

Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE

No. 99 September 2018



*Comes the wind
through the night
across the highlands
with mouth wide open
shouting, wailing
comes the wind.*

*Comes the ice
through the night
across the highlands
with crystal fingernails
sparkling with cold
comes the ice.*

*Puma and moon
constellation of Llama
wind and ice
beautiful enchantment.
Night in the highlands
thus am I fed.*

Taken from Quechua poem

Note from the editor

Welcome to the 99th edition of the Mountain UPDATE – here in the Australian Alps spring is definitely in the air and all ‘appears’ as it should...wattles a mass of yellow blooms, snow on the mountains and cool crisp days. But I am more than aware that this is not the case in mountain regions around the world experiencing record glacial and snow melts, heat waves and mega fires. And conversely in the Peruvian Andes thick snow lies on the ground at a time when only the highest peaks should be covered.

Climate change is upon us...but unbelievably the Australia Government has failed to outline any clear policies to reduce carbon emissions! The Paris Agreement (2015) is to stop global warming at a maximum of +2°C compared to pre-industrial times. This will only be possible if society at large commits to substantially reduce current greenhouse gas emissions by taking immediate and ongoing action. Happy reading? September 2018

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

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

From *People and Mountains* around the world:

Global

Protecting Mountains—region by region

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

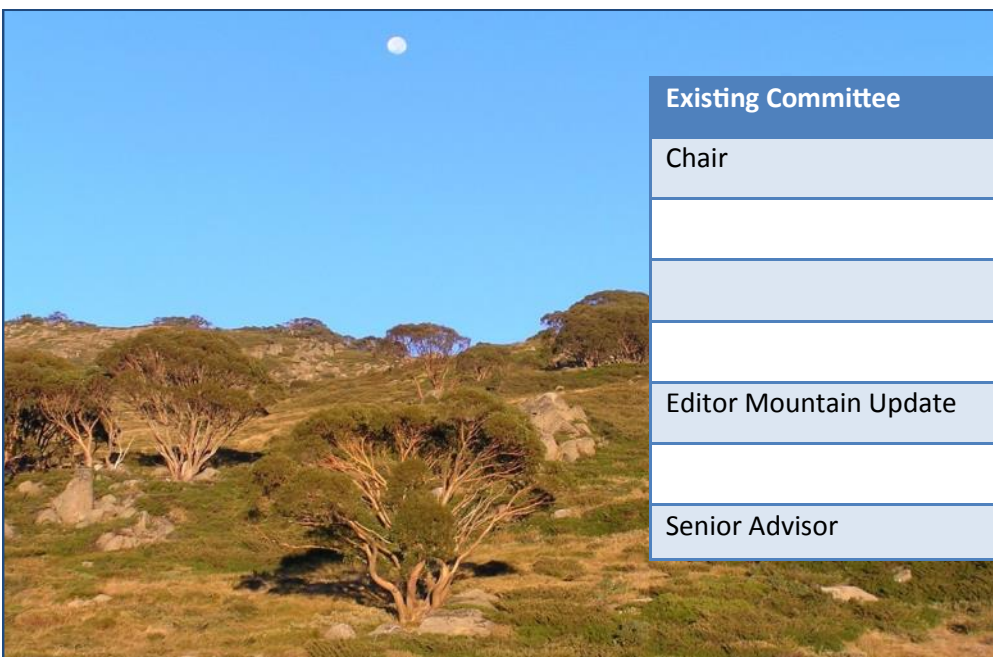
The WCPA Mountain Specialist Group recently called for expressions of interest for Regional representatives to join the Committee. There was very strong interest and the committee found the selection process quite difficult, due to the large number of applications and the high standard.

The new Regional representatives are listed to the right. In some cases there are more than one for a particularly large and/or diverse region. The positions for Caribbean and Central America are unfilled at this stage. Below are the names on the existing committee members.

On behalf of the Mountain Committee I would like to warmly welcome those new members to the Committee and sincerely thank those that showed interest but were not successful on this occasion.

I am really looking forward to engaging the new Regional representatives in the business of the Mountain Specialist Group. I will be distributing shortly for review, the work we have done post the WCC in Hawaii on prioritising high value but unprotected mountain areas for advocacy. Importantly, we are particularly looking to Regions for new and fresh ideas for the Group.

WCPA Region	Name
Southern Africa (Eastern & Southern Africa)	Clinton Carbutt
West and Central Africa	Sonigitu Ekpe
North Africa, West Asia & Middle East	Dawud M.H. Al-Eisawi
East Asia	Chaozhi Zhang
North Eurasia (Central Asia)	Marc Foggin
Oceania	Shane Orchard
South America	Matias Ayarragaray
South Asia (Pakistan)	Ashiq Ahmad Khan
South Asia	Pradeep Mehta
South Asia	Ruchi Badola
Europe (Austria)	Michael Jungmeier
Europe (Eastern)	Oğuz Kurdoğlu
Young Professional Group	Shailyn Drukis
North America	Erik Beever



Existing Committee	Name
Chair	Peter Jacobs
	Patrizia Rossi
	Mike Tollefson
	Fausto Sarmiento
Editor Mountain Update	Gillian Anderson
	Linda McMillan
Senior Advisor	Graeme Worboys

Africa

Mount Lico: Mozambique's time capsule

Notes taken from *The Conversation* July 2018

Why we explored an undisturbed rainforest hidden on top of an African mountain Authors: Simon Willcock Bangor University & Phil Platts University of York

Atop Mount Lico in northern Mozambique is a site that few have had the pleasure of seeing – a hidden rainforest, protected by a steep circle of rock. Though the mountain was known to locals, the forest itself remained a secret until six years ago, when spotted on satellite imagery.

We recently visited the 700 metre-high mountaintop rainforest in an expedition organised by Bayliss, in collaboration with Mozambique's Natural History Museum and National Herbarium. As far as anyone knew (including the locals), we would be the first people to set foot there (spoiler: we weren't).

This expedition formed part of a long-standing research programme into these mountains, that aims to provide evidence to legally protect Mozambique's mountain forests. Currently none of northern Mozambique's mountains are formally protected, either nationally or internationally. Finding new species is one way to highlight the importance of such sites and justify their protection.

What we learn from Lico will help the world understand how forests might be affected by future changes in climate. [Read the complete article](#)



Mount Lico satellite image

2 headlines—2017 good...2018 not so good

Rainforest Rescue Press Release - November 2017

1. Guinea approves creation of largest sanctuary for the West African chimpanzee

The population of chimpanzees in West Africa has declined by over 80% in the last 20 years resulting in their classification by the IUCN as a critically endangered sub-species and the Government of Guinea implementing its objective of protecting 15% of its land by 2020. Supported by the International Finance Corporation, the private sector lending arm of the World Bank, **Moyen-Bafing National Park** will cover an area of 6,426 square kilometers, making it the largest protected area for West African chimpanzees in Guinea.

The Guardian Jonathan Watts August 2018

2. Chimp sanctuary created by World Bank threatened by World Bank-backed dam

Less than a year after it helped to create one of the planet's most important chimpanzee sanctuaries, the World Bank is accused of backing a dam project that could flood the newly protected habitat.

The nature reserve Moyen-Bafing National Park was intended as a "chimpanzee offset" and funded by two mining companies – Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée and Guinea Alumina Corporation – in return for permission to open mineral excavation sites inside other territory of the critically endangered primate.



Australia

take The Track to wild places

From News from the Australian Alps

If you want to go wild, this is the track to take you there – the *Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT)*.

It covers a total of 650km of south-eastern Australia’s mountain country passing through 4 protected areas along the way. It includes spectacular tracts of alpine and sub-alpine scenery, iconic rivers such as the Murrumbidgee, and the headwaters of the Snowy, the Murray and the Mitta Mitta.

The Track crosses large expansive wilderness areas and takes in the highest mountains of Australia: it links a landscape of not only natural beauty but of human occupation, exploration, hardship, nation building and endeavor through the legacy of Aboriginal routes, stockmen’s huts, fences, old towns, ruins and former sites of mining and hydroelectric schemes.

In short, it’s brilliant. You’ll see all sorts of people along the way: day or short trip walkers who use part of the Track as a section or loop as a local walk; overnight walkers taking part in an organised commercial tour; track runners carrying light loads who attempt to complete the full 650 km distance in the shortest possible time (sometimes as short as two weeks!); and the end-to-end walkers who either walk from one end to the other over six to 10 weeks, or others who are happy to tackle sections of the track each year, progressively completing the entire distance. Find out more at [Australian Alps Walking Track](#) and start planning.



AAWT, Alpine NP (Australian Alps national parks)

10th Australian Alps Science Management Forum

The *Science in Action* Forum continued the focus of the Australian Alps Co-operative Management Program on science management partnerships and how to improve the onground effectiveness.

The communication sessions emphasized the importance of effective messaging to the community of science and evidence based decisions and the importance of that in achieving social license for management decisions.

Communicating the Science – a few notes from Dr Craig Cormick

How we think:

- When we are time poor, overwhelmed with data, uncertain, driven by fear or emotion, we tend to assess information on mental shortcuts or VALUES not LOGIC.
- And opinions that were NOT formed by LOGIC or FACTS are not then able to be easily influenced by LOGIC or FACTS.

Things we should know:

1. When **information is complex**, people make decisions based on their **values and beliefs**.
2. People seek **affirmation of their attitudes** (or beliefs) – no matter how fringe – and will **reject** any information or facts that are **counter** to their attitudes (or beliefs).
3. Attitudes that **were not formed by logic** are **not influenced** by logical arguments.
4. Public concerns about contentious science or technologies are **almost never about the science** – and scientific information therefore does little to influence those concerns.
5. People **most trust** those whose **values mirror their own**.



Mt Buffalo NP (Australian Alps national parks)

America-north

conservation targets and biodiversity

Adapted from Y2Y News August 2018

Withering wildlife: Will Canada Target 1 conservation goals effectively protect our unique biodiversity?

[Science Borealis](#) Alina Fisher and Tanya Samman, Environmental and Earth Sciences co-editors

The mandate of Parks Canada is to ensure natural areas for both ecological integrity and human enjoyment. But human enjoyment may not be as compatible with true ecological integrity as we would like to think, and our land use both within and surrounding these protected areas may be contributing to species extinctions.

Land use gone wild!

In terms of total biomass, humans make up less than 0.01% of life on Earth, but people and our livestock make up 96% of all the mammal biomass on the planet, with wildlife making up the remaining 4%. Farming and ranching, development, and resource extraction are creating ever-increasing habitat fragmentation, marooning some species in the environmental 'islands' that remain. These multiple land uses create effects that are adding up in ways that aren't good for biodiversity.



Under a new initiative put forward by the Canadian Parks Council, called Canada Target 1, the Government of Canada aims to protect 17 per cent of its land and freshwater by 2020.

Currently, only 10.5 per cent of Canada's land is protected to some degree under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Areas Categories, either nationally or provincially.

Further increasing the amount of protected areas/habitat is great, but is the 17 per cent target meaningful from an ecological perspective or is it merely political? How effective are these additional protections likely to be?

Wildlife needs

The quality of protected land is relative for any given species, and altered landscapes are creating clear winners and losers among wildlife. Some animals do well in human-altered environments, like wolves that can use seismic lines as travel corridors. However, species like caribou that require large tracts of intact land or wolverines that can't tolerate any human activity don't do well at all.

Habitat doesn't necessarily need to be structurally connective (intact), but it needs to be functionally connective—meaning that wildlife can effectively move between the areas. The bad news is that we're not necessarily good at making habitats functionally connected.



A report by the National Advisory Panel outlining Canada's conservation vision emphasizes the need for large areas of protected habitat and ensuring habitat connectivity "Many of the recommendations are about functional and structural connectivity, and that it should be adopted at all levels of government..." Dr Jacob Y2Y

There are ways that wildlife and humans can coexist through a mix of "land sparing" and "land sharing". For example, Banff NP takes the tourist heat, parks nearby remain nearly pristine.

One of the conundrums here is that the areas with the most species at risk correlate with the most concentrated human land use. Can we effectively balance all the competing needs of wildlife conservation and complex socio-economic factors as we try to meet the Canada 1 conservation targets? Join the conversation at [#Conservation2020](#).

America-south

an Andean model for community based tourism

Editors Note: Community based ecotourism can bring great benefits to mountain communities where respectful and effective partnerships are formed with business and Protected Areas. Getting this right can be challenging and my recent experience is that *Andean Lodges* is one example of where good collaborative planning, patience and focus on smooth operations have made this happen.

Notes from *Andean Lodges* website

According to Andean spiritual lore, the huge snow covered mountains and the energy they radiate fertilize the Pachamama, our mother earth, and her lakes. Her energy descends through the mountains, traveling immense distances towards uncharted Amazon lands. Then every night, from the glittering Willkamayu or Milky Way above, the energy returns to fill her lakes and glaciers.

In the **Ausangate** region the ancient native communities of Chillca and Osefina have been tasked with the stewardship of these beautiful high-altitude landscapes, and the local people are always pleased to greet visitors.

Andean Lodges is a Cusco-based company, founded in 2006 in association with the people of Chillca and Osefina. Their goal is to offer unique trekking and lodging experiences on the Apu Ausangate Route, with a focus on community-based rural tourism, and to promote the development of these communities.

Andean Lodges count on an operations team composed of trained community members, including guides, kitchen personnel, housekeepers, security guards and maintenance personnel. They also work with women weavers of the community, who are keepers of ancestral knowledge.

Andean Lodges values include:

Fair Labor and Trade: practice equal distribution of profits by placing a higher value on the services and products provided by associates , the inhabitants of the Chillca and Osefina communities .

Conservation: support conservation of ecosystems and local lands, and the preservation of the first-peoples' native cultural heritage.



Andean Lodges social vision is to create alternatives for sustainable development that are inclusive, and in balance with the cultural perspectives of the Andean original communities.

To those ends, they have been working intensively for the preservation and safeguarding of the natural wealth, ancient knowledge and traditional ways of life of these communities.



Rainbow Mountain—saved from mining interests by *Andean Lodges* lobbying & concern



Editors Note: I hope to provide more details on *Andean Lodges* business model in the December issue of the Mountain UPDATE.

Central Asia

Bunji – where 3 great ranges meet

From Mountain Network member **Manzoor Ahmed Qureshi (Regional Programme Manager, Gilgit Baltistan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan)**

When the Bunji community started its conservation activities there were few animals, but with commitment and sacrifice they were able to change this significantly.

The Bunji community is considered to be a pioneer in wildlife conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

The small community of Bunji (650 households) is situated on the edge of western Himalayas at the junction of world's largest and highest mountain ranges (Himalaya, Hindukush and Karakoram). With future plans regarding sustainable use of natural resources the community is worried about Bunji Hydro Power Project, the biggest hydro power project in the history of Pakistan. It will generate 7100 MW of energy by diverting the Indus, the largest river of Pakistan.

Environmental challenge:

The whole project is in the community controlled hunting area which is also a locally designated protected area. With careful measures game animals worth thousands of dollars can now be offered to international hunters .

The project site is home to critically endangered and significant species of mammals like Astor Markhor (image), Ladakh Urial, Musk Deer, Snow Leopard and Woolly Flying Squirrel and flora, avifauna and fish in general.

As a result of this diversion about 50km of river will be almost dry and the entire ecosystem will suffer - it will expose a long naturally 'fenced' core habitat to poachers and illegal hunters, along with irreparable loss to fish communities, water fowls and hydrophytes.

Impacting local livelihoods:

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project has been conducted giving no importance to fragile mountain ecosystem and its biodiversity. But the project impact will leave irreparable losses to livelihood of the mountain community. The same activity will badly affect the fish and associated communities because of the river diversion into the tunnel.

Improving environmental well-being and supporting sustainable livelihoods:

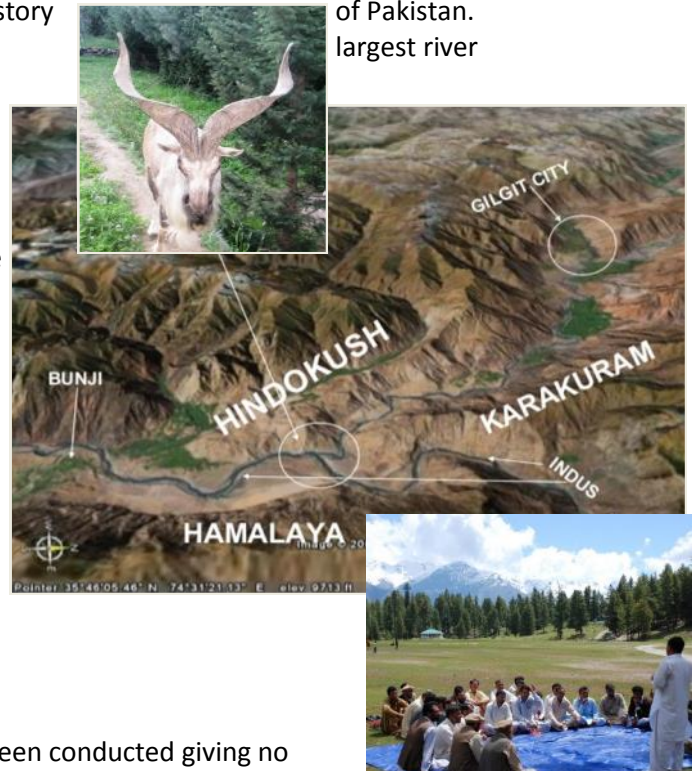
The community is keen to start innovative initiatives such as developing the first-ever environmentally friendly town – planned to be the first organic village in the history of the country. The community has imposed a strict ban on illegal hunting and exploitation of medicinal herbs.

Although they have submitted their reservations against the hydro power project the community hopes to be able to work closely with government to meet the huge environmental challenges ahead.

The information provided opinions expressed above are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Community Conservation Research Network or all Bunji community.



Nanga Parbat 9th highest peak



Author and community

To conciliate local challenges to illegal hunting and poaching community 'offenders' are now engaged as guards of the community's precious resources of wild flora and fauna.

Eastern Europe-Central Asia

Caucasus Mountains—Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park

From **Global Conservation News** June 2018 <http://globalconservation.org>

Covering more than 85,000 hectares of native forest and alpine meadows, the **Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park** is a protected area located 160 kilometres from the nation's capital of Tbilisi in the central part of Georgia.

Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park was created in order to preserve the region's extraordinary nature, especially its virgin forests, which consists of the eastern range of the lesser Caucasus Mountains. The total area amounts to 85,083 ha, which is more than 1% of the territory of Georgia.

Primary Threats to Borjomi National Park

- Wildlife Poaching
- Illegal Logging
- Overgrazing in the Core Areas

Over the past ten years, illegal hunting and logging have continued to decimate endangered wildlife populations, despite great efforts and critical support from international partner Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF) combined with increased government support.

At the invitation of the Georgian Agency for Protected Areas (APA), Global Conservation signed a multi-year agreement in June 2018 to deploy Global Park Defense in the Park to monitor all trails and roads used by illegal hunters and wildlife poachers.

Baseline wildlife populations for the entire park are in danger of further losses with high potential for extinction of many critical species.

Today it is estimated that there are less than 20 Lynx (mountain cat) remaining in the park, 30 Brown Bear, 10 Chamois and 200 Red Deer. The Mountain Goat recently became extinct due to exploitive poaching.



Borjomi Kharagauli NP



Global Conservation– work in conjunction with Georgia Agency for Protected Areas and Caucasus Nature Fund

Europe

Illegal logging in some Europe's last virgin forest

From The Guardian June 2018 Arthur Neslen **Romania breaks up alleged €25m illegal logging ring**

Security forces launch raids linked to deforestation in the Carpathian mountains.

Officers from Romania's Directorate for Investigation of Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) swooped on 23 addresses – including factories owned by the Austrian timber group Schweighofer Holzindustrie, according to local press reports.

A government statement said that they had “reasonable suspicion that, since 2011, several individuals have constituted an organised criminal group, the members of the group acting to hijack public organisations at the level of forestry departments.”

Greenpeace estimates that three hectares of spruce, beech, fir and sycamore trees are lost every hour in the 200,000-hectare Carpathian biodiversity haven.

The crackdown in the Carpathians followed an Environmental Investigation Agency report in 2015 which found evidence of illegally sourced wood entering Schweighofer's supply chain.

“This is the first time that a company has really been held to account for illegal logging on this scale in Europe. It sends a huge signal to the timber industry that illegal logging in Europe's last great ancient forests will have consequences.” EIA

Majella National Park, Italy

From European Wilderness News June 2018

Majella National Park, home to the **Majella Wilderness** and one of the most inaccessible, impressive, wild and extensive mountain ranges of the Apennines, containing dozens of peaks higher than 2,000 m.

Due to its altitude, inaccessibility and prominence, large areas of the **Majella National Park** are uninhabited.

It is home to an amazingly rich biodiversity across different habitats.

Nearly half of all mammal species found in Italy are present in Majella Wilderness.

The Apennine wolf, wild boar, red deer, roe deer, wildcats, chamois and brown bear are all found here.

Majella Wilderness has been a partner in the [European Wilderness Network](#) since the first Audits between 2005 and 2010. As well as a renewal audit EWN will discuss with national park management opportunities to work together on projects focussing on sustainable tourism, human-wildlife interaction, and more. Over the next months EWN and Majella National Park will discuss options for extended collaboration.

Note from Mountain Partnership August News

Rediscovering Nature and Culture in the Apennines - The *Le Erbe delle Sibilla* (the herbs of Sibilla) project was created in June 2017 and is fully funded by the Earthquake Committee of Central Italy . It is designed to teach people how to forage sustainably and create new ways of eating while reconnecting with ancient traditions and custodianship of the natural environment.



Romanian logged forest



www.parcmajella.it



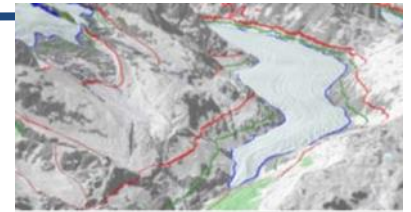
Scree and Talus

Digital 3D glaciers

Taken from MRI Blog Markus Gross <http://www.blogs-mri.org/observing-glaciers-in-real-time>

Hot summers cause glaciers to melt. That not only changes the makeup of the landscape and hence the maps of Switzerland, it also affects every area of society. A new, dynamic glacier inventory makes the impact of climate change and the changing landscape visible by converting maps into a digital 3D landscape model.

Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland (GLAMOS) is monitoring some 100 glaciers, with a particular view to measuring fluctuations in their length and ice thickness. In future, it will gather data on the extent of some 1,500 glaciers, helping tomorrow's researchers to track even the tiniest changes in their extent.



The coloured lines show where the edge of the Aletsch glacier once was (red line 1850, green=1973, blue=2010). (Image copyright: Swisstopo / GLAMOS / ETHZ)

#MountainsMatter International Mountain Day

Through a global campaign, a social media strategy and events around the world, [Mountain Partnership](#) plan to tell the world that the current neglect of mountains and mountain peoples must stop. They therefore ask everyone to use the hashtag #MountainsMatter in all their communications **specifying why mountains matter for them.**

Contact sara.manuelli@fao.org with news of the celebrations you are planning so it can be published on the International Mountain Day website.

Panorama

Many outstanding and inspiring solutions for protected and conserved areas have been collated since the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, and incorporated into PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet. PANORAMA now has 383 solutions [online](#).

Kebnekaise Mountain from The Guardian August 2018

Sweden's highest peak, a glacier on the southern tip of the Kebnekaise mountain, is melting due to record hot Arctic temperatures and is no longer the nation's tallest point. "I've never seen this much melted snow on the southern peak as I did this summer." scientist Stockholm University



Dirty boots over shiny sneakers? European Wilderness Society

EWS is looking for a wilderness dedicated person, between 18 and 30 years old, with very good English language skills and who is willing to express their personal commitment towards wilderness through a full-time voluntary service for a duration of 3 to 12 months – January or February 2019. Application deadline September 14th, 2018 [For more information](#)

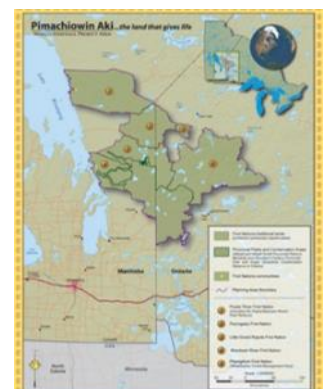
Rainforest Trust IUCN ASAP Partnership

The Rainforest Trust are offering support for organisations across the tropics to create new protected areas for Critically Endangered and Endangered species. Rainforest Trust prioritizes projects in Key Biodiversity Areas following the A1(a) criterion of the KBA Standard.

This opportunity is open to any NGO legally registered and authorized to work in the country of the proposed protected area. Deadline: 1 November 2018 [Read more](#)

World Heritage Sites

"This year saw the uplifting inscription of two large intact indigenous territories: **Pimachiowin Aki** in Canada's boreal forest and **Chiribiquete National Park** in the heart of Colombia, both among the largest World Heritage sites on the planet..." Peter Shadie IUCN's World Heritage Senior Advisor



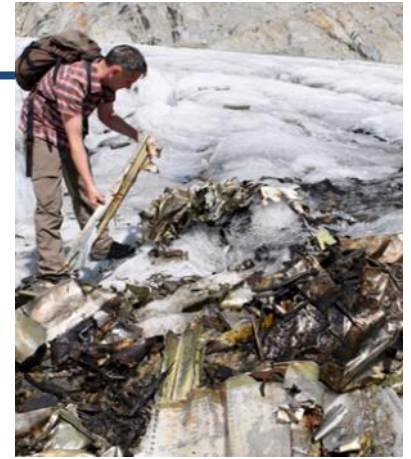
Scree and Talus cont.

[Glaciers melting at dramatic rates](#) Taken from **Independent News** Tom Embury-Dennis

A heatwave in Switzerland has uncovered a Second World War plane that was frozen inside the **Gauli Glacier** in the **Bernese Alps** for the past 72 years.

It is one of Switzerland's hottest and driest summers since records began in 1864.

A 2014 assessment of about 200,000 glaciers, some of which have been monitored since the mid-19th century, found about two-thirds of the current rate of glacial melting is due to human influences on the climate (rather than natural variabilities in temperature).



[Leuser Ecosystem: national park with UNESCO World Heritage designation](#) WW2 plane debris (EPA)

From Global Conservation

The Leuser Ecosystem of Sumatra covers over 6 million acres including lowland and **mountainous rainforests** and over 460,000 acres of carbon-rich peatlands.

From Alert

Research from an international team that includes several prominent ALERT scientists, raises just about every red flag imaginable including illegal road building, fragmentation and vulnerable forest links. The full study can be download [here](#).

The Leuser Ecosystem is the last place on earth where Sumatran orangutans, tigers, elephants, rhinos and sun bears co-exist in the wild.

[Utah National Monuments](#) The Guardian

US officials have announced plans to allow increased mining on land that once belonged to two national monuments Donald Trump shrank, and to sell off some of the land despite pledges not to do so.

The two monuments, now significantly smaller in size, are both in Utah. The draft management plan for Grand Staircase-Escalante national monument includes a 98-page minerals report that outlines deposits of coal, oil and gas, tar sands and other minerals under the whole of the monument's original 1.9m acres. The public has until 15 November to submit comments on the plans.

[Grizzly reprieve for Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem](#) Sierra Club Press Release August

A federal judge granted a temporary restraining order stopping Wyoming and Idaho's planned grizzly hunt—Sept. 1

[Avalanche risk increasing](#) European Wilderness Society

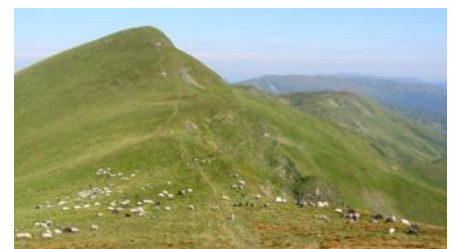
A recent study by scientists at the Université de Genève demonstrated that our overheating climate increases the risk of avalanches. Although the researchers studied avalanches in the Himalayas, their results are relevant to people and mountains worldwide.

“Avalanches are bigger, travel greater distances and are triggered earlier in the year. These changes can be attributed clearly to rising temperatures.”

Increased air temperatures cause glaciers to melt, which means the sediment is less stable and more likely to lead to an avalanche. We are also losing a lot of trees from mountainous regions, through a combination of logging and overgrazing. Again this makes the ground more unstable and increases the risk of avalanche. The study is published in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

[Svydovets Massif needs support](#) European Wilderness Society August news

The Svydovets massif in the Ukrainian Carpathians is currently highly disputed because of a proposed mega-ski resort, offering recreation for up to 28 000 visitors per day. Around 60 hotels, 120 restaurants and 33 ski lifts are planned for 230 km of slopes. The group [“Free Svydovets”](#) points out the disastrous consequences of this mega-project.



Svydovets Daniel Baranek

Publications and other Media

[First Wolf Hiking Trail](#) Robin Rossberg

Always wondered how wolves see their surroundings? In Bavaria you can experience that on the very first Wolf hiking trail. There are 20 stations along the 18km hiking trail where you can collect information and search for wolf tracks. The trail was selected in a way that it shows the scenery from a wolf's perspective. In order to protect the nature, there are no signs that mark the trail. You can use your smartphone to navigate—find the map [here](#).



[Mozambique Rangers](#)

Bom Dia Colegas - World Ranger Day (July 31st) is an opportunity to reflect on the important work rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage, as well as commemorate those who have been injured or lost their lives in the line of duty.

In Mozambique, rangers play a critical and often dangerous role in protecting the country's forests and wildlife and the World Bank Integrated landscape Management Team are pleased to share with you two new videos produced by our colleagues and partners:

Elephant Defenders: Rangers in Niassa National Reserve Capturing the rangers' stories of violence, conservation, and courage in Niassa National Reserve, the documentary is a testament to the commitment of Mozambique's rangers in protecting the country's forests and wildlife. [Watch here.](#)

On the Front Line: The Rangers of Gorongosa National Park, which follows the team of men and women fighting to protect this unique conservation area. [Watch here.](#)

[Mountain Warming Through the Seasons](#) From MRI News July 2018

A new paper published in the International Journal of Climatology examines seasonal patterns of warming amplification at high elevations worldwide – and finds highly significant temperature trends.

There is a growing body of evidence that suggests warming rates are amplified by elevation, with high mountain areas experiencing more rapid changes in temperature than lower elevation environments.

[Read more: Mountain warming through the seasons](#)

[Running off the Road](#) From MIREN (a follow up to an article “Hitching a Ride”)

Mountain roads – and the cars and people on them – facilitate non-native species movement up to high elevations. Using the MIREN database ecologists looked at all the species that are travelling uphill, and hunted down the global patterns. It turned out to be tougher than you may think...as these plants face: *the double filter*.

Many things need to be ‘just right’ for a non-native species to succeed in high elevation natural environments, which explains why so few non-native species are currently present there: passing the *double filter* test is just really hard.

Want to know more? McDougall, K. L., Lembrechts, J., Rew, L. J., Haider, S., Cavieres, L. A., Kueffer, C., & Seipel, T. Running off the road: roadside non-native plants invading mountain vegetation. *Biological Invasions*, 1-13. Read it [here](#).

The double filter species

Species that can cope with:

1. open, disturbed mountain roadsides along the whole elevational gradient from warm to cold
And so they can ‘run off the road’
2. moist shade of an environment that’s already covered with plants

[The Right Tools](#) From IUCN

IUCN has issued new guidance to help practitioners assess ecosystem services within important sites for biodiversity and nature conservation. The report reviews nine assessment tools, focussing on their application in Key Biodiversity Areas, natural World Heritage sites and protected areas. It includes a set of “decision trees” to save time on the complex process of selecting the most appropriate tool for one’s specific needs.



Publications and other Media cont.

[Planning Management for Ecosystem Services: An Operations Manual](#) by ICIMOD with UNEP-WCMC

From network member Philip Bubb

An Operations Manual supporting development practitioners, natural resource managers and conservation professionals to manage the environment to provide multiple ecosystem services has been made available [online](#).

The Manual, produced and tested by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) with UNEP-WCMC, provides practical approaches to include environmental management for a full range of ecosystem services in plans and actions for sustainable development.

It presents six steps and supporting information for working at individual sites and wider landscapes.

Following a training session on the Manual, a participant from Himachal Pradesh Forest Department concluded:

"I now see the forest as an ecosystem, not just as timber, and can use this in planning management with local communities."

[PARKS](#)

Special Issue of PARKS *The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation* focuses on 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' (OECMs) is now available [here](#)

Some events and meetings of interest

12-15 September **Changbai Mountain International Ecological Conference of China** contact Chunquan.zhu@iucn.org

12-14 September **Africa Regional Mountains Forum 2018** Kigali, Rwanda [Albertine Rift Conservation Society](#) (ARCOS) with Rwanda's Ministry of Environment and partners including the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

25-27 September XI European Mountain Convention Vatra Dornei, Romania Organized by [Euromontana](#) and [Romanian Agency for Mountain Areas](#), it will focus on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of mountain areas and on how this strategic resource can be a key asset for developing sustainable and attractive mountain areas for the future.

2-5 October: **"Thinking Mountains 2018"** Banff, Alberta, Canada. Will bring researchers, students, and teachers from across the scholarly disciplines into dialogue with activists, artists, Indigenous leaders, and community members, all of whom share a commitment to global mountain sustainability, and to the betterment of mountain peoples, places, and activities. <http://www.thinkingmountains.ca>

14-17 October: [2018 International Parks Congress](#), Melbourne, Australia. Parks and Leisure Australia

14-18 October: **Forum Carpathicum 2018** Eger, Hungary Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of S4C. An event that will highlight science in the Carpathian ecological region.

23 – 26 October: **Fourth World Mountain Forum** Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic "Mountains in a changing world: strengthening partnership and pathways towards a thriving mountain future" will be hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan with support from the Government of Switzerland, University of Central Asia and Aga Khan Foundation. Participants will strive to identify and develop solutions for mountain areas globally. More information [online](#).

The University of Central Asia's Mountain Societies Research Institute is accepting registrations and contributions for the **Youth Mountain Forum** – a side event taking place as part of the World Mountain Forum 2018. Students and young professionals are invited to submit contributions.

[Read more: Call for Contributions and Registration | Youth Mountain Forum](#)

11-15 December: **Mountains 2018** Nova Friburgo, Brazil. Discuss and disseminate knowledge about mountains, based on lessons learned from scientific research and practical experiences. See the official [Mountains 2018 Facebook page](#) Learn more about [LuMont](#)

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

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa/what-we-do/mountains/mountain-protected-area-update>

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

While Mountain Network members can choose not to be WCPA members and still be involved and receive the Mountain UPDATE, the WCPA Chair Dr Kathy MacKinnon, and Mountain Specialist Group Executive and would like to encourage all to become WCPA members. This helps to secure good governance and management of the WCPA and the Mountains Group and enlightens all members to the wider activities of the WCPA.

To learn more about WCPA membership go to: [WCPA membership](#)

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!



The Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group have produced a new poster to help get the word out about the importance of connectivity. Please go to conservationcorridor.org/ccsg if interested in a digital copy.