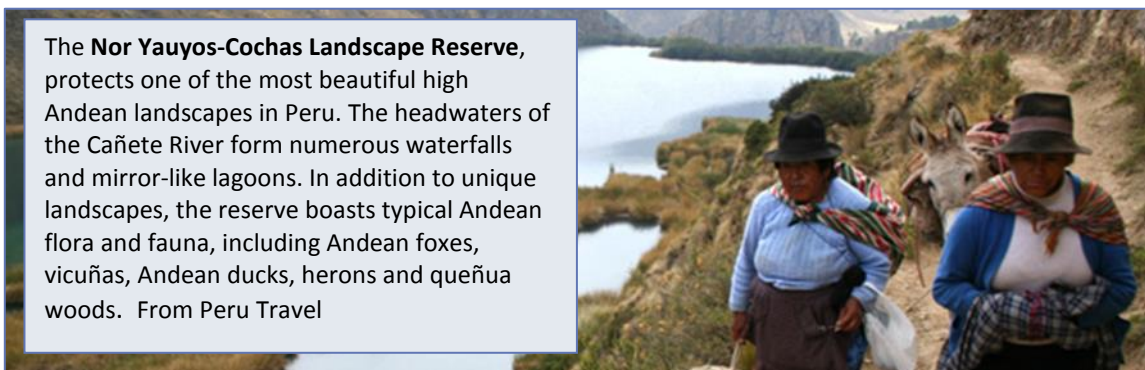
In 2013, The Mountain Institute, Peru, began working with communities in the **Nor-Yauyos Cochis Landscape Reserve** affected by increasing water scarcity.



They discovered the existence of a vast, complex and partially abandoned hydraulic system to manage water in the alpine high-plateau, or puna. Initiated as early as 100 BC, these systems were used extensively until about 1532. Through a complex system of dams and open earth canals, the systems increased soil and ground water storage, creating niche plant communities for camelid herds, and improved water supplies to irrigation systems.

Based on the experience and evidence gained, [The Mountain Institute](#) proposes to reduce the vulnerability of mountain communities to increasing water scarcity by restoring ancestral hydraulic systems and principles.

This project is the 2018 winner of the St Andrews Prize for the Environment. Their winning project integrates 2,000 years of indigenous knowledge of water management in the Andes with contemporary science and technology to create hybrid solutions that improve water security, support livelihoods, strengthen communities and increase ecosystem-wide resilience in mountain communities.



The **Nor Yauyos-Cochas Landscape Reserve**, protects one of the most beautiful high Andean landscapes in Peru. The headwaters of the Cañete River form numerous waterfalls and mirror-like lagoons. In addition to unique landscapes, the reserve boasts typical Andean flora and fauna, including Andean foxes, vicuñas, Andean ducks, herons and queñua woods. From Peru Travel

Africa

A heart breaking reminder of dedication



The official site of
VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK

From BBC News April 9 and Virunga web site

Five rangers and their driver have been killed in an ambush by suspected rebels operating in the **Virunga National Park** in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Virunga, Africa's oldest national park, boasts Africa's most diverse wildlife habitat and is home to endangered mountain gorillas. Some of eastern DR Congo's armed groups are also based in the park, where they often poach animals. Virunga is home to about a quarter of the world's remaining 880 mountain gorillas, as well as lions, elephants and hippos.

More than 130 park rangers have been killed in the park since 1996. The Fallen Rangers project was launched to provide a financial safety net for widows and children of Virunga rangers killed in the line of duty. A ranger's greatest fear is not losing his life, but the impact their death will have on family members left behind.

Donations or contributions can be made at virunga.org/donate

Mount Elgon – a volcanic giant of transboundary conservation significance

From network member *Dr. Jacqueline N. Kariithi*. Since undertaking her PHD **Developing Responsible Nature based Tourism at the Mount Elgon region of Kenya: Integrated Approaches (2016)** *Jacqueline* has expanded the research themes from a tourism development perspective to a holistic analysis of communities living at the Mount Elgon region.



Mount Elgon is located on the Kenya-Uganda border and is the oldest and largest solitary volcanic mountain in East Africa. At 4321m Mt Elgon is Kenya's 2nd highest mountain with vegetation zones including savannah grasslands, woodlands, afro-montane forests, moorland and high alpine forests. These support an exceptionally high diversity of plants and animals of global importance. The Mount Elgon ecosystem is also vital for water catchment in Kenya.

Mount Elgon National Park, Mount Elgon Forest Reserve and Chepkitale National Reserve have defined the landscape's essential character.

The ethnically diverse communities are predominantly small scale farmers but they also practice tourism, beekeeping, hunting and gathering in the forest reserves. Despite being richly endowed, the landscape faces several challenges including but not limited to, human-wildlife conflict, anthropogenic pressures and ecological degradation.

In the short and long term, one of the complexities that need to be unraveled will be to find ways of sustainably managing the competing interests of stakeholders with different livelihood activities and differing levels of agency and ownership of its natural resources.



The action points *Jacqueline Kariithi* hopes to achieve both in the short-term and long-term through participatory action research and collaboration of key stakeholders can be summarised as follows:

1. Work with local postgraduate students to develop projects to mitigate tradeoffs among food production, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem service provision and poverty alleviation.
2. Encourage community driven initiatives that will integrate landscape management into livelihood activities – for example local tour guides work with agencies such as Kenya Wildlife Service to ensure minimal ecological impact as they carry out their services. Communities have gained through additional direct income, expanded their skills in hosting visitors and opened up other avenues of economic benefits.
3. Develop a locally based, research body that will define projects and initiatives that will work at a landscape scale. Support plans to build a research centre nearby Mt Elgon National Park that will be structured with a local community centred focus.

Jacqueline is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University. *Jacqueline* who is also a member of the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS) is seeking to increase her networks and contacts of experts in the Mountains Specialist Group. This includes those working in the fields of landscape conservation in mountainous areas with emphasis on integrating the human dimensions of conservation into the current body of knowledge and intellectual debates. Email address: jnkariithi@gmail.com

Australia

Brumbies, wild horses, feral horses...political ponies?

Adapted from the Australian Guardian, May 2018, Parks Victoria and NSW Office of the Environment

Australia has a curious relationship with its wild horses. In the Northern Territory and Western Australia, where the majority of the estimated 300,000 feral horses in Australia can be found, they are routinely shot from helicopters as part of aerial culling that also targets other introduced species such as pigs, buffalo and donkeys.

But in the **Australian Alps** straddling the border between New South Wales and Victoria, the attitude to **wild horses** is confused by folk lore, emotion and politics.

The New South Wales government scrapped a recommendation from its own environment department to cull **brumby** numbers in **Kosciuszko National Park** by up to 90% and instead introduced legislation to recognise their cultural and heritage significance and ensure they are protected as an ongoing part of the park's landscape.

In contrast the Victorian government has signed off on a plan to remove more than 1,200 **feral horses** from the **Alpine National Park**, saying the impact of the animals on sensitive ecosystems has reached critical levels.

The Victorian environment minister has endorsed a plan to remove up to 400 **feral horses** a year for three years from Victoria's eastern alps, where as many as 2,500 of the animals are causing "significant damage" to threatened plant and animal species.

A smaller population of 80 to 100 horses in the Bogong High Plains (**Alpine NP**) will be removed entirely. The government's preference is to trap and rehome the animals but where that is not possible, it says they will be humanely euthanised.

Ed Note: This is an ongoing story of political point scoring between state governments and opposing political parties...in a country such as Australia where we have access to both the impact science and appropriate management actions we have fallen short of best practice feral animal control to protect our precious alpine environments in the Australian Alps.

Asia

A flowering in shola sky islands...once every 12 years!

From network member **Mohan Alembath** and the Project Plan developed to protect the Munnar Hills, Kerala, India. Project partners: Forest Department, HRWEPA (tea plantation managers), Wildlife Trust of India and IUCN WCA

This year between August and October there will be an outburst of flowering of *Strobilanthus kunthianus* (*neelakurinji*) when the entire Mannar Hills landscape will be carpeted in blue – this amazing phenomenon only happens every 12 years and is expected to draw huge crowds from all over India. Past experiences have shown that these uncontrolled crowds wreak enormous damage to the high altitude ecosystems exemplified by **Eravikulam National Park**.

In addition to trampling and removal of plants some other threats in the context of flowering season include: hostility towards nature conservation due to over-crowding and unpleasant visitor experience; poor understanding of the ecosystem among local stakeholders especially tourism industry; and disruption of normal life of local people especially those of tribes due to traffic jams, crowding, waste generation and littering.



The final Victorian plan states that its aim is to strike a balance between the need for protection of environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage, the humane treatment of feral horses, and "social expectations for either a continued heritage connection to the 'brumby' or their management".

"The impacts of feral horses in the Alpine National Park and other contiguous areas have now reached critical levels, and without intervention horses will continue to cause long-term and severe degradation of wetlands and waterways and prevent the recovery of these areas".



Earlier this year *Mohan Alembath* received at least 20 responses to his request for assistance from the WCPA Mountain Specialist Group. ***“The response was wonderful. We have got many points, which we will incorporate in our plan for the occasion. The corner stones are trained volunteers and conservation education. It's has been a great learning experience for us. We are far more confident now.”***

The Plan recognises the enormous visibility offered by the upcoming neelakurinji flowering with opportunities for conservation agencies, resource managers and other stakeholders to work together to ensure that responsible tourism activities are practised both by visitors and hosts of the region. Just some of the Plan activities are:

1. **Capacity building of regional stakeholders:** Training modules in ecological awareness, and crowd management in local language for each target group
2. **Public awareness campaign:** Online and digital campaign to be initiated using mobile apps, Social Networking Groups, short videos, posters, presentations; Involvement of print and visual media; Partnership with local schools and colleges; Brand ambassadors; and Programmes with artists and writers
 - **My kurinji; My Pride campaign:** A campaign to target the local stake holders
 - **Online promotions:** A website on *kurinji* flowering - website and apps to provide live information to visitors on planning their trip, accommodation, traffic, parking, transfers etc.
 - **Live updates (KurinjiLive):** Setting up screens at main entry points for live updates and live broadcast of flowering with conservation messages
3. **On-site centre for visitors:** Hub for providing information, volunteer coordination, resource mobilizing etc.
4. **Providing operational support:** Support to Forest Department and district administration to manage the crowd during the flowering season through public awareness, volunteering etc.
5. **Media sensitisation and media partnership:** Build partnership with prominent media exclusively for covering the flowering

Neelakurinji is a conspicuous representative of grassland-shola ecosystem found above 2000m. These areas offer unparalleled aesthetic values and form an important catchment of two major rivers. Apart from charismatic mammals like elephant and tiger, the *neelakurinji* ecosystem harbours endemic and endangered mammals like Nilgiri tahr, Nilgiri marten, Nilgiri langur and birds like Nilgiri pipit, black and orange flycatcher. Ten of the 13 species of reptiles are endemic to the Western Ghats. The area is also exceptionally rich in endemic *Impatiens* spp and frogs.

Europe

The Carpathians...a unique natural treasure



The Carpathians are one of Europe's largest mountain ranges of great beauty and natural value - a major ecological, economic, cultural, recreational and living environment in the heart of Europe, shared by numerous people and countries. <http://www.carpathianconvention.org>

Did you know (...I certainly didn't)?

- 36 national parks, 51 nature parks and protected landscape areas, 19 biosphere reserves and 200 other protected areas are members of the Carpathian Network of Protected areas
- European Union's largest populations of brown bears, wolves, lynx, European bisons and imperial eagles (globally threatened species) are found in the Carpathians!
- 1/3 of all European vascular plant species can be found in the Carpathians - that means almost 4,000 plant species, and 481 of them are found only in the Carpathians!
- **Gerlachovsky Peak** (2,655 m altitude) in the **High Tatras** in Slovak Republic is the highest peak of the Carpathians
- The Carpathian Convention is a subregional treaty to foster the sustainable development and the protection of the Carpathian region. It has been signed in May 2003 by seven Carpathian States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine)

Can wild nature really come back?

From Rewilding Europe www.rewildingeurope.com

On the Croatian Adriatic coast, **Velebit** is one of the most important natural areas in the Balkans.

It hosts 2 national parks, a biosphere reserve and several wonderful old-growth forests, deep canyons, ancient open lands and exciting wildlife like Balkan chamois, red deer, brown bear, wolf and lynx. There is an extraordinary diversity of different habitats, from barren Mediterranean landscapes at sea level, via vast beech forest of central European type, to almost boreal systems and alpine grasslands at higher altitudes.



But many areas of this beautiful region are now characterised by land abandonment, rural exodus and fading cultural tradition. Rewilding Europe is working with local partners to transform these challenges into opportunities.

This has seen the establishment of the 17,000-hectare **Velebit Nature Reserve**, situated between two large national parks. Here rewilding is offering a fresh approach to wildlife management and underpinning the development of a local nature-based economy, creating a wildlife and ecological corridor in the heart of the **Velebit mountains**.

A recent grant from Patagonia (outdoor gear & clothing company) has allowed pond restoration to be carried out by the Rewilding Velebit local team in cooperation with the **Velebit Nature Park**. These are a vital resource for increasing local wildlife populations, especially in the dry summer months, until greater connectivity has been established between drier parts of the mountain range and natural freshwater sources.



Scree and Talus

Beat Plastic Pollution

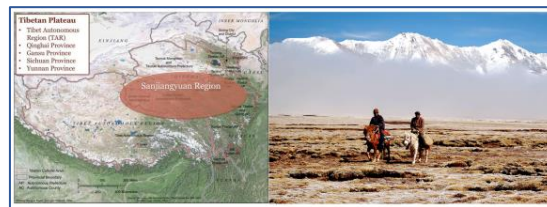
Taken from World Environment Day message Director General International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

As mountain areas change, as manufactured goods and visitors from outside flood mountain villages, towns, and trekking routes in increasing numbers, many places find themselves overwhelmed by indiscriminately discarded garbage. From the kora around **Mt Kailash** to the slopes of **Mt Everest**, the natural beauty of these landscapes are blighted by unsightly piles of wrappers, bottles, bags, and other garbage.

Some of the garbage from our mountain areas make it into our river systems and eventually to the oceans. The bits that stay behind in the mountains also cause severe problems – ranging from local soil and water pollution to dangerously high levels of air pollution resulting from emissions caused by burning plastics. Unfortunately, the practice of setting piles of garbage on fire is very common, and often done in the mornings and evenings when smoke spreads horizontally, into homes and lungs.

Burning plastic releases large quantities of toxins as well as black carbon, as we recently discovered in a study coordinated by ICIMOD. Black carbon warms the atmosphere and contributes to the melting of Himalayan glaciers and snowfields. Go to ICIMOD to read the whole message

Lessons for China's Belt and Road Initiative



From *Marc Foggin (Land 2018, 7(2), 52)*

Observations from the vast, high, arid, and semi-arid lands of the Tibetan Plateau are considered in light of China's Belt and Road Initiative. Special attention is given to applying the lessons that have been learned in China to the mountains of Central Asia, globally recognized as a biodiversity hotspot and a water tower for large downstream populations.

Keeping local people at the heart of conservation is deemed fundamentally important.

Foggin, J.M. Environmental Conservation in the Tibetan Plateau Region: Lessons for China's Belt and Road Initiative in the Mountains of Central Asia. [Read the whole article](#)

Belt & Road Initiative — the biggest development venture ever to occur on Earth

From **Bill Laurance, Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science, James Cook University, Australia**

The Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) will change the world—economically, geopolitically, and environmentally. And it is overwhelmingly driven by, and revolves around, China. Learn more in this national-radio interview in Australia when Bill explains about the BRI. [BRI Radio Interview](#)

The hills are alive with the signs of plastic

From **Australian Guardian April 2018**

Major study finds microplastics (fragments under 5mm in size) in soil across Switzerland and scientists warn urgent research is needed into impacts on food safety as other countries may be worse affected. Micro plastic soil contamination was found in 90% of the soils even in remote areas of the Swiss Alps, leading scientists to conclude it must be windborne.

Research on microplastic pollution has largely concentrated on the oceans, in which it is found across the globe, including the Arctic. The particles have been shown to harm marine life and can absorb toxins from the water.

Logging = less drinking water

Melbourne's water supply is at risk because decades of logging and forest loss from large bushfires has triggered the imminent collapse of the mountain ash forests in Victoria's central highlands, ecologists have warned. New research led by Prof David Lindenmayer of the Australian National University has found the ecosystem has already begun to undergo a "hidden collapse", meaning it may appear superficially intact, but the lag time in recovering old-growth forests – the linchpin in preserving mountain ash ecosystems – "means that collapse is almost inevitable".

Elusive wolf

The Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) is Africa's most endangered carnivore, and arguably the world's most endangered canid. Listed as endangered, this charismatic species exists only in the highlands of Ethiopia. This species has benefitted greatly from conservation efforts. Much of the wolf's existing habitat is now preserved, and public awareness has caused threats from hunting to subside. IUCN

France to host IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020

The French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition and IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature have agreed to jointly organise the next IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in June 2020 in Marseille.

Can Conservation Corridors Save Nature?

Mason Campbell, James Cook University, Australia Alert March 2018

Ecosystems are being rapidly fragmented as the human footprint spreads across the Earth. A notable exception is the [Highway 304 Wildlife Corridor](#) currently under construction in Thailand. Despite initial concerns, there are some reasons for optimism. Upon completion, the corridor will link two major forest blocks that comprise an area of biological magnificence — the **Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex**, a renowned World Heritage site. The two forest blocks have been isolated by a major highway and associated land development, illegal logging, and wildlife poaching. Linking the two forest blocks could improve survival prospects for critically-endangered Indochinese Tigers. This would be a vital leap forward – as this is one of only two places on Earth where Indochinese Tigers are known to breed.

As a feat of engineering, the corridor is impressive. The most important segment includes 430 m of vehicle tunnels, 570 m of elevated roadway, and many mini-culverts below the road for small wildlife.

Thailand Department of Highways is also funding ranger stations at key points along the corridor, to help deter wildlife poachers and illegal loggers. But a conservation corridor like this is very expensive - over US\$41 million has been invested, and the project isn't completed yet.



Walking Mountains is non-profit organisation which provides locals and visitors with opportunities to explore nature, gain a scientific understanding, and learn about the many wonders of our mountain environment through natural science and sustainability programs.

Their mission is to: *awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and sustainability through natural science education.* [Click here to view all the programs](#)



Nature Conservation, Ecuador

A recent study was designed to identify the most important areas for biodiversity conservation in mainland Ecuador that can contribute to preserving key species (i.e. endemic, threatened) and ecosystems in the wider landscape, thus complementing current conservation efforts.

It found major conservation shortfalls of the National System of Protected Areas (PANE) were concentrated in the Southern Andes, Central Amazonia, and the Central and Southern portions of the Coastal plain.

In conclusion despite national and subnational conservation strategies developed in Ecuador to conserve its biodiversity, including PANE and the SocioBosque communal and private conservation agreements, further actions are needed to mitigate and reverse the effects of threats for the persistence of biodiversity.

[Priority areas for biodiversity conservation in mainland Ecuador](#), Neotropical Biodiversity Journal, Vol 3, March 2017

The mountain will be saved

From **ABC News, Australia**

Thousands of people descended on Cascade Gardens in South Hobart to protest against a plan to run a cable car up to the summit of **Mount Wellington-kunanyi**.

The speakers included Tasmanian author Richard Flanagan and former Australian Greens leader Bob Brown. They said the process for the cable car development had been corrupt and lacking transparency and community consultation.

"The cable car company says they'll take the kids free up to the top of the mountain. Well, I've got some news — the mountain's always been free. Kids have been enjoying it forever and I was one of them. I've walked all over it, camped in snow caves as a kid, I climb the zig-zag most weeks, I've watched the snow swirl round the columns of the organ pipes and I've walked on into the wonder." Bob Brown

"kunanyi is in our safekeeping and kunanyi will be saved from this cable car"
Twitter: Bob Brown



Photo: Mt Wellington Rod Atkins



Can Hohe Tauern National Park inspire Svydovets massif protection?

From [European Wilderness Society](#)

The high-mountain zone of the **Svydovets Massif** is exceptionally significant for biodiversity conservation in the Carpathians. The area is characterized by unique low-disturbed high-mountain glacial landscapes, valuable hydrological objects, old-grown and virgin forests of high conservation value, habitats and populations of dozens of threatened plant and animal species.

In Austria the plan to develop hydropower plans across the whole alps was the starting point of the creation of the largest Austrian National Park **Hohe Tauern**. The idea to build a mega ski resort in the Ukrainian Carpathians could be the trigger to establish the "**Central Svydovets Massif**" Nature Protected Area of national importance which would protect the natural environment and biodiversity on the planned for future generations.

Earlier this year the Scientific council of the Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians submitted an official request to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources of Ukraine regarding creation of the Protected Areas on the territory of **Massif Svydovets**.

Heritage Interpretation

From **Europark**

Cultural identity is rooted in the connection to the land. Throughout the Year, the EUROPARC Federation and Interpret Europe will organise several events. Parks are also invited to organise events to celebrate the European Year of Cultural Heritage - all information available in the [official website](#).



Cryosphere Monitoring

From **ICIMOD**

Changes in Himalayan glaciers are among the earliest indications of a changing climate. To develop and implement sustainable cryosphere monitoring in the region, the initiative and its implementing partners in Nepal and Bhutan have established a Cryosphere Monitoring Programme (CMP-HKH) to monitor the cryosphere and assess cryosphere water resources and scenarios for future water availability. [Knowledge Brokering to Monitor the Third Pole](#)

What is a mountain?

From MRI Global Newsletter June 2018

Published in the Journal of Mountain Science in May, *Mapping mountain areas: learning from Global, European, and Norwegian perspectives* explores the various delineations of mountains that have been prepared at global, regional (Europe), and national scales.



MRI interviewed paper author Martin Price “As a Professor of Mountain Studies, I am often asked *what is a mountain?* This question has been the topic of many debates – and this paper aims to provide some answers. These derive particularly from the availability of geographic information systems and digital elevation/terrain models as tools for analysis over the last two decades.”

[Price, M., Arnesen, T., Gløersen, E., & Metzger, M.J. \(2018\). 'Mapping mountain areas: learning from Global, European and Norwegian perspectives.' *Journal of Mountain Science*. 10.1007/s11629-018-4916-3.](#)

Some events and meetings of interest

4 - 8 June, Kunming, Yunnan, China The Centre for Mountain Ecosystem Studies (CMES), together with the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) 2nd International Conference on Mountain Futures, with a focus on "**Ecosystem Rhythms, Land Systems, and Sustainable Livelihoods**". [Conference website](#)

5 – 8 June TransParcNet Meeting, Retz, Austria. The annual meeting of EUROPARC network of Transboundary Parks (the TransParcNet) "**River Landscape Area Protection**" More information soon on EUROPARC website.

12 – 14 June Chamonix France **Sustainable Summits Conference** [Mountain tourism and human impacts - Sustainable Mountains Summit 2018](#)

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

<http://www.thinkingmountains.ca>



14-17 October [2018 International Parks Congress](#), Melbourne, Australia. Parks and Leisure Australia

14-18 October: **Forum Carpathicum 2018** Eger, Hungary. Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of S4C. An event that will highlight science in the Carpathian ecological region.

23 – 26 October: **Fourth World Mountain Forum** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan “Mountains in a changing world: strengthening partnership and pathways towards a thriving mountain future” will be hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan with support from the Government of Switzerland, University of Central Asia and Aga Khan Foundation. This fourth forum will bring together the global mountain community to enable strategic and timely dialogue on some of the most pertinent challenges facing sustainable mountain development. Participants will strive to identify and develop solutions for mountain areas globally. The fourth World Mountain Forum will have a special emphasis on the mountains of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. More information [online](#).

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

Important Links

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

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/mountains/mountain-protected-area-update>

IUCN World Conservation Congress www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org

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

The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. www.mountainpartnership.org

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!



Climbers on the summit of Mount Taisenzan in the Kuju Mountains, Japan Photo: The Asahi Shimbun