

Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter

Issue 30 - July 2008

'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



Membership

We wish to welcome a new member who has recently joined the Mountain Partnership: The Carpathian Convention. www.carpathianconvention.org. As of July 2008, there are 152 members of the Mountain Partnership, 48 countries, 16 IGOs and 88 major group organizations (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector). For information on their activities and contact details, visit the members section of the Mountain Partnership Web site www.mountainpartnership.org

Update on Partnership activities

Mountain Products in Lebanon

The FAO Mountain Products Programme (operated in the context of the Mountain Partnership) has obtained funding from the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme Facility to carry out a formulation mission in July 2008 to design a project on promotion of niche products from mountain regions in Lebanon, based on the pilot case of the "Labneh" cheese. The mission will be carried out by an FAO expert on Animal Production, in collaboration with officers from the Animal Resources Directorate of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture. The mission will analyse the constraints and opportunities of the Labneh value chain and develop a document for a two year project, which will be funded by the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme. For further information please contact Alexia Baldascini, Mountain Products Programme Manager at: alexia.baldascini@fao.org



Funding database

The Mountain Partnership website has updated its funding database. The service intends to facilitate members who need information about existing grants and fellowships. All entries and information were updated last December.

The International Mountain Parks Twinning Programme



In order to facilitate information exchange in the development of the [Biodiversity Initiative](#) of the [Mountain Partnership](#), in particular the [Gran Paradiso National Park](#) (Italy) and [Sagarmatha National Park](#) (Nepal) [Twinning Programme cooperation](#), the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) has developed a dedicated webpage. It will serve to facilitate exchange of information regarding experiences and know-how on the conservation, management and use of biodiversity especially between stakeholders of the two parks. The International Mountain Parks Twinning Programme involves the Gran Paradiso National Park and the Sagarmatha National Park as initial partners. But the involvement of additional actors and international organizations is welcomed to further strengthen cooperation, partnerships and impact at the regional and inter-regional level. Importantly, the Cogne Declaration acknowledges that this international sharing of experiences and the Twinning Programme contributes not only to the development of Biodiversity (CBD), especially the COP-7 decision on mountain biodiversity (2004), but also that it will contribute to the development of the Biodiversity Initiative of the Mountain Partnership. For further information, please visit: apmn.icimod.org/bdinitiative/

Climate Change Adaptation Programme

Mountain Partner Soluciones Prácticas- ITDG has recently announced the results of the Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The Programme was funded by the European Commission and was composed of seven projects in seven regions of Peru, focusing on agricultural technologies, information systems and conflict management. The target was the generation and improvement of knowledge and technologies for climate change adaptation, in order to reduce the impact on vulnerable populations. The project was implemented in tropical Andean mountainous ecosystems, especially in three subsystems: western slopes (North Andes: Piura and Lambayeque), Inter Andean valleys (Cajamarca, Ancash, Apurímac and Cusco) and eastern slopes (San Martín), all areas which have been undergoing a steady process of desertification since the 1970s. For further information please visit: www.solucionespracticas.org.pe



Celebrating 25 Years of ICIMOD for Mountains and People: Focusing on Climate Change and Adaptation in the Himalayas



2008 marks ICIMOD's 25th anniversary of working for mountains and people in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region – the Centre was established in December 1983. ICIMOD is celebrating the occasion with a year-long series of events aiming at raising awareness of the impacts of climate change; the need to enhance the adaptation and resilience of mountain communities; and ICIMOD's way forward.

For a list of planned and launched events, please visit: www.icimod.org/

MRI - Mountain Research Initiative - Europe expands its membership

MRI Europe, the network of researchers working on global change in European mountains has reached 900 members in only 1 and a half years. At the Global Change Research Network for European Mountains meeting in February 2007 in Zurich, Switzerland, 90 scientists from 21 countries expressed their expectations and defined tools for the emerging science network. MRI Europe was defined as an interdisciplinary and purpose-driven network aiming at the implementation of the Global Change and Mountain Regions (GLOCHAMORE) Research Strategy in European mountains. It will aim to capitalize on the research capacity and resources in Europe, for instance, by linking scientists, projects and initiatives. On 27-28 May 2008 MRI organized a Networking Meeting in conjunction with the new Science for the Carpathians (S4C) Initiative. The group of scientists that launched this initiative received the mandate of the Interim Secretariat for the Carpathian Convention (ISCC) hosted at UNEP, Vienna, to coordinate and strengthen science in the Carpathians. For further information, visit: mri.scnatweb.ch/content Experts database: mri.scnatweb.ch/index.php

News highlights from around the world

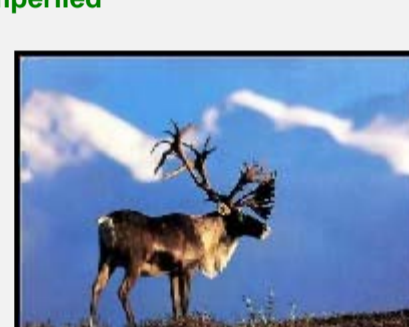
Enhanced nature conservation in the Alps and Carpathians



Germany, France, Ukraine, the Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretaries-General of the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions have agreed to strengthen cooperation in nature conservation and signed a corresponding Memorandum of Understanding. "This cooperation is aimed at establishing an ecological network in the sensitive Alpine and Carpathian mountain regions," said Matthias Machnig, State Secretary at the Federal Environment Ministry. Ukraine's Environment Minister Heorhii Filipchuk stressed that such a cooperation between Europe's two largest mountain regions can make a major contribution towards the creation of a global network of protected areas. Rss Feed: www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/41611.php

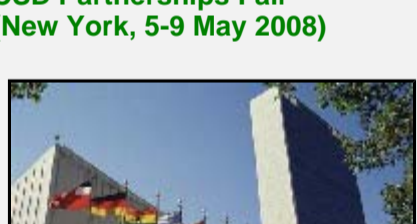
Mountain caribou in British Columbia still imperiled

Wildlife biologists and watchdogs in Canada say the provincial government of British Columbia in Canada is failing to protect the endangered mountain caribou – in spite of a new mountain caribou recovery plan announced in October 2007. Little progress has been seen on the ground in the first eight months of the critical program. Environmental groups feel the process has been stalled by complex land use negotiations. Twenty years ago, approximately 5,000 mountain caribou roamed the old growth forests of southern British Columbia. Today fewer than 1,900 mountain caribou remain spread across southern B.C. in 11 separate herds. The species relies on old growth forest rather than younger stands. But old growth forest is also lucrative to B.C. forest companies – comprising one of the largest industries in the province. While habitat loss is the biggest threat to mountain caribou the elusive animals are also sensitive to disruption by human use, such as heli-skiing and snowmobiling. The B.C. mountain caribou recovery plan sets aside some 2.2 million hectares of land for specially managed caribou range, large tracts of which fall in commercial forest lands. The plan specifies that it should not harm the commercial forest industry, but setting aside land without paring back the commercial forest base is proving more difficult than imagined. For further information please visit: [Agriculture and Lands - Province of British Columbia](#)



Past Events

CSD Partnerships Fair (New York, 5-9 May 2008)



The CSD Partnerships Fair was held during the 16th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development at UN headquarters in New York. The Mountain Partnership opened the official partnership presentation session on 6 May with an event that focussed on its recent activities. Following a brief history of the partnership by Mountain Partnership Secretariat Coordinator Douglas McGuire, MPS Programme Officer Rosalaura Romeo presented the Mountain Products Programme and the contributions it has made to livelihood improvement and biodiversity protection in mountain areas, as well as recent activities related to decentralized cooperation, such as the IPRMO training course on mountain issues at the University of Torino. The event also included presentations by Pier Carlo Sandei of UNEP who described the Carpathian and Alpine conventions and their contributions to regional cooperation on mountain issues, and Carlos Cattaneo of the Committee for the Sustainable

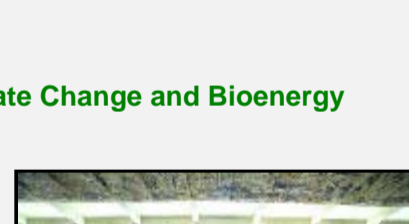
Development of the Mountain Regions of the Argentine Republic, who presented the Mountain Partnership's Andean Initiative.

Also at CSD-16 a side event on SARD in mountains was organized in the context of the Mountain Partnership by the FAO SARD-M project, the Adelboden Group and the Government of Switzerland. The side event presented results of the project to date to improve policies, processes and institutions related to sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain areas.

In close collaboration with the Italian mission to the UN in New York, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat organized a meeting of the 15-member Mountain Focus Group at the UN and updated country representatives on the Mountain Partnership and the mountain agenda in general. The group plays an important role in keeping mountain issues high on the agenda at the UN, including drafting the UNGA resolutions on sustainable mountain development which have historically been issued every two years to promote further action and support to mountain issues globally.

The High Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy (Rome, 3-5 June 2008)

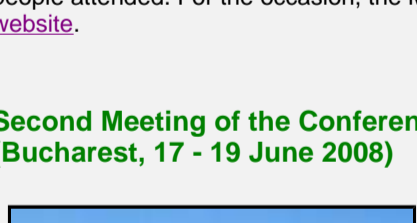
The Summit, convened by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), concluded with the adoption by acclamation of a declaration calling on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices. "There is an urgent need to help developing countries and countries in transition expand agriculture and food production, and to increase investment in agriculture, agribusiness and rural development, from both public and private sources," according to the declaration.



Donors and international financial institutions were urged to provide "balance of payments support and/or budget support to food-importing, low-income countries. Other measures should be considered as necessary to improve the financial situation of the countries in need, including reviewing debt servicing as necessary," it said.

One hundred eighty-one countries participated in the FAO Food Summit – 43 were represented by their Head of State or Government and 100 by high-level Ministers. Sixty Non-governmental and Civil Society Organizations were present as well. Overall, more than 5,000 people attended. For the occasion, the Mountain Partnership published a poster and a climate change fact sheet. To [download](#) or visit [website](#).

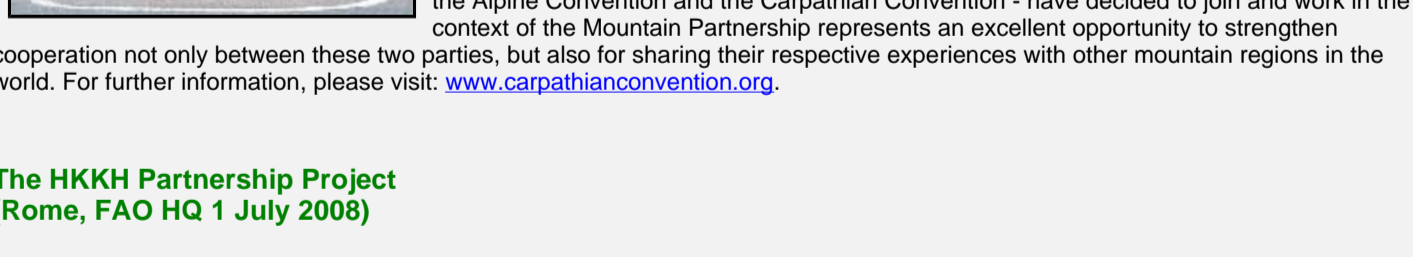
Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention. (Bucharest, 17 - 19 June 2008)



High-level representatives and over 150 participants from Parties and Observers to the Carpathian Convention convened in Bucharest for a successful Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP2). The Carpathian COP2 concluded with the adoption of the Biodiversity Protocol as a new legally-binding regional instrument; a multi-sector work programme, consisting of 16 operational decisions, including the development of Protocols on Forestry, Transport and Tourism, and environmental education activities with the support of the private sector, and the approval of an increase in the budget of the interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. It also invited UNEP to prepare a proposal for making the Carpathian Convention a UNEP administered Convention. Furthermore, the COP2 of the Carpathian Convention has agreed to join to the Mountain Partnership. The fact that both the existing conventions for the protection of mountain ranges – the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention - have decided to join and work in the context of the Mountain Partnership represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen

cooperation not only between these two parties, but also for sharing their respective experiences with other mountain regions in the world. For further information, please visit: www.carpathianconvention.org.

The HKKH Partnership Project (Rome, FAO HQ 1 July 2008)

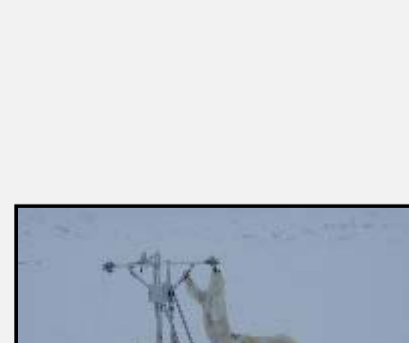


The Mountain Partnership Secretariat hosted a workshop organised by the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya (HKKH) Partnership Project to present the results of the first two years of the project activities. The HKKH Partnership Project is a three year regional initiative implemented by IUCN, ICIMOD, Ev-K2-CNR and CESVI aimed at the development of methods and tools to support the management of mountain ecosystems in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya region (HKKH). The project is active at regional, national and local levels with a special focus on three protected areas: Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park (SNP) in Nepal, Central Karakoram (K2) National Park (CKNP) in Pakistan and Qomolangma (Everest) Nature Preserve (QNP) in Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The workshop focussed on the most innovative experiences carried out including the development of a Decision Support Network; the use of system dynamics for developing a socio-ecosystem model of Sagarmatha National Park through a collaborative network of national and international researchers; the implementation of management oriented research; the application of Scenario Planning as a soft system tool for local level strategic planning and the partnership approach for protected area management planning.

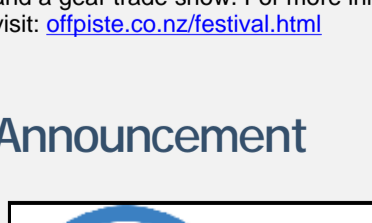
Future events:

Sixth Annual New Zealand Mountain Film Festival (Lake Wanaka, New Zealand, 4-8 July 2008)

A line-up of passionate and dedicated world-wide Adventurers will inspire and entertain audiences at this year's New Zealand Mountain Film Festival in July. Real life experiences of conquering the highest, travelling the furthest, to tales of outlandish adventures will be shared by international and New Zealand speakers during the five days of the festival. Festival Director Mark Sedon said he was delighted a diverse and talented group of adventurers will recount their stories for festival goers. "It is a great opportunity for armchair and budding adventurers to hear real life experiences and gain an insight in to the hardships and sense of achievement when the challenges and dreams are turned in to reality," he said. The speaker platforms are just one component of this year's New Zealand Mountain Film Festival. The festival also includes over 40 screenings of adventure lifestyle films, photographic exhibitions and a gear trade show. For more information on the programme of speakers and festival, visit: offpiste.co.nz/festival.html



Announcement



CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, is awarding prizes worth a total of €100,000 for exemplary response measures which contribute to climate protection or to adapting to the consequences of climate change. The projects submitted will be posted on the internet after the closing date for the competition. The winning projects will be announced separately to the general public in autumn 2008. Private individuals, businesses, associations, local authorities and all other organizations which implement response measures aimed at mitigating climate change or adapting to the consequences of climate change (at both valley and mountain levels) are all eligible to take part. For further information, visit: www.cipra.org/en/cc.alps/competition

Publications

The Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern, Switzerland, have published the proceedings of the launching workshop of a "Global Change Research Network for African Mountains" which took place from 23-25 July 2007, in Kampala, Uganda. [PDF](#)