

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



No. 95 September 2017



Mount Buffalo National Park – winter in the Australian Alps
Photo [peopleinnature](#)

***Are not all mountains, waves and skies, a part
Of me and of my soul, as I of them?
Is not the love of these deep in my heart
With a pure passion? Should I not condemn
All objects, if compared with these? ...***

Lord Byron, Childe Harold's Pilgrimage

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WCPA Mountain Specialist Group Committee:

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

WCPA Mountains Senior Advisor:

- Graeme Worboys

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

Note from the editor

Greetings from the snowy Australian Alps. I always try to remember how fortunate I am to live in such a beautiful mountainous region – and how privileged I am to be able to walk in and savor mountains throughout the world.

Just recently I was again lucky enough to attend *Mountain*, a “cinematic and musical odyssey” performed by the Australian Chamber Orchestra – the stunning images and compositions reinforcing the huge influence mountains hold over many lives.

I hope you enjoy this 95th edition, providing just a small glimpse into the world of mountains and mountain protected areas.

The Byron poem (L) came from *Mountain*.

From *People and Mountains* around the World:

Global

Protecting Mountains

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

As reported previously a key area of work of the WCPA Mountains Specialist Group is identifying areas of high conservation value in mountains that are not adequately protected. This is no modest undertaking and there is a huge amount of data to work through. The Mountains Committee has recently considered a process to prioritise key areas appropriate for advocacy by the Mountains Specialist Group. This process is currently being put into a draft paper for distribution and comment firstly from all those that contributed to the Mountains Workshop at the IUCN WCC in Hawaii last year.

The delay in getting the paper completed is my fault as I have been fortunate to recently spend a couple of months hiking in some of Europe's magnificent Mountain Protected Areas. The mountains of the Picos de Europa National Park in Spain are a relatively small but spectacular landscape with highlights being the striking and vertiginous trail carved into rock high in the gorge Garganta del Cares and the towering Naranjo de Bulnes. The inspiring Sotama Visitor Centre near Potes contains a very impressive presentation of mountain biodiversity and culture with another big new national park centre currently being built at Posada de Valdeon.

The "Tour" of Vanoise National Park in France was also a spectacular trek and it was pleasing to see so many hikers out on the mountain trails enjoying this magnificent glaciated protected area. I was impressed by the outstanding system of high quality refuges many of which presented contemporary designs around sustainable tourism in the mountains. Congratulations to the managers of both these outstanding Mountain Protected Areas.

If not a WCPA member – please think about joining

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



Qinghai Hoh Xil Photo: IUCN / Chimed Ochir Bazarsad

Following the advice of the IUCN, the official advisory body on natural World Heritage 4 outstanding natural areas were among the new sites added to the World Heritage List at the 41st World Heritage Committee meeting in Kraków, Poland. 2 of the 4 are in mountainous regions –

China's Qinghai Hoh Xil has been inscribed on the World Heritage List for its spectacular landscapes and unique biodiversity, including threatened species.

Covering an area of 3.7 million hectares in the world's largest, highest and youngest plateau, **Qinghai Hoh Xil** hosts many species found nowhere else on Earth. It supports the life cycle of Tibetan antelopes, which give birth in the site after a long migration.

Qinghai Hoh Xil is sometimes referred to as the world's "third pole", due to its frigid climatic extremes. The plateau's many glaciers, rivers, streams and lakes feed one of the most important sources of freshwater on the planet. The World Heritage listing unequivocally supports the rights of the Tibetan pastoralists in the area.



Los Alerces National Park Photo: IUCN/Tilman Jaeger

Located in Patagonia, in the southern tip of South America, Argentina's **Los Alerces National Park** boasts forests which include the second longest-living tree species on Earth – the endangered alerce or Patagonian cypress.

Sustainable tourism (should) = human rights and equality

As the UN declared 2017 the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development I thought you may be interested in this interview with Tricia Barnett. Tricia ran Tourism Concern (a NGO working to promote ethical tourism) for 20 years and is now with Equality in Tourism. I felt her 5 key insights and lessons thought provoking and universal, but you can read the whole interview at [Sustainability Leaders](#)

Specifically in relation to mountain tourism Tricia Barnett said:

“Approaches to us by porters in **Kilimanjaro**, **Machu Picchu** and the **Himalayas** about their inhumane working conditions resulted in us working with them and the trekking industry to produce The Trekking Porters’ Code on Working Conditions, which is still in use today and even led to a change in the law in Peru and strict regulation on Kilimanjaro. Porters no longer take up loads of over 40 kilos, or wear flip flops and sleep in caves – all on one meal a day and leftovers.”

5 key insights and lessons

1. That only **regulation**, nationally and globally, will push the industry forward into the 21st century so that it respects people's **human rights**. When the industry is doing alright it sees no reason to change.
2. That at a local level a **rights' based approach** to tourism development is far more sustainable than a top down approach.
3. That **operators are so powerful** and competitive they bargain the rack rate at destination hotels down to extraordinarily low levels: ensuring that those at the bottom end of the pyramid never earn a living wage, that the environment doesn't benefit and communities lose out.
4. That **local people really can benefit from tourism** and everyone can share its benefits when there's a real commitment to support local entrepreneurship and fair working conditions.
5. That it's so **hard to get the holidaymaking public on board** – especially when you're operating on a shoestring! However committed someone is to the environment or human rights, when they're on holiday most people cut off from these concerns and only want to have a good time.

Roads to Ruin

From an article in the *New York Times* by Professor Bill Laurance, James Cook University, Australia

Roads can be one of the most cost-effective ways to encourage economic growth and provide social benefits. But roads truly scare ecologists — especially roads that penetrate into wilderness areas, nature reserves, and the remnants of rare ecosystems.

In the Amazon, 95 percent of all forest destruction occurs within five kilometres of a road...in the Congo Basin, a road-building spree by industrial loggers has inadvertently promoted a massive influx of poachers and an epic slaughter of forest elephants, killed for their valuable ivory tusks.

And Ladia Galaska — a 400-kilometer road network in northern Sumatra, Indonesia, that will open up to poachers and illegal loggers the last place on Earth where tigers, orangutans, elephants and rhinoceroses still coexist. Another prime example is the proposed Serengeti Highway in Tanzania — which would imperil one of the world's greatest wildlife migrations.

More generally, we need to strive to keep roads out of wilderness areas — “avoiding the first cut.” Deforestation is like a tumor; once it takes seed, it tends to spread.

Bill is Director of the Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science (TESS) amongst many other things and recommended the following brief video [Why Roads Are So Dangerous](#). You can see them in multiple languages at <http://www.global-roadmap.org/videos>.

Getting the full story

Have you ever been in an alpine refuge or hotel and compared historic glacial photos on the wall with the view outside? Obvious glacial retreat is generally the norm but what is the full story?

A paper mentioned in the previous UPDATE (from Mountain Network member Rodney Garrand) *Climbing for Science and Ice From Hans Kinzl and Mountaineering-Glaciology to Citizen Science in the Cordillera Blanca* outlines how closer links between the mountaineering community and scientists may help raise awareness and reduce glacier related disasters. But they need to be done carefully.

Observations and even data collection from climbers, guides, and porters has contributed to glaciological research and diversified glacier knowledge, with the ideal end result being increased knowledge generation and sharing, expanded public awareness, reduced risk of glacier-related disasters, and improved environmental management to help a broad range of stakeholders.

Further to the above, Mark Carey and Rodney Garrand co-authored *Beyond Images of Melting Ice: Hidden Histories of People, Place, and Time in Repeat Photography of Glaciers*. This chapter in a new book (*Before-and-After Photography: Histories and Contexts*) outlines that while repeat photography is ideal for showing glacier change over time, its use can also create problems because it fails to explore why and for whom glacier retreat is a problem.

“In essence, the chapter contends that while repeat photography plays a vital role in scientific observation and public perception of glaciers it can simultaneously yield misinformation by steering viewers towards false conclusions about changes over time, the drivers of those changes, and the production of images in the ever-evolving politics of glacier representation.

This is particularly relevant for the MtPAs as all four case studies in the chapter are in UNESCO WHA's: **Aletsch Glacier, Grinnell Glacier, Glacial Lake Palcacocha in Cordillera Blanca, and the Khumbu (Mount Everest) region.**” Rodney Garrand, Universität Bern.



Rodney is heading to Mount Kenya next month and is interested in any historic photo collections. If you think you can assist please email Rodney.garrand@giub.unibe.ch

America

Y2Y making strides amongst ongoing challenges

From Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Conservation Initiative June 2017 Update

Y2Y, their supporters and partners have made great strides recently:

- Advanced the protection of three critical areas: Scotchman Peaks and Badger-Two Medicine in the U.S., and the Peel Watershed in Canada. Together they make up an area eight times larger than Yellowstone National Park.
- Successfully delayed two major development projects, namely Three Sisters Mountain Village in Alberta and the Site C dam in B.C. Each would cut off two key corridors and threaten the viability of grizzly bear populations among many other species.
- Taken steps forward toward the implementation of wildlife crossing structures on two highways, meaning that Alberta's Highway 3 and Idaho's Highway 95 will be safer for wildlife and people.

If you are interested in 'how' Y2Y make such progress please visit their web site: [Y2Y](#), but it seems that in many cases it comes down to their community-based approach that enables them to solve challenging problems in a long term way.

Páramo – an Andean biological hotspot

Taken from a blog by Daniel Ruiz-Carrascal, Universidad EIA, Columbia - Photo: Maria Elena Gutierrez and Daniel Ruiz-Carrascal, Universidad EIA, Colombia [MRI blog Mountain Observatory](#)

In the heart of the Colombian Andes lies **Los Nevados Natural Park**, one of the few places on Earth that has the unique and fascinating páramo ecosystem. Changes in **Los Nevados** resulted in a research initiative, the Poleka Kasue Mountain Observatory.

“The goal of our long-term, multi-tiered research project (now in its ninth year) is to deepen an understanding of the function and importance of páramo environments and assess the best suite of adaptation strategies for their conservation.

The results of the valuation process allow us to evaluate and rank how the communities value high mountain ecosystem environmental services. They also provide us with key information to be shared with planning and conservation institutions and policy makers in charge of designing and implementing adaptation strategies.”



Espeletia hartwegiana

Páramo can refer to a variety of alpine tundra ecosystems, described broadly as "all high, tropical, montane vegetation above the continuous timberline". The vegetation is composed mainly of giant rosette plants, shrubs and grasses". Regionally the Páramo is found in the northern Andes of South America and adjacent southern Central America. *Photo: The Mountain Institute/C Núñez*



Towards a regional vision of the Andes



From Mountain Partnership

The International Congress of Páramo and Mountain Ecosystems took place in July 2017, to discuss how to position the Andes in the public agendas of the Andean countries.

Representatives of government, academia, civil society and communities from the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Costa Rica gathered together in Bogotá to exchange experiences and visions for the management of mountain ecosystems. The Congress furthermore launched a Call for Action for the Andean Region's Páramo and Mountains. The objective was to raise awareness about the priority issues Páramo and mountain ecosystems face, in order to build alliances for the integral management of mountain territories in a context of climate change. [Read more](#)

IUCN WCPA Mountain Update # 95

Editor: Gillian Anderson peopleinnature@bigpond.com

Africa

Off the World Heritage in Danger List?

Simien National Park in Ethiopia has been taken off the List of World Heritage in Danger. From UNESCO



Photos: Marc Foggin (Mountain SG)

The park is one of the oldest natural World Heritage sites, inscribed in 1978 for its spectacular landscapes, which are home to some extremely rare animals such as the Gelada baboon, the Simien fox and the Walia ibex, a goat found nowhere else in the world. The site was listed as 'in danger' in 2006, after its rare wildlife was brought to near extinction due to poaching, farming and road construction.

Positive steps include the expansion (3 times the original area) of the national park formally classified under the World Heritage List.

However, some challenges to the conservation of the site remain, notably due to excessive grazing of livestock within the site. The park's management must address overgrazing while supporting livelihoods.

Following IUCN's advice, the World Heritage Committee requested that Ethiopia engage with local communities to further develop alternative sources of livelihood.



Marc Foggin (Mountain Societies Research Institute, University of Central Asia) on a recent trip to the **Simien NP** noted how the management system of the park led to increased employment, in a seemingly fair, equitable way. "Every visitor must have a guide as well as a guard; and at least for the guides, they must be (a) from the area, (b) having received the requisite training (guiding services, natural history, etc.), and (c) every guide is included on a list and each is called up sequentially as tourists/clients arrive (as opposed to being preferentially appointed by friends in the park HQ)."

New threat to an African mountain system

Chimanimani National Park is a transfrontier park on the border of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, a part of Africa I don't generally associate with mountains but this is incorrect... this small but rugged range with peak heights 2,436 metres is internationally renowned for its high biodiversity and endemic species of fauna and flora. The following is taken from Mountain Research Institute Africa blog.

A very small notice appeared in the Zimbabwe Financial Gazette on the 17 July 2017 saying that the Zimbabwean government is planning to 'release one million hectares' of protected land to small-scale gold miners across the country to boost production. This means that there will be no environmental impact assessments, no planning for sustainable mining and that hundreds of destitute people will rush in and begin digging everywhere, hoping to strike it rich.

If this action to de-proclaim is true, the severe negative implications around sustainable mountain catchments, trans-boundary relationships with Mozambique, viable eco-tourism, general border security, conservation of endemic species and increased risks from alien species invasion cannot be over-emphasised.



Artisanal gold mining has become a huge ecological threat to many areas in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, with a deadly cost to both miners (no mining health and safety protection for them) and the natural environment.

The types of hazards and exploitation that artisanal miners experience means that this type of work only attracts the very destitute and desperate. Poaching also increases in an area where artisanal miners work – how else would they feed themselves if not helping themselves to what they can find.

The Chimanimani area between Zimbabwe and Mozambique is a unique area for its mountain biodiversity Photo: Dr Ralph Clark

Australia & New Zealand

10th Great Walk for New Zealand

Work is about to start on the 10th Great Walk – **Paparoa & Pike Memorial tracks**. If you are not familiar with New Zealand Great Walks but interested in successful nature based tourism (plus associated track and hut construction) have a look at the [NZ Great Walks](#) . This Great Walk will be the first to be purpose-built as a mountain biking and walking track.

Due to open in 2019, this Great Walk crosses the **Paparoa Range** passing through alpine tops, limestone karst landscapes and luxuriant rainforests, and provides breath-taking views. It will be a memorial to the 29 men who died as a result of the Pike River Mine disaster in 2010. The track will traverse areas inhabited by remnant populations of threatened species including roroa/great spotted kiwi, kea, kākā, whio/blue duck, mātā/fernbird and koekoeā/long-tailed cuckoo.

Most of the Great Walks are in mountainous areas, some purpose-built such as the Kepler Track, others, evolving in popularity over many decades have been upgraded and promoted.



Kepler Great Walk Fiordland NP photo: DOC

Asia

Collaborative management of protected areas

It is not often that the Mountain UPDATE has news from Japan so here a short piece about a workshop held earlier this year by the [Asia Protected Areas Partnership \(APAP\)](#). From April Protecting the Planet



Mount Fuji from Hakone photo: wikimedia

At this 2nd APAP workshop collaborative management of protected areas was emphasized. Hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, the workshop brought together 22 conservation experts from 11 APAP member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Korea, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

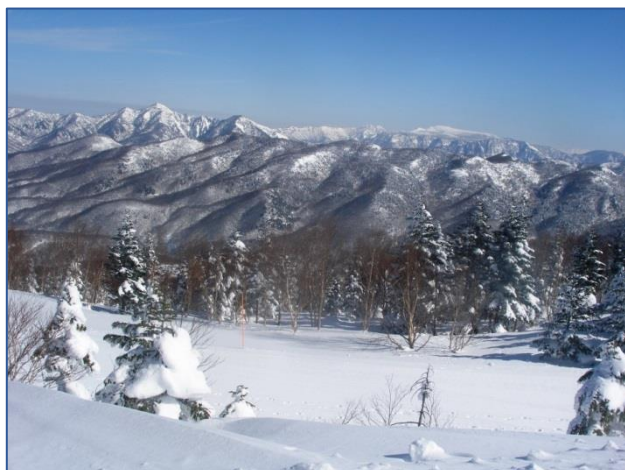
Staying in Hakone, which is part of the **Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park**, provided participants with the opportunity to experience **collaborative protected area management** in Japan.

“The **Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park** has numerous management challenges as it is one of the most visited protected areas in the country. 60% of the park is also privately owned by various people. This compels local governments and communities to collaborate and work together to protect the park,” said Ms Yuri Aihara, Officer, Hakone Nature Conservation Office, Ministry of the Environment Japan.

Participants also learnt about the park’s unique characteristics, such as its volcanic valley with craters and vents, during a trip to Owakudani, a popular tourist site. A visit to the Fujisan World Heritage Center and the Subaru Line (Station 1) also highlighted the need for effective practices that mutually benefit tourism and nature conservation, especially with regard to **Mount Fuji**, a World Heritage site.

Below: **Shiga Kogen Biosphere Conservation Area**, UNESCO ECO Park (L photo: M Anderson) and **Yoshino Mountain** is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Cultural) - Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range (R photo: M Box)

The **APAP** has been designed as a key platform to help governments and other stakeholders collaborate for more effective management of protected areas in the region.



Mountain snow leopard forum

From Mountain Partnership

Governments of the 12 snow leopard range countries, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as experts from other nations and leaders from international institutions, donor agencies, conservation organizations and scientific institutions recently attended a Snow Leopard forum in Bishkek.

The Forum aimed to further strengthen the range countries' ongoing efforts to protect the snow leopard and to galvanize international support for their plan of **securing 20 snow leopard landscapes by the year 2020**.

Half of the world's biodiversity hotspots are concentrated in mountains. Yet climate change, poverty and poaching all exact a heavy toll on mountain biodiversity. More than just a beautiful, endangered animal, the snow leopard is an icon and an indicator of the health of Asia's mountain ecosystems.

Great Altai

From Tatjana Yashina

UNESCO-MAB has officially approved the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) "Great Altai" established between Russia (Katunskiy BR) and Kazakhstan (Katon-Karagaiskiy National Park).

This success is the result of the 13-year field-level bilateral cooperation of the protected areas as well as a 3-year project on developing a TBR management-plan, which was funded by the German Ministry of Environment. This initiative will foster wider transboundary cooperation in the Altai region for the benefit of its unique nature, culture and people.

Congratulations from the Mountain Protected Area SG to all involved!

Katunskiy Biosphere Reserve www.katunskiy.ru Altai-Sayan Mountain Partnership www.altaipartner.ru

Europe

Iberian mountain research – Andorra, Portugal & Spain

From Mountain Research Initiative



Picos de Europa National Park, Spain Mountain areas occupy a large extent of Andorra, Portugal and Spain photo: peopleinnature

A group of 19 universities and research centres from Andorra, Portugal and Spain have formalized the creation of an Iberian mountain research network "Rede Ibérica de Investigação de Montanha" (RIIM) to study in partnership the issues affecting mountain areas on the Iberian Peninsula.

Acknowledging the relevance of mountains and taking into account the growing recognition of their importance in international research and development agendas, including those of Euromontana, the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Research Initiative, the parties involved in RIIM have agreed to undertake joint activities to promote research and innovation in the mountain areas of the Iberian Peninsula.



photo: UNESCO

The International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme meeting in June added 23 new sites to the World Network of Biosphere, including four that straddle national boundaries.



EUROPARC Conference 2017 will have a dedicated workshop to discuss how Parks can incorporate measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation. There will be practical sessions based on EUROPARC Spain’s practical manual for Protected Area technicians and decision makers to better incorporate Climate Change Mitigation Actions in management plans.

Scree and Talus

Wild tigers of Bhutan – in pictures

Rare images of wild tigers in Bhutan, captured by camera traps, show tigers and other animals using high-altitude wildlife corridors which are lifelines to isolated tiger populations and critical to genetic diversity, conservation and growth. [wild tigers of Bhutan](#)

The Alps are OK

More than a quarter of Australia’s unique ecosystems are not represented (shown in red) in any of the nation’s protected areas. There are also 121 species of national significance which have no habitat secured in national parks or reserves.

They’re the key findings in the Building Nature’s Safety Net 2016 Report, prepared by WWF-Australia.

Montology

A note from Fausto Sarmiento

Mountains cover a huge swath of the ocean surface. We tend to just talk about continental mountains above sea level but underwater mountains and islands constitute the majority of the mountainous surface of the planet. They are so important and so diverse, that a new discipline is being conceived to study them: **Montology**.

Migrants & Refugees di Valdieri

From Patrizia Rossi

In the little villages of the Italian Alps there has been a challenging but successful integration of immigrants and refugees from Africa. They are employed doing restoration works in the Park (here it is Alpi Maritime, but there are many other cases), to grow vegetables or helping elderly people.



In the picture they are shown with the "white" mountain volunteers. In Sant’Anna di Valdieri a new walking track was created along an ancient irrigation canal. "The proposal has been welcomed by the Alpi Maritime Park, the provincial coordination of civil protection volunteers and families of Cuneo and Valdieri, including those migrants di Valdieri."

“Our very own” WCPA champion Graeme Worboys

Penny Figgis (Vice Chair, Oceania IUCN WCPA) drew special attention to an Inspiring People piece on the IUCN website which celebrates long term advocate for Protected Areas, connectivity conservation and champion of the mountains, **Dr Graeme Worboys**. Penny also mentioned that friends and colleagues will be pleased to hear that despite his current health challenges Graeme is powering on with a book on Kosciuszko National Park.

Despite the global influence of his work, Graeme’s particular love of mountains remains strong and he maintains a special place in his heart for the Australian Alps. He has long advocated for the importance of large-scale conservation, especially the Australian Great Eastern Ranges.

His message to others is simple – individual effort matters! Accumulated it can move mountains, or indeed save them.

Good on **YOU** Graeme, the Mountain Protected Areas SG think you are wonderful!

State of the Alps on Green Economy

The Alpine Convention report presents **9 recommendations** for a Green Economy in the region, including the importance to consider ecosystems and biodiversity as an economic asset and the necessity to turn the Alpine area into a resource-efficient, circular and cost-effective economy. **Euromontana** also considers these points are important for the sustainable development of mountain areas.

Alpine Ecosystem Services

The project “**AlpES – Alpine Ecosystem Services – mapping, maintenance and management**”, has the objectives to introduce a common understanding of ecosystem services as a regional and transnational environmental governance framework and train and support stakeholders in understanding, valuing and managing them. Update about the project by Eurac Research [here](#) and visit the AlpES project website [here](#).

EUROPARC Spain and the Andalusia Regional Administration organised a seminar on “**Conservation and Land Development**”. Hosted by the **Nature Park Sierra de las Nieves**, participants looked at good practices on sustainable local development around protected areas from Asturias, Cataluña y Andalucía.

Scotland's disappearing raptors & grouse moors

From August 12 Australian Guardian - Severin Carrell Scotland editor

Grouse moors (and annual red grouse-shooting season) are to blame for persecuting endangered birds of prey in the Scottish Highlands and Uplands, according to a wildlife crime expert. Data from 77 birds of prey that had been satellite-tagged showed a direct correlation between dead and disappeared birds and grouse moors.



It showed hotspots in the Angus glens near Dundee, the Highlands in Perthshire, the Monadhliath mountains and Speyside south of Inverness, around the Black Isle north of Inverness, and in the Southern Uplands. *Photo: Golden eagle, Scotland - Peter Cairns/Royal Society Protection Birds*

Benefits of transboundary cooperation and responsible tourism

From **Nakul Chettri**

High level delegates from the governments of Bhutan, India, and Nepal emphasized the need for regional cooperation on strengthening the potential and benefits of tourism in the **Kangchenjunga** landscape.

The event focused on sharing existing practices and improving the potential and future prospects of tourism as a major conservation and development tool for regional cooperation. The development of short, medium, and long-term strategies that focus on nature and culture at the transboundary level has been taken as a way forward for the **Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI)**.

2017 update underway

IUCN is working with hundreds of experts to review Conservation Outlook Assessments for all 238 natural World Heritage sites, with a global update due later this year.

Euromontana is a non-profit and scientific organization operating as a network and aiming to improve the living conditions of the mountain populations of Europe through representation, research, information exchange, training and international cooperation.

Project to help sustainability action

From IUCN Protecting the Planet August newsletter

IUCN is undertaking pilot assessments of ecosystem services in two sites, as part of its **Benefits of Natural World Heritage** project. The aim is to test tools which can be used to better understand how local communities depend on and benefit from World Heritage sites, helping site managers translate into action the World Heritage Convention's policy on sustainable development. [Read more](#)

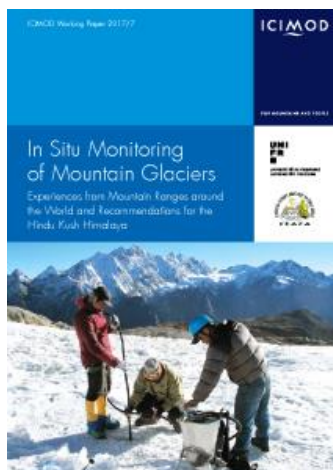
Mountains under Pressure: climate, hunger, migration

From Mountain Partnership (IMD & global conference)

Case studies are invited for the fact sheets currently being created by the United Nations (FAO) and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) for International Mountain Day (IMD) 2017, which will take place on 11 December. The theme chosen for this year's celebration is "**Mountains under Pressure: climate, hunger, migration**". Please email case studies and photos to Sara.Manuelli@fao.org during September 2017 as well as your upcoming IMD events from now until 11 December 2017.

Some Recent Publications of Interest

[Integrating Conservation and Development in Transboundary Landscapes: Looking Back to Move Forward: ICIMOD Working Paper 2017/18](#) Explores possible ways to integrate conservation and development in transboundary landscapes of HKH region based on review of various documents across the region.



Mountain glaciers are important climate indicators, impact on downstream water availability and sea level rise, and potentially influence natural hazards

World heritage, wilderness, and large landscapes and seascapes This thematic study focuses on the contribution the World Heritage Convention can make to wilderness conservation around the world. It provides pragmatic guidance to the Convention and its many partners for strengthening protection of wilderness by promoting the profound linkages between culture and wild nature.

Special issue on **Mountains: Physical, Human-Environmental, and Sociocultural Dynamics** (978-1-138-06697-7) of the Annals of the American Association of Geographers Vol. 107 Num. 2 (2017). A selected collection of contributed, peer reviewed articles from top American scholars working on mountain systems of the world. There are not only the "traditional" physical geography papers on mountain terrains, but also some heterodox papers on the human geography of mountain communities and a couple of themes related to the humanities and the mountains. You can access it here: tandfonline

The Social Ecology of Border Landscapes edited by Anna Grichting and Michele Zebich-Knos An information sheet for this book can be found [here](#) Or [Social Ecology of Border Landscapes](#). The hardback edition is priced at [PRICE £70.00 / \$ 115.00]. From Kevan Zunckel Co-chair: WCPA Transboundary SG

Hidden Histories of People, Place, and Time in Repeat Photography of Glaciers in Jordan Bear and Kate Palmer Albers, eds., *Before-and-After Photography: Histories and Contexts* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, April 2017).

Some forthcoming events and meetings of interest

Call for applications for Himalayan University Consortium individual grants 2017-2018

Individual grant proposals are expected to focus on the trans-boundary, or comparative, and/or multi-disciplinary aspects of one or more of the following areas in the Hindu Kush Himalaya:

- Water resource studies (monsoons, snow cover, permafrost, glacial lakes, wetlands, etc.) and management;
- Climate change impact on water resources;
- Disaster and risk management;
- Water, food, and energy security; and
- Upstream-downstream linkages and policy implication

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, ending 30 September 2017. Details: [ICIMOD](#)

Meetings and Conferences 2017

6 September EUROPARC Conference 2017: Magic Mountains, Portugal (see top page 10)

13-14 September Conference on Old-Growth Forest, Brussels (check the Wild Europe web site for details)

24 September [IUFRO 8.01.02 Landscape Ecology Conference 2017](#), Halle, Germany *The Green-Blue Nexus: Forests, Landscapes and Services*

October 1 [Mountains in the Changing World](#) #MoChWo, Kathmandu, Nepal

October 21 International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation's ([UIAA](#)) General Assembly, Tehran, Iran.

10 October *Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP5)*, Lillafüred, Hungary

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org/>



2 November [6th International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas](#) Austria National Parks and Hohe Tauern National Park will host the 6th International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Salzburg, Austria.

6 November Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change Asia

7 November [International Congress on Climate Change and its Impacts](#), Huaraz, Peru

7 November [Symposium on Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics at Mountain Sites](#), Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan

7 November II Conference of the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS) Oaxaca City, Mexico [More information](#)

November: 15th Swiss Geoscience Meeting 2017 ([SGM 2017](#)), "Moving Boundaries", in Davos, Switzerland.

11-13 December: Mountain Partnership's Global Conference, United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. Under the main theme "**Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration**", the focus will be on the challenges and the opportunities in sustainable mountain development and will launch a political process to support concrete actions and establish policies that strengthen the resilience of mountain peoples and environments. A training course on Collect Earth methodology related to the Mountain Green Cover Index will take place during the period 14-15 December and will be open to selected participants. Submit the [online registration form](#) by **15 September 2017**

28-30 May 2018 IUCN "Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods" Halifax, Canada. The IUCN in conjunction with 2 other international organisations will be presenting a highly-participatory gathering to explore the crucial role of local communities, around the world, in conserving local environments and at the same time supporting local economies and livelihoods. Conference [website](#)

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

Important Links

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

IUCN World Conservation Congress www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org

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

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.



Cordillera Blanca (Alpamayo), Peru photo: peopleinnature