

Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter

Issue 32 - November 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 two new members who have recently joined the Mountain Partnership: the Government of Morocco and Ecoforum. Ecoforum is an association of non governmental organizations of Uzbekistan established during the Conference of the 48 Uzbekistan NGOs held in September 2004. Its main goals are to harmonize the NGOs' efforts for increasing effectiveness of public participation in the development and implementation of a national strategy on sustainable development; to promote the conservation and rational use of natural resources, to achieve sustainable development of the country; and to promote the development of a civil society based on environmental values.

As of November 2008, there are 155 members of the Mountain Partnership, 49 countries, 16 IGOs and 90 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

Workshop on collaboration on mountain research events and activities (Rome, FAO HQ 4 December 2008)

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat is organizing a workshop on 4 December at FAO Headquarters in Rome in the context of the Research Initiative of the Mountain Partnership. The main objective of the meeting is to define and agree on a mechanism to achieve better coordination concerning scientific events related to mountains and to improve collaboration on mountain focussed research activities. Some of the leading members of this initiative have asked the Secretariat to help develop improved coordination mechanisms among the main actors in mountain research in order to achieve more effective results from the activities and events they organize, minimize overlap and duplication and optimize linkages between and among scientific programmes, events and conferences. The meeting will look at the research agendas and planned events of the main players over the next two or three years to improve awareness about who's planning what and to see where opportunities for further collaboration might exist in mountain research. For further information please contact douglas.mcguire@fao.org



Banff Mountain Film Festival announces winners



The Last Nomads, a film that tracks Canadian linguist Ian Mackenzie deep into the endangered Borneo rain forest in search of one of the world's last remaining hunter-gatherer cultures, has won the Grand Prize at the 2008 Banff Mountain Film Festival. Produced and directed by Andrew Gregg, the film follows Mackenzie, who has spent years trying to finish a dictionary of the vanishing language of the Penan people. U.K.-based producer Dave Brown and director Paul Diffley won both the award for Best Film on Climbing for *Committed 2: Grit Kids*, and the Best Short Mountain Film for *If You're Not Falling*. Jury member Jim Donini says about *Grit Kids*, "Even for a jaded climber like me, the film made my palms sweat. It's always difficult for a filmmaker to make a climb look as difficult as we know it is, but this film pulled it off." Following Canadian climber Sonnie Trotter to Scotland, *If You're Not Falling* traces his climb up the phenomenally difficult Dumbarton Rock northwest of Glasgow. Pared away to the essential elements of the climb, the film manages to tell a whole story of desire, failure, and ultimate triumph in eight minutes. The award for Best Film on Mountain Culture went to *Tracking the White Reindeer*, by producer Manuel Cateau and director Hamid Sardar. Like *The Last Nomads*, this film discovers a remote and ancient way of life, journeying onto the plains of northern Mongolia, where the Tsaatan people rely completely on the reindeer for their survival. Founded in 1976, the Banff Mountain Film Festival has become the biggest and best-known mountain film festival in the world. Accompanied by the Banff Mountain Book Festival, it is held annually at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, Canada. For further information please visit <http://www.banffcentre.ca/>.

Dean's Beans joins forces with Rwandan coffee cooperative on gender violence workshop

Mountain Partnership member Dean's Beans — purveyor of equitable and sustainable, whole bean coffees — will soon be offering a new coffee to its roster. *Amahoro na kubaha* means "Peace and Respect" in Kinyarwanda and was chosen as the name of the new brew after a powerful workshop in September 2008 brought men and women in this coffee-growing region together to address gender violence.

After last year's successful initiative where Dean Beans provided scholarships for three coffee farmers to attend a gender violence training session in northwest Rwanda, Dean's Beans decided to support a larger workshop in September 2008. It involved fifteen men and fifteen women from COOPAC — a coffee cooperative in the northwest of the country, on the shores of Lake Kivu near the Congo border and a Dean's Beans supplier. Among other issues, participants discussed the difference between culturally appropriate behavior and abuse, and held a celebratory community gathering where forgiveness was both requested and granted between many people at the event. "The men and women all vowed to take what they had learned back to their communities around the mountains," says Dean Cycon of Dean's Beans, who was on hand to see the workshop in action. "COOPAC promised to create a Gender Committee to continue the work and give it formal approval. We also said that we would take the work to other coops around Rwanda, and that some of the men and women could come and share their experiences with other farm communities, reinforcing my belief that cooperatives can be a powerful vehicle for social development as well as economic." To read more about the Rwandan gender violence workshop and other initiatives, visit the website: www.deansbeans.com



IPROMO presentations online and Alumni network launched

Following the successful IPROMO course held in July and August in Northern Italy, the Mountain Partnership has published the presentations on the website: <http://www.ipromo-school.it/en/>. In addition, the Mountain Partnership has created an IPROMO Alumni Network. This Dgroup brings together participants, instructors and organizers of the first IPROMO course. Similar to other networks, its purpose is to help the group to stay in touch, facilitate further discussion and stimulate joint action on mountain issues. It will also provide a "mountain friend" interface in different countries and/or organizations.

News highlights from around the world

First Sir Edmund Hillary Himalayan Environment Award from the Himalayan Environment Trust goes to Dr Andreas Schild

The Sir Edmund Hillary Himalayan Environment Award was awarded for the first time at a ceremony held at the Headquarters of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) in New Delhi, India, on 14 October 2008, marking both the 20th Foundation Day of the Himalayan Environment Trust (HET) and 50 years of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation. The annual award is given by the Himalayan Environment Trust to an organization or an individual for an outstanding lifetime contribution to the cause of the Himalayan Environment.

The Honourable Dr. Karan Singh, MP of the Government of India, Advisor to the Trust, and Chairman of the Award Committee presented the award to Dr. Andreas Schild, Director General of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) for his outstanding contributions, successful leadership, and strong commitment towards sustainable development over the last 30 years. The award was received by Mrs. Florence Tinguely Mattli of the Swiss Embassy on behalf of Dr. Schild.

Dr. Schild was the Executive Director of Swiss non-profit making organization Intercooperation from 1988 to 2000 when it witnessed considerable growth and expanded in thematic coverage. Born in Switzerland in 1944, Dr. Schild has more than 30 years experience in designing, planning execution and monitoring of cooperation programmes mainly in sustainable natural resources management with partner institutions all over the world.

Law Passed to Protect Glaciers

The Chamber of Senators in Argentina has passed a law that establishes minimum budgets for the protection of glaciers and the periglacial environment to preserve them as strategic reserves or water resources and critical to the recharging of hydrographic basins.

The project establishes a precise and clear definition of what is understood as glaciers and the periglacial environment. It also prohibits and/or restricts certain projects or activities in glacial or periglacial environments such as the release of contaminants, the construction of buildings, mineral exploration and exploitation and the establishment of new industry among other activities. The law requires an inventory and monitoring system of the state of glaciers with the intent to protect them.

Senator Daniel Filmus, president of the Commission of Environment and Sustainable Development, emphasized the importance of the approved law and explained that the 70 percent of fresh water is frozen in glaciers, but that less than the 1 percent of the world's water resources is available for human consumption. "There is no question that the protection and value of glaciers, as ecosystems that are a fundamental part of the natural environment of our country and represent one of the most important freshwater reserves for the Patagonian region, should be recognized and promoted by a national law," Filmus said. The new law creates a National Inventory of Glaciers which will be carried out by the Argentinean Institute of Snow Studies, Glaciology and Environmental Science (IANIGLA) in coordination with the enforcing authority. Activities that are not prohibited by the law will be required to conduct an environmental impact study, assessing any damaging effects on the glaciers, in order to be approved.



Prizes awarded for exemplary climate protection in Alps

At a ceremony held in Bern on 6 November, the International Centre for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) awarded prizes for outstanding climate protection. Seven municipalities, companies and organizations received prizes worth a total of 100 000 euros from the meteorologist Thomas Bucheli and CIPRA President Dominik Siegrist. Entries from the German-speaking area of the Alps were awarded main prizes of 20 000 euros each by CIPRA, in recognition of their outstanding work. The Allgäu municipality of Wildpoldsried in Germany is particularly active in the fields of energy, wood and water. The municipality of Mäder in Vorarlberg, Austria, promotes energy efficiency and motivates the local people and neighbouring communities to play an active role in climate protection. The environmental organization Bund Naturschutz Bayern in Germany is working to restore peat bogs, which provide protection from flooding and are also a CO2 sink. "The winners of the cc.alps competition have given an impressive demonstration of the scope for wide-ranging measures in response to the consequences of climate change in the Alps," said Dominik Siegrist, CIPRA President and member of the international jury, at the prize-giving ceremony held in Bern/CH on November 6th. For further information please visit: <http://www.cipra.org/en/cc.alps/competition>.



Past Events

IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 5-14 October 2008)



More than 8 000 of the world's leading decision makers in sustainable development from governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia met in Barcelona from 5-14 October to attend the IUCN World Conservation Congress. The first week of the Congress — known as the Forum — included a wide variety of events — which provided learning opportunities, sustainability dialogues, conservation workshops and many others. Several events were dedicated to mountain issues. One event, "Sustaining mountain development and conservation: a key role for IUCN," focused on IUCN's own contribution to sustainable mountain development, with a view towards mobilizing the full potential of this important Mountain Partnership member at all levels. Other mountain events included, "Establishing Ecological Networks - from the Alps to the Carpathians and beyond," and "A common language for the 'Mountain of Tongues' — building partnerships for conservation in the Caucasus." Issues such as the future of philanthropy and conservation, and the role of

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