

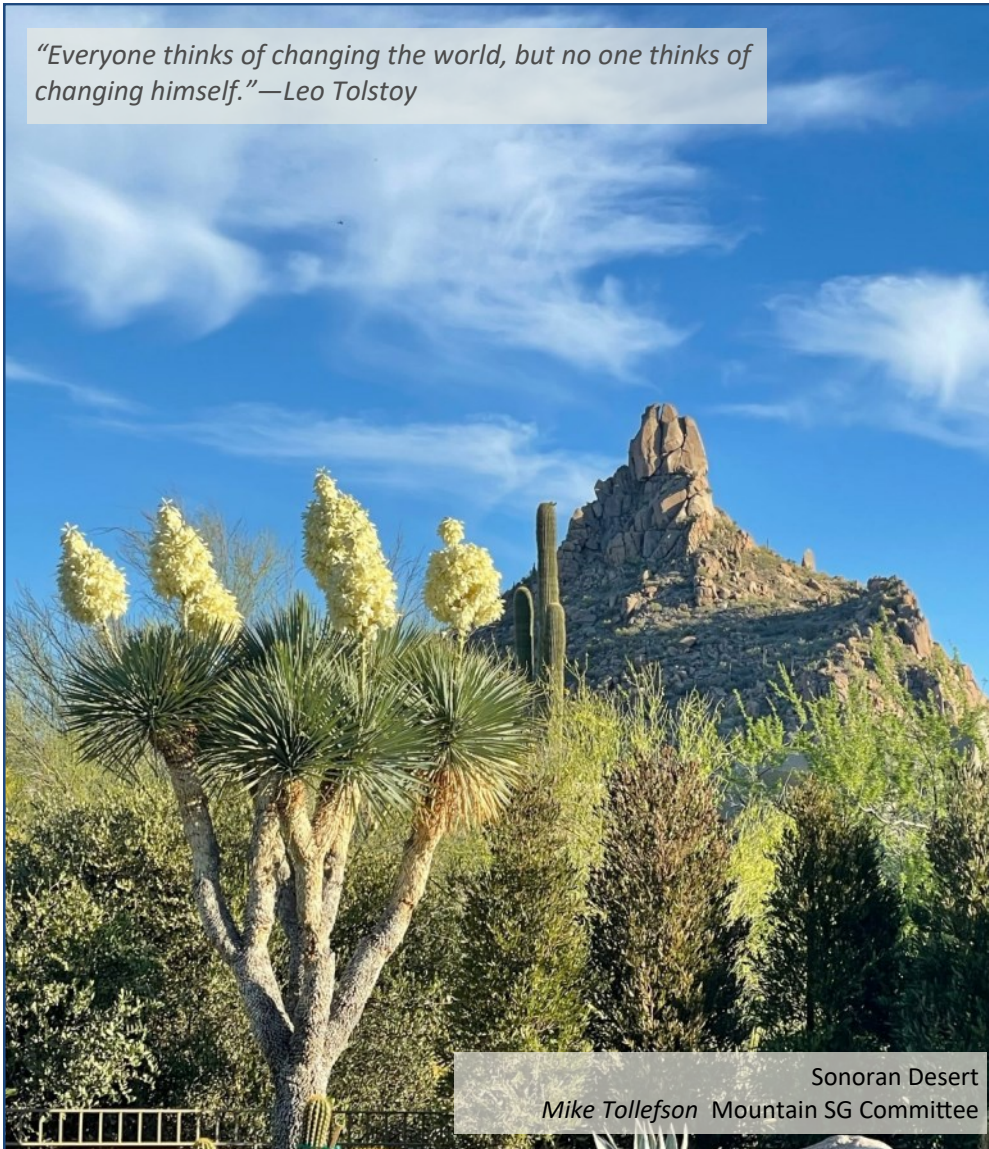
Mountain Protected Areas

UPDATE

June 2022 # 114



"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."—Leo Tolstoy



Sonoran Desert
Mike Tollefson Mountain SG Committee

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A note from the editor

Welcome to the 114th issue of the Mountain UPDATE. In my little corner of our vast planet winter has hit the Australian Alps with snow blanketing the high country just as it should, and on the opposite side of the globe, where my daughter lives in North America, warm days have finally replaced an unbelievably (for an Australian) long run of sub zero months. Back in Australia we have just elected a new, more progressive government, so life is looking a little better for the time being...

But sometimes it is hard to know what to say as the world continues to be slip ever more rapidly into social and environmental crisis; so I'll finish with the hope that you find something of interest in this Update, you are safe and healthy and June 5 is indeed a 'happy environment day'!

5 June 2022

Mountain Update is a quarterly newsletter distributed to members of the Mountain Protected Areas Network.

The Mountain Specialist Group acknowledges the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters where we live and work and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship they have to Country.

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

IUCN WCPA Mountain UPDATE # 114 Editor: Gillian Anderson peopleinnature@bigpond.com

From People and Mountains around the world:

Finding Anthropocene's Golden Spike (not exactly something we can be proud of...)

From Science News May 2022

What spot best reflects when human activity became an Earth-shaping force? Geoscientists will consider the question when they meet to evaluate 12 sites, only one of which can serve as the “**golden spike**” for the Anthropocene, a proposed geological age beginning in the 1950s amid the fire of nuclear bomb tests and the fumes of surging fossil fuel use.

International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), settled on the early 1950s as its starting point but still needs a formal proposal with an ideal geologic sample recording these global changes—a golden spike—to mark the end of the Holocene epoch, which began 11,700 years ago, and the beginning of the Anthropocene.

To find that sample, teams of earth scientists spent several years analyzing sites that contain promising markers, such as spikes in plutonium and other radionuclides that settled after atmospheric nuclear tests, spherical ash particles from unchecked industrial emissions, microplastics, and perturbations to carbon and nitrogen chemistry from greenhouse gas emissions and urban smog.

This year teams will present the case for their site to serve as the golden spike followed by months of deliberation before a final vote. If 60% of the group's members agree on one site, a selection will be announced by December.

Read the whole article [Here](#)



A late addition to the slate of candidates came from a Polish peat bog near a mountain summit in a region known for its mines and heavy industry. The bog is fed only by rain, so it forms a great archive of atmospheric pollution - its sediments capture the typical 1950s markers, along with spikes in lead, aluminium, titanium from nearby smokestacks—and even the extinction of amoebas that once thrived in the peat. Photo: Marek Dobrowolski

Stratigraphy

The study of geological strata — how they were made and what they were made from, their arrangement in the ground and what it tells scientists about the conditions on Earth when these layers were created.



'Golden Spike' in the **Flinders Ranges NP** South Australia: marks the start of the Ediacaran Period of geological time as earth warmed following glaciation. The brass disc indicates its location, where glacial tillite is overlain by dolomite.

The Ediacaran biota has particular significance for the history of life as it **represents the earliest known assemblage of complex multicellular organisms.**

Anthropocene seems to be antithesis of the Ediacaran geological period!

America—north

The Border Wall—it is pretty much a mess!



The Biden administration has been criticized for continuing construction of the border wall between Mexico and the USA. It has been reported that border security funding would be used to close small gaps in border barriers and to pay for environmental fixes. Work will include projects like the installation of drainage to prevent flooding, addition of missing gates and construction of erosion control measures.

But it may take a lot more than a few “environmental fixes” to rectify the social, wildlife and landscape issues surrounding the border wall...

From Friends of the Sonoran Desert May 2022

Wall construction has been exempted from compliance with dozens of Federal laws, and State and local law that would have required planning and restrictions on construction. In both wall construction and law enforcement activities the Border Patrol fundamentally has free rein to do whatever they decide regarding their law enforcement responsibilities.

Ongoing law enforcement activities are conducted without regard to wilderness maintenance.

Wall construction generally has been criticized for a lack of planning and protection of sites and wildlife. Construction in mountainous areas has been particularly problematic regarding siting on slopes and erosion potential.

In 2021, we advocated for the restoration of protected areas that were severely damaged by the construction of the border wall. To insure that restoration efforts are successful, we will emphasize the need for long-term monitoring and research to assess the effectiveness of different strategies.



A portion of the border wall under construction in Arizona's Guadalupe Canyon, a wildlife corridor for Mexican gray wolves & endangered jaguars. USA on left. John Kurc NPR Nov 2020



Photo: High Country News 2020 Arizona's Guadalupe Canyon



The **Otay Mountain Wilderness** is located near the U.S.-Mexico border. The mountain represents a unique ecosystem, home to 20 sensitive plant and animal species, including the endangered quino checkerspot butterfly, the only known stand of Tecate cypress, as well as the only known population of the Mexican flannel bush. In an age of *“...increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization,...”* you play an important role in helping to *“...secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness”* as called for by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964.



Photo: Mt Olay A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared prior to wall construction stated that constructing a wall in this area would have long-term impacts on its flora, fauna, and water resources. The EIS warned that grading and road construction associated with the wall (prohibited in wilderness areas) would remove layers of topsoil and destroy fragile, intertwined plant roots that protect chaparral habitats from

America—north

First Nations saving the woodland caribou: Canada



Photo: WILDLIFE INFOMETRICS

Adapted from Science News April 2022

Helicopter-borne scientists (above) equipped with nets fired from a gun pursue a female caribou cow in the mountains of central British Columbia. Picked up by sled the sedated caribou is precious—one of 114 of a herd facing extinction.

The caribou—a female belonging to the Klinse-Za herd—and 18 others will spend 5 months in a mountain enclosure known as the maternal pen. Here, they'll be safe from wolves, bears, and other predators as the pregnant cows give birth and begin to rear their calves. The work is part of an unusual, costly, and labor-intensive experiment led by two First Nations to bring one of Canada's many dwindling caribou herds back from the brink.

New research suggests it's working. Since 2013, the Klinse-Za herd has tripled in size.

The results point to what it could take to revive the fortunes of ailing caribou elsewhere on the continent—some of the last herds of large, migratory mammals in the Americas (also known as reindeer).

The work is not for the faint of heart. It has included killing hundreds of wolves, expensive coddling of pregnant caribou cows, and hard-won protections for land in mountainous central British Columbia.

Until recently, this herd had been following the same trajectory as many woodland caribou in North America: down.

The caribou in western Canada have suffered from the ripple effects of logging and oil and gas extraction. Brushy habitat left by logging lures moose and deer that in turn attract wolves, whose travel is eased by roads. The wolves then prey on the caribou. Since 2000, nearly one-third of the 38 herds in southwestern Canada have grown so small they are considered functionally extinct, including the last one in the United States.

Scientists credit the leadership of First Nations as a critical ingredient, providing money, staffing, and political power. That clout could be tested in the coming years, as the First Nations work to reverse the habitat decline at the root of the herd's woes.

Today, the herd is still small enough that they remain on these 'life support' measures until the habitat restores to a level that will sustain them—this could take 25 years.



Unlike the waves of barren-ground caribou that swarm across the Arctic tundra each year, woodland caribou form smaller herds in old-growth forests and high-altitude mountain slopes, feeding chiefly on lichen.

Y2Y has more interesting related articles and blogs from 2021

[Indigenous Led Recovery and Caribou habitat protection is more than predator culling](#)



L-R: West Moberly First Nations chief, Y2Y rep and Saulteau First Nations chief - 2020 Partnership Agreement signing to protect and restore nearly 8000 square kilometers of forestland, more than 85% of the Klinse-Za's territory.

America—south (& elsewhere)

The Lake Palcacocha Case: Peru, Germany & the World

From The Guardian May 2022

In a global first for climate breakdown litigation, judges from Germany have visited Peru to determine the level of damage caused by Europe’s largest emitter in a case that could set a precedent for legal claims over human-caused global heating.

Judges and court-appointed experts visited a glacial lake in Peru’s Cordillera Blanca mountain range this week to determine whether Germany’s largest electricity provider, RWE, is partially liable for the rise in greenhouse gases that could trigger a devastating flood.

A peer-reviewed study links accelerated glacial melt caused by global heating to the substantial risk of an outburst flood which could trigger a deadly landslide inundating the city of Huaraz below.

In 2017, judges in Hamm, Germany, made legal history by accepting a case brought by farmer and mountain guide Saúl Luciano Lliuya against RWE, asking for €17,000 (£14,490) for the costs of preventing damage from a potentially devastating outburst flood from the lake.

“To my knowledge, this is the absolute first case globally where judges travel from one country, where the jurisdiction is, to the country where the damage is, where it is actually climate change-related,” said Roda Verheyen, an environmental lawyer who represents Lliuya.

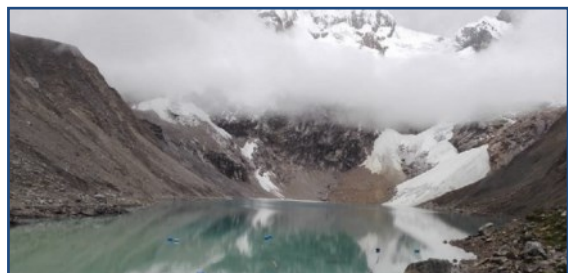
The case could have implications for fossil fuel companies. RWE is being sued for having contributed to 0.47% of historical global emissions. Firms like BP and Shell could also face similar cases in the future.

“This is the only case in the entire world to this day that looks at the responsibility of private emitters of greenhouse gases to take responsibility for the impacts of climate change in a different country,” said Verheyen. “And for some reason – which I cannot explain – it remains the only one.”

Attribution Studies

“This is not the first claim that has used climate science, there are many others,” said Petra Minnerop, associate professor of International Law at Durham University. “However, this would be one of the first cases that could make use of attribution studies.”

Attribution studies seek to test whether – and by how much – climate breakdown may be responsible for extreme weather events; such as extreme flooding, droughts, excessive



Framed by majestic ice-capped peaks, Lake Palcacocha has swollen in volume by 34 times in the last five decades.

Photo: Jan Svartberg (Google maps) 2021



Lago Palcacocha 1939 (Wikipedia)

Increased outburst flood hazard from Lake Palcacocha due to human-induced glacier retreat *Nature Geoscience* volume 14, (2021)

Abstract

A potential glacial lake outburst flood from Lake Palcacocha (Cordillera Blanca, Peru) threatens Huaraz, a city of 120,000 people.

In 1941, an outburst flood destroyed one-third of the city and caused at least 1,800 fatalities. Since pre-industrial times, Lake Palcacocha has expanded due to the retreat of Palcaraju glacier. Here we used observations and numerical models to evaluate the anthropogenic contribution to the glacier’s retreat and glacial lake outburst flood hazard.

We found that the magnitude of human-induced warming equals between 85 and 105% (5–95% confidence interval) of the observed 1 °C warming since 1880 in this region.

We conclude that it is virtually certain (>99% probability) that the retreat of Palcaraju glacier to the present day cannot be explained by natural variability alone, and that the retreat by 1941 represented an early impact of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Our central estimate is that the overall retreat is entirely attributable to the observed temperature trend, and that the resulting change in the geometry of the lake and valley has substantially increased the outburst flood hazard. [Cite this article](#)

Africa

Biega National Park: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Kahuzi-Biega National Park (WHC – UNESCO) Inscription on **List of World Heritage in Danger** 1997—present

A vast area of primary tropical forest dominated by two spectacular extinct volcanoes, Kahuzi and Biega, the park has a diverse and abundant fauna. One of the last groups of eastern lowland (graueri) gorillas (consisting of only some 250 individuals) lives at between 2,100 and 2,400 m above sea-level.

Some UNESCO identified challenges:

- Some villages were included in the Park at the time of its extension in 1975, creating disputes with the populations.
- The boundaries of the property should be clearly delineated, especially where there are no evident natural boundaries.
- Political instability in the region, provoking the displacement of thousands of people, represents a very serious threat to the integrity of the property, resources and populations of large mammals in the Park have declined dramatically.
- Control of poaching, hunting for bushmeats and artisanal oil exploration in the former extraction sites – due to presence of numerous miners in the Park.



Landscape of Kahuzi-Biega National Park. Photo: Andrew Kirkby / WCS.



A group of Grauer's Gorillas in Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in late 2016. There are fewer than 4,000 of the gorilla subspecies left. Photo: T Nicolon

Taken from Mongabay January 2022

What went wrong with conservation at Kahuzi-Biega National Park and how to transform it. Commentary by Deborah S. Rogers President of Initiative for Equality, a global network of organizations addressing social, economic and political inequalities. Some key points below but please read whole article [Here](#)

The Coercive Conservation paradigm prevents local communities from accessing their lands, leading to human rights abuses, corrupt resource extraction, and loss of habitat and wildlife.

Kahuzi Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which expelled Indigenous Batwa people in 1975, is now overrun by refugees, militias, and mining, while ecoguards reportedly burn villages and kill indigenous people.

We can transition from coercive conservation to a new paradigm

... much of this damage can be reversed provided we change our approach to conservation before any more species are lost or human communities destroyed.

A new paradigm, based in the belief that people and nature can re-learn to live together, will allow us to work towards a conservation that is designed and implemented by Indigenous peoples and local communities, with advice (not demands) from experts. It must integrate human well-being with the survival of the landscape, ecology, and biodiversity, and must not overwhelm ecosystems and local communities with the impacts of visitors.

Finally, it should be monitored and protected (from militias, invasions, poaching and illicit resource extraction) by the local people – with support by security forces upon request.

South East Asia

Annamite Mountains: Laos & Vietnam



Camera trap photo of an Annamite dark muntjac Photo: Leibniz-IZW / WWF-Viet Nam / Song Thanh National Park

From *Rare mammals caught on camera highlight value of Annamite Mountains* Carolyn Cowan
March 2022 Mongabay

Camera-trap surveys in the Annamite mountain range between Laos and Vietnam have provided an overview of two incredibly rare and elusive mammals that occur nowhere else on the planet: the Annamite striped rabbit and Annamite dark muntjac. The results are published in *Conservation Science and Practice*.

Data from the study will now serve as a baseline against which to monitor future population trends of these two rare and elusive mammals. In addition, distribution maps will help conservation managers to focus often limited resources on areas critical for biodiversity. This could prove particularly useful to reduce snaring (for bushmeat) pressure — a major threat to mammals throughout the region, and a contributory factor in Annamite striped rabbit and muntjac population declines.

According to a 2020 WWF report, an estimated 12 million snares lie in wait throughout protected areas in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Although hunters trying to catch bushmeat might not be targeting threatened species, the sheer number of snares set in some areas of the Annamites heightens the chances of some rare animals being caught incidentally.

The researchers recommend the use of standardized snare removal protocols across protected areas in the Annamites to help identify hunting hotspots. Over the past decade, ranger patrol teams have removed more than 110,000 individual wire snares from the reserves.

Read the whole article [Here](#)

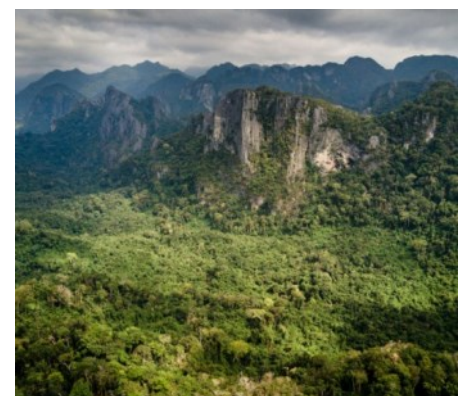


The Annamite Mountains are a series of jagged peaks and secluded valleys that run between Laos and Vietnam



Camera trap photo of Annamite striped rabbit Photo: Leibniz-IZW / WWF-Viet Nam / Song Thanh NP

The Lao government intends to nominate Hin Nam No National Park (right) as the country's first natural World Heritage Site. Once nominated, it will, together with Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, form Asia's first natural transboundary World Heritage site, a major achievement. Enrolling both national parks in the IUCN Green List will strengthen the nomination and assist coordinated management across the two sites. Jake Brunner, Head of IUCN's Indo-Burma Group. IUCN June 2021



Oceania—Australia

Wildfire in the Australian Alps is threatening biodiversity

From Peter Jacobs Chair Mountain SG April 2022

Wildfires have been a natural occurrence in the Australian Alps for millennium and indeed many ecological communities rely on fire to some extent for their health. However frequent fire is a threat to many species and ecological communities. In response to the impact on nature of the massive increase in areas burnt in Australia recently, inappropriate fire regimes has now been formally recognised as a threatening process under Australia’s Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This is a real issue for mountain areas in particular. Mount Buffalo National Park been subject to five large intense fires in the last 50 years. This follows nearly 35 years of no significant fires. As a result, the landscape is suffering. Alpine species require long fire free periods to thrive; iconic snow gums are under stress and massive alpine ash forests are failing to regenerate.

A forum was held at Mount Buffalo recently to discuss the impact of these fires on threatened species. Experts spoke about the effect of frequent fire on key alpine species such Long-footed Potoroo, Mountain Pygmy Possum and Broad-toothed Rat among a long list of other species under threat. Long fire free periods are desperately needed to prevent a total change of state.

The forum was opened by Aboriginal Traditional Owner Uncle Shane Monk who spoke of the concern of First Nations people about the health of the country and the effect climate change and too many fires.



Taungurung elder, Uncle Shane Monk with 'Welcome to Country & smoking ceremony'.



Three threatened species that depend upon a healthy Australian Alps for their survival (L-R) Mountain Pygmy Possum, Broad tooth Rat, Smokey Mouse: Climate change impacts include fire, habitat loss & introduced predators. All photos: Zoos Victoria



Alpine rock scree, Pygmy possum habitat destroyed by fire



Broad-toothed Rat grass 'runways' exposed by fire



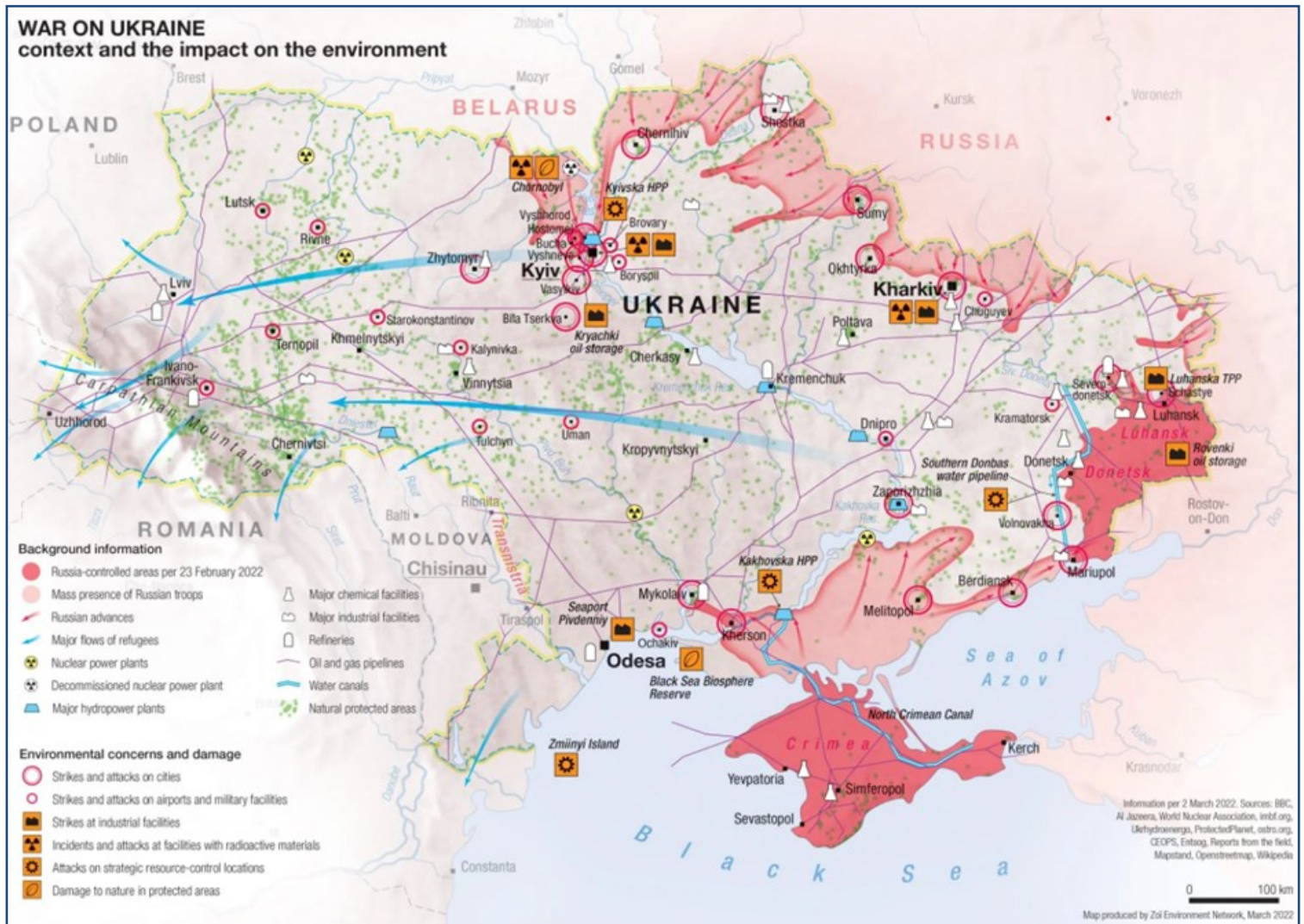
Small native mammals are easy prey after fire

Europe

“War – what is it good for – absolutely nothing”



From European Wilderness Society (EWS) March and UNCG May 2022



March 2022 (update from Ukrainian Conservation Society)

From all 1,236,366 hectares of the nature reserve of the highest protection, 44% are in the war zones.

Approximately 4 million hectares of Ukraine are protected areas. Due to Russian aggression, natural ecosystems suffer from fortification construction, explosions, military transport, and so on. Some national nature parks are in a zone of humanitarian crisis and their employees may not even have the basic means to provide for their own living needs.

In addition, in the occupied territories, there are numerous unique undisturbed places that do not have protected status. These are old swampy forests in the north of the country, steppes in the east and south, the Cretaceous mountains of Slobozhanshchina, all coastal ecosystems.

Plus we should not forget about the previously occupied Crimea and Donbas, which is also a treasure trove of unique natural ecosystems.

The future of Ukrainian nature: a formula with a thousand variables

Read this interesting UNCG article [Here](#)

Map produced by Environment Network (green shading natural protected areas)

Currently a lot of rangers have joined the army, so they have a lack of working hands to carry out jobs in protected areas. The employees who didn't become part of military forces have to deal with thousands of displaced people from near cities and villages seeking for shelter.

The most significant consequences of the war for nature will be related to long-term social, institutional and economic changes, rather than the tactical aspects of hostilities.
UNCG

Europe

Ukraine Forests (& Carpathian Mountains)

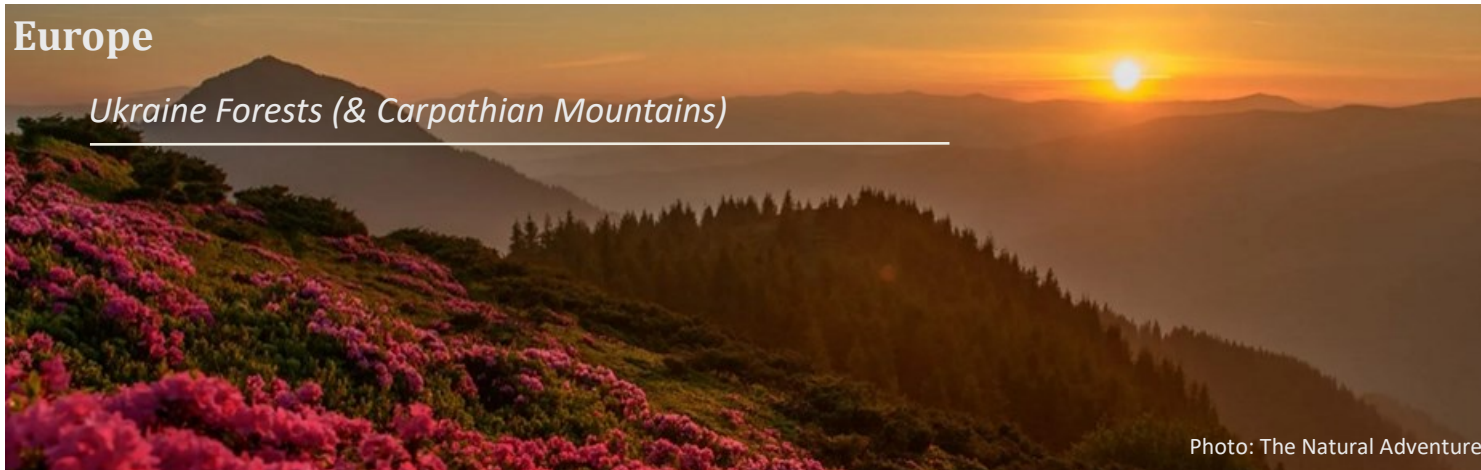


Photo: The Natural Adventure

From Ukrainian forests Issue #1, May, 2022 Yehor Hrynyk, Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group
Our country is at war. But vested interests in Ukraine are cynically using the conflict to water down environmental controls.

Success of Ukraine's European integration depends on environmental legislation, among other things. The majority of environmental laws which are essential for European integration of Ukraine have never been passed during recent years, including those envisaged by the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which includes clauses on protection of Ukraine's forests

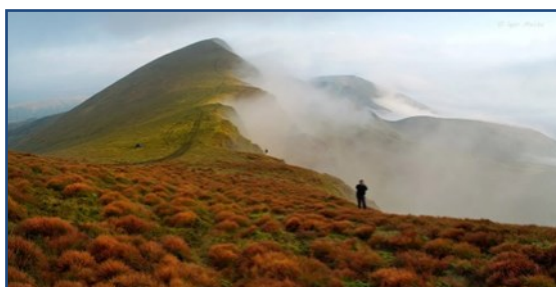
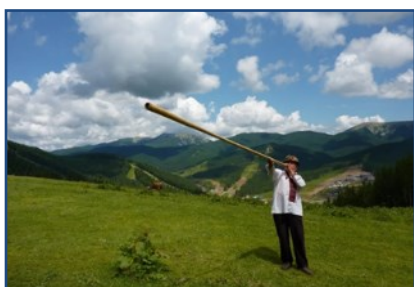
Therefore, more than 30 Ukrainian NGOs, including Environment-People-Law and WWF-Ukraine, are calling upon the authorities to pass 7 critical environmental laws without delay.

Some of them directly concern forest protection:

- Draft law On Emerald Network Territories that should at last formalise the Emerald Network, which is the counterpart of Natura 2000 for EU non-member states. Without this law hundreds of thousands valuable Ukrainian forests cannot be protected;
- Draft law On Timber Market that should reduce corruption during timber sales, which means allocating more funds to forest protection;
- Draft law On State Environmental Control should fully reform the Ecological Inspectorate of Ukraine which is a corrupt agency ignoring illegal logging in forests.



Western Ukraine is home to the Carpathian forests, and as the central country in the Carpathian arc connecting the Carpathians in EU countries like Romania and Slovakia, deterioration of forests and biodiversity of forests in Ukraine has serious implications for the viability of the entire Carpathian region.



Carpathian Mountains Ukraine Photos: The Natural Adventure (this travel company is offering virtual treks to raise money to support Ukraine charities)

The Ukrainian Carpathians include three mountain ranges – Gorgany Nature Reserve, Svydovets range and Chornohora range, which are part of the UNESCO-listed Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Ukraine's Carpathians are among the least explored mountains in Europe, offering spectacular views, traditional villages, and the authentic hospitality of the Hutsul people.

Ed Note: The Mountain Protected Areas Update often features articles about the Carpathian Mountains. The Mountain Specialist Group wishes a speedy end to the conflict as well as social, cultural and environmental recovery so that the new Ukraine is a safe, healthy and prosperous home for all Ukrainians.

Central Asia

Enhancing the conservation of flagship migratory mammal species



Countries	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
IKI funding	6,000,000.00 €
Duration	02/2021 till 01/2025
Status	open
Implementing organisation	United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

From Matt Raulerson & Marc Foggin Mountain SG Committee

Migratory species in Central Asia are highly vulnerable to climate change.

As a result of changing migration patterns, protected areas are rendered ineffective. Changes in the use of pastures (extension of grazing periods and shifting grazing areas to higher elevations) are expected to lead to increased human-wildlife conflicts.

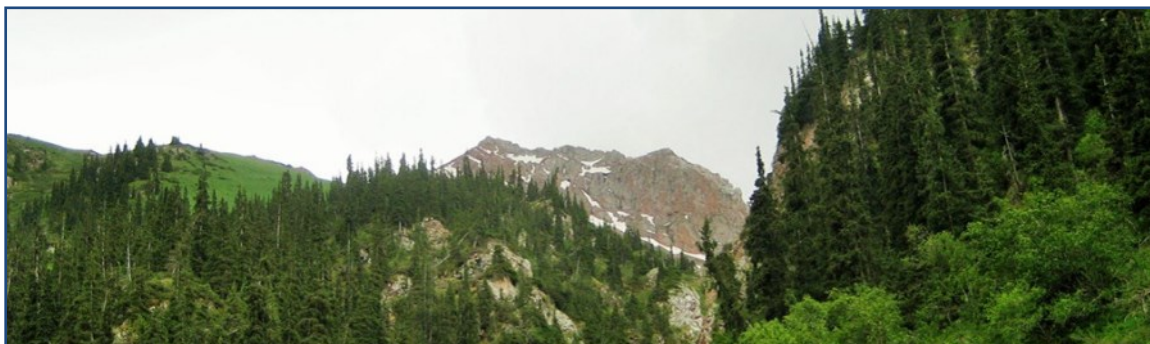
In order to increase the resilience of people and wildlife in Central Asia to climate change ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures and climate change-informed wildlife management will be tested in pilot sites. Given the focus on migratory species, a transboundary approach across the three target countries (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan) will be used.

In Kyrgyzstan this project will be carried out through enhancing community-based conservancies and the capacities of protected areas in the mountains of Naryn Oblast.

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) website for this project is [Here](#)

The project so far:

- Regional kickoff meeting was held online on 27 April with presentations and discussions on climate change, species conservation, protected area management, and ecosystem-based adaptation in the Central Asian mountains.
- Arrangements are now being made with stakeholders and the selection of pilot areas and species is being prepared.



Salkyn Tor National Park photo: Hospitality Naryn

Central Asia & Himalayas

Goats, cashmere and snow leopards: Mongolia



Taken from Treehugger

Mongolia is the second-largest exporter of cashmere after China. The two countries create about 85% of the global supply.

The demand for cashmere has increased dramatically in recent years and is expected to reach \$3.5 billion by 2025. That jump in demand has mirrored an increase in livestock numbers from an estimated 20 million in the 1990s to about 67 million now.

A recent study has found that as larger herds of goats take over more land, snow leopards are pushed out of their limited habitat.

Snow leopards are listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with their population numbers decreasing. A 2015 report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) suggested that more than one-third of snow leopard territory might become unviable due to climate change.

Livestock rearing is the primary livelihood in countries like Mongolia and is an industry that occupies large chunks of land, including within protected areas, despite regulations that are in place.

In our study in the Altai Mountains of Western Mongolia, we found that livestock herds encroaching on snow leopard habitat trigger displacement of both this elusive cat and its main prey in the region, the Siberian ibex.

Francesco Rovero, Department of Biology, University of Florence

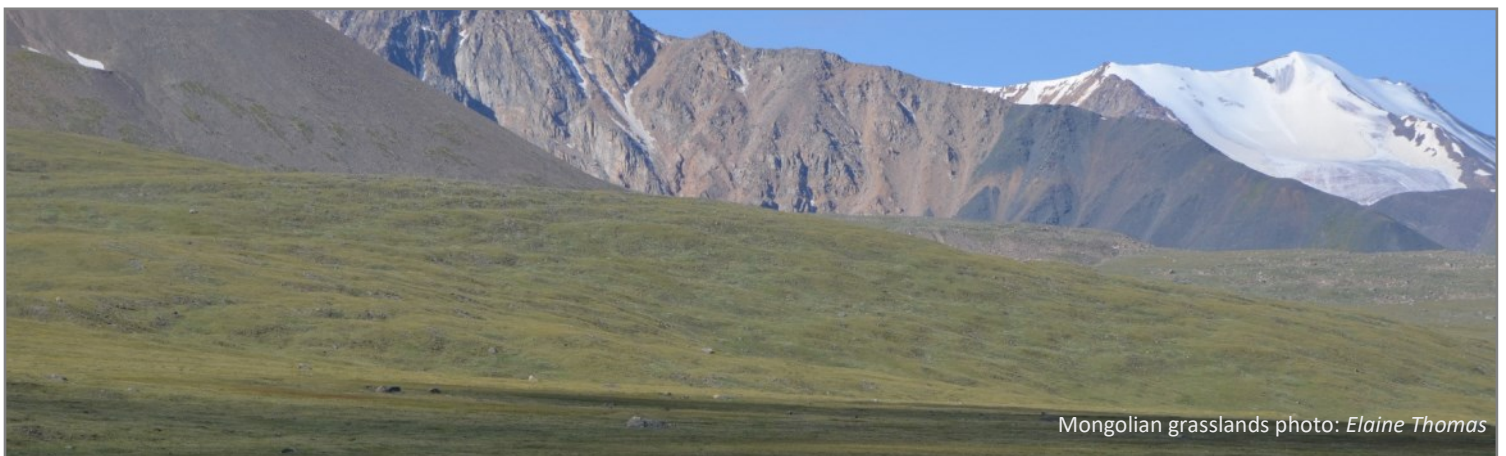
Protecting the environment should also preserve snow leopard habitat, say researchers, who have suggestions for keeping the leopard safe including keeping the goats in predator-proof corrals at night. **Read whole article [here](#)**

Goats and the environment

Goats can be very hard on the environment. They eat all the way to the ground and pull up roots, which can damage the ecosystem. They have sharp, pointed hooves that dig into the soil. All these factors combine to degrade grasslands and can hasten desertification.

Cashmere is a fiber made from the soft, downy undercoat of goats. It's popular due to its soft texture and warmth.

Some brands are transparent with sustainability practices. The Sustainable Fibre Alliance is an organization working to ensure responsible cashmere production by minimizing the environmental impact and protecting animal welfare, while looking after herder livelihoods.



Mongolian grasslands photo: Elaine Thomas

Importantly, local communities must be engaged in any and all conversations regarding conservation of the species, as they are ultimately the ones sharing their backyards with the species and facing the consequences of unsustainable land use.

Scree and Talus

Transformative Adaptation to Climate Change in African Mountains

From MRI News April 2022 Read more [here](#)

With an emphasis on everyday practices of climate change adaptation among small-scale farmers in African mountains, workshop organizers sought to improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities for Transformative Adaptation to Climate Change; foster inter-regional dialogue; and initiate a network of mountain experts, providing opportunities for follow-on exchange and collaboration.

"We achieved even more than we aimed for, even if we never met in person: we gathered new field data from 10 mountains, contributed to capacity building of African students, and created a network of mountain experts in African Mountains," said workshop organizer Aida Cuni-Sanchez of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

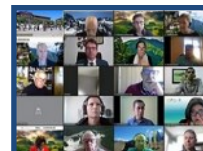


Fieldwork around Kibira National Park, Burundi

Launching event of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development

From Mountain Partnerships Read more via [link above](#).

The launching event of the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, 2022, aimed to raise awareness of the importance of mountains for sustainable development, with a variety of very interesting speakers.



Alaska to Patagonia – Let us all begin our long hike! From Pedro da Cunha e Menezes

The World Trails Network Hub of the Americas have been pursuing the recommendation of the 2019 Lima Latin American Congress of Protected Areas to weave a **Pan American Trails Network**. The theme is going to be discussed at the I Brazilian Trails Congress in May and again at the World Trails Congress to be held in Greece in September.

Like any long-term project, this one will not happen overnight. It will probably take decades to come true. We, at the World Trails Network Hub for the Americas, fully understand that this work will only bear ripe fruits when today's leaders are already hiking in Heaven. We also know, on the other hand, that a fairer world needs more integration, less xenophobia, more connectivity between protected areas and more generation of jobs and income in the rural countryside. Finally, it is clear to us that making such a project happen will take a long long time. Pedro da Cunha e Menezes, Nathaniel Scrimshaw e Hugo de Castro



Tongariro Circuit NZ photo: peopleinnature

The 2022–23 Great Walks booking season celebrates 30 years of epic adventures in NZ

From Department of Conservation (DOC) New Zealand

When first established the Great Walks network included seven of New Zealand's finest and most popular multi-day walks: including the spectacular mountain hikes of Tongariro Northern Circuit, Routeburn, Milford and Kepler. Over the years more amazing hiking (and canoeing) trails have been added.

When bookings opened for the 30th Great Walks season this week, starting with Milford Track it booked out in record time. "Each year we think the Milford can't sell out any faster and each year we are proven wrong," says DOC's Heritage and Visitors Director Tim Bamford. "Yesterday was no exception. At 9:30 am we had 6,000 customers logged on, all looking to book the 7,480 spaces on the Milford. **All available spaces were reserved within three minutes**, although some were subsequently cancelled or updated."

Scree and Talus cont.

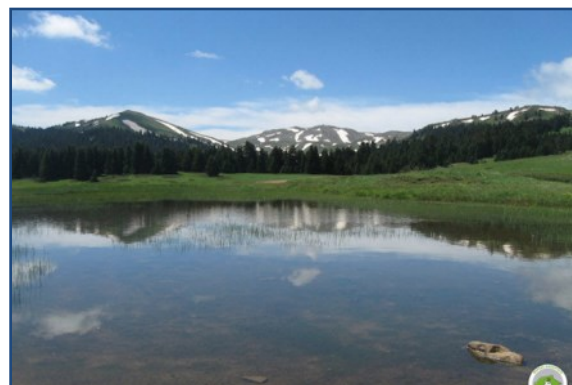
Greek conservationists collaborate to protect endemic species in face of climate change

From Mongabay March 2022 Read the whole article [Here](#)

Across Greece, conservation NGOs are working in close collaboration to study and save numerous endemic species found nowhere else. Often working in areas like [Mount Olympus and Mount Oiti](#), the plants and animals now need what seems like divine intervention to survive the ravages brought by climate change.

Disturbances to habitats like excessive development threaten many endemic species across Greece. Nearly 20% of the country's endemic plants are vulnerable to extinction under the IUCN Red List.

To preserve biodiverse areas, Greece's government created 10 legally protected national forests starting in 1938, many of which later became national parks. Mount Olympus, whose summit held the mythological throne of Zeus, was one of the first national forests, and later became a national park, which hosts 1,700 species. That includes 27 plants that are endemic to the mountain.



Mount Oiti landscape Photo: Mount Oiti National Park

Alberta government to extend pause on Rocky Mountain coal mine development From The Canadian Press March 2022

The Alberta government (Canada) is renewing and expanding its restrictions on coal mining in the province's Rocky Mountains in response to a strong public outcry and two reports written following extensive consultations on the issue.

Energy Minister said she will maintain a ministerial order that already blocks all coal exploration and development in the region's most sensitive lands. That order has been extended to cover a much wider swath of the province's summits and foothills. Some environmentalists cautiously welcomed the announcement.

Logging Plans in Australia's High Country Mountain Journal April 2022

The unburnt areas of the Victorian high country are increasingly rare and incredibly precious.

One of these areas lies in the headwaters of the Little Dargo River, just on boundary with [Alpine National Park](#). It is a pristine area, without roads, and containing mature forest, much of it dominated by Alpine Ash. The state government logging agency, VicForests, intends to log a total of 11 "coupes," or sections, of mature forest in the upper Little Dargo River, probably in 2022 spring.



Aerial image of Dargo High Plains, Alpine NP showing location of logging coupes.

Some notes on events over last 3 months: from Mountain Partnership

(follow links in headings to read more)

Southern African Mountain Conference a collective voice for sustainable development

The Southern African Mountain Conference (SAMC2022) – a collective voice for the sustainable management of Southern African mountains – brought together a network of more than 200 delegates from across the globe to discuss a wide array of interventions to ensure the conservation of the ecosystem under global change on 14–17 March 2022.

Mountain and snow tourism summit looks to sustainable future

The 11th World Congress on Snow and Mountain Tourism concluded on 24 March 2022 with a shared commitment to centre innovation and promote investment in green infrastructure and low-impact travel

UNESCO World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves hosts workshop in Spain

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme organized a workshop on mountain biosphere reserves on 18 & 19 April 2022 in Torla, Spain, in partnership and within the Ordesa-Viñamala Biosphere Reserve. The discussions focused on prioritising the main work themes for the World Network of Mountain Biosphere Reserves, taking into consideration that mountain biosphere reserves are rich in culture, biodiversity, endemism and multiple ecosystem services.

Tools, Publications and other Media

Mountain Adapt From UNEP

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability confirms that climate change poses increasing challenges to the goods and services mountains offer, including their ability to store and purify fresh water, support crops and host visitors.



To mark the official launch of the [International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development](#) the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has published two new booklets, titled *Mountains ADAPT*.

They feature 27 concrete solutions in mountainous areas to adapt to the climate crisis – 18 in [East Africa](#) and nine in the [South Caucasus](#). The material was produced under the Adaptation at Altitude programme, which is financed by the

The Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) have a new Strategic Plan which provides an overview of the goals and objectives of CMN, as well as its scope, structure and core activities.

[Download the Strategic Plan here](#)

The Mountain Legacy Project explores all that changes in Canada's mountain landscapes. Working with the world's largest collection of systematic historical mountain photographs, the Mountain Legacy Project follows the footsteps of intrepid surveyors to retake the original images.

A brand new explorer tool launched [See the report from the Mountain Legacy Summit](#) Expanding on their previous platform, view the world's largest collection of mountain repeat photography. Learn more about these mountain ranges and view images from all our favorite mountain regions now, & in the past!

The IUCN WCPA Technical Report on "[Recognizing and reporting OECMs](#)" is now available in French, Spanish, English, Portuguese, Korean and Chinese and can be accessed [here](#), along with other Technical Reports.



The Last Glaciers From MRI

One of the most comprehensive documentaries ever produced about the relationship between climate change, mountain environments, and glaciers, *The Last Glaciers* shines a light on the rapid depletion of the world's water towers as a result of climate change.

From Antarctica to the Himalayas, the Alps, and the Andes, *The Last Glaciers* is a global call to action to protect and restore mountain ecosystems. The film gives voice to leading scientists and impacted communities as they highlight and reflect on the imminent dangers humanity faces if it fails to protect what is left of these critical natural water resources.

The Mountain Research Initiative is proud to be a [science partner](#) in support of this important film.

Hosted by Barack Obama, new series Explores National Parks Treehugger April 2022

The wildlife scenes for the new Netflix series, "[Our Great National Parks](#) were captured over more than 1,500 days of filming." Over three years, the production team launched 33 expeditions, exploring national parks in 10 countries on five continents.

The series is narrated by former President Barack Obama, who established and added protections for more than 550 million acres of public lands and waters in the U.S.



More information about *The Last Glaciers*, including how you can watch it, can be found on [The Last Glaciers website](#).



Patagonia (above) is about the importance of rewilding and reconnecting.

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!



PROTECTING MOUNTAINS: WHERE WILL THE NEXT MOUNTAIN PROTECTED AREAS COME FROM?

Peter Jacobs - Chair WCPA Mountain Specialist Group



30% X 2030 WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MOUNTAINS?



The world's system of protected areas includes many outstanding areas within the global mountain landscape; but significant mountain areas are not adequately protected.

As the world conservation movement advocates to expand the global coverage

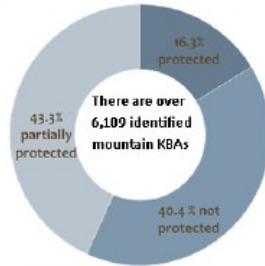
of protected areas over the next decade toward 30%, identifying priorities for new mountain protected and conserved areas will be most effective if it takes a strategic approach to ensure areas of highest ecological value and most in need of protection are identified.

Employing a range of indicators, a new decision support tool helps determine where protection or conservation efforts need to be focussed.

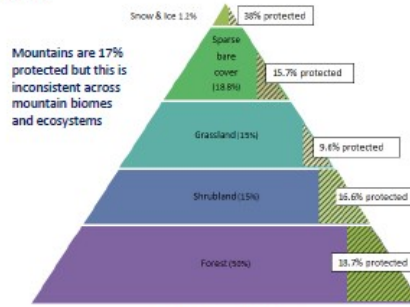


WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

Levels of protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA's) and mountain biomes and ecosystems are initial indicators of high environmental values and how well they are protected or conserved. In addition biodiversity hotspots, IUCN red listed ecosystems and species and a range of other values including OECM's have been taken into account when identifying and ranking priorities.



Key Biodiversity Areas



Mountain Biomes

MAKING IT HAPPEN: JOIN US!

The Decision Support Tool (Microsoft Excel document) and Paper can be found on the IUCN WCPA Mountains web page here: [Mountains Paper and Decision Support Tool](#) The Decision Support Tool contains up to date datasets on levels of protection and built-in selection and scoring functions, plus references for information as one works through the six steps.

Please go to <https://youtu.be/NuY89TWscl> a short video of Protecting Mountains IUCN WCC presentation by Peter Jacobs (Chair Mountain Specialist Group).

Some events of interest

MRI Events [View Events Calendar](#)

Mountain Partnerships Events [Here](#)

Indigenous Knowledge & Science: Moving

Mountains & Beyond [Canadian Mountain Network \(CMN\) 2nd Annual Knowledge Sharing Summit 6 – 9 June Banff, Canada](#)

The Knowledge Sharing Summit brings together Indigenous organizations and communities, university researchers, government, business, and not-for-profit partners to showcase CMN's work and create opportunities for networking and collaboration.

WCPA Annual Steering Committee Meeting and Strategic Planning Workshop 29 May—2 June 2022

WCPA will be holding its annual Steering Committee meeting right after the Asia Parks Congress, at the Kinabalu Park in Sabah, Malaysia. It will be the first in-person meeting for the Commission in the new quadrennium and is a promising opportunity for vice chairs to convene as a team to discuss key priorities for the Commission moving forward. We will communicate key highlights and outcomes of the Steering Committee meeting to the full WCPA Membership.

World Biodiversity Forum 2022 Inspiration for Action June 26 – July 1 Davos, Switzerland

Africa Protected Areas Congress 18—22 July 2022

WCPA will also have a strong presence at the upcoming [Africa Protected Areas Congress being held in Kigali, Rwanda](#). In addition to co-hosting the Congress, WCPA will have a members' meeting, will be involved in side events, and is organizing a #NatureForAll pavilion for youth and intergenerational protected areas leaders. APAC will be a continent-wide gathering of African leaders, citizens, and interest groups to discuss the role of protected and conserved areas in safeguarding Africa's iconic wildlife, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, and promoting sustainable development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions. Stay tuned for how to get involved with WCPA at the Congress if you are attending.

The International Mountain Conference 11-15 September - <https://www.imc2022.info/> Innsbruck, Austria

Mountains Matter: Ideas to Action: Building Alliances for Resilient Mountains Sixth Global Meeting of the Mountain Partnership, Aspen, **26-29 September**. This conference is an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Mountain Partnership and mark the "International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022" <https://www.mountainsmatteraspen.com/home-page>

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, 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: [IUCN WCPA Get Involved](#)

[IUCN WCPA Membership Renewal https://portals.iucn.org/commissions/node/add/application_wcpa](https://portals.iucn.org/commissions/node/add/application_wcpa)

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!