

# Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter

October 2009

'Peak to Peak' is an opportunity to keep you up-to-date with the latest news, activities and events related to the Mountain Partnership. This newsletter, prepared by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, is sent by e-mail to all members and other interested partners and can be read on-line at [www.mountainpartnership.org](http://www.mountainpartnership.org)

## Update on Partnership activities

### WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS 2009

The World Forestry Congress (WFC) is a forum for governments, universities, civil society and the private sector to exchange views and experiences and to formulate recommendations to be implemented at the national, regional and global levels. The Congress also provides an opportunity to present an overview of the state of forests and forestry in order to discern trends, adapt policies and raise awareness among decision and policy makers, the public and other stakeholders. This year's congress to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, will have three events organized within the framework of the Mountain Partnership.



"Mountain Forest products and livelihoods", to be held Friday 23 October, is a main session co-organized by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO, The Mountain Institute and CONDESAN. The event will focus on mountain quality products and their role in fighting poverty and hunger and value chain approaches. The session will include presentations from Africa, Asia and Latin America and aims at promoting exchange and debate on how to ensure adequate income to mountain dwellers through a sustainable use of resources. On 20 October, there will be a side event organized by Condesan on "Mountains, forests and development: Andean Initiative of the Mountain Partnership." On 23 October, another side event organized by the Argentinean Committee for Mountains will focus on: "Inter-institutional coordination for forests in mountain areas: National Committees, regional initiatives and the Mountain Partnership Framework". If you are planning to be in Buenos Aires you are cordially invited to participate in these events and contribute to the discussions with your direct experiences. Otherwise, it would be appreciated if you could notify your national delegations to the Congress and encourage their participation. For further information please visit: <http://www.wfc2009.org/en/index.asp> or contact [Rosalaura.Romeo@fao.org](mailto:Rosalaura.Romeo@fao.org)

### IPROMO course on developing economic opportunities for mountain areas

The second course of the International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas – IPROMO – was held in July 2009 in the Piedmont region of Italy. This two-week programme is designed for mid-level professionals from Mountain Partnership member institutions and countries and focused this year on economic opportunities for mountain regions with a specific angle on agricultural, forest and tourism-related activities. Around 30 participants from all over the world attended the course and discussions are already under way to prepare the next course in July 2010. The topics of the lectures included "Tools for the sustainability of the mountain economy", "Value chain approaches and case studies", "Policies and laws for sustainable mountain development", "Sustainable tourism opportunities in mountain protected areas and experiences from the Carpathians". The Mountain Partnership Central Hub worked closely with the Turin University and assisted with the development of the course content, identification of lecturers and instructors and selection of participants, preparation of a website and financial resource mobilization for the course. Efforts are also underway to develop regional trainings based on the global IPROMO model that would be tailored to the needs of a particular region and held in the most appropriate language. For further information and presentations please visit: <http://www.ipromo-school.it/en/> or contact [Rosalaura.Romeo@fao.org](mailto:Rosalaura.Romeo@fao.org).



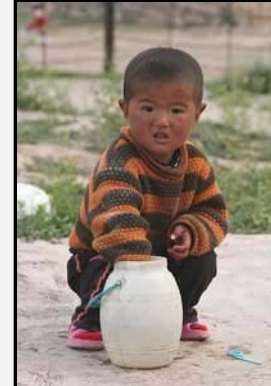
### The Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation Initiative



UNEP and ICIMOD have developed the The Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) Conservation Initiative which aims at developing and engaging regional, national, local partners and other stakeholders in a consultative process whose purpose is the realization of a transboundary Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF) for implementation of the Mountain Biodiversity Goals as stated in the Mountain Biodiversity Program of Work (adopted at COP7) of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). This two year start-up phase initiative will promote and develop the framework for an integrated and participatory approach to conservation and sustainable development in the KSL. The Environmental Reference Centre (ERC) at UNEP Vienna Office will provide assistance in experience sharing with other mountain regions and in disseminating the project results for possible replication in other mountainous regions.

### Mountain Children Dreams Book from Central Asia

Mountain Partnership member CAMP Alatau Public Fund is working on a publication devoted to mountain children. The photo book has the primary aim of providing first-hand information on the life of mountain dwellers and their children, looking at mountain issues through the eyes of the younger generation, who will become tomorrow's policy makers and major stakeholders of the mountain agenda. The book collects the voices from the villagers of the remote mountain regions in Central Asia, so their concerns and perspectives can be integrated into local and national policies. While many books focus on mountain themes but neglect children's concerns and points of view, the Dreams Book will describe mountain lives through the eyes of children: how they see and experience it, while suggesting solutions from their perspective. The book is being developed by a team of journalists and photographers from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and includes interviews, photos and reports from over 35 mountain villages, with the involvement of over 600 children. The result will be a photo book which should serve as a reference for specific topics such as climate change, education and migration issues in Central Asia. The bilingual English and Russian publication is supported by the Mountain Partnership.



### E-Conferences from the Latin America hub

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat's Latin America hub recently sponsored and actively participated in an e-conference on "Rural Territorial Development and Governance of Natural Resources". This conference took place in July, and was organized also in response to the feedback received during the Mountain Partnership Andean Initiative meeting in February in Manizales, Colombia. The high response demonstrated great interest in learning more on the topic, and explored current experiences, what was working and the impact of these approaches on rural Andean populations and on mountain policies. The proceedings will be available shortly.

Additionally, two more Mountain Partnership sponsored e-conferences have been scheduled for the following months. Both conferences are closely related to CONDESAN's *Panorama Andino* processes. One will deal with the topic of "Innovation of Agrarian Systems" while the other on "Vulnerability, Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change effects in Tropical Andes". The Innovation e-conference will take place late in October and invitations to members and other participants to send case studies on innovation and/or participate in the discussion will soon be sent out.

### Environmental Dialogue: Aboriginal Consultation

The host institution of the North America Hub of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, the Banff Centre's Mountain Culture and Environment department, is exploring *dialogue* as a way of addressing pressing and challenging issues. An Environmental Dialogues pilot was launched in the summer of 2009 with the question: "What does effective and meaningful consultation with aboriginal communities look like and how can it be achieved?". Aboriginal consultation is an important issue in Canada. Statutory, contractual and common law obligations require governments to consult "meaningfully" with Aboriginal groups and accommodate if those groups or their traditional territories may be impacted. However, few guidelines exist to describe consultation (e.g. inform or collaborate) or what is meant by "meaningful". Aboriginal groups have litigated governments for inadequate consultation. Industry has assumed the process of consultation to mitigate its business risk. Government is unsure how to proceed and Aboriginal communities struggle to find the resources and capacity to engage and fulfill their responsibilities to each other and the land. For this pilot project, representatives of The Banff Centre spoke at length with thirty-eight people from industry, government, legal counsel, NGOs, and aboriginal communities about their experiences with aboriginal consultation. The outcomes from these conversations will be compiled into a synthesis report this autumn that will outline key areas of consensus and conflict. The Banff Centre is working on this project in collaboration with Reos Partners – an international organization dedicated to building capacity for innovative collective action in complex social systems. For more information about this project visit: <http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/about/environmental-dialogues.asp> <http://www.reospartners.com/>



## News highlights from around the world

### Nepalese rock for Obama



As part of the Climate for Life Campaign, Nepal's Sherpa Community sent a piece of rock from Mount Everest to U.S. President Barack Obama to underscore the impact of global warming on the Himalayas.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar of Nepal promised to carry the "memento" and give it to Obama when world leaders met in New York at the end of September as "a symbol of the melting Himalayas in the wake of climate change." Heads of States met at the UN Climate Change Summit on 22 September 2009 in New York. The rock was collected from the 8 850 meter (29,035 feet) Mount Everest by Apa Sherpa, who climbed the mountain for a

record 19th time on 17 June 2009.

### Iberá Natural Reserve: rules for delimitation and operation approved by government

Recently the Government of the Province of Corrientes, Argentina, after a long period of consultation, approved a document for the Natural Reserve of Iberá. The document is the result of a multi-sectoral and participatory process in which Mountain Partnership member ProYungas was actively involved. It led to a decree that provides the basic rules for the implementation of the Iberá Natural Reserve. The main purposes are: to preserve, protect, conserve and restore natural resources within the protected area, to restore biodiversity and promote the development of ecotourism as an ideal instrument for education, local development and possible funding for administration and management. This document is a valuable step forward and from now on the future of Iberá will depend on the ability to combine these practices and the preservation of the environment. For feedback on the document please contact [administracion@proyungas.org.ar](mailto:administracion@proyungas.org.ar)



## Past events

### Workshop on Integrated Space Technologies Applications for Sustainable Development in the Mountain Regions of Andean Countries (Lima, Peru, 14-18 September)

ERC-UNEP, as part of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, together with the Vienna-based UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), CONDESAN, CONIDA, ESA and the Governments of Peru and Switzerland organized a workshop on Integrated Space Technologies Applications for Sustainable Development in the Mountain Regions of Andean Countries which took place in Lima. The meeting, attended by almost 100 participants, gave the opportunity for analyzing the state of the art of mountain monitoring from the space and developing joint proposals for the Andean region.

### Sacred sites: Biodiversity and Andean spirituality (Acopia, Peru, April 2009)

The conference, organized by Mountain Partnership member Yachay Wasi and funded by the Ford Foundation, gathered over 80 participants, including representatives of the communities of the Acopia district as well as international delegates. The conference aimed to reinforce the importance of Indigenous Sacred sites, symbolic representations of spirituality and biodiversity and their relevance to today's society's dilemmas such as climate change and loss of biodiversity. A report summarizing the views of the Andean Indigenous representatives is included [here PDF](#).



## Future events

### The Banff Mountain Film and Book Festivals (Banff, Canada, October 31 – November 8, 2009)

The Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival brings together around 12 000 people to celebrate the spirit of adventure. Guests will include: climbers Steve House, Ueli Steck and Chris Sharma; conservationist, Mike Fay; National Geographic photographer, Steve Winter; geologist, Sarah Garlick; businessman, climber and author, Royal Robbins; artist, Renan Ozturk; extreme athletes, Karina Hollekim and Dean Karnazes; and others. Past guests have included Reinhold Messner, Sir Edmund Hillary, Lynn Hill, Goran Kropp, Kitty Calhoun, Tashi Tenzing, Nando Parrado, Ed Viesturs, Jim Perrin, David Breashears, Sir Christian Bonington, Tim Cahill, Greg Child, Yvon Chouinard, Wade Davis, and Jon Krakauer.



The Banff Mountain Film and Book Festivals run consecutively and are both international, juried competitions featuring guests speakers and a variety of popular events including: film screenings; trade readings; signings; panel discussions; seminars; a mountain art and craft sale; mountain book fair; adventure book show; climbing wall; yoga classes and more.

After the festivals, a selection of films tours in over 30 countries on seven continents (including Antarctica) reaching more than 200 000 people. The 2009 Banff Mountain Film and Book Festivals are in their 34th and 16th years respectively. For more information visit [www.banffmountainfestivals.com](http://www.banffmountainfestivals.com) or see the intro video online <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA&hl=en&v=UMG5NKGLKRU>

### COP15 Side Event on Mountains and Climate Change (Copenhagen, Denmark, 7-18 December 2009)

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat is working with several members to organize a side event and exhibit space on mountains and climate change at the upcoming COP 15 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. An official request has been submitted to the Convention Secretariat, but a formal decision about which requests will be granted will not be known before late October. Once the decision is known, Mountain Partnership members will be informed about the decision and further details will be provided, assuming the side event is approved.