

Mountain Protected Areas

UPDATE

June 2021 # 110

*Only by going alone in silence,
without baggage, can one truly get
into the heart of the wilderness.
All other travel is mere dust and
hotels and baggage and chatter.*

John Muir



Mongolian herder image: Elaine Thomas

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A note from the editor

A warm greeting from the chilly Australian Alps, I hope you are safe and well wherever you are reading this latest Mountain Update. Thank you to *Elaine Thomas* for the above image that perhaps captures a more 'carefree' time.

As we head into winter here, there are the usual concerns about the potential lack of snow in the mountains—and for the alpine plants and animals that depend upon it—like the tiny Mountain Pygmy Possum that needs a blanket of snow to keep it snug and warm, in its boulder scree home.

Please read on for a mix of mountain stories and articles from around the world. And don't forget World Environment Day 5 June.

June 2021

From *People and Mountains* around the world:

Global

Indicators for Elevating Mountains

“*Indicators for Elevating Mountains in the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*” was developed specifically to support those involved in the post-2020 process in considering the mountain-relevant aspects and indicators being negotiated under the **post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**. (see Publications page 14)

Thanks to Dr Carolina Adler, Executive Director Mountain Research Initiative, the [Mountains Paper and Decision Support Tool](#) is part of the mix; with the *Indicators for Elevating Mountains* policy brief going on to be discussed at meetings in the lead up to **UN Convention on Biological Diversity** later this year in China.

IUCN WCPA International Ranger Award

Rangers are the guardians of protected and conserved areas around the world. They face many challenges and duties - be it combatting poaching and land-grabbing, preventing human-animal conflict, fighting fires, acting as an early warning system for threats and problems, and looking after the welfare of wildlife, local communities, and visitors. Often working for little reward and with much risk, it is a sobering statistic that over the past decade, more than 1000 rangers have been killed in the line of duty.

The IUCN WCPA International Ranger Awards seek to recognise rangers that have *gone above-and-beyond the call of duty to protect wildlife and support local communities*, be it at the individual or team level. These awards have been established with the support of the International Ranger Federation, Conservation Allies, and Global Wildlife Conservation.

The 10 winners of the 2021 International Ranger Awards are:

- **Anety Milimo (Zambia):** a research technician and field ranger in Mosi Oa Tunya National Park;
- **Aung Zaw Myint (Myanmar):** a ranger in Chathin Wildlife Sanctuary in Myanmar;
- **Bénévoles au sein de l’Aire Protégée (Madagascar):** a young volunteer ranger team protecting Menabe Antimena Protected Area from forest fires;
- **Chhay Reap Community Crocodile Wardens (Cambodia):** a team of Indigenous rangers protecting Critically Endangered Siamese crocodiles Southern Cardamoms National Park;
- **Giorgi Abramishvili (Georgia):** a senior ranger in Batsara-Babaneuri Protected Areas;
- **Mahindra Giri (India):** a range officer with the Uttarakhand Forest Department in Rajaji Tiger Reserve;
- **Ninfa Carianil (Colombia):** a ranger in Águila Harpía ProAves Reserve in the Colombian Amazon;
- **Offossou d’Andous Kissi (Côte d’Ivoire):** a ranger in charge of community outreach for the Comoé National Park;
- **Sathish Sundaram (India):** a forest ranger with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park;
- **Sergey Erofeev (Russia):** the deputy director of conservation in Altai State Biosphere Reserve.

one of many dedicated mountain rangers



Sergey Erofeev has dedicated his entire 42-year career to the Altai State Biosphere Reserve. He has patrolled every part of the vast Reserve, braving harsh conditions to courageously protect its wildlife from poachers and its land from illegal encroachment.

He has also worked closely with the Altai and Tubalar Indigenous communities, enabling their formal involvement in local decision-making through the Zapovednoye Selo Territorial Self-Government Authority.



Altai Biosphere Reserve The region represents the most complete sequence of altitudinal vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, subalpine vegetation to alpine vegetation.



America-north

Nevada (State in USA) Resolution to Protect 30x30

From Sierra Club News May 2021

The Nevada Assembly recently passed a resolution in support of protecting 30% of the lands and waters in Nevada by 2030 (30X30) as a necessary step to protect natural systems and mitigate the climate and extinction crises.

The resolution also calls for the establishment of the **Avi Kwa Ame National Monument** and the permanent protection of the **Desert National Wildlife Refuge** from the threat of military expansion.

A coalition of tribes, conservation groups, recreation interests, and others is working to establish the **Avi Kwa Ame National Monument** to permanently protect these treasured lands. Avi Kwa Ame is the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain and the surrounding landscape. The mountain, located on the eastern boundary of the proposed monument, and the surrounding landscape are sacred to twelve Native American tribes.

Encompassing six major mountain ranges and seven distinct [life zones](#), **Desert National Wildlife Refuge** showcases the abundance and variety of nature that can be found in Southern Nevada.

Desert NWR is home to many species of wildlife that are supported by a wide variety of vegetation communities over a large elevation range.

Approximately 320 bird species, 53 mammal species, 35 reptile species, and four amphibian species have been identified in the different communities on the refuge, as well as over 500 plant species.



Desert National WR



Spirit Mountain is significant to the Native Americans of the Mojave and Sonoran Desert regions as the center of their creation. photo: Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Biodiversity loss in British Columbia (Canada) leads to a call for change



From Y2Y News April 2020

(photo: BC Tourism)

A new *Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat Coalition* is calling on the government to re-establish the province as a world leader in fish, wildlife, and habitat management, including in the Yellowstone to Yukon region. Together, the group is seeking a commitment from the province to invest in healthy landscapes, waters, and fish and wildlife stewardship, in partnership with First Nations and communities.

Mountains, rivers, lakes and forests are suffering from decades of mismanagement and unsustainable use.

Habitat degradation and loss have reduced the landscapes' ability to produce and sustain abundant fish and wildlife as they once did. The abundance of fish and wildlife — creatures large and small; iconic and obscure; common and rare — that the province once had has dwindled to scarcity in less than a single person's lifetime.

This is concerning for a wide range of people, including First Nations, butterfly enthusiasts, bird watchers, big game hunters, and wildlife viewers. There are now several red-listed species, record low salmon and moose populations, and declining mountain sheep and mule deer populations in parts of the province.

This scarcity of fish and wildlife has increased social conflict and threatens food security and tourism-related jobs.

Please see Publications page for [Pinpointing and prioritizing places in British Columbia to protect](#): [Download the briefing \(PDF\)](#) and [Explore the interactive map](#)

America-South

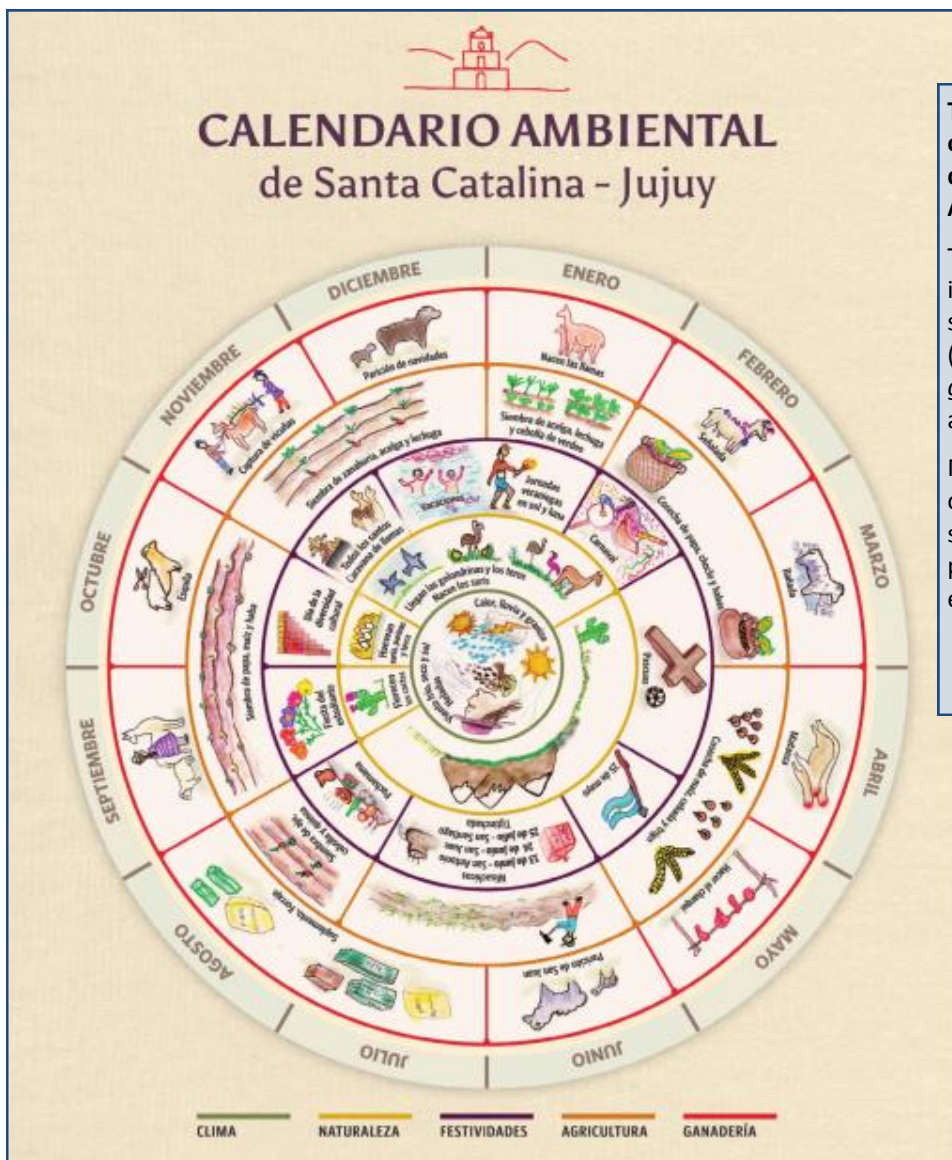
Valuing and Conserving Camelids & Pastoralism in the Argentinean Altiplano of Jujuy

Adapted from **Environmental Education as a Means for Valuing and Conserving Camelids and Pastoralism in the Argentinean Altiplano of Jujuy** <https://doi.org/10.1659/MRD-JOURNAL-D-20-00009.1>

Environmental education can be a powerful tool for conservation and a way to translate Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi targets from paper to the real, everyday life of people.

“Valued from the outside, neglected from the inside” is a dangerous situation for any natural resource. Without active and informed local communities, the needed transformative change becomes an unattainable goal.

A key message for environmental policy and education is that, to facilitate the continuity of pastoralism, rural life must be valued from within the school (and local community). The relational aspects of people with camelids must have its own space, not only “folklorized” as something of the past but as a dynamic, living component that is essential to the environmental sustainability of the Andes.



The Altiplano ecosystem's services support one of the most important, long-lived, and culturally distinctive socioecological systems in the world, Andean pastoralism.

The uniqueness of the Altiplano ecosystem includes endemic fauna and livestock, with 4 species of South American camelids: wild vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*) and guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*), and domestic llamas (*Lama glama*) and alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*).

Most of the llama breeders in Jujuy are members of indigenous communities and practice subsistence economies. They live in isolated places, with high mobility between different elevational ranges.



Llamas being 'retrained' to carry loads

Certain activities occur at fixed times during the year, such as the harvest from January to April, the slaughter of livestock in April, the preparation of the land in July, chaya in August, and sowing during the spring.

Building the calendar provided a rich opportunity for dialogue between complementary ethno and western points of view and bridging the gap between scientific and nonacademic knowledge in the joint search for ways to facilitate local “good living.”

Africa

Imperilled Alpine Grasslands of Sub-Saharan Africa



From Dr Clinton Carbutt Mountain SG

photos: C Carbutt

Attention needs to be drawn to the fragile and imperilled nature of sub-Saharan Africa's alpine habitats. The alpine areas of tropical and southern Africa are important water catchment areas that provide tens of millions of people with fresh water and other ecosystem services essential to their survival. They are also important climate regulators and storehouses of remarkable natural and cultural diversity.

Although much of Africa's tropical alpine areas have relatively high rates of protection (30–100% depending on the country), very little is free from human impact. Being open ecosystems, these alpine areas are predisposed to livestock grazing and where conditions allow, to cultivation.

In southern Africa, only $\pm 5\text{--}7\%$ of its alpine grasslands are conserved, rendering them extremely vulnerable.

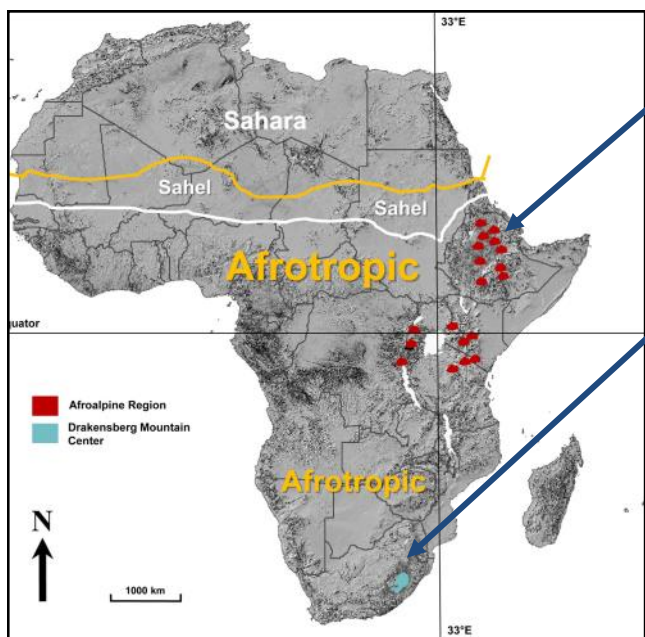


Grazing pressure by sheep Lesotho



Rural livelihoods Lesotho

Such low levels of protection are unfortunately typical of non-forested biomes. Deliberate measures are required to tackle the pressing issues of land transformation, degradation and unsustainable use. More dynamic management models are required to incorporate the 'humanity factor' when addressing the twin pillars of adequate protection and sustainable utilisation. There is therefore an urgent need to more formally integrate sustainable rangeland use and biodiversity conservation—to achieve equitable social empowerment and conserve biodiversity—given that they are arguably the most imperilled grasslands of Africa reflecting an alpine biome in crisis.



Approximate location of alpine grasslands in the Afrotropic realm.

The northern alpine grasslands occur in the Afroalpine "sky islands" in tropical Africa, stretching from the Simien Mtns in northern Ethiopia to Mt. Hanang in Tanzania. Mt. Cameroon in western Africa is an active stratovolcano somewhat devoid of alpine vegetation and therefore not well representative of the Afroalpine region.

The other alpine system in the Afrotropic realm is located further south in the upper reaches of the Drakensberg Mountain Center.

Adapted from Carbutt C (2019) Nature of alpine ecosystems in tropical mountains of Africa (taken from *The Imperilled Alpine Grasslands of the Afrotropic Realm* Clinton Carbutt, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; Conservation Services, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Cascades, South Africa)

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Oceania—Australia (Tasmania)

Struggle against cable car on kunanyi/

Mount Wellington continues

Adapted from ABC news

Nala Mansell from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (Australia) agreed with the Residents Opposed to the Cable Car when they said *it's a sad day when a court (in Australia) has to force a private developer to do a proper Aboriginal heritage survey.*

Nala said it was important that an onsite survey took place.

"It's not just about the stones and bones and the archaeological evidence in this case; it's vital that for any type of development that Aboriginal spiritual connections as well as cultural values are understood and investigated."

She urged the cableway company to work with the Aboriginal community.

"We always offer developers the opportunity to understand the importance of our sacred sites, to ensure they do not continue with any further desecration of the areas."



On kunanyi Photo: Rod Atkins planetscapes photography

Privatising the wilderness: Tasmanian project could become a national park test case

The Guardian May 2021

The Tasmanian Liberal government has been a strong supporter of establishing new tourism businesses in the **Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA)** as it pushes to become the "ecotourism capital of the world".

But a previously unreleased assessment by the state's Parks and Wildlife Service found that a proposal for helicopter accessed fishing lodges on remote Halls Island could lead to the loss of 700 hectares of high-quality wilderness area and reduce the quality of at least 4,200 hectares.

This calls into question the government's policy of backing more privately-owned tourism developments on protected public land.

In the case of the Halls Island proposal, the part of the world heritage area in which it sits was rezoned from "wilderness" to "self-reliant recreation" to allow for these types of developments.

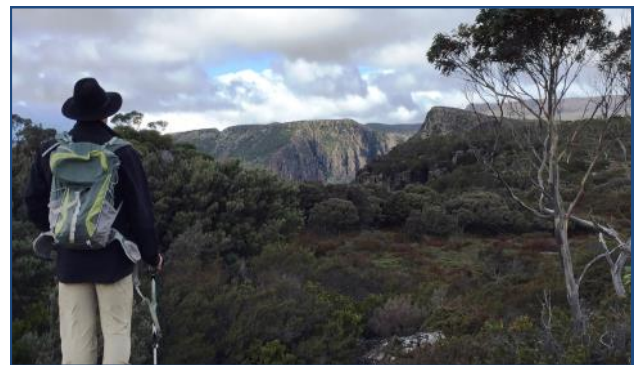
The Wilderness Society's position is that they support nature tourism, but that development should be outside protected areas.

feral deer & Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

Since colonisation, introduced deer have been allowed to breed up for the hunting pleasure of a few. The population has now grown to such an extent that they threaten the World Heritage Area, other protected areas and farm land.

The Bob Brown Foundation is developing a strategic plan to both contain deer (for hunting) and eliminate deer (for nature and cultural heritage protection) to campaign for an effective policy from the Tasmanian Government.

Photo: Bruce Miller



Central Plateau Wilderness (TWWHA) peopleinnature

The **Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area** is a legacy of the last great wildernesses on earth, and a canvas rich in the stories of humanity's previous and current connections with the environment.

The 1.4 million hectares that now make up the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area are part of a chain of six national parks and a number of reserves and conservation areas that together cover one fifth of Tasmania's land mass. **UNESCO**



Central Asia—Himalayas: *Tibetan and Nepali Names of Mount Everest*



A very interesting story has resulted from a correction to the last Mountain Update # 109

From **Edwin Bernbaum** Co-Chair, IUCN Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas

The Tibetan name of Mount Everest does not mean "Mother Goddess of the World."

Chomulunga, or more properly Jomolangma, is a shortened form of Jomo Miyolangsangma, the name of the goddess of Mount Everest who is a relatively minor deity in Tibetan Buddhism.

Extracts from **A Note on The Tibetan and Nepali Names of Mount Everest in American Alpine News © 1999 Edwin Bernbaum**

Almost every book on Nepal, the Himalaya, or Everest that mentions the mountain mistranslates the Tibetan name of Everest as "Goddess Mother of the World" or "Goddess Mother of the Universe." Western sources keep repeating this mistranslation because they assume that the Tibetan and Sherpa people who live near its base must revere the highest peak in the world as the sacred abode of a supremely important deity. The persistent use of "Goddess Mother of the World (or Universe)" reflects the great importance that outsiders, rather than the local Tibetans and Sherpas, place on Everest.

As far as I know, there is no specifically designated Goddess Mother of the World or Universe in Tibetan Buddhism, and the idea of such a goddess doesn't fit with the nature of a religion that doesn't believe in a monotheistic supreme creator. If Everest were the abode of so major a deity, Sherpas such as Tenzing Norgay would not have climbed the mountain: as devout Tibetan Buddhists they would have regarded its summit as too sacred to desecrate.

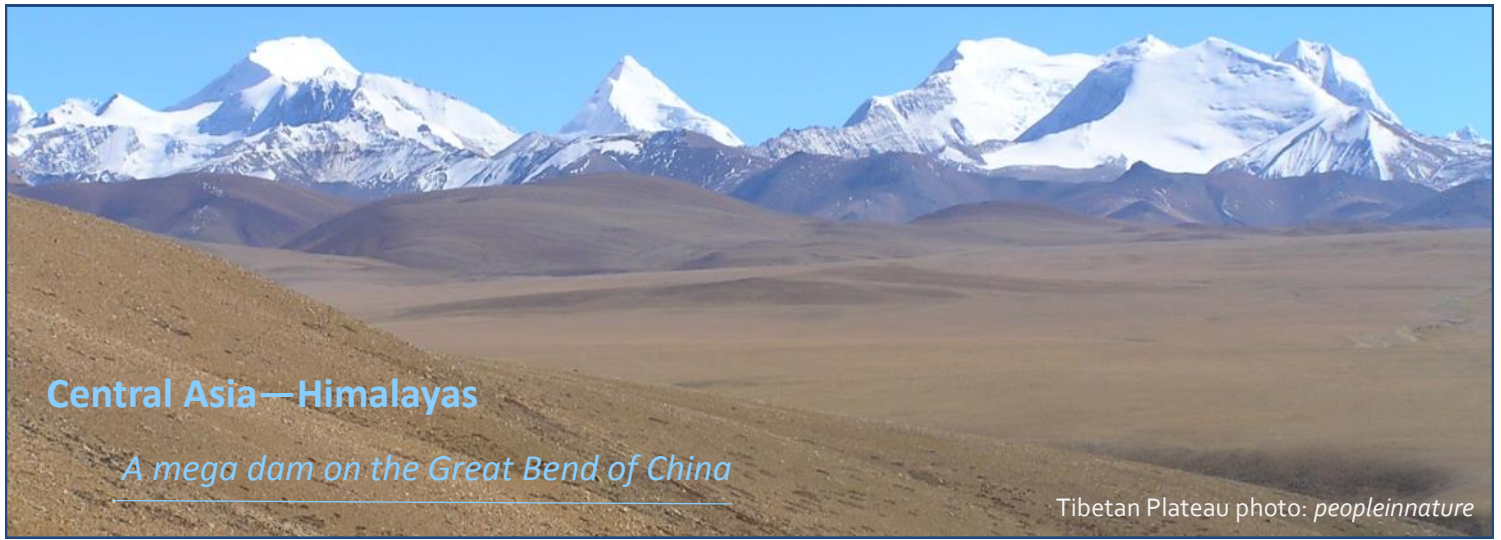
...**Jomo Miyolangsangma** belongs to a group of goddesses known as the "Five Sisters of Long Life" who are said to dwell on various Himalayan peaks along the southern border of Tibet. The leader and most important goddess of this group, Tashi Tseringma, resides on **Gauri Shankar**, a prominent peak west of Everest, and on **Chomolhari**, the major sacred mountain of western Bhutan. Until Everest was discovered to be higher, early Western observers thought **Gauri Shankar** was the highest mountain in the world.

...Jomo Miyolangsangma is a relatively minor goddess, not a Goddess Mother of the World or the Universe. Tibetan Buddhism divides its deities into two major categories - the mundane and the transcendent. Tibetans and Sherpas appeal to the mundane gods, the lower category that includes Jomo Miyolangsangma, for worldly benefits such as food, wealth and long life.

For the higher, transcendent aims of Tibetan Buddhism, in particular, the attainment of enlightenment, they turn to the higher category of transcendent deities, such as Demchog, the One of Supreme Bliss, who dwells on **Mount Kailas**, the most sacred mountain in the world for Tibetan Buddhists and followers of a number of other Asian religions.

...**Sagarmatha** means the "Head of the Sky" (literally, "Sky Head"). Some Nepalis interpret this to mean the "One Whose Forehead Reaches up to the Sky." Both meanings highlight the great height of Everest. The words used to make up Sagarmatha, however, are not the common Nepali terms for "head" and "sky." They come from the ancient sacred language of Sanskrit, which only pandits and religiously educated Nepalis would use in conversation. For this reason I suspect that whoever made up this name for Everest was also thinking of a Sanskrit term very close to it -- Sagaramatha or the "Churning of the Ocean."

...According to this ancient story, depicted in many works of Asian art, they used a mythical mountain named Mandara as a churning stick, which they placed on top of the turtle's back and spun with a cosmic snake used as a rope. In the course of churning up the nectar with the peak, the gods and demons created many other things in the world, including a deadly poison, butter, the horse of the sun, and a wish-fulfilling tree. The person who came up with the unusual Nepali name of Sagarmatha may have intended through secondary Sanskrit associations to equate Mount Everest with the well-known cosmic mountain of creation in Hinduism.



Central Asia—Himalayas

A mega dam on the Great Bend of China

Tibetan Plateau photo: *peopleinnature*

From ABC News May 2021 [Read Complete Article](#) by Mark Doman, Katia Shatoba and Alex Palmer

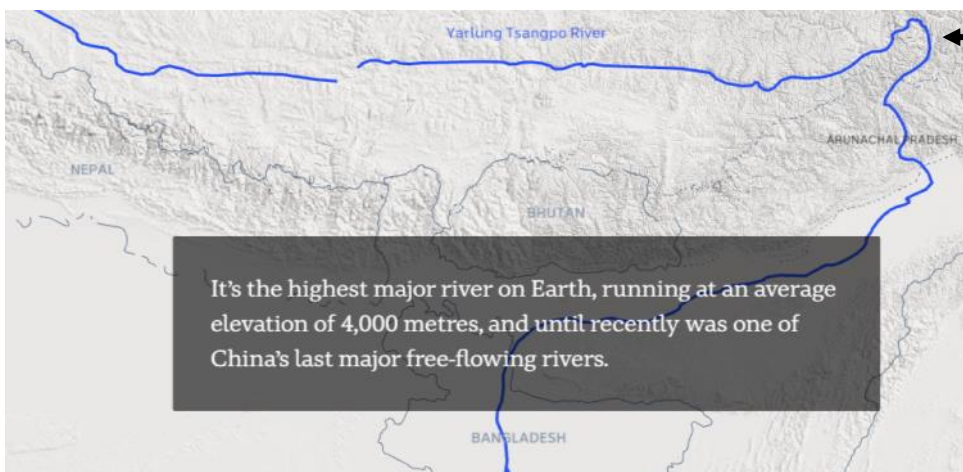
The sheer scale of the Tibetan Plateau can be hard to fathom. Its mountain peaks stretch kilometres into the sky, while canyons below sink so deep that few people have ever been able to reach them.

It's wild and spectacular but it's also vitally important to about a fifth of the world's population that relies on its immense freshwater reserves.

The ice sheet stretching across the plateau is so vast that it's often referred to as the Third Pole behind Antarctica and the Arctic. After the north and south poles, this region is the world's largest store of fresh water.

As China seeks to meet its targets of becoming carbon neutral by 2060, it is turning its sights to some of the wildest reaches of the Tibetan Plateau, where it plans to build a hydropower plant so ambitious that it could produce three times as much power as Three Gorges.

Late last year the Chinese Government announced it would seek to exploit the hydropower potential of the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo — a transboundary river that flows from Tibet into India, where it becomes the Brahmaputra, and then into Bangladesh as the Jamuna.



As the river snakes its way through the remote eastern reaches of the Himalayas, near the disputed border with the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, it performs a dramatic U-turn. Photo: *China national*

Experts believe it could be the riskiest mega structure ever built. Not only is the location prone to massive landslides and some of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded, it's also precariously close to the disputed border between India and China. Meaning any major project could further escalate discontent in a tense territorial dispute between the world's two most populous countries.

Added to this the remoteness of the location means there is little infrastructure in place already to handle such a large-scale operation. Until 2013, the county was not connected to a major road that was accessible all year round. The infrastructure required to transport such huge amounts of energy does not yet exist.

Europe

High alpine pasture to high alpine wilderness



From EWS April 2021

An ongoing project taking place in the Austrian **Hohe Tauern National Park** has exemplified nature's power of recovery. Despite stock previously using this area for intensive grazing, the Aschamalm, a former high alpine pasture (1600m) has come on leaps and bounds in terms of biodiversity since the end of human-use and grazing there.

The turning point for the management of the Aschamalm came in 2016 when the area came under the direct National Park management and intensive grazing was stopped. In 2017 the area was included in a buffer zone for the newly set-up [Sulzbachtäler Wilderness Area](#). The IUCN Wilderness Area is now free from human intervention, allowing natural processes to take over.

In light of the [debate](#) surrounding the development of an area after it has been taken out of agricultural use, the project on the Aschamalm has certainly raised some interesting points so far.

It remains unknown as to whether the surveyed upward trend in biodiversity will continue. Woody plants have yet to properly colonise, and when so, their impact on biodiversity will be of interest to observe as woody plants and trees tend to act as a limiting factor on resources for many smaller plants.

Many previous studies show that grazing, by both wild and domesticated animals, is needed to preserve biodiversity in grasslands. However the study on the Aschamalm backs up the notion that nature can itself create an ecosystem full of diversity once left to its own devices. As the study continues, the long-term effects will become clearer, providing valuable insights into the role of wilderness in natural regeneration.

Mountain hares in Scotland failing to adapt to climate change

From The Guardian

When snow begins to fall, mountain hares melt into the landscape by shedding their dark fur and becoming a brilliant – but camouflaged – white.

For species in snowy environments that change their colouration to avoid predators, such as Arctic foxes or ptarmigan, changing day length has been found to be the principal driver of the moult.

But mountain hares in Scotland are failing to adapt to a dramatic increase in snowless days, with their white fur on dark mountainsides leaving them newly visible to potential predators.

But despite a strong evolutionary pressure on animals to adapt to snowless conditions, scientists have found no such adaptation among Scotland's mountain hares.

A [study](#) of mountain hares in Scotland has found they are not changing their moult times at all, this may be because of:

- a lack of natural predator (especially foxes) pressure in Scotland,
- a lack of genetic diversity among mountain hare populations, or
- rapidity of the climatic changes.



A hare in its mottled summer coat (left), and in its white winter coat (right) and vulnerable to predators. Photo: Karen Miller, Giedrius Stakauskas/Alamy

The problem with predator control & grouse shooting!

With the grouse shooting industry having suppressed populations of natural predators including foxes and crows (still legally controlled), wildcats and golden eagles for more than a century, there may be no urgent evolutionary pressure on mountain hares to adapt their colouration to surrounding conditions because hares that are mismatched against their surroundings may survive.

But if predators return – with the reduction of grouse shooting – mountain hares could be vulnerable to population declines because they have not adapted their moult timings to remain camouflaged.

Scree and Talus

Mountain Gorillas: an iconic mountain species

From WCS April 2020

Last year at Earth Day, we were just beginning to understand the impacts of the pandemic. One year later, we've confronted unimaginable suffering and loss, not only for humans, but for wildlife, too.

The cost has been especially high for gorillas—then at the brink of extinction, and now in deeper danger still.

Gorillas already faced a multitude of challenges: their habitats destroyed by illegal mining and human encroachment; their numbers ravaged by Ebola and war within their territories. Now with the pandemic, tourism that previously brought important revenue for protecting gorillas has fallen dramatically. Together, it all leaves gorillas desperately threatened.

Gorillas prove that, plant and animal, human and gorilla, we're all interconnected. And when we protect the gorilla, we protect all the species that share its world—smaller creatures, plants, and bugs—and people alike.

Just 19% of Earth's land is still 'wild,' analysis suggests

From Science April 2021 [read whole article](#)

A new analysis of Earth's land use going back 12,000 years suggests that even in the time of mammoths and giant sloths, just one-quarter of the planet was untouched by humans, compared with 19% today. Because some of those inhabited areas are now biodiversity hot spots, people probably helped sustain—and even increase—the diversity of other species for millennia.

The findings also suggest many traditional practices and Indigenous peoples play a key role in preserving biodiversity.

By offering a long-term look at humans' impact on the planet, the study reveals that it's not people per se that send biodiversity on a downward spiral, but it's instead the overexploitation of resources. If their practices are sustainable, "humans don't have to be removed," to save the world's species.

Some good news...and a bigger 30X30 challenge

The latest edition of the biennial [Protected Planet Report](#) is the final report card on [Aichi Target 11](#) – the global 10-year target on protected and conserved areas which aimed to bring important benefits to both biodiversity and people by 2020. Aichi Target 11 included the aim of protecting *at least 17% of land and inland waters and 10% of the marine environment*.

Today, 22.5 million km² (16.64%) of land and inland water ecosystems and 28.1 million km² (7.74%) of coastal waters and the ocean are within documented protected and conserved areas, an increase of over 21 million km² (42% of the current coverage) since 2010.

Swiss National Park From Alparc

The **Swiss National Park** and the **6 mountain Nature Reserves managed by Asters (France)** have just joined the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

This list which gives recognition to well-managed and well-governed protected and conserved areas only features 59 areas around the world.

The Swiss National Park is Switzerland's only national park (there are 16 regional nature parks) and becomes Switzerland's first Green List site.



As their name implies, mountain gorillas live in forests high in the mountains, at elevations of 8,000 to 13,000 feet.

They have thicker fur, and more of it, compared to other great apes. The fur helps them to survive in a habitat where temperatures often drop below freezing.

But as humans have moved more and more into the gorillas' territory, the gorillas have been pushed farther up into the mountains for longer periods, forcing them to endure dangerous and sometimes deadly conditions. **WWF**

The global ambition for a **30x30** (30% of planet protected by 2030) protection target, as we emerge from the pandemic, will involve a recalibration of humanity's relationship with nature, securing biodiversity, reversing degradation, & restoring ecosystems.

Madhu Rao (Advisor WSC)



Scree and Talus

Weathering, erosion rates and carbon sequestration

A group of researchers led by Aaron Bufe and Niels Hovius of GFZ German Research Center for Geosciences has taken advantage of different erosion rates and investigated how uplift and erosion of rocks determine the balance of carbon emissions and uptake.

The surprising result: at high erosion rates, weathering processes release carbon dioxide; at low erosion rates, they sequester carbon from the atmosphere

International Day of Forests March 2021

Intact forests are key because they store carbon in their biomass, keeping massive amounts of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. But they are highly threatened by human activity. Only 40% of the world's remaining forests are intact, and they're disappearing fast.

Protecting these unspoiled places is a common-sense, nature-based way to contribute to keeping global temperature rise below 1.5°C in the next decade. In fact, these forests are one of the most powerful and cost-effective solutions we've got.

It just doesn't make sense!

Taken from The Conversation May 2021 [Read the article here](#)

Australia's forest-dwelling wildlife is in greater peril after a recent court ruling that logging — even if it breaches state requirements — is exempt from the federal law that protects threatened species.

The Federal Court upheld an appeal by VicForests, Victoria's state timber corporation, after a previous ruling in May 2020 found it razed critical habitat without taking the precautionary measures required by law. The ruling means logging is set to resume, despite the threats it poses to wildlife. At particular risk are the Leadbeater's possum and greater glider — mammals highly vulnerable to extinction that call the forests home.

The ground that won the case was that the federal environmental law designed to protect threatened species — the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act — did not apply to the logging operations due to a forestry exemption.

Key Biodiversity Areas – crucial to the expansion of protected and conserved areas

By **Dr Andrew Plumptre**, Head of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Secretariat

As globally recognised sites of importance for biodiversity, Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) offer an essential tool for guiding the expansion of protected areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

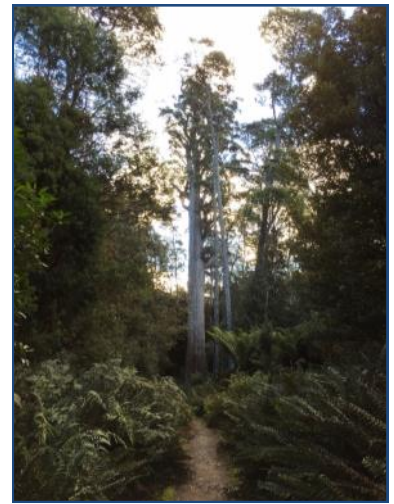
Noting that only a small percentage of protected areas cover these sites, more must be done to incorporate KBAs.

[Read more.](#)

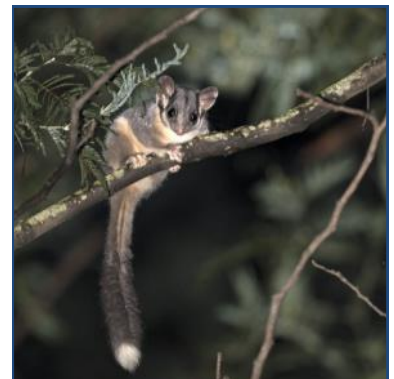
Elephants! from WCS

IUCN has officially recognized the **forest elephant** and **savanna elephant** as two distinct species, and has also reassessed their conservation status in the wild based on all available data. Differences in body size, ear and tusk shape, and genetic makeup helped confirm the official classification.

This dual recognition makes the crisis facing elephants even more clear: [Both species of African elephants are now recognized to be at graver risk.](#) The forest elephant has been listed as Critically Endangered—one step away from extinction in the wild—and the savanna elephant as Endangered.



"lets leave this one" ancient eucalypt Tasmania



Leadbeater's possums rely on old tree hollows. AAP Image/ ANU, Tim Bawden

...This new classification by IUCN is an urgent call to action that governments and broader society need to do more to stop ivory trafficking, whether it is in Africa itself, or along the far-ranging trade routes and eventual destinations where ivory continues to be

Tools, Publications and other Media cont.

[Towards More Sustainable Expeditions - Waste Management Manual for Mountaineering Expeditions & Trekking](#)

From Lucian Negrut May 2021

A first *waste management manual* for mountaineering and trekking expeditions in remote mountains has been prepared by Lucian Negrut and Valérie Thöni, in collaboration with mountaineer Jost Kobusch. This manual is part of a more ample project to develop a strategy for sustainable mountaineering expeditions and the reduction of their environment impact. It aims to provide a systematic and holistic approach to waste management, looking at an expedition from a life-cycle perspective.



Himalayas at night. Photo: Daniel Hug

At this stage one of the challenges is to **develop the section related to the Environmental Management Plan and the Environmental Impact Assessment**, as these need to be both relevant and meaningful in their application, but also practical and easy to use by those that are not familiar with such tools. The manual is under development and the authors would like to invite any interested members of IUCN WCPA to provide their input/feedback on the draft version by end June if possible.

Contact Lucian Negrut lucian.negrut@protonmail.com or Valérie Thöni valthoeni@gmail.com.

['Privately Protected Areas On the Move'](#) June 2021 Webinar Series

This year, nations of the world are expected to set ambitious new targets for protecting biodiversity. In much of the world, achieving spatial targets will require conservation of areas under private ownership. Throughout June 2021, IUCN will host a Vital Sites webinar series exploring the potential for privately protected areas (PPAs) for a sustainable future.

To learn more or catch up on past events, visit the [Vital Sites page](#), hosted on the IUCN Green List website.

[Standards for private conservation in Chile](#)

Building on the global guidelines for PPAs and the Green List of protected areas standard proposed by IUCN, at the beginning of 2019, ASÍ Conserva Chile embarked on the challenge of proposing guidelines to guide and unify conservation practices in the context of private governance in Chile.

This project aims to develop and disseminate a set of *three standards* for different conservation entities: areas under private protection (PPAs), conservation guarantor organisations (CGOs) and the use of the right to real conservation (RRC) in a PPA. www.estandaresparaconservar.cl

[Public-private partnership for protected areas](#) Taken from NAPA #150, March 2021 — www.papaco.org

This report is part of a series of studies commissioned by IUCN-Papaco. The intention of these studies is to contribute to the debate around topical issues related to conservation in Africa, especially the continent's protected areas.

...it is indisputable that in certain situations, PPPs represent the model delivering the best management efficiency. Political acceptance of this model remains fragile in French speaking Africa. To remedy this situation, the two partners (State and private) must improve their communication in a spirit of respect and transparency, both among themselves and towards the general public. David Brugière [Read whole study](#)

From Marc Foggin

[Belt & Road Initiative in Central Asia: Anticipating socioecological challenges from large-scale infrastructure in a global biodiversity hotspot.](#)

In *Journal Conservation Letters*: Foggin, J.M., Lechner, A.M., Emslie-Smith, M., Hughes, A.C., Sternberg, T., and Dossani, R. (2021).

[Pinpointing and prioritizing places in British Columbia to protect](#)

An analysis by Dr. Matthew Mitchell from the University of British Columbia maps out hotspots in B.C., based on recent nationwide research. [Download the briefing \(PDF\)](#)

[Explore the interactive map](#)



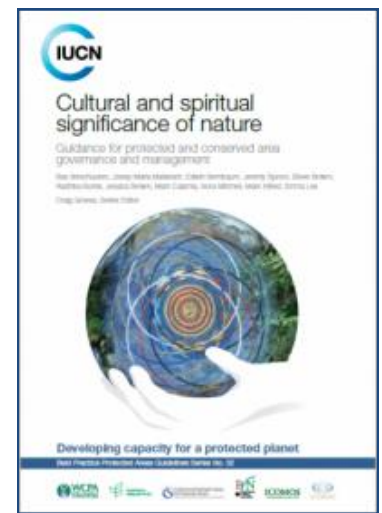
Tools, Publications and other Media cont.

[Cultural and spiritual significance of nature](#) From *Edwin Bernbaum Co-chair CSVPA*

[IUCN Best Practice Guidelines Cultural & Spiritual Significance of Nature](#)

These guidelines respond to a growing need to make conservation more inclusive, effective and socially just by accommodating multiple worldviews; by treating natural and cultural heritage as interlinked; and by suggesting ways for engaging and empowering all relevant groups and stakeholders in protected area design, governance and management.

The cultural and spiritual significance of nature has been defined as the spiritual, cultural, inspirational, aesthetic, historic and social meanings, values, feelings, ideas and associations that natural features and nature in general have for past, present and future generations of people – both individuals and groups.



www.NaturalWorldHeritageSites.org

From *Dr Peter Howard Protected Areas and Heritage Consultant, Kenya*

The primary purpose of the new website is to raise awareness of the need for conservation of these amazing places by providing a highly visual 'sense of place' with a 3-6 minute slideshow of images from each site.

[Here is just one mountain example!](#)

The vast icy wilderness of **Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Elsek** lies at the northern end of the Great Rocky Mountain range in North America, straddling Canada's border with Alaska.



(photo: *peopleinnature*)

It covers an area three times the size of Belgium, from the ocean depths to the summits of some of North America's highest peaks. While Glacier Bay serves as a popular cruise destination with the opportunity to witness bubble-netting humpback whales and other spectacular wildlife, the interior of the reserves, with their 200 glaciers, is rarely visited.

And for those of you with a particular interest in Africa, remember to take another look at the long-established African website www.AfricanWorldHeritageSites.org (which includes slideshows on each of the continent's cultural sites, as well as its incredible natural places).

[Mountain Research and Development](#)

Focus Issue: How Can Education Contribute to Sustainable Mountain Development? Past, Present, and Future Perspectives. VOL. 40 · NO. 4 NOVEMBER 2020

American Covenant: National Parks, Their Promise, and Our Nation's Future [Michael A. Soukup](#), [Gary E. Machlis](#) Yale University Press, 23 Mar 2021

PARKS Special Issue: COVID-19 fallout undermining nature conservation efforts [Read more](#) From Protecting the Planet 2021

[Make the glaciers great again](#)

Despite the high level of protection that comes with their status, World Heritage glaciers respond to climate change in exactly the same way as their neighbouring glaciers. Nature conservation tools used locally to restrict human activities in these sites are powerless to limit the consequence of a global process like climate change.

So, what can we do to protect them? Listen to Jean-Baptiste Bosson as he shares his vision for the safeguarding these icy giants during a TEDxTalk in Zürich. [Watch here](#)

"Indicators for Elevating Mountains in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" was prepared in collaboration between the MRI, GMBA, GRID-Arendal and under the coordination of UN Environment.

Download MRI website here: [Indicators for elevating mountains post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

Follow up work is foreseen with UNEP in the lead up to the CBD COP. From Dr Carolina Adler MRI

Looking for Mountain Research? Try [Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment \(GMBA\)](#), [Mountain Research Initiative](#), [ICIMOD](#) and [Mountain Partnership](#)—to mention a just few great sources of mountain information!

Tools, Publications and other Media cont.

LACMONT 2021

Lacmont 2021 aims to structure the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Research and Innovation in Mountain Environments, based on the integration and planning of cooperative actions between institutions in countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

www.lacmont2021.com.br

From Marc Foggin

The journal *Sustainability* has launched a special issue on [*Inclusive Governance and Management of Protected and Conserved Areas*](#). This is an opportunity to present case studies, research findings and synthesis papers about inclusivity, with a special focus on conservation practices of local communities and indigenous peoples.

We especially welcome contributions from less commonly heard voices, as well as discussions about relevant values and worldviews that may impact, either positively or negatively, on conservation outcomes.

Deadline 31 August 2021



Southern African Mountain Conference March 2022

This is a call for attendees and abstracts for the first Southern African Mountain Conference to be hosted in South Africa.

In the event of COVID travel restrictions, it will be run as a hybrid or a fully online event. All details **Website:** <http://www.samc2022.africa/>

The Southern African Mountain Conference (SAMC 2022) will be the first truly southern African regional mountain conference, targeting the African region south of the Congo Rainforest (DRC) and Lake Rukwa (Tanzania), but including Madagascar, Comoros and the Mascarenes.

[View brochure](#)



[Forum Carpaticum 2021](#) 21—25 June Brno, Czech Republic as a hybrid meeting with both physical and virtual participants or an online meeting. The abstract submission deadline of the Forum Carpaticum 2021 was changed to 21 March 2021. Conference sessions and workshops can be found at <http://forumcarpaticum.czechglobe.cz/>

[World Heritage Committee](#) has decided at its 14th extraordinary session "to hold an extended 44th session in June/July 2021 in Fuzhou, China.

IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille

The [IUCN Congress](#) provides a platform for scientists, policy experts, business and government leaders and professionals from around the globe to come together to share their latest insights and forge new partnerships. IUCN Members work to define the global conservation agenda and collaborate with Congress participants to find solutions to the pressing environmental challenges our planet is facing.

The WCPA Mountain Specialist Group will be presenting (virtually) their paper and decision support tool: *Identification of Global Priorities for New Mountain Protected and Conserved Areas* [Mountains Paper and Decision Support Tool](#)



Important links

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for an outline of the role of Mountain Specialist Group [IUCN WCPA Mountains](#) and [Mountain UPDATE](#)

IUCN World Conservation Congress [IUCN World Congress](#)

Protected Area Governance and Management (book) [Management Book ANU Press](#)

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: [Get involved - World Commission on Protected Areas | IUCN www.iucn.org > commissions > get-involved](#)

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!