

Mountain Protected Areas

UPDATE March 2021 # 109

A note from the editor:

Welcome to a special 109th edition of the Update where the mountain 'priority areas for protection and conservation' project being undertaken by the Mountain Specialist Group, in association with the USGS is featured. Although still being refined and trialed this exciting initiative will help guide priorities for future mountain protection! Have a look at the decision tool and see what you think...

'scree & talus' is still included along with 'tools & publications' — so happy reading. *March 5 2021*

In this issue:


From People and Mountains around the world:

Global

- Identification of Global Priorities for New Mountain Protected & Conserved Areas

Scree and Talus

Tools, Publications other Media
Mountain SG Committee



Every year hundreds of thousands of people go on expeditions and trekking in remote mountains. This generates increasing amounts of waste that is not managed sustainably...here is alpinist Jost Kobusch surrounded by various mountaineering waste he collected on Mount Everest!

Find out more about a new manual in Tools, Publications & other Media page 11

photo: Daniel Hug

Why undertake a Project to identify unprotected mountains?

The world's system of protected and conserved areas includes many outstanding areas within the Earth's mountainous landscape. Excluding Antarctica, about 19% of mountain areas globally are protected or conserved.

Nevertheless, significant mountain areas are not adequately protected, and many mountain ranges are completely unprotected. Of over 6000 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in mountains worldwide, 40.4% are entirely unprotected.

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.

A number of people from the Mountain Specialist Group have come together to develop a paper that describes in detail the project and a six step decision support tool.

Key authors of the project paper

The authors are: Peter Jacobs*, Erik Beever, Clinton Carbutt, Marc Foggin, Diego Juffe-Bignoli, Madeline Martin#, Shane Orchard and Roger Sayre#.

* Peter Jacobs is the corresponding author # United States Geological Survey

Project Aim

- Identify inadequately protected mountain areas and prioritise their importance for protection and conservation.
- Provide a basis for the Mountain Specialist Group and others to advocate for new mountain protected and conserved areas.

Six Step Decision Support Tool

The Mountain Specialist Group paper introduces a six step decision support tool (with tables and links to relevant data) for identifying and prioritising candidate areas for conserving mountain ecosystems, species and habitats.

The tool begins with an analysis of the adequacy of the level of protection of mountain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

It then quantitatively assesses if the inadequately protected mountain KBA is also characterised by:

- inadequately protected mountain ecosystems,
- biodiversity hotspots,
- red-listed species and/or communities,
- other forms of effective conservation i.e. ICCAs & OECMs, and
- being within a Developing Country

It then guides regional teams through qualitative assessments of other values to develop regionally ranked lists of priority areas to give heightened consideration for protection or conservation.



Simien Mountains Ethiopia. photo: Marc Foggin



Tibet. photo: *peopleinnature*

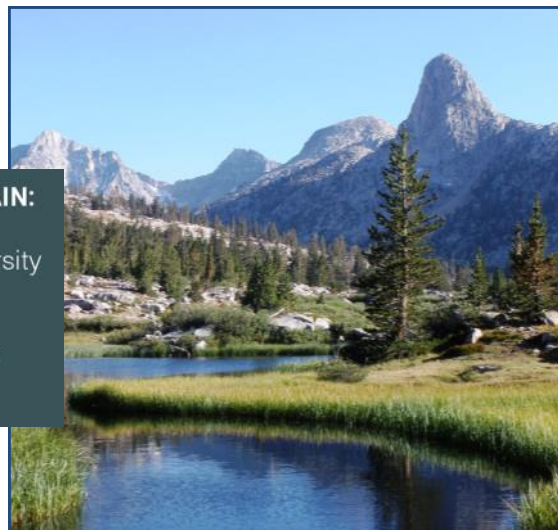
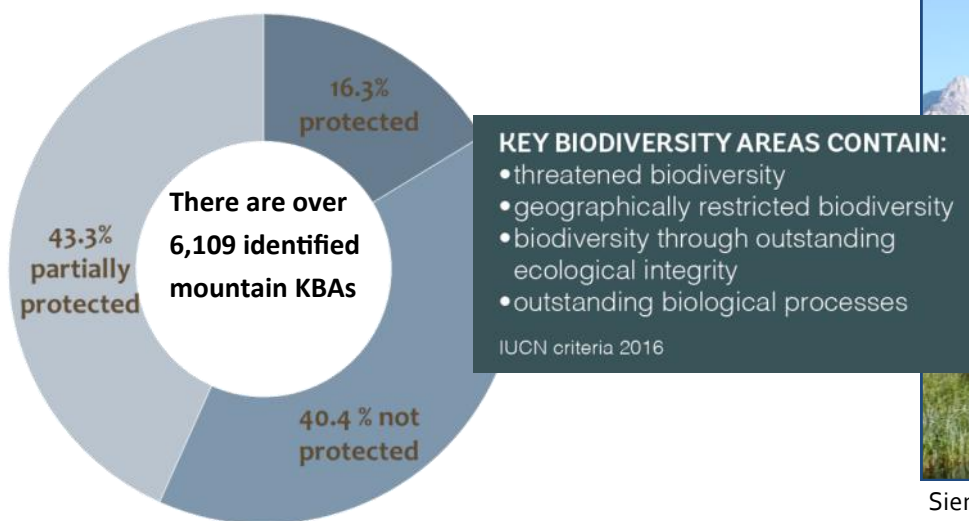


Conservation of nature by indigenous nomadic tribes of Iran photo: ICCA Consortium & CENESTA

Mountain Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Protection

There are **many reasons** why it is vital to protect and conserve new mountain areas but identifying unprotected Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) is a good starting point in a strategic and stepped process.

The graph below shows breakdown of protection of mountain KBAs.



Sierra Nevada Mountains USA photo: *peopleinnature*

In addition to KBAs; levels of protection of mountain ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots, IUCN red listed ecosystems and species and a range of other values including OECM's have been taken into account when identifying priorities.

Biodiversity Hotspots

Around the world, 36 areas qualify as biodiversity hotspots (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund 2019). They represent areas of very high biodiversity value under threat. Covering just 2.4% of Earth's land surface they contain more than 50% of the world's plant species as endemics and nearly 43% of bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian species as endemics.

About half of the world's biodiversity hotspots are in mountainous regions.



Snow Leopard is native to the mountains of Central and South Asia. Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List because the global population is estimated to number less than 10,000 mature individuals. photo: WWF



Kyrgyzstan Mountains photo: *Marc Foggin*

Red Listed Ecosystems and Species

The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provide standards for assessing the conservation status of ecosystems and species, locally, regionally and globally.

They are powerful tools to inform action for biodiversity conservation and can influence policy changes that are critical to protecting the natural resources and processes that humans rely on (IUCN 2019).

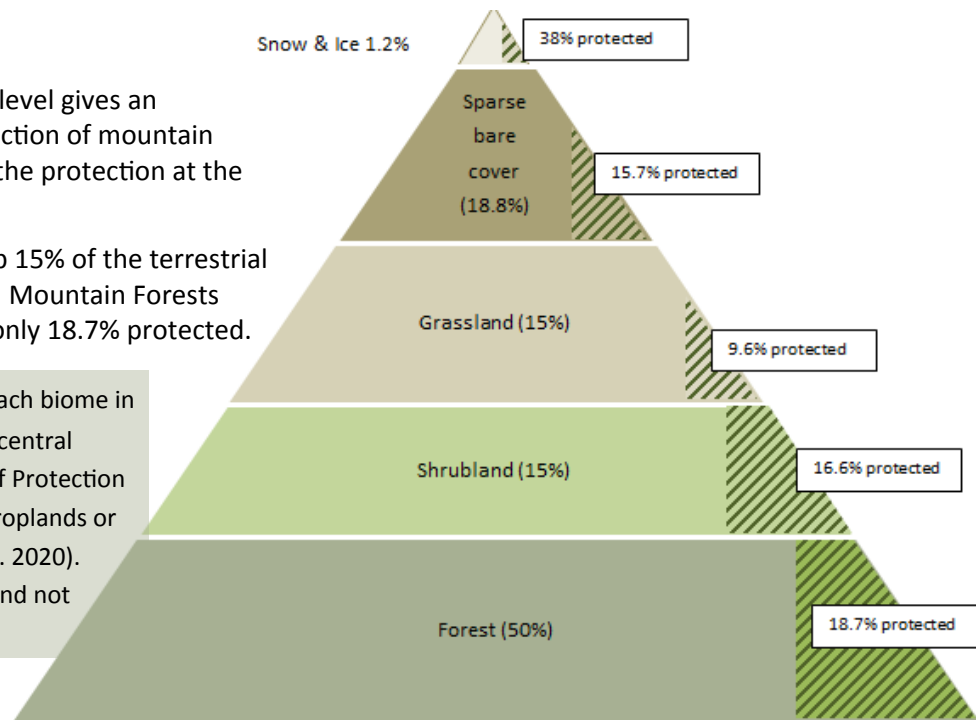
Protection of Mountain Biomes and Ecosystems

Mountain Biomes

The protection of mountains at the biome level gives an indication of relative occurrence and protection of mountain values at a broad scale prior to examining the protection at the ecosystem level.

For example Mountain Grasslands make up 15% of the terrestrial landscape but are only 9.6% protected and Mountain Forests even though they have 50% coverage are only 18.7% protected.

Mountain Biomes: Proportion of each biome in the mountain landscape, globally (central column), and each biome's Level of Protection (right-most edge), (not including croplands or settlements): (based on Sayre et al. 2020). (Note that the diagram is a guide and not accurate to scale)



Mountain Ecosystems

There are 278 natural or semi-natural World terrestrial Ecosystems. Of those, there are 77 mountain ecosystems that cover 32% in area of the world's natural or semi-natural ecosystems (Sayre et al. 2020).

The mountain ecosystems most comprehensively protected by proportion are:

- Cool Temperate Moist Snow and Ice on Mountains (60%)
- Polar Moist Snow and Ice on Mountains (43%)
- Boreal Moist Snow and Ice on Mountains (40%)

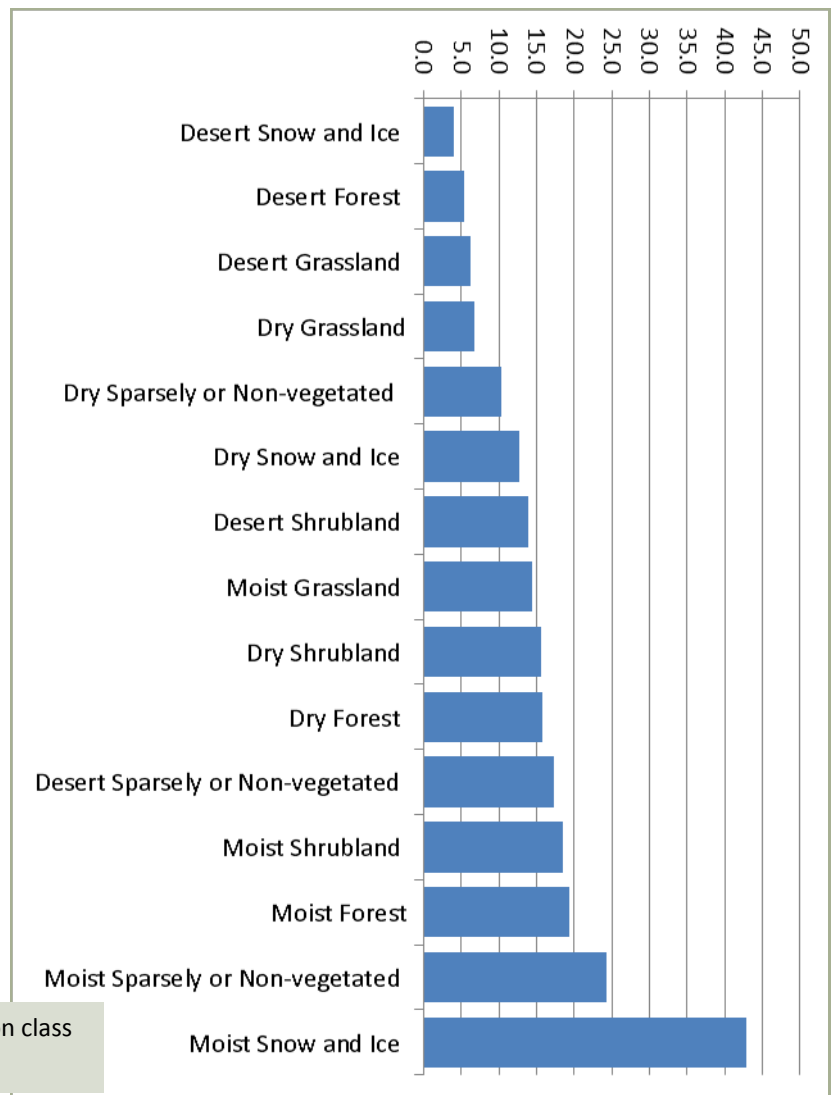
The mountain ecosystems least protected by proportion are:

- Boreal Desert Sparsely or Non-vegetated on Mountains (0%)
- Boreal Desert Grassland on Mountains (0%) and
- Cool Temperate Desert Grassland on Mountains (0.006%).

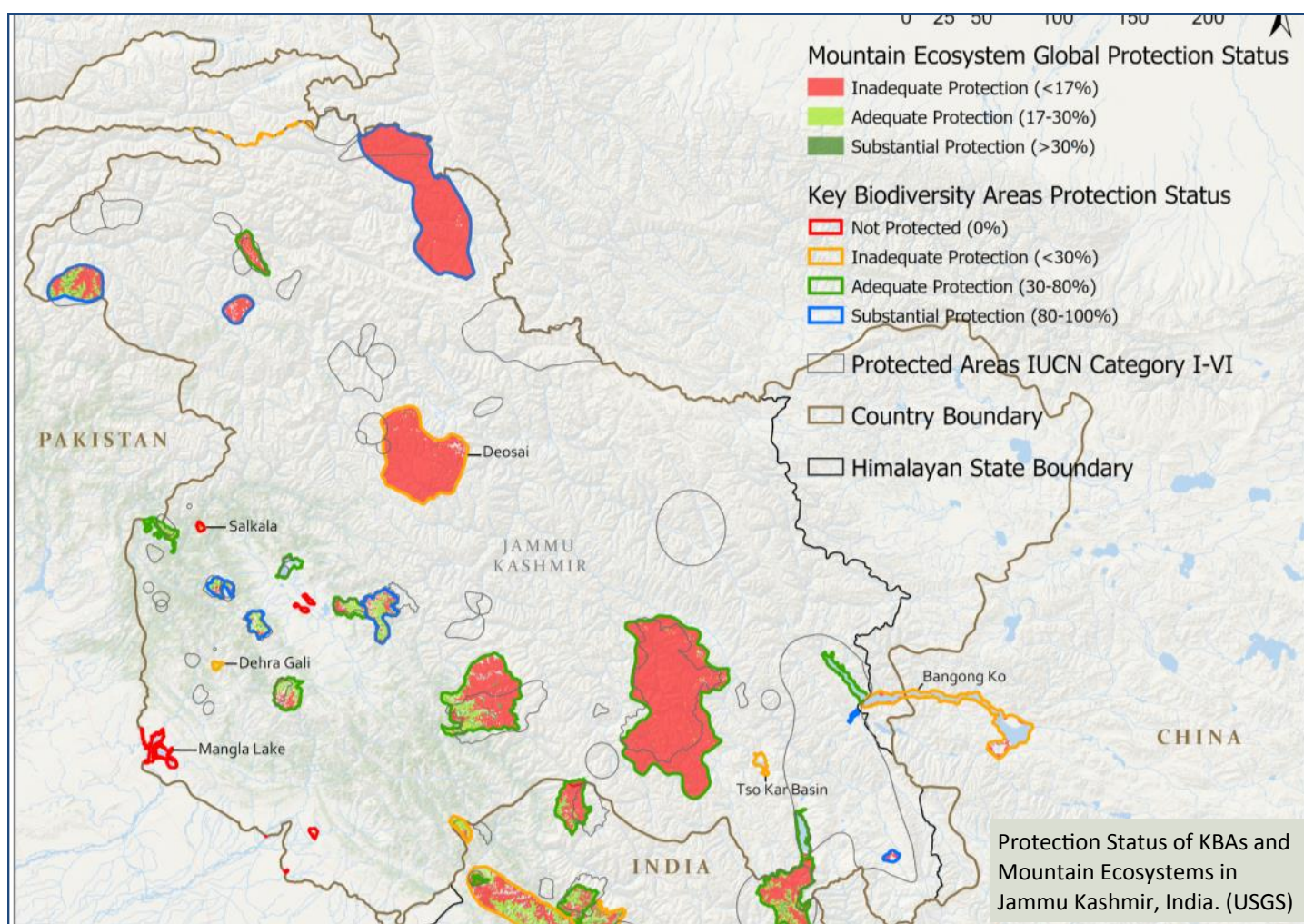
Moisture/Vegetation classes

Grouping the mountain ecosystems into 15 Moisture/Vegetation classes provides a mid level perspective of the protection of biodiversity characteristics between biomes and ecosystems.

Percent of each Moisture/Vegetation class that occurs within protected areas



Mapping the adequacy of protection of KBAs and Mountain Ecosystems: an example from Jammu Kashmir in India



Determining Adequacy of Protection: Protected and Conserved Areas

The validation of the protection or conservation status is an important step in the process.

Along with legally established protected areas, conserved areas may be considered as incorporating all defined areas that effectively achieve conservation in situ.

This includes Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs-Territories of Life) and unmanaged and ungoverned areas (ICCA 2019)



Rwanda photo: *Elaine Thomas and Mick Keenan*

ICCAs—Territory for Life and OECMs (Other Effective Conservation Measures)

Many indigenous peoples and local communities around the world are custodians, stewards, and/or guardians of the land, water, sky, soil, minerals, and other natural resources and biodiversity that is traditionally occupied or used by them.

Many ICCAs – Territories of Life are conserved areas and may be considered OECMs: they conserve nature de facto, as part of biocultural systems, yet without being listed in an official protected area system.

Other Regional Level values

The mountain areas identified as priorities for protection and conservation are then ranked in order of importance at a regional level through qualitative and aggregated assessments.

These attributes include:

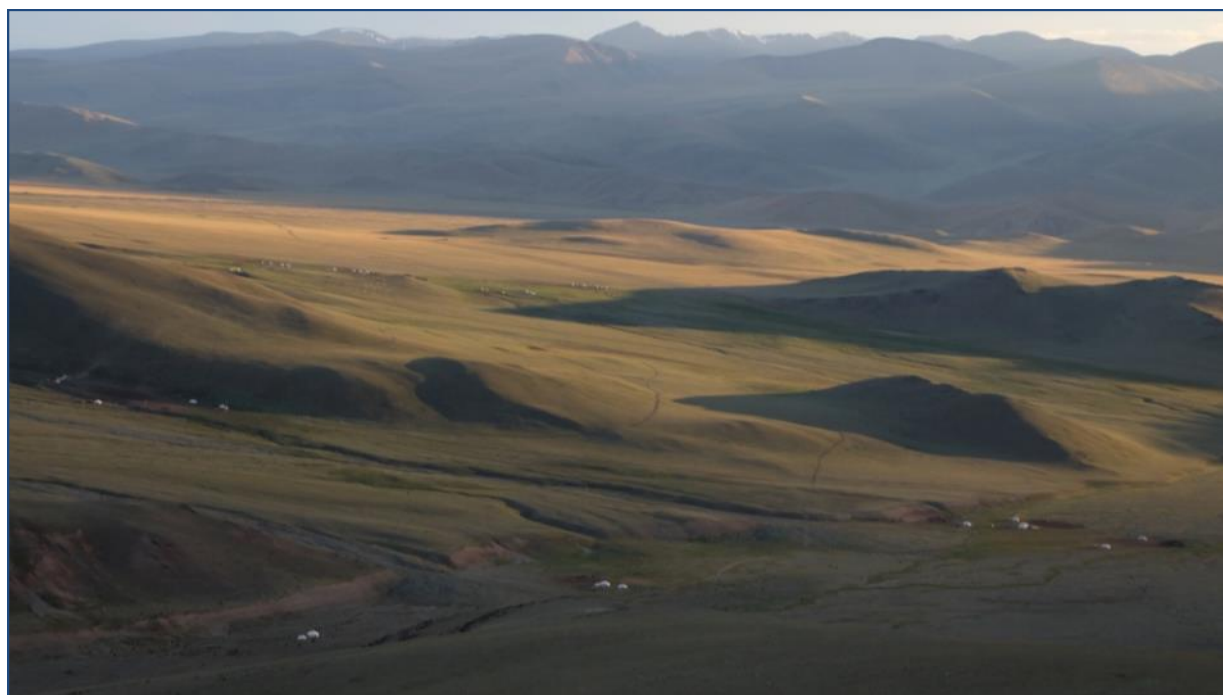
- Regionally iconic species or vegetation communities
- The range of elevation diversity
- Provides protection of cultural sites, cultural heritage and cultural landscapes
- Contribution to disaster risk reduction
- Opportunities for connectivity conservation and/or corridor establishment
- Contribution to peace building through transboundary initiatives
- Ecotourism values that may further support advocacy for their protection
- Benefit to local mountain communities from enhanced ecosystem services
- Vulnerability to climate change and/or contribute to nature based solutions for climate change through refugia values



Peaks of the Balkans transboundary trek photo: *peopleinnature*



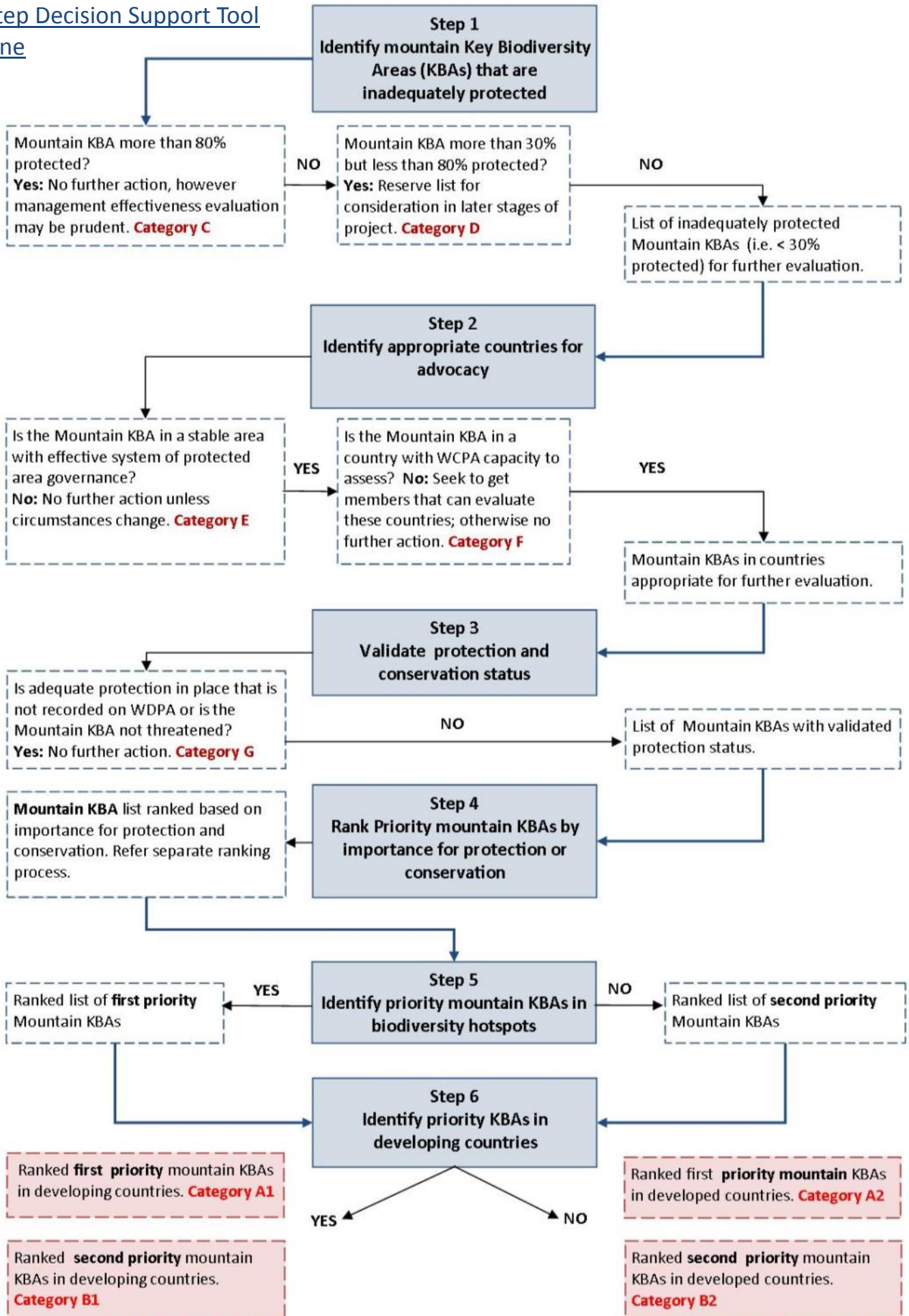
Himalayas are culturally and spiritually significant. Bhutan photo: *peopleinnature*



Altai Mountains in Western Mongolia photo: *Elaine Thomas and Mick Keenan*

Six Step Decision Support Tool

Outline



Six Step Decision Support Tool (cont.)

The Paper and Decision Support Tool (available as a Microsoft Excel document) can be found on the IUCN WCPA Mountains web page here: [Mountains Paper and Decision Support Tool](#)

The Decision Support Tool contains built-in selection and scoring functions, plus references for information as one works through the steps. It is important to note that at **each step regional/local input is needed** but especially Step 4 where the mountain KBAs are ranked for protection and conservation based on regional values.

In the last two steps priority (ranked) mountain KBAs are identified in biodiversity hotspots and developing nations.

The tool is framed on the notion that any of the more than 6000 Mountain KBAs can be allocated into one of nine (9) categories:

- four (Categories A1, A2, B1, B2) that identify inadequately protected areas prioritised for heightened consideration,
- two (Categories E & F) for which no further action is required unless circumstances change, and
- three (Categories C, D & G) not requiring further action due to being deemed adequately protected.

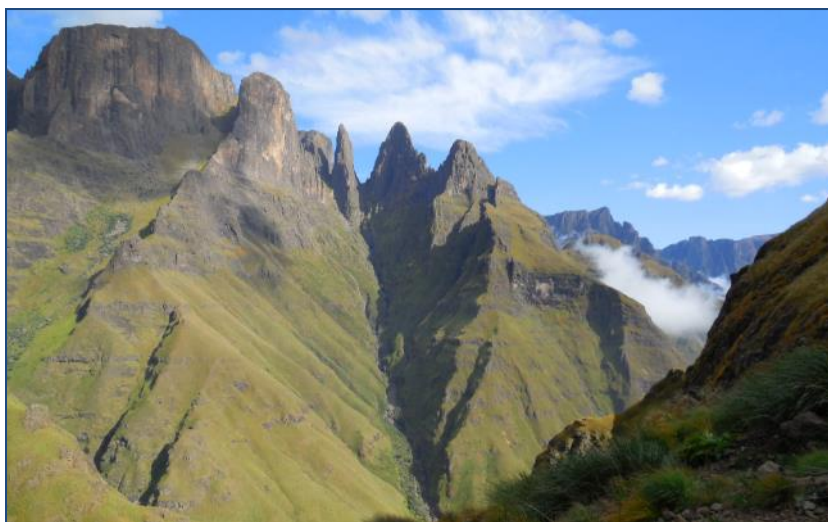
Acknowledgements

The key data on KBAs and World ecosystems has been provided from the following sources:

Sayre, R., et al (2020) An Assessment of The Representation of Ecosystems; in Global Protected Areas Using New Maps of World Climate Regions and World Ecosystems. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 21 (2020) e00860.

Birdlife International. Analysis of spatial overlap between KBA polygons and WDPA polygons, January 2020.

A full list of references is available in the paper.



Drakensberg Mountains, South Africa photo: *Clinton Carbutt*

Next Steps

- The Paper and Decision Support Tool will be presented (virtually in poster format) at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille .
- In conjunction with USGS we will seek to have the Paper published in a conservation journal.
- The Paper and Decision Support Tool will be distributed to all Mountain Specialist Group regional representatives to discuss how it may be implemented in the regions.
- The Mountains Specialist Group will continue high level discussions within the IUCN/WCPA and NGO's around [support to undertake assessment of inadequately protected areas around the world](#).

Feedback is welcomed—please write to *Peter Jacobs* Chair WCPA Mountain Specialist Group

buffalo_springs@bigpond.com

Scree and Talus

[A new height for Mount Everest](#) ABC News December 2020

China and Nepal have jointly announced a new official height for Mount Everest, ending a discrepancy between the two nations.

- The famous peak is now officially 86cm taller than what had been the most accepted height, based on Nepal's previous figure.
- The new height is about 4m higher than China's previous figure.
- The announcement appears to be as much about politics as geography.

The new height of the world's highest peak is 8,848.86 metres. The height of Everest, which is on the border between China and Nepal, was agreed on after surveyors from Nepal scaled the peak in 2019 and a Chinese team did the same in 2020.

The Tibetan name for Everest is **Chomolungma**, which means "Mother Goddess of the World." The Nepali name is **Sagarmatha**, which has various meanings.



Chomolungma (Tibet) photo: *peopleinnature*

[Human 'stuff' now outweighs all life on Earth](#) Extract from Science December 2020

According to a new study, the mass of all our stuff—buildings, roads, cars, and everything else we manufacture—now exceeds the weight of all living things on the planet. And the amount of new material added every week equals the total weight of Earth's nearly 8 billion people. Fossil fuels have sent greenhouse gases soaring to levels not seen in at least 800,000 years. Agriculture and dwellings have altered 70% of land. And humans have wiped out untold numbers of species in an [emerging great extinction](#).

The transformations are so great that researchers have declared we're living in a new human-dominated age: the Anthropocene.

[Desperate cliffs call for desperate measures](#) From Science January 2021

To study one of Europe's rarest butterflies, which live on near-perpendicular slopes high in the Swiss-Italian Alps, scientists resorted to rappelling down vertiginous mountainsides.

At two key sites, the team spotted 177 ringlets, the researchers reported this month in the *Journal of Insect Conservation*. That's good news: The butterflies appear to be more abundant than previous studies suggested. But they did recommend that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and European governments upgrade the status of the species from "vulnerable" to "endangered," because of climate change and other threats.



Researcher attempts to capture a rare Raetzer's ringlet butterfly

[From Bogong moths to 'Bogong' biscuits](#) [Read the full story](#)

When primary school students in the New South Wales Snowy Mountains (Australian Alps) heard about the devastation caused by the 2019-2020 bushfire season to the endangered Mountain pygmy-possum (*Burramys parvus*), they put their chef hats on and quickly started cooking up a storm to help.

Summer is normally the time Mountain pygmy-possum build up fat reserves for the coming winter by feasting on insects, fruits and nuts. But after a dry winter season - topped off by the Black Summer bushfires - much of the native plant food sources in and around Kosciuszko National Park had been destroyed.

The good news: the March trapping program confirmed that many individuals survived the fires and were in good condition going into hibernation.



Discovery ranger walks past fire damaged mountain plum pine to deliver biscuits to mountain pygmy possums (Source: NPWS)

Scree and Talus cont.

[How do wombats poop cubes?](#) From Science

Humans may be fascinated by cubes, but only one animal poops them: the wombat. This furry Australian marsupial squeezes out nearly 100 six-sided turds every day (probably night) —an ability that has long mystified scientists. Now, researchers say they have uncovered how the wombat intestine creates this exceptional excrement.

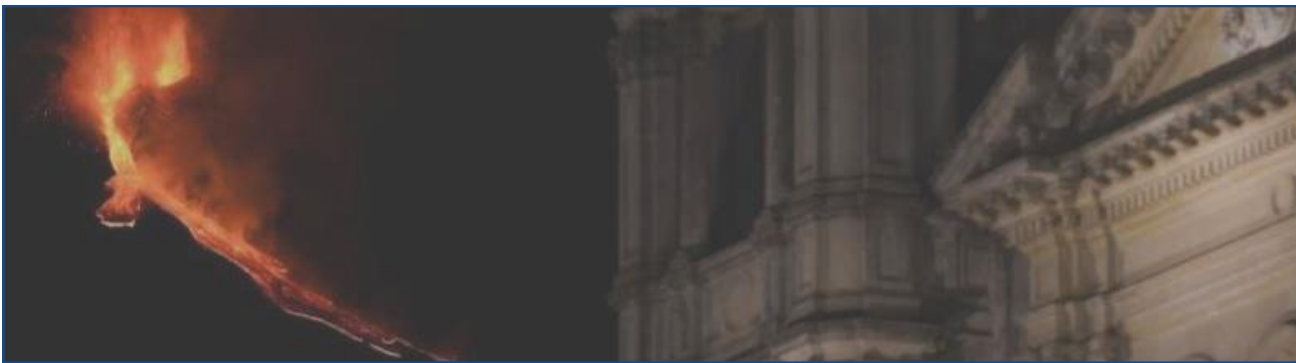
In a new study, researchers dissected two further road kill wombats and tested the guts' layers of muscle and tissue, finding regions of varied thickness and stiffness.

Want to know more? Go to the 2D model developed [to simulate how the regions expand and contract](#) with the rhythms of digestion.



The wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*), weighs up to 35 kg lives in the grassy plains & forests (including Australian Alps). It spends its nights grazing on plants and its days in burrows. A territorial animal, it leaves unusual droppings as a calling card on rocks and logs. But how does such a scat come from a round anus?

[Mt Etna, Sicily](#)



Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, has awed even seasoned volcanologists in recent days (February 23 2021) with spectacular spurts of lava lighting up the Sicilian sky each night.

[And conservationists are ecstatic!](#) From Treehugger December 2020

A herd of around 580 African elephants entered [Virunga National Park](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from neighbouring land, causing an unexpected transformation to the park. The elephants have torn through trees and knocked down bushes, along with the 120 or so elephants already in Virunga.

But what looks like destruction is key for the area as the animals are transforming the landscape back to a grassland savanna. As the elephants destroy invasive growth, they make room for grazing animals and wildlife species that have not been in the park for several decades including buffalo, warthogs, and a pair of lions.

[Respect the sacred maunqā, Tongariro , New Zealand](#) From DOC

Don't climb to summits or touch alpine lakes/streams as they are highly sacred to local iwi

Aligned with the Tiaki Promise and led by Ngati Hikairo ki Tongariro and the Department of Conservation (DOC), a new campaign builds understanding of the unique culture, nature and weather of **Tongariro National Park**. The campaign focuses on key areas of visitor behaviour, including cultural respect, safety and preparedness, and removing all waste.

Generally, people know about Tongariro's amazing hikes and volcanic landscape, but understand less about the cultural values here and why visitors are asked to respect these.



Tongariro is a sacred site, NZ's first national park, a dual World Heritage Area

Scree and Talus cont.

[A wall of rock, mud and water...](#)

The Guardian & BBC 10 February 2021

And at least 32 died after a piece of glacier broke away and caused an avalanche and dam burst in **Rishiganga** valley deep in the mountains of Uttarakhand, Northern India.

While some have said the incident shows the growing impact of the climate crisis – a 2019 survey found that the Himalyan glaciers are melting at “alarming speed” – local activists and writers have also blamed the intensive building along Uttarakhand’s rivers and mountains of dams and hydropower infrastructure, which they argue is destabilising the ecologically fragile Himalayan region and resulting in more extreme weather events.



After the avalanche—there are 550 dams and hydroelectric projects in the state of Uttarakhand
photo: **BBC**



Hridayesh Joshi, author of *Rage of the River*, about a similar 2013 flooding incident in Kedarnath, Uttarakhand which took almost 6,000 lives, said that experts and activists had already been raising questions over the dam and road projects.

“In this Himalayan area, there are 10,000 big and small glaciers so we should be very careful about building any development projects in this ecologically fragile region...”

Please read more in MRI News link: [Chamoli District Disaster Highlights Risk Posed by Cascading Mountain Hazards](#)

[Coexistence is possible](#)

From Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Argentina

What do dogs, sheep, and pumas have in common? They’re all part of a new initiative from WCS Argentina aimed at reducing conflict between herders and the wild carnivores that stalk their flocks. The dogs, a mix of Anatolian shepherd and Great Pyrenees, watch over herds of domestic goats and sheep to protect them from pumas and other wild cats, as well as foxes, condors, and other local predators. It’s a grand experiment in ecological harmony, [and it’s working](#).

As a result of the puppy protectors, herders no longer resort to shooting, poisoning, or trapping wildlife. That means a brighter future for wild carnivores—some of which, like the Andean cat, are Endangered species. The initiative also helps habitat restoration. Herders can decrease the size of herds, which means less overgrazing and the reduction of desertification



Tools, Publications and other Media



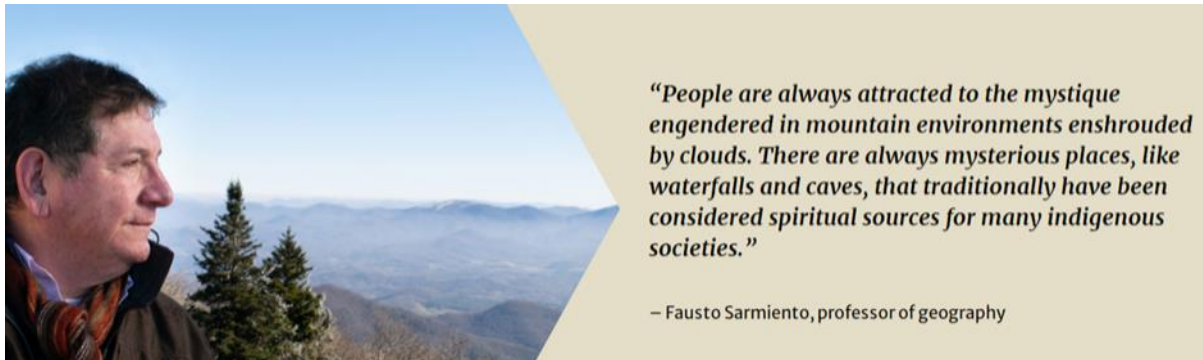
Towards More Sustainable Expeditions - Waste Management Manual for Mountaineering Expeditions and Trekking

From *Lucian Negrut* February 2021

In collaboration with mountaineer [Jost Kobusch](#) and a number of organisations such as the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) it was decided there is a need for expeditions to undertake better waste management.

Starting from existing guidelines, principles and other initiatives it was decided to develop a *waste management manual* for the expeditions. This will begin with the Everest region and later extend to other remote mountains.

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. Those interested can contact the project coordinators: Lucian Negrut – lucian.negrut@protonmail.com and Valérie Thöni - valthoeni@gmail.com (UIAA)



“People are always attracted to the mystique engendered in mountain environments enshrouded by clouds. There are always mysterious places, like waterfalls and caves, that traditionally have been considered spiritual sources for many indigenous societies.”

– Fausto Sarmiento, professor of geography

Down from the mountaintop-Mountains as socio-ecological landscapes From *Fausto Sarmiento (WCPA Mountains SG)*

In “[Montology manifesto: Echoes toward a transdisciplinary science of mountains](#),” published in November 2020 in the *Journal of Mountain Science*, Sarmiento posits a rationale for montology, a science of mountains that transcends disciplinary boundaries.

Sarmiento advocates for developing a new system to understand mountains. He says that bringing together the knowledge from Western science and its allowed humanistic perspective, history, religion and the mysticism of non-Western science—particularly how elders in native communities see mountains—is vital for convergent mountain science.

“Mountains are actually socio-ecological production landscapes that have to be managed as such. They are a hybrid, culture-nature reality that cannot be separated.”

Territories of life on the edge: Pastoral Commons of the Mediterranean Mountains in the 21st century

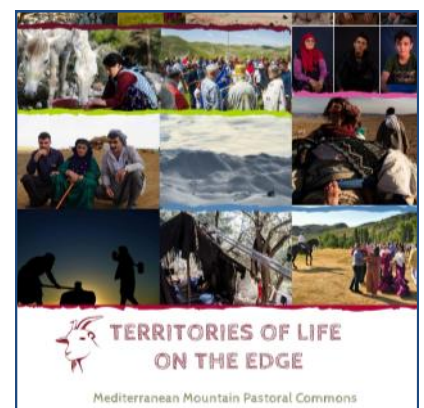
From *Pablo Dominguez*

The systems managed by communities of herders that involves permanent negotiation and collective decision-making, guarantee a sustainable and biodiverse use of pastoral ecosystems generation after generation, as well as relatively equitable access to the pastures for all its members.

This work is the result of various projects - with more than twenty collaborators and co-authors in the four countries represented (Morocco, Spain, Montenegro and Turkey).

Introduction to the exhibition: [Museoecologiahumana](#)

Exhibition: [Territories of life on the edge](#)



Global Voices *IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas*

The IUCN WCPA hope that this compendium of quotes will be useful to WCPA members for highlighting the relevance of nature and protected areas to addressing many global challenges, including the biodiversity crisis, climate emergency, pandemic and delivering the SDGs.

Explore the Compendium

Tools, Publications and other Media

Mountain Research and Development Vol 40, No 1 and 2

Two new issues of MRD are complete. Vol 40, No 2 focuses on the role of mountain biodiversity for sustainable development. Papers from various world regions offer further evidence of mountain species' importance for human livelihoods and wellbeing, and call for effective conservation and management approaches. Vol 40, No 1 also contains several biodiversity-related articles; further studies address tourism development in the South Caucasus

IUCN WCPA's PARKS Issue 26.2 available at: Parks Journal with papers on conceptual issues in conservation (wilderness definition, niche tourism, human-wildlife conflict and climate change, a framework for area-based conservation, and institutional arrangements for privately protected areas); lessons learned in practical conservation monitoring and management (species re-introduction, establishing national biodiversity monitoring programs, and tourism impact monitoring) , as well as papers on cultural ecosystem service assessment, management of tiger reserves and changes in support for protected areas in Brazil.

News from the Alps In this latest News from the (Australian) Alps, we catch up with the progress of bushfire recovery works across the Alps; from repairing bushfire damaged infrastructure through to giving iconic native species and ecosystems their best chance of survival.

Mountain Partnership Tales of Mountain Biodiversity



During May and June Yeshe spends hours searching for yarsa gunbu, the caterpillar fungus classified as a medicinal mushroom.



Shepherds of the Himalayas

A new photostory by Eleanor Moseman titled "[A Woman's Life along the Tibetan Plateau](#)" (best viewed on PC)

Based in China for nearly 13 years until recently, Eleanor (Photographer and Visual Storyteller) tells the story of "Yeshe", a woman she met and befriended in 2016 from the small village of Tibetan Plateau. She gave a glimpse of her daily life through mesmerizing visuals as well as observation of Tibetan society and cultural beliefs.

Call for papers on pastoralism and rangelands in mountains *Mountain Research and Development* (MRD) deadline extended: Papers are invited that address transformations affecting pastoralism and rangelands in mountains and in high-elevation landscapes, their interactions with other systems, and the solutions local communities, policy makers and scientists can provide. Contributions can be empirical or conceptual, case studies or syntheses. Full papers are due by **19 March 2021**. A detailed call for papers is available [here](#).

Workshops and exchanges on Mountain Biodiversity in the Alps from ALPARC ALPARC, on behalf of the French Presidencies of the Alpine Convention and EUSALP and in cooperation with UNEP and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, organised a worldwide conference on "Mountain Biodiversity with 350 participants from many countries around the world.

Also in a biodiversity workshop ALPARC adopted a focus on:

- Facilitating habitat and species monitoring projects in alpine protected areas.
- Impact of tourism and new outdoor trend sports on biodiversity.
- In the field of communication, ALPARC will inform about the link between biodiversity, intact habitats and health, in particular in the context of the current pandemic.

For more information go to: [ALPARC News](#)



Tools, Publications and other Media



[Regional Resource Hub IUCN Digest December 2020](#)

The Regional Resource Hub is a knowledge hub that compiles and analyses relevant data and provides information to support field interventions and policy dialogues, for fair and effective management and governance of protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa.

[International Wilderness Week presentations now online!](#) From **European Wilderness Society February 2021**

EWS are immensely thankful for all of the contributions of international presenters, viewers, friends and endorsers. Thanks to combined efforts, the first international online Wilderness celebration was inspiring and smooth. To continue the legacy, all of the presentation materials are now available on the [Vlado Vancura Wilderness Academy website](#). So many Wilderness advocates around the world connected, showed how many great projects are going on, and most importantly gathered ideas on how we can enhance our global efforts to protect and expand Wilderness.

The Second International Wilderness Week will take place from 18th to 22nd October 2021!

A recording of a webinar on WCPA's [Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners](#), now available at the following link: [Vital Sites 2021 – Webinar: The Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners - YouTube](#)

[International Mountains Day 2021 to focus on sustainable mountain tourism](#)

[International Day of Forests 21 March: “Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being”](#)

To help mark the day FAO is asking you to share a photo of a tree that supports your well-being. Forests provide health benefits for everyone on the planet, from fresh air, nutritious foods and ingredients for medicine to clean water and space for recreation. How does your tree help you? Tell us why your tree is special and you could win a tablet computer!

Entries by 12 March 2021. [photo contest](#)

ED Note: my special tree grows on Bogong High Plains (Australian Alps) photo to the right



Ancient multi-trunked Snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) a family favourite for obvious reasons...Snow gums are symbolic of the Australian Alps but now potentially threatened by a wood boring beetle. It is thought that climate change is helping the spread of dieback because of background warming. Photo: *peopleinnature*

[A few more dates:](#)

[The virtual IUCN One Nature, One Future Global Youth Summit](#) will take place 5-16 April 2021. Visit iucnyouthsummit.org to find out more.

[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. Read IUCN's advice to the World Heritage Committee following the COVID-19 pandemic.

[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.

Looking for more Mountain Research? Try [Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment \(GMBA\)](#), [Mountain Research Initiative](#), [ICIMOD](#) and [Mountain Partnership](#)—to mention a few!

Important links

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

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 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!