

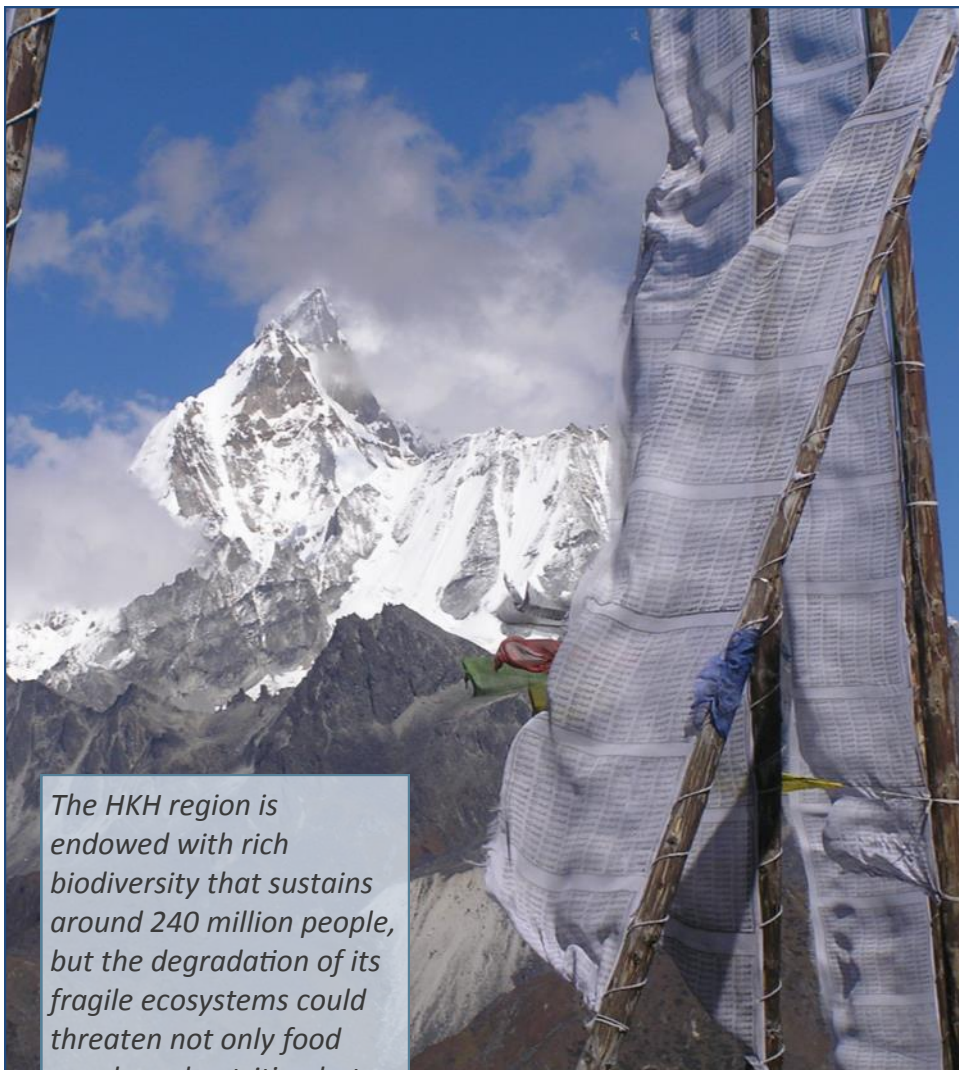
Mountain Protected Areas

UPDATE

June 2019 # 102

A note from the editor

Welcome to the 102 edition of the UPDATE, another mix of stories and articles from around the world—from an inspiring short film *Territory of Life* about community conservation areas to the impact of Instagram and ‘selfies’. There are good news stories and the of course the usual bad news stories—but please read on as hopefully there will be something to interest you? Thank you to all that contributed. And don’t forget it is World Environment Day on June 5—a time for raising environmental awareness and action...happy reading!



The HKH region is endowed with rich biodiversity that sustains around 240 million people, but the degradation of its fragile ecosystems could threaten not only food supply and nutrition but also traditional practices and knowledge.

ICIMOD Director

In this issue

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From *People and Mountains around the world:*

Global

Geoparks = sense of pride for local communities

From UNESCO & MNN

Geoparks often use an area's natural and cultural heritage to draw attention to issues such as sustainability, climate change and risk of natural disasters. Attention and funds are brought to the area through geotourism, allowing communities to showcase natural areas while protecting them.

[UNESCO's global geopark network](#) recently added eight new sites and approved the extension of three existing sites, bringing the total to 147 geoparks in 41 countries. The new geoparks are in Asia, Europe and South America.

Here are just three new geoparks of interest to mountain enthusiasts:

Kütralkura UNESCO Global Geopark, Chile

Located 700 km south of Santiago, the new global park in Kütralkura, Chile, has some of the world's most extensive volcano activity. The city's name means stone (kura) and fire (kutral) in the language of the indigenous Mapuche people of the area.

The geopark's iconic peaks are mostly comprised of active volcanoes such as Llaima (right), Lonquimay, Tolhuaca and Nevados de Sollipulli, as well as an extinct volcano, the Sierra Nevada. Thick ice sheets that once partially covered the area have been shrinking for the last 20,000 years.



Photo: © Cristian Levy/Amity Tours Chile

Jiuhuashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Jiuhuashan translates to "nine glorious mountains," and four of these mountains have sacred Buddhist temples on their peaks. Situated in the Qingyang County of China's Anhui province, these mountains are a major source of the water that feeds the Yangtze river system. As recently as 2016, the area and its religious sites drew 9.9 million visitors, which was a major economic contributor to the local communities.



Photo: © Jiuhuashan UNESCO Global Geopark

Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark, Ecuador

Known for its many lakes, like Cuicocha above, the Imbabura geopark is located in the northern inter-Andean region of Ecuador. The area is also home to various geological formations, such as the Peguche waterfalls, and its highest point is the Cotacachi Volcano at 4,939 meters. Ibarra, the province capital, includes colonial towns and indigenous villages, which attract thousands of visitors annually.



Photo: © Imbabura UNESCO Global Geopark

Global

Disappearing World Heritage Glaciers

From IUCN April 2019 News

Glaciers are set to disappear completely from almost half of World Heritage sites if business-as-usual emissions continue, according to the first-ever global study of World Heritage glaciers, co-authored by scientists from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The sites are home to some of the world’s most iconic glaciers, such as the Grosser Aletschgletscher in the Swiss Alps, Khumbu Glacier in the Himalayas or Greenland’s Jakobshavn Isbrae.

The study, ‘[Disappearing World Heritage glaciers as a keystone of nature conservation in a changing climate](#)’, combines data from a global glacier inventory, a review of existing literature and sophisticated computer modelling to analyse the current state of World Heritage glaciers, their recent evolution, and their projected mass change over the 21st century. The authors predict glacier extinction by 2100 under a high emission scenario in 21 of the 46 natural World Heritage sites where glaciers are currently found. Even under a low emission scenario, 8 of the 46 World Heritage sites will be ice-free by 2100. The study also expects that 33% to 60% of the total ice volume present in 2017 will be lost by 2100, depending on the emission scenario.

“Losing these iconic glaciers would be a tragedy and have major consequences for the availability of water resources, sea level rise and weather patterns,” said **Peter Shadie, Director of IUCN’s World Heritage Programme**. *“This unprecedented decline could also jeopardise the listing of the sites in question on the World Heritage list. States must reinforce their commitments to combat climate change and step up efforts to preserve these glaciers for future generations.”*



Jungfrau—Aletsch WHS Switzerland photo: *peopleinnature*

Rock stacking-environmental graffiti?

Editors Note—a recent article in MNN reminded me about why I dislike rock stacking so much...what do you think?

People are stacking rocks with little understanding of the environment or landscape they're in — whether the site has any wildlife, cultural or historic significance.

Stacked rocks in the shape of cairns have long been used as path-indicators, but when it's done for fun, it can confuse other hikers. And in some places cairns have historical significance, so creating new ones amounts to defacing a piece of history. (Blue Planet Society)

You're now confusing that (culture/history) with personal statements that really mean nothing.

Most of us go to natural spaces to leave the human-dominated world behind. Stacking rocks and leaving them for others to see is a kind of environmental graffiti. "You don't need to come and leave your mark on the wilderness," says Nick (Wicked Wildlife), reminding us all of the virtues of "leave no trace" wilderness ethics.



Dolomites Italy



Vanoise NP France

America-north

Cascade Mountains

From *Denise Jones Wilburforce*

New to Cascade Mountains, at the intersection of an east-west transportation corridor and a north-south wildlife migration corridor, a monumental project combining conservation, collaboration, and innovation led to the construction of North America's largest wildlife crossings project in conjunction with major infrastructure improvements for motorists.

Cascade Crossroads is a 30-minute documentary film chronicling the story unfolding over and under Interstate 90 just east of Snoqualmie Pass in Washington's Cascade Mountains - *it's a good news story: [CascadeCrossroads](#)* – so check it out!

The I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project, and the wildlife crossings and roadway improvements within it, is a win-win for people and animals that offers a new model for major infrastructure projects bisecting wild places.

Hopefully this unique story but also **inspire action in other landscapes facing similar tensions between wildlife and roadways.**

Denali's frozen rivers of waste

From *MNN Bryan Nelson*

For decades, tourists, adventure athletes, and nature-lovers have flocked to Alaska's **Denali National Park** to explore North America's highest peak. And where human traffic tends to accumulate, so too accumulates human waste.

Luckily, the vast Denali wilderness offers something of a solution to this problem, albeit a short-sighted one: frozen-over latrines in the form of glacial runoff. All that waste gets conveniently entombed in ice and slowly carried off the mountain as its glaciers slide ever-so-gradually toward their final destination, the sea.

As the Arctic thaws at an alarming rate, Alaska's icy rivers are becoming liquefied, which means they're moving faster and will discharge their forbidden cargo sooner than expected.

Michael Loso, is a National Park Service glaciologist who's been studying the problem of climber excrement on the mountain for close to a decade. "One of the consequences of warming temperatures is that the surface of the glacier is melting more quickly."



Photo: Denali National Park and Preserve/Wikimedia

Loso has performed experiments that show how buried faeces inevitably resurface downstream on the surface of a glacier, and the stinky repercussions are unpleasant. There could also be real health hazards, as the parasite-laden melted sewage becomes biologically active.

New regulations are being instituted to require hikers to clean up and carry out their own waste, but there's little that can be done about the decades of muck that's already well on its way.

It's a pungent reminder that we can never truly escape our own waste, even when its deposited in places as vast as the Alaskan wilderness, or the ocean (e.g., plastic pollution), or Earth's atmosphere (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions). We've got to deal with our future problems today.

Unfortunately, we'll have to do it while also dealing with the centuries of environmental neglect from our past.

America-south

Network for Research on Mountain Environments of Latin America and the Caribbean

From Fausto Sarmiento Mountain Specialist Group

Researchers and other professionals from Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and Argentina participating in the Mountains 2018 International Conference held in Nova Friburgo (Dec 2018), agreed, supporting the Charter of Nova Friburgo, to establish the **Network for Research on Mountain Environments of Latin America and the Caribbean (LACARMOREN)**.

This network will be linked to the Mountain Partnership, which has offered to provide support at different levels, including communication, engaging with other organizations, and fund-raising. LACARMOREN will definitely include research in Mountain Protected Areas of the hemisphere, so will link with IUCN WCPA Mountain group as well as Mountain Research Initiative (MRI).

Adriana Aquino (Brazil), Francisca Carvajal (Chile) and *Fausto Sarmiento* (USA) are the co-coordinators of the recently created LACARMOREN.

Some feedback—Past Plant Diversity, Climate Change and Mountain Conservation

From conference blog

Fausto Sarmiento organized the international conference in Cuenca, Ecuador, and gave a great presentation on how multiple disciplines MUST come together if we are to be effective in conservation strategies.

What was really great was to see the turnout from university students from across Ecuador. They are the ones who know these systems the best (it is their home), and they are the ones who have the real power to make a difference at the level of local and regional government. I hope the data we showed them inspires them to become proactive at saving these vulnerable areas.

We need more of these small meetings that involve local organizers, local government officials, and local students if we ever expect to make a real difference. I would like to thank the organizing committee and the sponsors of this meeting, and I hope they keep up this incredible momentum that I think has resulted from this conference!

[The International Conference on Past Plant Diversity, Climate Change, and Mountain Conservation](#) was aimed to address this question, with a focus on mountain (montane) species. As climate warms, there are several outcomes for montane species. They can migrate upslope, go extinct, or adapt to the warming conditions. Given these options, we got together to discuss our most recent datasets, and the best strategies for the conservation of montane species.

Ecuador endangered

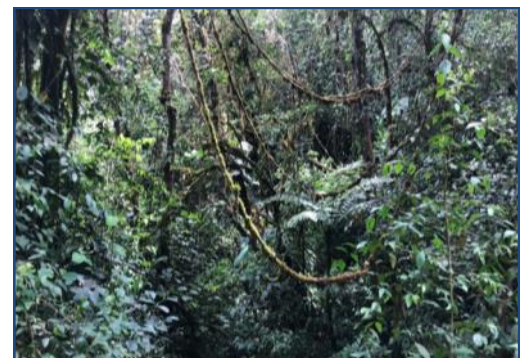
From Rainforest Information Centre & Oceania News

ECUADOR ENDANGERED is one of RIC's current main campaigns – to rescind over two million hectares of mining concessions secretly handed out on protected rainforests and indigenous territories in Ecuador, which cover some of the most biodiverse landscapes on Earth.

Many of these exploratory concessions are in previously protected forests and indigenous territories, as well in headwater ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots of global importance. Additionally, many of these concessions appear to be in violation of Ecuadorian law and international treaties.

[Our petition](#) – please sign!

[Our crowdfund](#) – please donate!



Oceania—Australia

Protecting long term monitoring in Australian Alps

From Research Centre for Applied Alpine Ecology News April 2019

One of the oldest ecological monitoring sites in Australia will now be protected into the future. “Maisie’s Plots”, on the Bogong High Plains in the **Alpine National Park**, were established in 1944 by pioneering ecologist Maisie Fawcett to study the impacts of cattle grazing on alpine wetlands and rangelands.

By constructing a low fence, cows could be excluded and their impacts assessed. This was done over six decades by a small army of scientists, students and volunteers.

**In 2005, the cattle were removed and the fence removed.
But a new threat emerged – Sambar Deer.**

To protect the scientific heritage of Maisie’s Plots, and continue to study the impact of large ungulates on alpine ecosystems, Parks Victoria has just completed the construction of a new, taller fence designed to withstand the rigours of the alpine environment.

At 2 m high, and designed to exclude deer and feral horses, Maisie’s Plots will now continue to be one of the best reference sites in Australia for assessing long-term change in natural ecosystems. Read the article [Protecting the past by ensuring its future](#)

More on deer...some results from aerial shooting trials

From Parks Victoria June 2019

Parks Victoria has completed the second stage of the deer aerial shooting trial in the **Alpine National Park**.

135 deer were shot by professional aerial marksman in just over 18 hours of aerial shooting time. This adds to the 119 deer that were shot in the first stage of the trial in October, equating to a deer approximately every 8 minutes over the course of the trial.

The recent operation focussed on the isolated, high elevation parts of the park around Mt Bogong and the Bogong High Plains. These areas contain sensitive alpine communities with high conservation value that are very difficult to access on foot.

During both operations the air crew noticed significant track networks and large wallows that had been formed by deer.

Happy 75th Birthday? Kosciuszko National Park

From Reclaim Kosci

In April 2019 Australia celebrated the 75th anniversary of one of its most cherished and important national parks, **Kosciuszko National Park**. But the challenges faced at the time of its creation from hard-hooved animals were just as great then as they are becoming today.

Read the article 'Celebrating Kosciuszko's 75th anniversary', written by Dr Graeme Worboys [Kosciuszko our cathedral](#)



A cattlemen's field day at the Rocky Valley plots in 1954.



Maisie's Rocky Valley Plot

The aim of the trial is to determine the most efficient, cost effective and humane methods of managing deer in order to protect sensitive alpine habitats, and the unique wildlife and plants that occur in them. Parks Victoria will use the results of the trial to determine the optimal combination of deer control approaches that can be applied in future management programs.



National Heritage listed home to ancient glacial landscapes rich in alpine wildflowers and animals found nowhere else on earth

Central Asia—Himalayas

CEPF—\$8m for biodiversity hotspots in mountains of central asia

From Marc Foggin

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank – designed to help safeguard global biodiversity through support to civil society to promote conservation in targeted regions.

The CEPF will institute and manage a strategic investment with grants and capacity building in the Mountains of Central Asia hotspot, supported by a Regional Implementation Team (in the process of being selected). Around 50 small grants and 50 larger grants will be disbursed over the five-year period, starting in late 2019. The countries and region eligible for support under this initiative are northeastern Afghanistan; western China; southeastern Kazakhstan; most of the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan; southeastern Turkmenistan; eastern Uzbekistan.

The CEPF program will assess activities proposed by civil society organizations in the region, with special attention to be given to Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) – especially KBAs that are in transborder areas, those that allow for resilience to climate change, and those that allow for linkages across productive landscapes.

The Mountains of Central Asia region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, to socio-economic globalisation, and to geopolitical shifts that are increasingly affecting the region. By strengthening local civil society as well as influencing government development policies to mainstream biodiversity and to recognize protected areas as a mechanism' that can assist in adaptation to climate change – and increasing overall sustainability – the CEPF is well placed to bring much needed financial and technical support to this less-known part of the world.

Many rounds of discussions and consultations have taken place, leading to development of the CEPF investment strategy – available at [Mountains of Central Asia](#)

The WCPA Mountains Specialist Group could now benefit much from strengthening its presence in Central Asia, with CEPF and its partners; and vice-versa. Further developing new conservation approaches centred around KBA methodology and protected areas, including partnerships with local communities and indigenous people, could be advanced under this scheme. (Photos: Marc Foggin)

Dhungentar: A Resilient Mountain Village in Nepal

From ICIMOD

This pilot demonstration project is focused on building a resilient community capable of adaptation and implementing sustainable development solutions.

Importantly, the wide-ranging development and resilience-building activities will serve as a showcase for sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation in a post-disaster situation.

The project was underpinned by four basic building blocks (comprising core activities) to reinforce its primary goals:

[Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure](#)

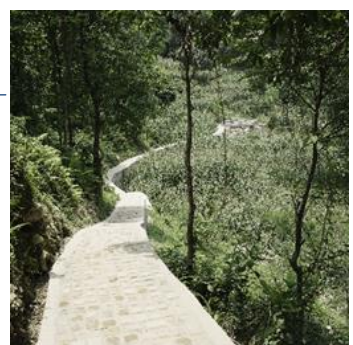
[Community Mobilization and Capacity Development](#)

[Livelihoods and Enterprise Development](#)

[Access to Services and Environment Improvement](#)



CEPF seeks to enable nongovernmental and private sector organizations to conserve vital ecosystems in the world's biodiversity hotspots. It also aims to supports development of conservation strategies driven by local input, by providing grants directly to civil society – nongovernmental, private sector and academic organizations – helping them to protect biodiversity, to build conservation leadership, and to nurture sustainable development.



Europe

Lynx Trail—creating awareness & a hiking challenge!

From **Herbert Wölger, Director, Gesäuse National Park, Kalkalpen National Park and the Dürrenstein Wilderness Area** form a region which was distinguished as Pilot Region for **Ecological Connectivity by the Alpine Convention**. The three protected areas are working on different connectivity projects.

One project is about raising awareness by creating a hiking trail. The trail is connecting the protected areas and is picking out the lynx as a central theme. Lynxes have been extirpated in Austria in the 19th century and are currently reintroduced. The new “Lynx Trail” is meant to strengthen public support for the lynx projects and the survival of these cats. The trail leads hikers during 11 days through the wild heart of the Eastern Alps and allows a glimpse of what Peter Matthiessen described in his famous novel *The Snow Leopard*.

More information on www.luchstrail.com (site soon available in English)

And more on the Lynx...in Scotland

From **The Guardian May 2019**

A plan to bring back the Eurasian lynx – *Lynx lynx* – to Britain has moved a step nearer with research that pinpoints the **Kintyre peninsula in Scotland** as the place this large carnivore has the best chance of thriving. From there, the research suggests, the lynx could spread to the rest of the Highlands over the next century.

As with most top predators, the lynx’s main enemy is man; we hunted them for fur and wiped them out before the Norman Conquest. But beavers and wild boar are back, so maybe it is the turn of the lynx.

And more on Scotland...rewilding

From **The Guardian April 2019**

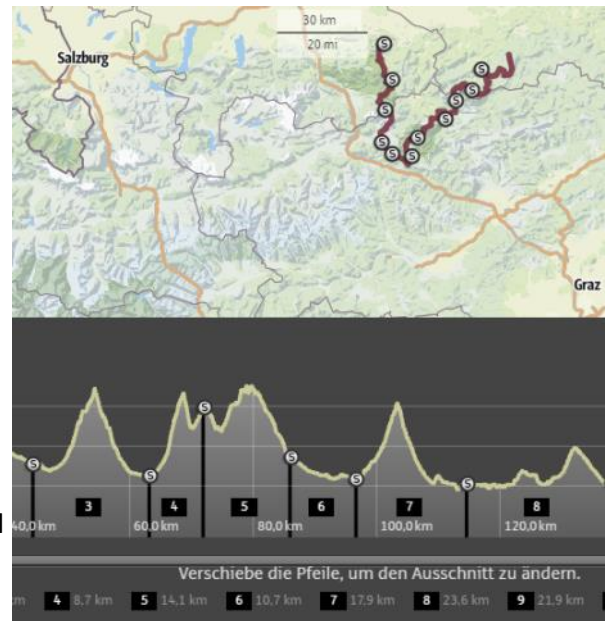
Several Danish billionaires who are now Scotland’s largest private landowners are trying to restore the Highlands for generations to come.

They own more than 80,000 hectares (200,000 acres) across Sutherland and the Grampian mountains and want to become pioneers of rewilding by reversing years of mismanagement by previous lairds.

The change of use involved removing sheep and the intensive culling of red deer – which previous lairds had allowed to proliferate to promote gun sports – to allow native woodland and species to regenerate and flourish.

But in a report for the Scottish government, the Scottish Land Commission said the heavy concentration of land ownership in a small number of hands, including private owners, charities and government agencies, constitutes a monopoly, which undermined the public interest.

The land commission’s report raises new tensions about the future of conservation policy in the Highlands. Many conservationists support landscape-level rewilding projects of the kind the Povlsens are pursuing, as it can make protecting threatened species such as golden eagles, wildcats, red squirrel or capercaillie easier.



A full-grown lynx is larger than a German Shepherd. Photograph: Arterra/UIG via Getty Images



The stalking estate of Glenfeshie is the Cairngorm home of Povlsens. Photograph: Murdo MacLeod/The Guardian

Scree and Talus

Dive every Mountain From Jim Thorsell

Thanks to advancements in satellite technology, continued efforts to learn more about the submerged worlds hidden under Earth's oceans have been rewarded with the discovery of thousands of previously uncharted seamounts. Of the 350 or so that have been sampled, they've also been found to host extremely rich ecosystems for a wide array of marine species. As a result, scientists are eager to document as many as possible in an effort to protect these biodiversity hotspots from destructive fishing and deep sea mining practices.

[Read Article](#) Mother Nature Network (MNN)

Half Dome From Science May 2019

In 2010, the **Yosemite NP, USA** began to issue permits through a random lottery to visitors interested in scaling Half Dome in the hope this would limit the number of climbers crowded together on the rails at the top, and thus improve safety.

But **the permitting appears to have made matters worse**, according to a study in press at *Wilderness & Environmental Medicine*. The permits may encourage visitors to take risks, including to keep going if they feel unwell, as they know they might not get another permit—and thus another chance to reach the top, the team speculates. Or the widespread publicity of the permitting process may attract people who are unfit or inexperienced.

OurAlps;YOUrALPS—Alpine School Model From ALPARC

More than one hundred people interested in education participated in the international conference “Learning and Networking for sustainable development in the Alps” in May.

‘Educate youth in the sense of mountain-oriented education for a sustainable future in the Alps’ - this is the motto of the approach promoted by the Alpine School Model. The innovative approach includes outdoor learning, inter-disciplinary methods and aims at integrating non-formal approaches into formal education in order to reconnect youth to their mountains.

For more information on the project YOUrALPS and its outputs:

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/youralps/en/home>

OurAlps network: <https://www.ouralps.org/en>

Gone since 1843—wild Brown bear back in Portugal From EWS News

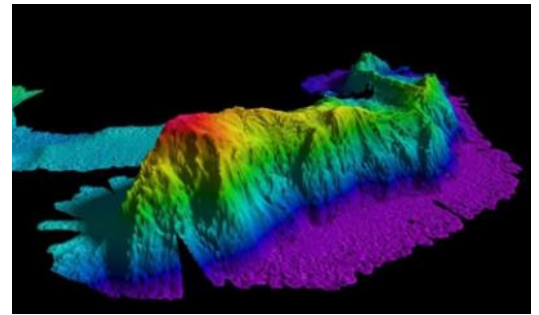
For the first time in almost 200 years, a wild brown bear has ventured into Portugal. The adult brown bear arrived from the Spanish bear population, which is slowly making a comeback. The **Montesinho Natural Park**, where authorities confirmed the presence of the bear, is very happy to have to brown bear wandering in their park.

2020 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change history and take a global step forward towards a new, truly sustainable relationship with nature, one based on respect for wilderness, the future, and ourselves. In October 2020, the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity will convene in China to set new targets for the amount of lands and seas that need protection (currently, 17% terrestrial and 10% marine).

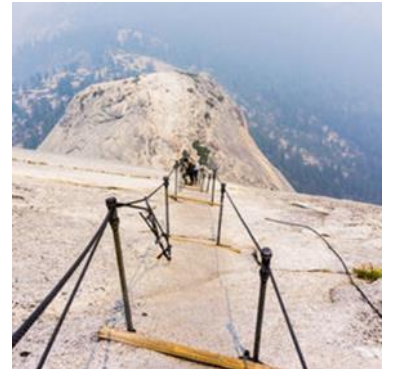
Not only is the climate changing but so is the language

Scientists and many media outlets are changing climate language. Climate Change is now being referred to as **Climate Crisis or Breakdown, Global heating** (rather than warming) to more accurately describe the environmental crisis facing the world.

['A walking conflict of interest' / Ex-oil lobbyist confirmed to lead US interior department](#)



Seamounts, typically formed by extinct volcanoes and rising anywhere from 3,000 feet to over 13,000 feet, are estimated to number at least 100,000 throughout the Earth's oceans.



Scree and Talus cont.

Everest in the news—for all the wrong reasons From numerous media outlets

As the once-elusive Mount Everest has become increasingly popular, overcrowding has taken a toll, and not just on the landscape. Eleven climbers have died during this spring's climbing season so far. That's more than the lives lost on the mountain in all of 2018, [according to the BBC](#).

Added to that melting glaciers on Mount Everest are exposing the dead bodies of climbers previously entombed in ice, as global warming causes temperatures to rise. "Because of global warming, the ice sheet and glaciers are fast melting and the dead bodies that remained buried all these years are now becoming exposed," said Ang Tshering Sherpa, former president of Nepal Mountaineering Association. "We have brought down dead bodies of some mountaineers who died in recent years, but the old ones that remained buried are now coming out."

China has restricted the number of climbers attempting to scale Mount Everest from the north by up to one-third this year as part of a major cleanup of the world's highest peak. This will include the recovery of the bodies of climbers who died in "death zone" where the air is too thin to sustain human life for long.

Every year, about 60,000 climbers, guides, and tourists visit the region of Everest between Nepal and Tibet, with hundreds attempting to climb the 8,850m (29,035ft) peak from both sides.

Most climbers, however, approach the peak from the southern side in Nepal via the popular South Col route. In 2017, 648 people reached the summit of Everest, including 202 from the Tibetan side, according to the non-profit body Himalayan Database. Almost 300 climbers have been killed attempting to climb the mountain since the first attempt to scale it in 1922.

Photos L-R

Thomas Fanghaenel/Wikimedia

Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/Getty Images



Tibetan North Face



Khumbu Icefall



Sherpas removing bodies

Why 2020? From *Alan Watson* Forest Service Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

The 11th World Wilderness Congress (WILD11) is finally upon us! Between March 19-26, 2020, participants from around the world will gather in Jaipur, India to join this great gathering for the protection of life.

2020 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change history and take a global step forward towards a new, truly sustainable relationship with nature, one based on respect for wilderness, the future, and ourselves. In October 2020, the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity will convene in China to set new targets for the amount of lands and seas that need protection (currently, 17% terrestrial and 10% marine). Life needs them to *think big*. Never before have our leaders needed more vision and strength to do what is necessary to protect the future of all life. WILD11 is a powerful stepping stone to the China meeting. It will build vision, strength, and support for them to think big...and to [protect half the planet's land and seas](#). [Read more here](#).



The next 18 months is vital From *The Guardian*

Human society is in jeopardy from the accelerating decline of the Earth's natural life-support systems, the world's leading scientists have warned, as they announced the results of the most thorough planetary health check ever undertaken.

From coral reefs flickering out beneath the oceans to rainforests desiccating into savannahs, nature is being destroyed at a rate tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10m years, [according to the UN globalassessment report](#).

As one Program Manager walks out the door, another steps into place...

John McRae provides a look back at three years of running the Australian Alps national parks Co-operative Management Program – thanks John you have done a great job! Read it all here is the latest issue of [News from the Alps](#).

Scree and Talus cont.

Public Lands Hate You From The Guardian

The Instagram account Public Lands Hate You is part of a trend shaming irresponsible behaviour on America's public lands.

The posts are part of a trend toward social-media shaming of bad behaviour and have prompted brands to break with misbehaving 'influencers', as well as investigations from the National Park Service.

Some influencers who have access to 100,000 people. They are posting things without thinking about what the impact of that picture could be— and there's an exponential affect. People keep posting and posting and posting.

Ed Note: And that is just the tip of the iceberg—social media can have unpredictable environmental impacts and are in some sites driving park management i.e. Roys Peak Southern Alps New Zealand

Laugh or Cry?

For this selfie, Ndakazi and Ndeze want to imitate one of the humans who has raised them since they were young.

When Mathieu Shamavu posted a selfie on Facebook earlier this month, he called it "another day at the office." And, indeed, it would be another day — for a full-time ranger whose "office" happens to be **Virunga National Park** in eastern Congo. A UNESCO world heritage site, the sprawling and diverse park is home to a world-famous — and critically endangered — population of mountain gorillas.

Homestays in Bhutan: A gateway for women's empowerment and gender equality

From ICIMOD Pratigya Silwal

The homestay business in Haa dzongkhag (district), along Bhutan's mountainous western border, has been transforming women's roles in rural Bhutan. Aligned with the country's principle and pursuit of Gross National Happiness, community-based tourism is one of the most viable options for sustainable socioeconomic development. As of 2018, there were a total of 133 homestays in Bhutan.

Canadian Mountain Network Funding From Mountain Partnership

On 16 April 2019, the Networks of Centres of Excellence program announced that the Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) will receive \$18.3 million in funding over five years (2019–2024). [Read More](#)

Call for Papers | Mountain Landscapes: Protected Areas, Ecosystem Services, and Future Challenges

The journal *Ecosystem Services* has issued a call for papers for a new Special Issue. **The deadline is 30 November.**

New starter pack helps new comers join the IUCN Green List

A new IUCN Green List Starter Pack is now available on request to help those interested in joining the IUCN Green List. It provides a summary of all the documentation required for a new country to start the process, with a suggested timeline, advice on how to set up and train Expert Assessment Groups (EAGs), and other useful information. To share your interest in the IUCN Green List and receive the starter pack, contact us on greenlist@iucn.org.

Mountain Scientist Fausto Sarmiento Receives 2019 Barry Bishop Career Award From MRI

The award recognizes exemplary research productivity, professional contributions, and teaching excellence in the study of mountains—well done to 'our very own' Mountain Committee member Fausto!



Roys Peak, NZ



Photo: Mathieu Shamavu/
Courtesy of Virunga National
Park



Photo: Sunil Kupperi



Fausto Sarmiento

Tools, Publications and other Media

From **Marc Foggin**

An excellent video about indigenous and community conserved areas (many of them in mountains) – or **ICCAs** [Territories of Life ICCA](#). Indigenous peoples and local communities around the world protect and care for their collective territories, lands and waters as a matter of survival, health and wellbeing. These territories and areas are cradles of biological and cultural diversity and crucial for all life on Earth.



The Mountain Partnership uses social media to promote, advocate and raise awareness about mountain issues all around the world. As well as shed light on mountain communities, that would not have had an opportunity to voice their opinions otherwise. [Follow the Mountain Partnership!](#)

From **Jodi Hilty Y2Y**

For those that are wildlife corridor obsessed, our new book on “*Corridor Ecology*” is available. Use discount code corridors2 at: www.islandpress.org



From **Nakul Chettri, ICIMOD**

Peer review paper from Kangchenjunga Landscape, Hindu Kush Himalaya.

Evolution of a transboundary landscape approach in the Hindu Kush Himalaya: Key learnings from the Kangchenjunga Landscape. Global Ecology and Conservation. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2019.e00599>. (open access)

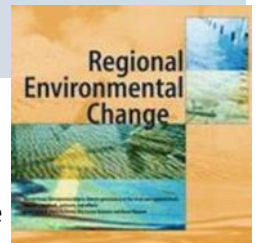
From Fausto Samiento—ICRAF publications, it might be interesting to share with our group.

Mountain Futures: Inspiration and Innovation from the World's Highlands

<https://www.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/Publications/PDFS/B17975.pdf>

Regional Environmental Change

This Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) led special issue of the journal highlights contributions from the mountain research community to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment cycle, focusing on the impacts of climate change on the high-mountain cryosphere and downstream regions - as well as responses to these impacts. [Read more](#)



Harmonizing Conservation and Development along the Silk Road : Facilitating a Network of Protected Areas in the Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and Pamir

The goal of the workshop was to bring together park officials from six protected areas – in Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Tajikistan – and other endorsing partners in order to lead to a commitment to work together and sign a joint declaration on the long-term conservation and sustainable development of the HKPL. The newly formed group of six PAs is to be called **Bam-e-Dunya Network**, which shall work towards “connecting landscapes along the Silk Route”.

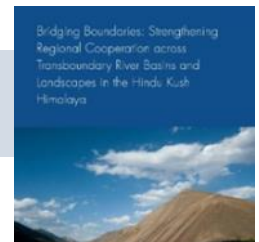


POLICY FORUM CONSERVATION Protected area targets post-2020

Science Apr 2019: Vol. 364, Issue 6437, pp. 239–241 DOI: 10.1126/science.aav6886 [Summary](#)

In 2010, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to catalyze national and international conservation efforts and reverse negative biodiversity trends. With the plan nearing an end, and attention turning toward a post-2020 biodiversity framework, it is timely to assess the strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness of the Aichi Targets.

[Bridging Boundaries: Strengthening Regional Cooperation Across Transboundary River Basins and Landscapes in the Hindu Kush Himalaya: ICIMOD Workshop Proceedings 2019/4](#)



News from our Mountain Portal (GMBA)

It is now possible to upload occurrence as well as inventory data directly online! Map of Life's online tool is designed to help you easily load your biodiversity data to the Map of Life and Mountain Portal database, map them, compare and integrate them with other datasets, set permissions to share them publicly for use in other platforms, and publish them with a minted DOI. [Upload your data!](#)

Some events and meetings of interest

- 16-21 June **Territories of life— in Armenia and beyond** ICCA Consortium Regional Assembly in West & Central Asia & Caucasus, and Capacity-building Workshop Yerevan and Vardahovit, Armenia
- 17—20 June African Ecosystem Service Partnership Conference 2019: "Management of Ecosystem Services for Nature Conservation and Human Wellbeing in Africa" Togo [Read more...](#)
- 15 – 20 July European Parks Academy on **Management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites** & Ecological monitoring [More details](#)
- 1 September [Species on the Move 2019](#) Skukuza, South Africa *Species on the Move is an interdisciplinary conference series crossing many research areas.*
- 8-12 September **International Mountain Conference 2019** Innsbruck, Austria an excellent opportunity for experts from different disciplines to come together and discuss mountain-related issues. [Read more...](#)
- 22 – 26 September **Pathways: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference** hosted by Colorado State University Estes Park, Colorado *Global conference and training program designed to address the myriad of issues that arise as people and wildlife struggle to coexist in a sustainable and healthy manner.*
- 1—17 October **III Latin America and Caribbean Protected Area Congress** Lima, Peru—Congress of Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean—under the slogan Solutions for welfare and sustainable development.
- 8-9 October **Alpine Space project ALPBIONET2030** Chamonix, France
- 9-10 October **YOUrALPS Project Final Conference** Chambéry, France
- October International Master “**Management of Conservation Areas**” The Carinthian University of Applied Sciences, Austria [More details](#)
- 30 October – 2 November **Caucasus Mountain Forum 2019** Ankara, Turkey
- 11 – 17 November **9th World Ranger Congress**, Sauraha (on the border of Chitwan National Park), Nepal



2020

- 19-26 March 11th **World Wilderness Congress (WILD11)** Jaipur, India
- 11-19 June **The IUCN World Conservation Congress** France

[CONGRESS WEBSITE](#)



Important links

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for an outline of the role of Mountain Specialist Group [IUCN WCPA Mountains](#) and [Mountain UPDATE](#) and **IUCN World Conservation Congress** [IUCN World Congress Protected Area Governance and Management \(book\)](#) [Management Book ANU Press](#)
 IUCN WCPA sustainable tourism in protected areas [Sustainable Tourism Guidelines](#)
The Mountain Partnership is a United Nations voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. [Mountain Partnership](#)

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While Mountain Network members can choose not to be WCPA members and still be involved and receive the Mountain UPDATE, the WCPA Chair Dr Kathy MacKinnon, and Mountain Specialist Group Executive and would like to encourage all to become WCPA members. This helps to secure good governance and management of the WCPA and the Mountains Group and enlightens all members to the wider activities of the WCPA. To learn more about WCPA membership go to: [WCPA membership](#)

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!