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Mountains of the World: Tourism and Sustainable Mountain Development

A contribution to tourism and sustainable mountain development, prepared by University of Berne, Center for Development and Environment (CDE) in collaboration with The Mountain Institute. This article is the introductory chapter of a policy document that was produced specifically to provide mountain tourism input to the seventh session of UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD, April 1999).

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Why Tourism And Mountains?

Mountains of different altitudes, with a great variety of shapes and climates and specific combinations of ecosystems, are found on every continent, from the equator to the polar regions. For millennia, mountains have been important for human livelihoods, in terms of agriculture and livestock raising as well as transport and trading of goods. Yet in the current world economy, many mountains have become marginal areas where few investments are made, people are economically disadvantaged, and resources are being degraded through many types of overuse. Given these conditions, tourism raises many hopes.

Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 – “Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development” – was a great step forward towards realising the signifi-

cance of the world’s mountains. This chapter, adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, states that the fate of the mountains may affect more than half of the world’s population, and that particular attention should be paid to mountain resources, especially water and biodiversity. Thus, increased research and development

efforts are essential.

Tourism has become a primary source of revenue for many mountain areas, providing a rare opportunity for mountain people to participate directly in the global economy.

There are many opportunities for the development of tourism in mountain regions. Yet this development also brings many challenges, which are addressed in this document.

The importance of tourism for mountains – and vice versa

Tourism is important because it is the world’s largest industry. The annual global turnover is US \$ 444 billion, which exceeds the combined Gross National Product of the world’s 55 poorest countries. Additional revenues from domestic tourism must be added to this figure. In terms of growth, tourism has remained at the forefront of global economic growth, with an average increase in annual turnover of 4.7% over the past 10 years (1989 – 1998). Forecasts estimate an average annual growth of 4.1% up to the year 2020.

Many tourist destinations are located in mountain regions. About 15 - 20% of the tourist industry, or US\$ 70 - 90 billion per year, is accounted for by mountain

tourism. In contrast to the generally small contribution of mountain regions to national economies, the value of mountains for tourism is thus significant.

The diversity of opportunities for tourism and the diversity of mountain areas

Tourism offers a great variety of opportunities. Tourist activities include swimming, walking, visiting cities and national parks, skiing, snowboarding, bird-watching, diving, and a number of extreme sports such as bungee jumping, river rafting, para-gliding, and mountaineering – just to mention a few. Many activities are specific to mountain areas, which provide a variety of natural and cultural settings.

Mountains are highly diverse. Climatic zones are condensed over distances of a few kilometres. On a single mountain, one can experience a tropical climate at the base, a temperate zone at medium

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Mountain Tourism accounts for 15-20% of the tourist industry

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International Year of Mountains: A call to Action

Dear Mountain Forum:

The declaration of the International Year of Mountains is a call to action. Those of us who care about and are working for the future of mountainous areas must take appropriate advantage of the opportunities presented by this declaration. If not people of the mountains everywhere will lose a valuable opportunity to make the world sit up and take notice of the tremendous problems and challenges and issues involved in trying to achieve sustainable development in the mountainous areas of the world

The potential exists for all of us do to something to help draw attention to mountains prior to and during this year when they will be in sharp focus. There are opportunities to approach organizations to start or strengthen specific projects in the context of this year. Organizations can evoke this year when approaching donors and corporate sponsors for mountain related initiatives, events and programs. Mountain related curricula can be developed for schools, and other education outreach programs can be developed. People can seek to undertake activities and plan events in their own communities that promote or celebrate the mountains. You can provide news and information on sustainable mountain development to your

local newspapers, association newsletter and other periodicals in the context of this year. These are but a few examples for possible action.

Whatever you do, please do not forget to let others know about your activities. By sharing information on what you are doing, others may get ideas for similar efforts or may be encouraged to act.

We have space on the Forum's web to post such information: <http://www.mtnforum.org/mtnforum/iy2002.htm>

As coordinators of the Mountain Forum, we are committed to doing everything within our capabilities to work with others to make the most of this opportunity. The Forum exists to provide a venue for exchange of information and ideas, mutual support and awareness raising in the context of supporting sustainable mountain development. We are eager to hear suggestions about how this global network can best support this event. Though it is a couple of years away, it is not too early to begin working. Your ideas, suggestions and most of all individual actions are sincerely encouraged.

—Jason Espie
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The purpose of the Mountain Forum Bulletin is to facilitate information exchange with members of the Mountain Forum who do not have access to e-mail or to the Internet, by providing a printed medium. The articles included are only a small subset of the many contributions by members to the Mountain Forum discussion lists and world wide web site. We have tried to include articles or excerpts which are representative of the different interests and regional activities of the Mountain Forum.



Tourism and Sustainable Mountain Development

(Continued From Page 1)

altitudes followed by alpine conditions higher up, and finally an arctic environment with snow and glaciers on the highest peaks. Biodiversity is also impressive. To give but one example, Mount Kinabalu in Sabah is estimated to harbour over 4000 plant species, more than one-quarter of all the species in the entire United States. Land-use systems are equally diverse, and communities are characterised by many different forms of social interaction and a multitude of cultural lifestyles.

The specific impacts of tourism in mountains

Tourism affects mountains in many ways. Economically, tourist resorts in mountains directly depend on their customers. In addition, there are direct and indirect benefits to many sectors and communities inside and outside the resort areas. However, a considerable share of tourism revenues leak to areas outside the mountains. In addition, tourist activities have biophysical impacts. For example, paths and ski-runs may modify sensitive alpine areas; tourists have well-known impacts along mountain trails; and wildlife may be disturbed. On the social and cultural side, tourists may disrupt traditions, influence mountain communities by their numbers and lifestyles, and attract service providers from outside the mountains to become permanent residents in mountain resorts. These negative impacts have to be counterbalanced against positive influences, including economic benefits.

The specificity of mountains for global tourism development

The promotion of tourism in mountains is based on special features that are attractive for tourism. Among these are the clean, cool air, the varied topography, and the scenic beauty of mountains and cultural landscapes. There are also the many diverse natural landscapes and resources, the local traditions, and simple lifestyles – even if these are sometimes perceived as such only by tourists. There are the inherent dangers – or challenges – which attract some daring tourists, and particular mountain arenas for special

sports and leisure activities. And not least of all, mountains have specific qualities that are conducive to health and wellness tourism and activities that focus on contemplation and meditation.

Dimensions of sustainability – some key questions

The development of tourism in mountains requires that a number of key questions related to sustainability be addressed, including:

- does tourism contribute to sustainable mountain development?
- who benefits, in economic terms, from mountain tourism?
- are the biophysical resources of mountains degraded due to tourism activities?
- does tourism affect mountain communities and societies positively or negatively?

The present report addresses these key questions by

- documenting local and regional experience (pages 6 – 34). This section presents local and regional case studies on mountain tourism from all over the world, including the Americas (Peru, Mexico, United States, and Canada), Europe (Norway, Switzerland, Greece, and Georgia/Caucasus), Africa and the Middle East (Jordan, Ethiopia, Central Africa, and Madagascar), Asia (Nepal, Russia, South Korea, and the Philippines), and Australia. The case studies deal with a great diversity of mountain environments, from tropical to arctic, and with a multitude of cultural settings and lifestyles.

- discussing trends and issues of a more global nature (pages 35 – 43). This section deals with thematic complexes which are key issues with regard to tourism in mountain areas. The section includes contributions on pilgrimage, probably the oldest form of mountain tourism, and proceeds in dealing with other main themes such as the structure of tourism enterprises, the question of events, risks and opportunities in mountain tourism, and ends with a contribution on the effects of climate change on mountain tourism.

- summarising experience, trends and issues in a final synthesis (pages 44 – 45)

- presenting opportunities for sustainable tourism in mountains, with concrete suggestions and recommendations addressed to different stakeholders (pages

46 – 48), which include mountain communities, national governments, development agencies and non-governmental organisations, research institutions, and the tourism industry.

Challenges Facing Mountain Women: General Discussions on Income Generation, Legal Rights and Empowerment

In July 1998 the Mountain Forum started a new thematic email discussion list focusing on women and mountains called MF-WOMEN. Greta Rana and Jeanette Gurung of ICIMOD Nepal generously volunteered to moderate a focused discussion called "Mountain Women: Moving Forward Amid Changing Environments and Eroding Status". Most of this discussion took place between August and December 1998, with some follow-up dialog. Below are excerpts from the discussion. The MF-Women list is still active and we encourage anyone to subscribe or respond to the excerpts below by writing the Mountain Forum moderator at E-mail:

<njmod@mtforum.org>.

In all cases [surveyed], women are burdened with more work, have less education and opportunities for exposure to new ideas and technologies, and have lower levels of self-esteem and self-confidence than men. This applies even in the locations where women had traditionally enjoyed a more egalitarian relationship with men, in Buddhist and animist societies. ... Indications are that women's value in their households, communities and societies is declining as traditional mountain societies are being transformed by the prevailing values belonging to lowland religious, nationalistic and cultural paradigms. Some of these new values come from Western influences, some from regional pan-south Asian influences, some from development paradigms themselves. The marginal status of most mountain societies makes resistance to more powerful forces difficult, and the process of mainstreaming mountain cultures into national identities may negate the stronger positions of women from these traditional communities.

But the influx of new values is not

always having negative consequences for women. One of the most dramatic changes seen at the rural level is the education of girl children. Perhaps due to the campaigns of a few international agencies, girl children are now increasing being enrolled in school. This does not necessarily translate into their attendance at school, due to their responsibilities for child care, livestock herding, etc., but even their enrollment indicates a new investment in girl children's lives.

The other aspect of education that is being seen in the mountains is non-formal education for women. Immensely popular, these programmes provide women with basic reading, writing and accounting skills, as well as expose them to new technologies or messages about health, etc. But the greatest impact may be in their newly found levels of self-confidence and commitment to change things for the better in collaboration with other women of the community.

— *Some findings from a 5 month, 8 country, 13 mountain village study by Jeannette D. Gurning <jeannett@icimod.org.np> and Greta Rana <greta@icimod.org.np> 12 August 1998*

I've seen a number of common challenges that mountain women seem to share, some of which even bridge the north-south divide: diversified income base; lack of access to education and credit; relatively strong position within the community, which erodes as communities interact with the larger economy; small scale of social and production systems; talent at "making do" during hard times; reliance on and knowledge of the natural resource base; working long hours; coping with absence of male household members; and sometimes lower fertility. I'm eager to explore these and hear the experiences of others.

— *Elizabeth Byers <ebyers@mountain.org> 13 August 1998*

My experience in a couple of villages in northern Pakistan is commensurate with yours for the most part. In the villages I have worked in women's marginally greater access to economic opportunity seems not to have led to even marginally greater "voice" or "power" in community-level decision making...at least in any formal way. On the other hand, I am familiar with a few households in which income-generating women seem to have more "voice" and decision-making power within the household than most women in the village enjoy.

— *David Butz <dbmarley@spartan.ac.BrockU.CA> 12 August 1998*

During his study, Rahman lived for eleven months in a village that hosts one of the oldest Grameen programs. Women's loan centres had operated there since 1980. He soon found that, far from being empowered, village women were being exploited as a link to capital. Of his 120 informants, 108 said that men had encouraged or influenced them to join the Bank as a way to acquire funds for their own use. In one case, a man threatened to send his wife back to her birthplace and remarry unless she took out a loan. Overall, more than 60% of the loans were used by men.

Despite his findings, Rahman does not count himself among the Bank's critics, noting that it has proved responsive to recent demands for change. He believes that micro-credit is an effective tool for development, if used properly. "The Bank has a really good objective but there is a gulf between its philosophy and its field realities," he concludes.

— *Excerpt from a report by Jennifer Pepall 4 August 1998, posted to mf-women by Sangeeta Pandey <sangeeta@icimo.org.np> on 14 August 1998*

I think it is easier for women to retain control of incomes that they earn when they are part of a women's group. This is also true for credit. When the women have a responsibility to a group, it is much more difficult for other household members to co-opt the income (or credit). I think the success of some of the Save the Children, Action Aid, and Mountain Spirit women's literacy/credit/community forestry groups bears this out in Nepal. The "Women's Business and Professional Society" in my rural Appalachian town also supports the philosophy that women working together are much stronger, and better able to direct their own resources wisely, than women working alone.

— *Elizabeth Byers <ebyers@mountain.org> 14 August 1998*

When education was customary or indigenous and credit also handled by indigenous systems, women had more access. When credit was institutionalised as a national finance mechanism, ownership of land became the golden mean for credit. According to general law women had only the right to hold property independently on the death of a spouse, could not dispose of more than a certain amount without the permission of a son, and lost her right to it unless she maintained fidelity to the deceased spouse—a kind of psychological sati...The advance of generalized education does not advance them, because indigenous skills and knowledge

are not valued, loss of customary rights leaves them without collateral for credit.
— *Greta Rana <greta@icimod.org.np> 20 August 1998*

Instead [of credit loans], if women were employed in cottage industries where their natural skills are honed, and they could become shareholders in the organisation—empowerment would then be a natural consequence. This has been the style of working of the Association of Craft Producers (ACP) in Nepal—a small manageable group (200) in which 85 per cent are women skill workers. They do not receive a fixed salary, nor job work rates, but the returns are commensurate with the sales. If you look into the lives of these women, they have a command of the situation at work and this translates into self-confidence in the home environment. Monetarily too, their standard of living has improved considerably.

— *Anita Pandey <anita@icimod.org.np> 20 August 1998*

Getting back to our discussion on legal rights and income generation...in Nepal we often get mail about women trafficking and tourist rape. For mountain women it is a measure of desperation. Mountain women don't necessarily have to be tricked into it, they are rather maneuvered by life and social customs that are unique in that they can marginalise women even when they seem to be favouring them. One can say that the earnings from prostitution are substantial hidden assets in many mountain villages....The numbers of women involved suggest they can't all be coming from certain limited areas—it's just that these villages are easier to access. So even the mountain prostitute is marginalised, say vis a vis the plains or hill prostitute.
— *Greta Rana <greta@icimod.org.np> 28 August 1998*

Why women? Because ideologies of development, religions, and nation state building do not recognize that mountain women may just not fit nicely into the way those in power have conceptualized women and gender relations, according to lowland and urban models. The relative higher status and freedom enjoyed by many mountain women is in danger of extinction, due to the changes brought on by governments, religious fundamentalist leaders, and development workers themselves who want mountain women to conform to their pre-conceived biases of women's 'proper' place in society.
— *Jeanette Gurning <jeannett@icimod.org.np> 6 October 1998*

Reasons given by men in Ministry of Agriculture and in agricultural cooperatives [Greece] included:

- women are not head of families;
- women are of “lower intellectual capacity” and lack a cooperative consciousness, so they cannot participate in the service of a cooperative;
- a women’s place is in the home.

— *Georgia Valaoras* <valaoras@bol.gr> 7 October 1998

Women’s knowledge is part of wasted resources that could alleviate the suffering of millions in the world today.

— *Esther I. Njiro* <Njiro_Esther/CGS@caddy.univen.ac.za> 10 October 1998

I think only the die-hard sceptical are still discussing whether women are significant and of the utmost importance on any aspect of life. I think what is needed is “restoring the balance” a fair share in workload and a fair share in recognition and remuneration and a militant and enlightening “invasion” of all the corners still on this earth where obscurantism, lack of education, poverty, are maintaining girls and women in the second category of citizens... Women are coming up in all the sectors in the past reserved to men. With education, information, obsolescence of old and biased taboos, the road to a restored balanced is at the turn and promising.

— *El-Hadji M. Sène*
<ElHadji.Sene@fao.org> 19 October 1998

I wonder if MF-Women would want to hold a sponsored e-conference and report on mountain women’s issues as a contribution to a future CSD meeting, or to the International Year of the Mountains, 2002.

— *Jane Pratt* <dpratt@mountain.org> 9 December 1998

I think that Jane’s suggestion would be an excellent initiative. As discussed earlier women issues should effectively feature very high in the preparation and observance of the International Year of Mountains. I think that UNICEF gave high attention on children in mountain areas and have already published a brochure on this issue; the connection being very high perhaps they would probably be interested to co-sponsor. Also given the high input of women in food production and processing in mountain areas, we in FAO could be interested to more than participate.

— *El-Hadji M. Sène*
<ElHadji.Sene@fao.org> 14 December 1998

Slow progress was made in the US and other ‘developed’ countries, with virtually every gain coming only after hard fights and protest.... If you look at the US women’s Olympic victories recently, it’s pretty clear that the current successes are coming about 20 years after legislation was passed requiring educational systems to spend equal amounts of money for training female athletes. That was a very hard-fought battle, but it’s making a big difference now. Perhaps in the US, one huge advantage we have is that women’s right to protest is protected by the Constitution. Where freedom of speech is suppressed, and reinforced by custom and culture, it’s much harder to create changes in ingrained traditions. My conclusion is that progress will require some specific legal framework in most places.

— *Jane Pratt* <dpratt@mountain.org> 14 December 1998

One measure we think will be effective is to advertise our forum in newsletters and discuss it in publications wherever and whenever possible. We are going to do so and those of you who can do so, please follow this measure also. We’re looking as proactively as possible for ideas that bring mountain women together in preparation for the Year of the Mountains and during 2002... We invite your suggestions for an ambassador for mountain women. The person does not actually have to be from the mountains but should be connected in a meaningful way and be able to bring the problems of mountain women into the public domain in a positive way.

— *Greta Rana* <greta@icimod.org.np> 6 January 1999

I met Monique Marchal, the promotion manager for the city of Chambery. She is responsible for implementing the project “Mountains of the World 2000” in Chambery, Alps, where elected people from all massifs will meet next year in France....I explained to her the purpose of the women’s discussion list [mf-women] and our concern to organize, sooner or later, a workshop gathering of women from different parts of the world to study specific issues concerning mountains and women. . After our meeting, I received favorable comment from the mayor of Chambery, who is ready to welcome such an event in his city. He needs to have more details to confirm how far the city could be involved in the preparation of that meeting. This seems an exciting path to follow.

I would be pleased to receive your suggestions on (a) dates to organize that event (2000, 2001, wait until 2002?), (b) size of the event to organize, (c) do we make it regional (i.e. Europe only) or global, and

(d) which topics to cover.

— *Françoise Mees*
<europe@mtnforum.org> 23 March 1999

FAO Mountain Program Update

By *Doug McGuire* from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 26 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <douglas.mcguire@fao.org>

International Year of the Mountains

The most important news since the last edition of the Mountain Forum Bulletin is the overwhelming adoption by 130 countries in the UN General Assembly last November of the resolution declaring 2002 the International Year of Mountains (IYM). FAO is very honored to have been invited by the General Assembly to be the Lead Agency in the UN System responsible for coordinating efforts to observe the IYM. FAO’s Council – the executive organ of the organization’s governing body – at its last meeting in November, accepted the invitation for FAO to take on this new responsibility.

An important first step in preparing the IYM has been to convene the Fifth ad hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Chapter 13, which was held in Rome 10-12 March 1999. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to report on progress made in implementing Chapter 13 since the last gathering of the group in October 1996, but the main focus was on preparing for the IYM. The meeting was well attended and was considered by participants to be a good start in launching the process. The summary report of the meeting is included in the Global section (Page 15) of this edition of the bulletin.

African Node of the Mountain Forum

FAO has recently carried out an assessment in Africa looking at institutional arrangements that could lead to the creation of the African Node of the Mountain Forum. The report of this work, which was carried out by Esther Njiro, will be finalized and will serve as the basis for follow-up later this year. This will most likely be in the form of a meeting or work shop of key partner institutions in Africa which is expected to determine the most appropriate set-up for establishing this important regional node. Funds remaining from the African Intergovernmental Consultation on mountains held in 1996 will be used to make this meeting possible, thanks mainly to the generous support of the

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

21st Session of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

The 21st Session of the European Forestry Commission's Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds was held in Marienbad, Czech Republic from 6 to 11 October. The session brought together representatives of member countries of the working party to discuss the theme of Integrated Watershed Management. A good balance was achieved between technical and socio-economic considerations of watershed management, bringing the work of this long-standing body more within the overall framework of Chapter 13. The final report of this meeting is available in English, Spanish and French through the web sites of both FAO (<http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/forestry/mountain/mntpag4.htm>) and the Mountain Forum (<http://www.mtnforum.org>).

UNASYLVA Issue on Mountains

Unasylya, FAO's international journal of forestry and forest industries, has devoted a recent issue (195) entirely to mountains, focusing on the challenges facing mountain development in the twenty-first

century.

The subsequent issue (196) also contains several articles on related mountain themes. The journal is available in electronic format on FAO's internet site (<http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/forestry/UNASYLVA/195/E/195e.htm>) and hotlinked through the Mountain Forum site. Hard copy versions are also available in English, Spanish and French by contacting FAO directly.

Task Manager Report 1992-97

After some delays in the publication process, a five-year review of Chapter 13 implementation is now available. The review, entitled "Chapter 13 in action 1992-97: A task manager's report", was carried out by Martin Price of the Mountain Regions Programme in the Environmental Change Unit at University of Oxford, and also known to many in the Mountain Forum as the recently elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Mountain Forum. This useful report provides a stock taking of global and regional activities and initiatives, covers major issues identified in the various consultations held, looks at how successful implementation has been and progress in several areas related to Chapter 13, and looks ahead at Chapter 13 in the post-UNGASS period. It also contains an in-

teresting annex focusing on national level activities that were identified as contributing to implementation of the mountain chapter. The report will be available very shortly both electronically and in hard copy.

Mountain Forests in International Forestry Debate

The 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), the body which is coordinating the international policy dialogue on forests, has for the first time taken on board the issue of forests in environmentally fragile ecosystems, in particular, mountain forests. The IFF's 2nd session report stressed the importance of mountain forests related to a number of functions they provide. The document is available through the IFF internet site: (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/iff.htm>).

State of the World's Forests

FAO has just issued State of the World's Forests (SOFO)1999. SOFO is published every two years to give the most comprehensive and up-to-date picture available of the status of forests worldwide and new developments in the forestry sector. It is available through the FAO website and also in print version.

Africa

The Mnweni Project - Drakensberg Mountains

By Meridy Pfofenbauer, coordinator of Bergwatch, from an excerpt of the Africa Mountain Protected Areas Update, December, 1998, posted to the MF-Africa discussion list on 25 March 1999. For more information contact Peter Blignaut, E-mail: <blignaut@icon.co.za>

The amaNgwane Tribal area is the largest tract of tribal land in the Drakensberg Mountains. It shares a common watershed boundary with Lesotho in the west where it stretches to the summit of the mountains. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ingonyama Trust.

The four amaNgwane mountain wards have a population totaling some 10,500 people living in scattered homesteads, mostly concentrated in the lower reaches of the valleys. Political and ritual institutions, settlement patterns and material culture are currently much the same

as that of a century or more ago, with high birth rates and about a 50% illiteracy rate. There are few roads or bridges and no basic services except intermittent electricity to five primary schools. These four wards encompass one of the most important high water catchments in South Africa. Much of the water of the Mnweni river and its tributaries is transferred to Gauteng, the industrial heart of South Africa, via the ingenious Tugela-Vaal water transfer scheme.

The Mnweni Project commenced in 1995 when Bergwatch was invited by the amaNgwane Tribal Council to interact with its mountain communities to assist them in the conservation of the Mnweni area and to explore appropriate land-uses from which the local communities could benefit. Three years of on-going interaction with the communities, Council and local development forums resulted in a mandate from the Tribal council to work with sub-ward development committees in the formulation of a "package of proposals". This package should act, as a cata-

lyst in promoting urgently needed environmental and cultural conservation, associated income-generating activities, and an institutional framework.

The proposals consist of 4 components, intended to work in synergy with one another.

1. The creation of a Trust fund
2. Environmental rehabilitation (creating skills training and labor intensive jobs) and education
3. The creation of a community-based catchment/wilderness conservation area (including hiking and horse trails)
4. Cultural tourism (including archaeo-tourism and the establishment of a Cultural and Rock Art Center)

On 7 September 1998 Bergwatch registered its opposition to the inclusion, in the draft regional development plan, of a proposal for a cableway and casino in the Mnweni Valley, on the grounds of severe cultural and environmental impacts. Bergwatch is currently working in three of the wards, which have formed a loose coalition - "the Mnweni Triangle Commit-

tee". The current situation:

The package of proposals attracted the attention of the KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority who commissioned a Feasibility Study on Tourism in the Mweni Valley. This study is now complete and has also recommended the step-wise development of cultural and nature-based tourism.

Rand Water, the large Gauteng based water authority, which draws water from the area, initiated an alien plant removal program in the area. They have approved the establishment of a Trust and contributed R2 million. Further donors are being sought.

Phase 1 of the Rock Art Project has been completed. 71 previously undocumented sites have been identified with the help of local guides. Funding is being sought for Phase 2, which involves more detailed archeological research and the development of a community cultural resource management plan.

Funding for a hiking base camp is available through the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa and discussions are underway with the community on a final site selection.

The community has selected a site for a Cultural and Rock Art Center. Funding is being sought.

Through networking Bergwatch is hoping it can dovetail with major initiatives presently underway, such as: the future proclamation of a Drakensberg-Maloti Peace Park; the nomination of the Natal Drakensberg Park as a cultural and natural World Heritage Site; and the Special Case Area Plan for the Drakensberg.

Mountain Gorilla Tourism in Central Africa

Excerpted from a posting by Annette Lanjouw, International Gorilla Conservation Programme, to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 10 February 1999. The recent, tragic murders of tourists in this area illustrates that even the best efforts at sustainable tourism are doomed to failure if there is not a framework of peace and stability. For more information, contact: E-mail: <ALanjouw@anfke.org>

Rising above the western section of the Great Rift Valley, a chain of eight volcanoes known as the Virungas form the border between Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) and Rwanda. These spectacular mountains and the nearby Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda are the last refuges of the most endangered of the gorilla subspe-

cies, the mountain gorilla. Only about 630 of these individuals remain.

The Virunga Volcanoes hold a special appeal for human populations, too — their rich volcanic soil which is highly valued as farming land. Mountain gorilla tourism is implemented in one of the most densely populated areas of Africa, with over 400 people per square kilometre. A high level of environmental decline and consequent decline in socio-economic levels of the rural population accompanies this dense population, with an annual growth rate of 3%. Pressure on forest habitat is enormous.

The debate over gorilla tourism is primarily focused on whether or not it provides a sustainable and realistic means for conservation of this endangered species. Is the impact of tourism the improvement of gorilla numbers and the quality/size of their habitat or does it put at risk the survival of the resource upon which it is based? While this perspective is very important and valuable, it is not enough. Gorilla-based tourism should also be examined from a political and socio-economic viewpoint, based on the realities of Central Africa today.

What are the benefits of mountain gorilla tourism? (summarized)

- High levels of foreign exchange, (for conservation and local communities.
- Economic arguments for justification of in policy level decision-making for conservation.
- Surveillance and protection of the park, thus benefiting more than just the gorillas.
- Experience gained in gorilla tourism strengthens the tourism sector in the nation.

What are the costs of mountain gorilla tourism? (summarized)

- Disease transmission to gorillas.
- Behavioural disturbance to gorillas.
- Increasing dependence on an irregular and unreliable source of income (tourism).
- Political instability, crisis and civil unrest.

What are the political and socio-economic realities within which conservation must focus its activities in these areas?

During the war in Rwanda between the Rwandan Patriotic Front and the Rwandan government (from 1990 to 1994), when the fighting concentrated around and in the Virunga Conservation Area, both sides stated their intention to avoid any harm to mountain gorillas. The potential national and international value

of gorillas was recognised by both parties.

In 1994, when 750,000 refugees moved from Rwanda to Zaire (now DR Congo), to flee the war, tens of thousands of people per day passed through the Parc National des Volcans in Rwanda, and the Parc National des Virunga in Zaire. They came through the park with their cattle and their belongings. People camped and hid in the park for months. The impact of such intensive human presence in the forest overshadows the potential impact of tourism.

From 1994 to 1998, the ADFL government in DR Congo was faced with enormous pressure from rebel militias, hiding out in the park. The pressure to conduct large-scale military operations in the park was very high. The conservation community both in Rwanda and DR Congo were able to lobby with the political and military authorities to emphasize the value of the park, the importance to associate park guards to the military patrols and to underline the importance of ensuring the protection of the gorillas. Again, the conservation of gorillas was considered a priority from both a political and economic perspective. In addition, in 1996, after the war and refugee crisis in Rwanda, pressure was placed on the Parc National des Volcans to provide land for the reintegration of refugees. Only through the provision of economic justifications and the attention of the international and national conservation community could the degazettement of certain areas of the park be halted.

How to reconcile the obvious limits/ threats and conservation risks of ecotourism with these realities?

The mountain gorilla is an endangered species. It forms, at best, a very fragile resource upon which to base ecotourism. What other viable options currently exist? Forests are disappearing at an alarming rate in Africa, with logging and clearing for agriculture ranked as the main causes.

Ecotourism provides not only an alternative non-consumptive source of land-use, but focuses international and national attention on an area in ways pure conservation activities cannot. It is highly likely that people know and care more about mountain gorillas than many other species in Africa exactly because they have been able to see them, either in reality or on films. For this, a proportion of animals needs to be habituated, so that tourists, researchers and film crews can visit them. The question is primarily how to ensure that such an activity is carried out in a manner which emphasizes the con-

servation objectives, rather than purely the economic and political objectives.

Current tourism regulations may not be sufficient to minimize the risks and ensure the conservation of these animals. Current tourism programmes need to place a much greater emphasis on the

distribution of benefits and revenues to human populations living around the park, and to ensure that protected area authorities have access to and utilize the resources in a manner benefiting the park, the wildlife and conservation. This is the challenge that scientists, conservationists,

managers, politicians and tourists need to face, and urgently. Countries as poor as those in Central Africa, with pressures such as human population growth and political instability as they are, a source of income such as that potentially generated through ecotourism cannot be rejected.

Asia Pacific

Environment and Tourism In Ladakh

The lead article by Tsewang Dorgey of Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDeG), was posted to the mtn-forum discussion list on 22 March 1999. A series of rich discussions followed, which took two different, but understandably related threads. Scott Walker and Martin van Beek posted messages furthering the Ladakh discussion and contrasting it with tourism activities in Mexico. In addition, there was also a rich dialog on the concept of "carrying capacity." Given space limitations, we are only excerpting the postings on Ladakh, and comparisons made with Mexico. All the related postings are available on the web: <http://www2.mtnforum.org/mtnforum/archives/discuss/discuss.htm>

Negative impacts of tourism in Ladakh

- It leads to loss of traditional values and uniformity of culture;
- It leads to increase in the drop-out rate in schools;
- It leads to human exploitation in the form of labour;
- It damages ecosystems and degrades the environment;
- It increases the consumption of resources, which leads to dependency on external sources;
- It introduces begging habits among children, and
- It introduces drug habits among the youth.

Tourism versus economic benefits - is there a choice?

Promotion and development of tourism in Ladakh cannot be stopped altogether. But there is an urgent need for criteria of environmental sustainability in design of strategies for tourism development. All those who are involved in tourism, like the tourist department, travel agencies, council members (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council), NGOs and local people must sit together and come up

with a long-term policy in terms of environment conservation and economic growth. The estimate of the carrying capacity of the land and impact analysis studies vis-a-vis benefits of the tourism in Ladakh need to be carried out.

Ecotourism: an alternative approach

Ecotourism is an approach that takes care of culture of the area and natural resources. It sustains the well-being of local people and the host country's development without endangering its ecology. Tourism can be environmentally-friendly and therefore, sustainable if:

- It operates within the natural capacity for the regeneration and future productivity of natural resources;
- Values and culture of the people are taken into account;
- People have equitable share in the economic benefits of tourism;
- Local people and communities are involved in planning and management;
- Proper monitoring and assessment is done;
- Long-term strategies toward controlling the inflow of tourists are planned;
- Finances accruing from tourism are ploughed back into restoration activities, and
- Education and awareness programmes for all concerned are implemented.

As far as the choice between environment and tourism in Ladakh is concerned, the choice is between economic benefits of tourism and ecological destruction. It is also between alien culture borne out of materialism and permissive attitudes polluting the proud, rich, cultural heritage. Ladakh can afford the luxury of tourism only and only if it is geared to counter its negative impacts. For further details, please contact: Tsewang Dorje Shara, P.O. Box 163, Leh, Ladakh 194101, India, Fax: 01982-52735/52212/52284,
— Tsewang Dorje Shara, 22 March 1999,
E-mail care of Kishor Pradban:
<kishor@icimod.org.np>

Excerpts of discussions that followed this posting:

I have been fortunate to work in Mexico with a community of people living within a mountainous biosphere reserve who have been able to balance their local resources with economic development. The model these people used fell not under the model of ecotourism development, rather it was one of community organization and capacity building. "Sustainable" ecotourism development was simply one of the products of their organization. This two-three year grass roots capacity building work achieved the following points:

"Values and culture of the people are taken into account" because they planned their future and have ownership of the consequences.

"People have equitable share in the economic benefits of tourism" because they put together cooperatives to open a restaurant, lodge, guide service, interpretive building, etc.

"Local people and communities are involved in planning and management." In this case the government did not have the funds to operate/manage the reserve, so the locals formed an organization that plans and manages portions of the reserve. I should note that this type of organization may be unique to land tenure laws in Mexico and might not be possible in other locations.

"Proper monitoring and assessment is done" through inviting universities to participate in the planning process and take part in the care of the reserve.

"Long-term strategies toward controlling the inflow of tourists are planned" by an organization of locals, with participation from the government and paid specialists.

"Finances accruing from tourism are ploughed back into restoration activities." This remains to be seen, but is the goal.

"Education and awareness programmes for all concerned are implemented." This is a situation this group

of locals was addressing I last visited.

— Scott Walker, <walks@lake.ollusa.edu>
23 Mar 1999,

The Mexican example is striking for the apparent consensus that was rapidly achieved about goals and means among a community of local people, and between them, government agents and agencies, and “paid specialists”. It is precisely this type of consensus that is strikingly absent in the case of Ladakh, and it is, I am sure, a problem that Tsewang Dorjey is aware of. Let me just point to a few of the major structural issues in addressing the impact of tourism in Ladakh.

Ladakh attracts around 17,000 tourists per year, only about 3,500 of whom are domestic. Opened to tourism in 1974, the number of tourists increased rapidly to reach a high in 1988 of more than 16,000 foreign visitors, the number dropped to 6,300 in 1990. Since then, the number has risen again but rarely exceeds the number from 1980 of 13,000. Structural constraints on the number of tourists are the closure of roads into the region between November and May due to snow, and a limited number of flights between the region and the rest of India throughout the year. According to data from the mid-1980s, some 80% of the visitors come in July and August; this is most likely still the case.

Despite the near absence of growth in the number of tourists visiting the region, the number of businesses catering to tourists has skyrocketed in the past decade... and all this while the number of visitors has barely increased at all.

As to the negative effects of tourism noted by Tsewang Dorjey, most of these are undoubtedly discernable, though not all of them would be attributable to tourism exclusively or even primarily. For example, as to the ‘loss of culture’ argument, Indian popular culture such as films and music, satellite broadcasts, the vast army presence, young Ladakhis’ pursuit of higher education in the plains and Kashmir, all have a significant impact on local attitudes. Moreover, beyond its economic benefits, an argument can be made that tourism has also contributed to Ladakhis becoming more aware of what is happening to them and their life and culture as a consequence of “development”. There is a small but significant group of tourists who come to work as volunteers with organisations such as LEDeG, and they and other outsiders have been important catalysts in local organisation against some of the unwanted developments of the past fifty years or more.

The question is how to address the indisputably negative effects of tourism, while profiting from the economic and

other benefits that also come with this industry. Here, Scott Walker’s example strikes me as a best case scenario, in that the kind of convergence of popular, elite, business, institutional and governmental perceptions, values, interests, his example appears to represent may be only rarely encountered, and certainly does not exist in Ladakh.

Arguably the biggest problem at present in connection with tourism in Ladakh is the unregulated expansion of the industry... Not only do many of these developments have an immediate environmental and/or social and cultural impact, but the unbridled growth of investment in a largely stagnant industry promises to lead to a series of business failures in the near future. Ironically, it is partly the success in 1989 of Ladakhi lobbying for Scheduled Tribe status that led to the spate of cheap loans that made this boom possible, and may now lead to many bankruptcies.

...a comprehensive plan for Ladakh must start from the perceptions of the population, rather than from assumed shared values, interests, and goals, or a paternalistic “we know what is best for the people” attitude.

Whatever decisions are made regarding regulation of tourism, then, local political leaders face at least two important constraints: first, several successful tourism operators also often hold significant political positions in Leh. I do not mean to suggest that none of them are interested in forms of ecotourism, but any political decision that limits access to the industry for the smaller or marginal players will be read as an attempt by the elite to preserve their privileged positions. Already now there is growing resentment, especially among the educated youth, that too many of the business opportunities in Leh are firmly in the hands of a limited number of established families. These youths have no farms to return to - they don’t know how to farm in most cases - and no jobs to look forward to.

Second, it is a fact that the local tourism industry itself, through the associations of hotel owners, taxi owners, and similar organisations, seeks infrastructural development to enable a further growth in the number of visitors to the region and the extension of the season through the fall, spring and even winter. More tourism, not less is the stated goal of the industry. Free enterprise, no taxes, and no entry fees appears to be the ideal.

The bottom line is that there is almost certainly no broad backing for any kind of policy that will put constraints on tourism in general in Ladakh. Moreover, “community involvement” in planning and implementation is not easily conceivable in the face of strong, divergent visions of the future. Where there may be more scope in managing tourism more wisely is in the ecologically even more sensitive marginal areas, and here steps have indeed been taken in this direction. Here too, however, local consensus is not to be assumed.

Despite these cautions, there is no doubt that intervention is necessary if some of the negative impacts of tourism are to be softened. Any such intervention must consider the broader processes of change underway in Ladakh. As Ladakhi leadership and NGOs such as LEDeG are well aware, tourism is but one aspect of Ladakhi livelihoods that requires consideration. To see change as exclusively exogenous is a mistake that Ladakhi NGOs and political leaders can ill afford to make. To ignore other, arguably politically incorrect voices, is likely to aggravate popular disillusionment with the local autonomy won in 1996. Early attempts to enforce some restrictions on new construction, for example, caused much resentment and such regulations are routinely violated, especially but not only by the powerful.

In order to have any chance of successful implementation, the formulation of a comprehensive plan for Ladakh, or even for the area of the capital, Leh, must start from the perceptions of the population, rather than from assumed shared values, interests, and goals, or a paternalistic “we know what is best for the people” attitude. Real dialogue must involve those hundreds of youths - especially the ones who have been written off by the champions of ‘tradition’ - and other, ordinary people who seek to build meaningful lives - meaningful in their terms.

What is needed is indeed the kind of dialogue and participation that Scott Walker describes in his example from Mexico. Unfortunately, such dialogue rarely takes place, and frequently its outcome is decided in advance by local and outside experts who, after all, know what local culture, values, and needs really are. In the end, it is not the good intentions of the politicians, nor the enlightened visions of NGOs, but broad popular identification, acceptance and support, that decides the fate of any intervention. Participation and dialogue are the buzzword of the development brokers of the 1990s. Putting them into practice requires more than the calling of a village meeting, the use of PRA techniques, or the intercession of ‘local’ NGOs. Only too often dialogue and participation are used to legitimize the pre

conceived ideas and 'solutions' derived from the models produced by experts who speak of "dialogue", but appear to mean the "education" of people as to their "real" needs.

None of the above is to dispute the need for more appropriate, equitable organisation of the tourism sector in Ladakh or anywhere else for that matter. Tsewang Dorjey calls for stakeholders to sit together and come up with a long-term policy. I merely wanted to caution against the idea that stakeholders (and their representatives) are easily identified and that tourism can be seen in isolation from other processes. The choice, in my opinion, is not between two neatly separated extremes, as Tsewang Dorjey wrote, but between lots of shades of grey and resisting simple cost-benefit analysis, precisely because community, interests, and visions are rather rarely as unified as appears to be the case in Scott Walker's example.

— Martijn van Beek

<etnomvb@moes.bum.aau.dk> 25 Mar 1999

I would like to clarify some facts after reading Dr. van Beek's well written commentary on tourism in Ladakh. It appears that a comparison of ecotourism and development in El Cielo Biosphere Reserve, Mexico to that of the Ladakh region is like comparing "apples to oranges," as we commonly say in the U.S.

The successful example of ecotourism in El Cielo is contained within a few square kilometers of a 144,000 ha. wilderness area. There are three roads into the reserve and only one is accessible by a non-four-wheel drive automobile. Thus, visitors are "channeled" in through a "gateway" community and are easily controlled and routed to restaurants, etc. Likewise, the success the people living within the reserve have created for themselves was a major paradigm shift for them. It was not without some turmoil and inter-*ejido* rivalry and intra-*ejido* dissension. Simply organizing themselves took nearly two years. It was also led by a Mexican man with a graduate education and a passion and talent for local, grass-roots capacity building. It was done on a shoestring by a local NGO, not an international development/environmental NGO. Further, the government agency with responsibility for the reserve has little funding, thus they are open to any intelligent management of the reserve by locals, yet won't hesitate to "rule" with a heavy hand if need be. This is a sort of check and balance.

Another fundamental difference is that El Cielo is not overrun with tourists. Their goal early on was simply to organize in a way in which they could take advantage of the cash being brought in by the tourists

who visited. The tourists in this case are 90% local/regional families on a 3-4 day camping holiday, birders, and students in organized groups. Neither did they have an influx of people moving to the area to cash in on tourists, simply because the area is so isolated and moving in requires building a house, owning a truck or mule, being hours from a doctor, phone, etc., and no electricity. Not too attractive for many who can make more money in agricultural work in the fertile Huasteca below. Besides, one would have to be a part of one of the cooperatives to be able to cash in on tourists.

"Calling of a village meeting, the use of PRA techniques, or the intercession of 'local' NGOs" may not work everywhere, as most of us know. However, it can work on a small scale in some places where the goals are thought out, identifiable and attainable, and community "spark plugs," or folks willing to take action, are involved to carry the bulk of the workload and maintain continuity.

The Limits of Acceptable (LAC) change method of deciding when enough is enough works when adapted to the particular situation. Of course it's not perfect and I'm not suggesting that as a general model for wilderness recreation and/or ecotourism management LAC can successfully be applied. Possibly it could be applied in a larger, regional setting as seems to be the case in Ladakh. However, much background work remains, judging by Martijn's description. It seems to me that in the El Cielo case, LAC adaptation is the fine tuning of a small part of an already moving capacity building machine. What Ladakh needs is an overhaul.

— Scott Walker

<walks@lake.ollusa.edu> 26 Mar 1999

Mining Code of Conduct Workshop in Papua New Guinea

By Ken Hughey from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 15 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <hugheyk@kea.lincoln.ac.nz>

Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) under its subregional activities supported a workshop "Mining Code of Conduct Workshop" through its subregional focal point in Australasia Pacific located in the Centre for Mountain Studies in Lincoln, New Zealand in late October, 1998.

This workshop was a continuation of a joint project begun in 1994 between Melanesian Environment Foundation and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The project's purpose has been to develop a code of conduct for Papua New Guinea's mining industry, and to use it to conduct non-formal community education about the mining issue. To date, the project has included training, community workshops, exposure tours to mine sites, and development of educational materials.

The objectives of the Workshop were:

- To deepen participants' understanding of land rights and the legal issues involved in mining;
- To refine policies needed to guide mining operations;
- To create a Mining Code of Conduct manual and other educational materials;
- To deepen the understanding of people from both mining-affected communities and NGOs about the political-economy of Melanesia, including the relationship of mining and colonization; the role of the World Bank/IMF; and the impact of Structural Adjustment Programme;
- To establish a network within Papua New Guinea and within Melanesia of persons and organisations interested in the mining issue, and
- To share ideas, knowledge and experience, and to develop strategies for action.

The Workshop was attended by over 50 participants representing national, provincial and community-based organisations from 11 Papua New Guinean Provinces, Bougainville, West Papua (Irian Jaya) and Australia. It was held from 19-25 October, 1998 in Madang Technical College, Madang, Papua New Guinea.

Outcomes and Achievements

1. Development of a regional plan to address mining issues during 1999, including actions such as:

- Independent research and Ok Tedi pollution;
- Current Affairs expose on Australian television (ABC)
- Visits by landholders from prospective mining areas to mine sites, and
- Women fact-finding tour to mining areas.

2. Revisions made on the draft of the Mining Code of Conduct Manual;

3. Increased awareness by participants on the social, environmental and economic impacts within Melanesian, and

4. Identification of qualified and interested resource persons on the mining issue.

The implications of these outcomes and achievements are foreseen unless mining industry is prepared to operate within the Code of Conduct based on International Best Practice, mines within

Papua New Guinea should close.

Future course of actions include: participants will follow regional action plans

in 1998-1999, and Melanesian Environmental Foundation will organise similar workshop or conference in 1999 to regroup

local activists and assess the work since the 1998 workshop.



L'anglais et le français sont les deux langues de travail du Forum Européen de la Montagne. Si vous avez besoin de la traduction complète des articles, merci de contacter le centre de coordination à Gland, Suisse.

English and French are both working languages of the European Mountain Forum. If you need either the full French or English translation of the articles, please ask the coordination centre in Gland, Switzerland. E-mail: <europe@mtforum.org>

An invitation to the World Mountain Forum / Forum Mondial sur la Montagne in Paris, Chambéry, and the French Alps, 5-12 June 2000:

The Mountain Forum wishes the Chambéry organizers greatest success, and is pleased to be considered as a patron of this event, although the Mountain Forum and the Chambéry event are quite distinct. The Mountain Forum is a global network for sustainable mountain development. The Chambéry event, called World Mountain Forum / Forum Mondial sur la Montagne, is a meeting from 5-10 June 2000 in France, organized by the municipality of Chambéry, the capital of the Savoie region, and by the National Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (ANEM), a body representing mountain area local authorities in France, in collaboration with the principal European mountain area organizations, both public and private.

The World Mountain Forum / Forum Mondial sur la Montagne is being organized by the municipality of Chambéry, the capital of the Savoie region, and by the National Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas (ANEM), a body representing mountain area local authorities in France, in collaboration with the principal organizations from European mountain areas, both public and private.

The opening session will take place at UNESCO in Paris on 5 June. The Forum will then continue until 10 June in

Chambéry, where most of the lectures and debates will be held, as well as an exhibition on "mountains of the world". Grenoble, 100 km away, will host a symposium on mountain research and will organize, jointly with Chambéry, a film festival. A one-day excursion is planned to Chamonix, providing an opportunity to visit Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe. Further excursions will be available on 11 and 12 June to other European mountains.

The organizers of the Forum have taken the initiative of inviting representatives from all of the world's mountain areas, as well as those who have opinions and experiences to share with others. It is the organizers' belief that the time has come for an international discussion of the challenges the mountain areas of the world will have to face in the 21st century: the globalization of trade, growing socio-economic disparities, the over-exploitation of resources, the weakening of local cultures and the loss of a mountain identity, the risk of marginalization and dependence, etc.

It is hoped that these meetings will rapidly increase awareness among government authorities and the general public of the contribution that mountain areas can make to expansion and the environment. We hope that the Forum will help to create new links of active solidarity among mountainous countries and mountain peoples. In addition, we anticipate that the Forum will further the activities pursued by international organizations since the 1992 Rio Declaration (Agenda 21, Chapter 13), in particular by the FAO, a supporter of this initiative, and prepare the ground for the International Year of Mountains 2002.

For further information:

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ANEM - Association Nationale des Elus de la Montagne
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Les Pyrénées à L'honneur à Toulouse

The exhibition "Pireneos, Pyrénées" was held in February 99 in Toulouse, France. It has been organized with the collaboration of the Region Midi Pyrénées, the Fondation Territori I Paisatge de la Caixa de Catalunya, EDF Bazade and the Communauté de Travail des Pyrénées. Different workshops and conferences have been held on the development of this massif. For further information on this report, please contact:

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L'exposition « Pireneos, Pyrénées » qui s'est tenue à l'espace « EDF Bazacle » du 4 février au 3 mars, est le fruit de la collaboration entre la Région Midi-Pyrénées, la Fondation Territori i Paisatge de la Caixa de Catalunya, EDF Bazacle et la Communauté de Travail des Pyrénées. Cette exposition a servi de fond à diverses manifestations, tables rondes, colloque, conférence.

Pendant la journée organisée à l'université des Sciences Sociales par la DATAR et le LEREPS, et qui eut pour thème « Développement des Pyrénées : une ambition à partager », quelques constats ont été faits.

Démographie : on observe un vieillissement de la population. Le taux est 2 fois plus élevé que la moyenne nationale. Il faut attirer les jeunes à la montagne faute de quoi la population va diminuer. Aujourd'hui les Pyrénées comptent environ 480.000 habitants au rythme actuel il n'y aura que 460.000 en 2020. Cependant, vers les années 80, un mouvement de gain migratoire a commencé dans le massif.

Economie : l'économie se restructure, vers 1990, on trouve 160.000 emplois, dont le tertiaire représente déjà 60%. Il n'y a pas de processus fort de déprise agricole. Les exploitations agricoles s'agrandissent et les reprises sont meilleures. Aujourd'hui 40% des exploitations auraient un successeur.

Le taux d'emplois dans l'industrie est plus élevé que dans les régions qui entourent le massif. Les petites entreprises sont en réalité la création des migrants qui trouvent ainsi un moyen de s'installer à la montagne. Les emplois de la branche café, hôtel, restaurant, représentent la moitié de ceux issus de l'agriculture. La bataille du tourisme n'est pas gagnée et la compétition est féroce.

Avec une amélioration de la desserte du piémont, le désenclavement du massif continue, mais l'essentiel du trafic passe par les extrêmes nord et sud de la chaîne et il est en augmentation considérable. La politique de massif ne suffit plus et il faut redéfinir la politique pyrénéenne. Les Pyrénées sont un espace centrifuge, unifié par une crête, et que l'on doit insérer dans l'ensemble où il est ancré. C'est dans cet ancrage que l'on peut trouver la relation entre une économie urbaine et une économie moins urbaine. Le développement se fait aussi avec les métropoles qui entourent le massif. Il faut que ce territoire ait un sens, qu'il forme une entité. L'unité interrégionale doit se fonder sur des projets en commun.

Le regard que l'on a sur les Pyrénées n'est pas le même s'il vient de Paris ou de Toulouse. Paris pense que tout le massif a la même culture. Mais nous, nous savons qu'il y a le blocage de la langue ainsi qu'une difficulté des intervenants à travailler avec l'Espagne. Paris parle de politique de massif tandis qu'en Espagne il y a quatre politiques de massif. Une pour chaque région.

Un coup de chapeau à Madame Paloma MARTÍNEZ, du gouvernement d'Aragón, seule à faire allusion au travail des associations et à la réunion des O.N.G. à Toulouse en 1996.

Il est à déplorer toutefois que le développement durable ait été traité comme une curiosité. Dans une ambiance d'autosatisfaction évidente, il paraîtrait même que dans les Pyrénées on ait toujours fait du développement durable... Une table ronde animé par André ETCHÉLECOU a clos cette manifestation. Thème de la table ronde « Faut-il protéger les Pyrénées ? ».

La protection de la biodiversité s'est trouvée au centre du débat. Puisque l'homme est le seul animal qui a réussi à modifier la nature, il faut que l'idée culturelle que nous avons de la société nous aide à mieux comprendre les rapports entre l'homme et la nature. Cette richesse de la biodiversité des Pyrénées nous différencie aussi des Alpes. Les quatre niveaux de cette biodiversité -diversité génétique, diversité des espèces, diversité écologique et, enfin, diversité culturelle. Il ne faut pas garder des espaces sanctuarisés et fermés pour faire n'importe quoi

ailleurs. Il faut protéger intelligemment l'ensemble.

Le maire d'Aragouet nous a fait part d'une expérience de développement durable très intéressante. Conséquence des routes nouvelles, la fréquentation touristique de la réserve naturelle du Néouvielle était devenue envahissante. Bien que la saison touristique ne dure que deux mois, la pollution des voitures et les ordures laissés sur place par les touristes ont poussé les responsables du Parc Naturel à passer un accord avec les collectivités locales pour maîtriser cette fréquentation. Il y a maintenant moins de parkings et quatre navettes transportent les visiteurs. La fréquentation des véhicules et des touristes a diminué mais le site a gagné en qualité, et l'accueil s'en est trouvé amélioré.

General Assembly of the European Mountain Forum

The general assembly of the European Mountain Forum will take place in Slovakia, on 2nd- 4th July 1999. Thanks to the Tatra National Park (TANAP) for welcoming all European Mountain Forum members. Please, book that date in your agenda. Program and registration information are available from:

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E-mail : <europe@mtnforum.org>

Partnership : IUCN and European Mountain Forum

Thanks to all members who already responded to the below letter. We are printing it in this bulletin for people who were not reached through e-mail.

Dear Mountain Forum member:

I am writing, in my capacity as chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Mountain Forum (EMF), to ask you for some important information.

As you know, IUCN's European Programme (IUCN-EP) is one of the founder members of the EMF, and I act as IUCN's representative on the Board. IUCN also provides the facilities for the EMF coordination centre in Gland. Both the EMF Board and Liz Hopkins, the interim director of the IUCN-EP, have identified the need for closer collaboration between the two organisations.

In 1999, a primary focus for IUCN-EP activities will be to influence and develop policies and instruments for integrating the conservation of biodiversity into various economic sectors, especially agriculture and rural development. As these are also important themes for EMF, there is a clear opportunity for the two organisations to work together. There is also a direct relationship to Action Theme 2 of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS), which aims to integrate ecological considerations into all relevant socio-economic sectors. Action Theme 2 is mainly coordinated by IUCN-EP. It is expected that activities within the Strategy are going to focus on a few major themes. One of these is to raise public awareness of the importance of biological and landscape diversity and its relationships with social and economic quality of life (PEBLDS Action Theme 3, partially coordinated from IUCN headquarters). Again, this would appear to relate directly to the interests and aims of EMF.

As a first step, I would be grateful if you could inform the EMF Coordination Centre whether you are a member of any IUCN member organisation and/or IUCN Commission - and, if so, which one(s).

Please send this information by 1st June 99 to :

Françoise Mees,
European Mountain Forum,
28 rue Mauverney,
CH 1196 Gland, Switzerland,
Tel: 00 41 22 999 02 24,
Fax 00 41 22 999 00 20,
E-mail : <europe@mtnforum.org>

Subsequently, I hope that those of us who are involved in both organisations will be able to work together to ensure that appropriate IUCN-EP activities include a mountain component which reflects the common interests of both organisations. For example, the EMF (or specific members, particularly those who are already involved with IUCN) could be brought in to advise and provide input to various papers to be produced by IUCN-EP. In 1999, these are likely to consider topics such as policy development, analysis and assessment, and spatial planning (e.g., ecological networks).

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or suggestions. Otherwise, please send the information about involvement with IUCN member organisations or commissions directly to the Coordination Centre.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter. Yours sincerely,

Martin Price

E-mail : <mprice@nts.1.tsu.ox.ac.uk>

Coup De Foudre Sudetes – Vosges Du Sud !

Discovery of the French House of the Environment in the Vosges by Polish representatives from the Sudetes : towards a future project of an eco-center in Miedzygorze

Lors d'un voyage d'études organisé par et pour les membres de l'Association „Klub Zdanie” dans les Vosges du Sud au mois d'août 98 nous sommes tombés sur Denis Schmitt et sa Maison de l'Environnement. C'était le coup de foudre ! Nous nous sommes décidés „sur le champ” d'en faire une copie fidèle quelque part dans les Sudètes. Denis Schmitt a pu participer – comme notre invité – à la première réunion du Conseil d'Administration du Forum qui s'est tenue à Wojtowice et a présenté aux conseillers municipaux de notre „petit bled” ses idées et décrit ses activités. Et voici „en bref” ce qu'il nous a dit:

„Situé à La Haut Du Them, au pied du Ballon de Servance en moyenne montagne, proche du Plateau des Mille Etangs, La Maison de l'Environnement est une association créée en 1984 et qui a pour but d'aider les groupes et les

personnes à mieux connaître et étudier les richesses naturelles et humaines des Vosges du Sud. Tout cela a l'air très officiel mais derrière cette formule se cache une réalité extrêmement riche.

Ce centre d'éducation écologique qui se trouve dans un entourage exceptionnel propose aux écoles les thèmes suivants:

La forêt de montagne, découverte sensorielle de la forêt, faune forestière, traces et indices, le choix des essences forestières, découverte d'un torrent, la force de l'eau, découverte d'une tourbière, le plateau des mille étangs, l'étang la nuit, le monde des oiseaux, le monde des abeilles, la nature au fil des saisons, délicate, délicieuse, dangereuse nature, à la découverte du paysage, découverte d'un village de montagne, Initiation à la géologie, à l'astronomie, le tri des déchets.

Les activités proposées sont ouvertes à tout public et ont lieu en fonction de la saison. Sauf exception elles se déroulent essentiellement sur le terrain. Le travail est mené par une équipe de 4 personnes, complétée par des stagiaires. L'Association est liée par des conventions annuelles à plusieurs partenaires: Le Parc National Régional des ballons des Vosges, le Conseil Général de la Haute-Saône, Le Comité Départemental du Tourisme, etc. D'autres

assurent un soutien technique en cas de besoin comme L'Office National des Forêts par exemple. Le centre est agréé par Le Ministère de L'Education Nationale et celui de la Jeunesse et des Sports. Il est aussi agréé Gites de France pour un hébergement de 30 lits avec possibilité de restauration en autonomie ou en pension complète.

Denis Schmitt et un de nos autres amis – Patrick Gury, directeur technique de Franche Comte Environnement ont visité pendant leur séjour en Pologne quelques maisons appartenant à la commune de Miedzygorze (Entre-Montagnes) et qui se prêteraient à la mise en place d'un centre de l'éducation ECO. Miedzygorze, soeur jumelle de Le Haut Du Them, située au bord du Parc Naturel de la Montagne de Neige est prête, Messieurs, et elle vous attend ! Et la visite de nos élus locaux qui voudraient apprendre ce que vous faites là, dans les Vosges et dans le Jura est en préparation.

Contact:
Krzysztof Komornicki,
Klub Zdanie,
Tel: 00 48 74 111 880,
Fax: 00 48 74 111 588,
E-mail: <zdanie@netgate.com.pl>

Latin America

Announcing a New Discussion List: InfoAndina-fm

By Ana Maria Ponce from a posting to MF-LAC on 12 February 1999. Contact: e-mail: <InfoAndina@cgiar.org>

As of Monday February 15, 1999, we will have a new list: <InfoAndina-fm@igc.org> This list will be for announcements of general interest: InfoAndina bulletins, InfoNotas, and the TecnoNotas, a new service consisting of a series of technical articles that InfoAndina will provide soon. This new list is fully moderated and the messages can be posted in English or Spanish.

1. To send contributions to the list, send an e-mail to the list moderator: <InfoAndina@cgiar.org>

2. To subscribe or retire from the list, send an e-mail to the moderator at the same address above.

The <MF-LAC@igc.org> list will continue, periodically hosting the electronic conferences organized by InfoAndina about issues related to sustainable development and natural resource conservation.

We appreciate your interest and support provided to InfoAndina services.

Regional MF-LAC Workshop for the South Cone

By Ana Maria Ponce, from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 24 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <InfoAndina@cgiar.org>

The Latin American node of the Mountain Forum is organizing its regional workshop for the South Cone, Arica, Chile, 6-7 April, 1999.

This workshop is sponsored by CONDESAN, SDC, and the South Andean Consortium (CEIDIS), and will convene institutions from Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, and Arequipa (Peru). A total of 25 participants will attend the two-day workshop to be held in Arica, Chile, including Mr. Robert Auger, legal consultant of the Mountain Forum, and Dr. Hubert Zandstra, Director of the International Potato Center, and member of the Mountain Forum Secretariat.

InfoAndina has established a webpage

for this workshop, which contains the list of participants and the agenda: <http://www.condesan/eventos/arica.htm>

The objectives of the workshop are to extend the participation base of the Mountain Forum's activities to the South Cone, and to explore cooperative activities, such as future e-conferences on issues prioritized by the conference participants.

Announcing the Next MF-LAC E-Conference: “The Challenges of Andean Rural Agroindustries in the Globalization Age” 3 May to 11 June 1999

By Ana Maria Ponce, from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 24 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <InfoAndina@cgiar.org>

Moderated by: Ana Maria Ponce, CONDESAN-InfoAndina; Sonia Salas, CONDESAN/CIP; Francois Boucher, PRODAR/IICA-CIRAD

Conference Objectives:

- Analyze the present state of Andean rural agroindustries and its future in the context of globalization processes.
- Analyze experiences of rural agroindustries in the Andean Region.
- Moderate a discussion to place the Andean rural agroindustries within local, national and regional policies.
- Discuss the research role in the development of Andean rural agroindustries.
- Discuss the interaction mechanisms among all the actors involved in the development of rural agroindustries.

Conference Agenda:

Week One: The first week will be dedicated to discuss the conceptual aspects of the Andean Rural Agroindustries (ARA), related to the new vision of ARA in the horizon of year 2000 and about its reality: main features, strengths and weaknesses.

During the 2nd, 4th and 5th weeks, we will discuss the main aspects of the ARA:

- Technology: processes, quality/standards, equipment & machinery.
- Commercialization: alternative markets, promising products, etc.
- Support services to ARA: Training, technical support, credit, machinery providers.
- The role of the private sector.
- Micro-regional development and SIAL (localized agricultural food systems)

- Policies
- Gender
- Rural young population

A series of case studies will be presented, such as: rural cheese producers, cassava transformation, panela, fruit transformation, etc. We will have an "Electronic coffee-break" in the 3rd week, which will allow us to exchange information about new publications, courses, specialized events, etc. A "useful" way to rest. The 6th week will be the last, serving as a closing week for this workshop we expect to provide an overall analysis and conclusions.

To subscribe, send a note to Ana Maria Ponce, CONDESAN at <InfoAndina@cgiar.org>, indicating your name, institution, country, and e-mail address. If you wish to contribute an article to this conference, please send us the title.

Summary of the MF-LAC E-Conference "Local Governments and Sustainable Rural Development in the Andes: Case Studies"

By Ana Maria Ponce from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 26 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <A.Ponce@cnet.com>

The Latin American node of the Mountain Forum organized its fourth electronic conference from September 3rd to October 31st, 1998. The technical moderator was Eng. Ana Maria Ponce, from CONDESAN-InfoAndina and the subject moderator was Arq. Hernan Valencia, from "Desarrollo Sostenible y Gestion Local (DSGL) and the Association of Ecuatorian Municipalities (AME) in Quito.

The conference convened 340 participants from 17 countries in Latin America and the rest of the world. The conference covered the following subtopics:

1. What are the possibilities offered by the decentralization and the new forms of local governments to the sustainable rural development of the Andean region?
2. Local governments, citizenship and participation in rural zones (concentration tables and other participatory methodologies).
3. Local governments, products and development of rural enterprises.
4. Which features should municipalities have to become effective local governments?

The articles and comments posted to the conference are available in the Internet at: <http://www.condesan.org/infoandi/gobloc.htm> The conference proceedings are under edition and will be published soon for distribution among MF-LAC participants as a contribution to the process of developing local governments and sustainable development.



Mountaintop Mining: Resource Development Issues

Excerpted (with permission from the American Geophysical Union) from "Resource Development Issues Simmer in U.S. Congress", in EOS, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, Volume 80, Number 11, March 16, 1999. Posted to the MF-Namerica discussion list on 23 March 1999.

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Among the hottest regional resource development issues is mountaintop mining, a technique that lops off the tops of mountains to access desirable low-sulfur coal seams in the hills of West Virginia and other states. The technique, which has become more popular with the advent of larger Earth-moving equipment and stringent air pollution laws, can fill valleys with rock debris, pollute streams, increase flood

risk due to altered topography, and destroy aesthetic vistas if reclamation efforts including restoring mountains to their approximate original contours are not adequately regulated and performed. The operations also can rattle homes with dynamite blasts, and leave workers without livelihoods when the mines shut down.

Mountaintop Mining: Voices of Concern

Excerpted from a posting by Harvard Ayers, Chair, Appalachian Voices, to the MF-Namerica discussion list on 7 July 1998. Mr. Ayers posting announced a rally opposing mountaintop removal in West Virginia. Contact: E-mail: <harvard@boone.net>

In case you are not knowledgeable about mountaintop removal, read on. In my 20 years of leading environmental fights from Alabama to Alaska, I have

never seen such devastation. From my own view of it from the air in early June of this year, this is truly "Strip-mining on Steroids" and "Shear Madness" as written in national magazines. Four large coal companies are hell-bent to get the valuable low sulfur coal of the area as efficiently and as quickly as they can. The work is done by giant draglines and powerful blasts that rip the overburden from the coal seams in successive layers. Up to 1000' of the mountain (usually several square miles in each of dozens of active mines) is "removed" and dumped over the edge of the mountain, just as West Virginia road builders of the early part of the century were done when they died building railroad tunnels.

Both the state and the federal governments have been complicit and even have actively supported this practice. From the West Virginia Governor's office, to the head of the WV Division of Environmental Protection, to powerful state legis-

lators, to Federal officials of the Office of Surface Mining, and other agencies, to the US Senators and Congressmen from West Virginia, support is solid.

The people of West Virginia as well as Mother Nature are the big losers. Homes in the Coal River Valley communities are blown off their foundations by the blasts, and large rocks are thrown into their living rooms. Coal slurry ponds rest precariously above many mountain communities which can rupture sending the resultant deadly torrent below to kill the inhabitants of the valley- 20 years ago, 125 people were killed at Buffalo Creek in one such incident.

Reports: State of the World Forum Round Tables

Summarized by Jonathan London and posted to by the Mountain Forum Moderator to the MF-Namerica discussion list on 3 December 1998. Contact: E-mail: <mfmod@mtnforum.org>

At the State of the World Forum in San Francisco during October 1998, a couple Roundtables were held which featured sustainable mountain development. Participants discussed the developments of a Mountain Agenda for North America. The rapporteurs of the sessions have sent us the meeting reports and next steps which we have put on the Mountain Forum's On-Line Library and Reference

Database web page at the following URL: <http://www2.mtnforum.org/mtnforum/archives/reportspubs/library/sotwf98.htm> A brief summary of the reports follows:

Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions: Strategies for Collaborative Decision-making. October 29, 1998. State of the World Forum, San Francisco. The goal of this Round Table was to address the nearly universal problem of conflict originating from the balance between use of scarce resources and development: in other words, in achieving sustainable development. Drawing on experiences in working in the mountain regions in North America, this roundtable aimed to explore mechanisms for encouraging cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of projects.

Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions: The Role of Community-based Initiatives. October 30, 1998. State of the World Forum, San Francisco. The goal of this Round Table was to explore the role that community-based projects can play in shaping and implementing a sustainable development agenda in North America. Building on the first sustainable development round table on Thursday which examined key barriers to sustainable development in mountain areas and other regions, this session explored potential responses to these barriers and the assistance rural communities need to enable them to participate fully in a path towards sustainable development.

Next Steps for North American Mountain Agenda. November 1998. State of the

World Forum, San Francisco. A number of "next steps" identified by roundtable participants to help further a North American Mountain Agenda and other sustainable development efforts.

- Create a survey instrument to be administered in Canada, the United States and Mexico to assess who are the key organizations involved in conservation-based development and community economic revitalization in the North American mountain regions.

- Develop a one page summary to explain and promote the North American Mountain Agenda.

- Create a "mountain yellow pages" or directory all survey respondents to help facilitate networking and synergy.

- Implement a series of working sessions focused on working towards developing a North American Mountain Agenda conference should be initiated.

- A start-up corporate entity should be created with finance capital to promote sustainable business practices in mountain regions.

- Round tables on sustainable development should be proposed for future State of the World conferences.

- Earth Day 2000, the Millennial session of the UN, the International Year of the Mountain (2002) and other events should be used to help develop and further expand the North American Mountain Agenda process.

A media and communications strategy should be developed to help promote the North American Mountain Agenda process.



Summary Report: Fifth ad hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Follow-up to UNCED Agenda 21, Chapter 13: Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development

By Doug McGuire from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 26 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <douglas.mcguire@fao.org>

Introduction – Attendance

The Fifth Inter-agency meeting on follow-up to UNCED Agenda 21, Chap-

ter 13 - Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development was held from 10-12 March 1999. The meeting was attended by 39 participants, including members of the Inter-agency group, Permanent Representatives to FAO, observers and several FAO staff. The purpose of the meeting was a) to report on progress made in the implementation of Chapter 13 since the last Inter-agency meeting was held in October 1996, and b) to begin preparations for the organization and observance of the International Year of Mountains (IYM) – 2002.

Development of Meeting

The meeting began with opening remarks by Mr Henri Carsalade, Assistant Director-General of FAO's Sustainable Development Department and Mr El Hadji Sène, Chief of the Forest Conser-

vation, Research and Education Service in the Forestry Department. This was followed by the FAO task manager report, which provided a general overview of recent progress made at global level in the implementation of Chapter 13. FAO specific programmes and activities contributing to this effort were also covered. Members of the Inter-agency group and observers were then offered the opportunity to report on progress made in the organizations they represent, since the last Inter-agency meeting. It was clear from the approximately 20 presentations that significant and steady progress had been made since 1996.

A presentation was also made by the initiators and organizers of a major meeting to be held in France in June 2000. This initiative seeks to bring representatives of mountain communities from throughout

the world together for several days to discuss a variety of issues related to sustainable mountain development. Discussion was held following the presentation, during which members of the group provided input and guidance aimed at helping the organizers achieve a truly successful event, and at ensuring that its contribution to preparations for the IYM are maximised.

The next part of the meeting focussed on discussing the content and institutional arrangements needed in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Mountains. FAO provided an overview of ideas and issues related to observing the IYM as a basis for discussion in the brainstorming session which followed. The delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic provided information on the process initiated by Kryrgyzstan which led to the UN General Assembly resolution in November 1998 declaring 2002 the International Year of Mountains, and gave an overview of events and activities planned in that country to observe the IYM. The meeting then used a brainstorming format to discuss the upcoming international year. Both plenary and working group sessions were held which resulted in the establishment of a list of preliminary categories or clusters of events and activities that would most likely be part of the IYM, both during the lead-up period and during the observance of the year itself. The broad operational categories defined include:

- Events
- Awareness raising/communications/publications
- Training, Education and Capacity Building
- Research
- Policy issues
- Implementation/actions
- Funding

Organizations and agencies also informed about their main areas of interest and planned focus for the IYM, including where they see their comparative advantage in taking a possible lead role in the implementation of certain themes or activities.

Funding mechanisms for activities related to the preparation and observance of the IYM were also discussed by the group. In addition to bilateral sources of funding through committed donor countries, the importance of a diversified and innovative approach to mobilising funds through alternative mechanisms was also discussed. The need to fully explore the potential of philanthropic foundations and the private sector to contribute to IYM efforts was emphasised. As a general approach, it was decided that those organizations taking the lead on various

themes or activities would have the primary responsibility for mobilising the necessary funds. It would, nevertheless, be important to keep track of the overall effort in order to maximise coherence and collaboration.

The Way Ahead

The group ended by discussing the next steps needed to continue with the preparation and organization of the IYM and the continued active implementation of Chapter 13. A number of specific tasks were identified aiming at i) further sharing information and responsibilities on the IYM; ii) providing guidance to interested countries and agencies; iii) continuing to assemble programme elements for the IYM; iv) establishing a clear strategy, priorities and timing in the period ahead. The group also agreed on the importance of developing a concept paper to clarify the overall approach, strategy and substance of the programme for the IYM, especially in view of strengthening fund raising efforts.

The next meeting of the Mountain Forum Council scheduled for September 1999 in Lima, Peru was proposed as a possible venue for a follow-up meeting where at least some members of the Inter-agency group will be present. The upcoming mountain conference planned to be held in France in June 2000 was also discussed as a possible venue for the next full meeting of the Inter-agency group.

Presenting a New Future for Mountain Research and Development

Mountain Research and Development (MRD), is the leading journal specifically devoted to the mountains, has been published since 1981. It has established itself as a renowned international publication containing well-researched, peer-reviewed scientific articles by authors from around the world. The Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, plans to formally announce the future of this journal, and a new stage in its evolution, at the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1999. To obtain an attractive brochure with more information on these developments, please contact:

MRD Editorial Office
Centre for Development and Environment
Institute of Geography
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3012 Berne

Switzerland
Tel: +41 31 631 88 22
Fax: +41 31 631 85 44
E-mail: MRD@giub.unibe.ch

Sacred Mountains Workshop: Summary

By Rex Linville from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 4 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <rexli@mountain.org>

For four days in April, 1998, The Mountain Institute hosted a workshop of thirteen sacred mountain scholars and practitioners from around the world. The full report this workshop is available on the web at:

<http://www.mtnforum.org/mtnforum/whatsnew/whatsnew.htm>.
The workshop focused on the discussions of four major topics:

1. The common themes and elements found in sacred mountain beliefs such as the linkage to place and time and the conflicts that can arise between diverse groups competing for use of a resource.
2. The linkage between spiritual beliefs, cultural identity, and conservation of natural resources.
3. The treats, issues, and challenges facing sacred mountain sites such as the lack of institutional recognition for the protection of "natural" sacred sites in contrast to manmade sacred sites.
4. Development of recommendations for linking beliefs to conservation and community development

The final report from this workshop provides information on the content of these discussions and breaks the recommendations and guidelines into the following four categories:

Policy: A variety of policy recommendations were made with perhaps the most important being the creation of a forum or institution to work as a focal point for issues relating to sacred mountains and the need for development of guidelines on appropriate methods for linking spiritual beliefs and natural resource conservation.

Research: There is a need to know more about the linkages between sacred mountain traditions, cultural conservation, and environmental preservations, an area which is unfamiliar to anthropologists and others in the scientific community. Research is needed in areas such as the development of culturally appropriate codes of conduct, conducting an inventory of sacred sites, and determining the impacts of cultural tourism on a community.

Education and Outreach. Education and outreach is needed to raise awareness among development officials, political representatives, and the general public regarding the need for preservation of environmental and cultural resources in and around sacred sites

Action Programs. A broad array of action programs were proposed during the workshop. An example of the programs recommend by the participants include programs that will lead to the; empowerment local communities to manage and protect their own sacred resources, development of legislation specifically designed to protect sacred sites, and creation of an inventory of sacred sites with input and guidance from indigenous people.

Mountain Voices: An oral testimony website under development

By Olivia Bennett from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list 12 March 1999. Contact: E-mail: <siobhann@panoslondon.org.uk>

The Panos Oral Testimony Programme is, with the Mountain Forum, in the process of designing a website which will present a collection of interviews gathered by and from communities in selected mountain and highland regions.

Background. Panos has been working with local environmental, cultural and development organisations for several years in order to collect and record these testimonies, involving local people both as narrators and interviewers. The aim is to explore the changing environment, culture and history of highland regions through the direct testimony of those who live there, and to communicate their experiences and views on development. The material which results is full of personal

and local detail; it is also anecdotal, subjective, partial, varied, contradictory, discursive, human - and often makes fascinating reading.

Panos deliberately includes and trains non-professional interviewers - capacity-building is an important part of the project. So as an information-gathering exercise, this does not pretend to be academically rigorous or scientific, but it reflects a belief that data often needs to be seen in a wider context, which includes elements of history, culture, and social custom. And it acknowledges that people's perceptions are as valuable as any more verifiable facts in gaining understanding of their societies and their priorities.

To date more than 250 interviews have been recorded in local languages, and transcribed, translated and summarised. The testimonies come from communities in the western Himalaya of India, the Cerro de Pasco region in the Peruvian Andes, Mount Elgon in Kenya, the highlands of Ethiopia and Lesotho, Nepal, and from southwest and northeast China. New collections begin this year in Oaxaca, Mexico, and southwest Poland. One other European collection is planned. Each collection is only a snapshot, and does not claim to be representative of entire mountain groups. But the range of individual voices does provide a vivid picture of highland societies, their changing physical and social environments, and their concerns for the future.

The Website. Mountain Voices will be accessible both through the Mountain Forum and the Panos websites. The site will present a mixture of media - photographs, Audio (probably) and text - and the interviews will be indexed both by location and by theme, so that the material can be explored to the full.

The main content of the site will consist of text summaries of each interview. Each summary will present a profile of

the interviewee, an overview of the interview, and a detailed page by page description of the topics covered. The site will also provide information about the areas where the testimonies were collected, and the local partner organisations involved in the project.

The testimony summaries will be accessible by region and by theme. It will be easy, for example, to look through all the summaries in the Peru collection; or all the summaries in all collections relating to the theme of 'migration'; or all the summaries that relate both to Peru and the theme of migration. Sample themes include: changes in the environment; relations with lowland people; gender; the impact of resource extraction; traditional customs.

To protect the narrators, access to the full transcripts of the interviews will be granted only on application. While all the speakers knew that their words were to reach a wider public, the reality of being exposed to a global audience over the Internet is hard to imagine in an isolated village in Garhwal. If researchers, having read the summaries, decide they would like to see the transcripts (which are unedited translations into English of the originals, including questions), it will be straightforward to make an on-line application to Panos for access.

We hope to set up an initial version of the site later this year, with interviews collected from three countries. After this launch, we will solicit feedback from users to see how we can improve the presentation of the material. In the meantime, if any subscribers to the Mountain Forum have any initial thoughts or comments about this initiative, we would very much like to hear from you. Please write to the Panos Oral Testimony Programme at this address: Fax: +44-171-278-0345. E-mail: <siobhannw@panoslondon.org.uk>



MF-GEOGRAPHY: Announcing a new thematic discussion list

By Jason Espie, Mountain Forum Moderator, from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 3 March 1999. Contact: Fax: +1-304-358-2400 E-mail: <mfmod@mtnforum.org>

We are pleased to announce that the

Mountain Forum is offering a new e-mail list which will focus on Mountain Geography. The new MF-Geography list is a joint project between the Mountain Forum and the Association of American Geographers' newly formed Mountain Geography Specialty Group (MGSG). Mountain peoples and mountain environments have long been of interest to geography and geographers. MGSG serves to foster communication, promote basic and applied research, enhance education,

and encourage service related to mountain peoples and mountain environments, and their interactions.

Due to the common interests of many members of the Mountain Forum and MGSG, the Mountain Forum has setup a new MF-Geography list. This list will not duplicate material on other Mountain Forum discussion lists (mtn-forum; mf-lac; mf-europe, etc.). MF-Geography postings will be included in the bi-weekly MF-Summary list, and all postings will be archived

on the Mountain Forum's web page <http://www.mtnforum.org>. If you would like to subscribe, just send a message to mfmod@mtforum.org with the words: subscribe mf-geography

On-Line Mountain Forum Library

The On-Line Mountain Forum Library continues to grow as member contributions flow in. It now contains nearly one thousand documents. Users can browse the library menus, or enter their own keywords to find the documents they need. In addition to the document library, almost two thousand discussion list postings have been archived on our searchable web site. For those who don't have access to the world wide web, all the documents are also available by e-mail request to the Mountain Forum Moderator. We regularly announce new additions to the library via the "Mtn-Forum" e-mail list.

The next time you have a question about sustainable development or conservation in the mountains, try searching the On-Line Mountain Forum Library at <http://www.mtnforum.org>. Keep sending us your mountain-related documents and references, too! Please note that we need copyright permission to include the full text of a document in the library. Contact the Mountain Forum Moderator at mfmod@mtforum.org or Fax: +1-304-358-2400.

Membership Survey Results

By the Mountain Forum Moderator.
Contact: Fax: +1 304-358-2400 E-mail:
mfmod@mtforum.org.

As of 15 April 1999 the Mountain Forum had 1030 registered members. Below are updated, abbreviated survey results from all Mountain Forum registrants.

Mountain Forum Members' Geographic location:

Following is a breakdown of where members currently reside, by region:

	Count	Percentage
Africa	35	3%
Asia/Pacific	270	26%
Europe	254	25%
Latin America	142	14%
North America	329	32%
Total Members:	1030	

Note: Each of the following questions permitted multiple answers, so percentages total more than 100%.

Mountain Forum Regional Networks

Following is an indication of overall members' interest by region. Many members indicated more than one regional interest.

Region	Percentage
Asia	48%
Latin America	30%
Africa	11%
Europe	28%
North America	28%
Global	30%

Members' Geographic Extent of Work:

Mountains in general:	24.8%
One mountain range or massif:	29.8%
Several mountain regions:	37.9%
One particular mountain:	3.7%

Members' Relation to Mountains:

Mountain inhabitant:	26.0%
Professional working in mountains or on mountain issues:	70.0%
Person interested in mountains:	41.0%
Visitor or user of mountains:	27.8%

Members' Principal Type of Work:

Activism	16.2%
Administration	10.2%
College or graduate studies:	18.6%
Policy development	32.5%
Project implementation	41.2%
Research	62.3%
Teaching	27.5%
Other	12.1%

Members' Institutional Affiliation:

Donor organization	4.5%
Government	10.8%
Intergovernmental organization	4.9%
No affiliation (private member)	10.8%
Non-governmental org (NGOs)	27.4%
Intl Non-governmental org (INGO)	8.4%
University or research	41.4%
Other	9.5%

Members' Access to Internet:

E-mail	91.8%
World Wide Web	66.3%

International Year of Mountains 2002 Web Pages and links on the Mountain Forum

By Ryan Bidwell, Mountain Forum Moderator, from a posting to the Mountain Forum discussion list on 12 February 1999. Contact: Fax: +1-304-358-2400 E-Mail: mfmod@mtforum.org

The Mountain Forum is pleased to announce a new section of our Web Page dedicated to the International Year of Mountains 2002. At the present this is just a simple start, which we hope to build on in the coming years. Please take some time to visit: <http://www.mtnforum.org/mtnforum/iy2002.htm>

The International Year of Mountains 2002 will prove to be little more than a name unless we chose to make something of it. Clearly this is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness and promote action for Mountains at all levels. Using this web page, The Mountain Forum hopes to help organize the list of announcements, plans and ideas which develop in the coming months. This page will be frequently updated, so check back as more plans for action begin to develop.

We are looking to you, the Mountain Forum membership, to help us build this resource. What features or information on this site would be most useful for you? Contributions need not be formal event announcements. Inspiring concepts, possible funding sources, creative ideas, etc. are also great resources for the group. Let us know what plans you may have for your local community or organization. Please send your ideas and contributions to the Mountain Forum Moderator mfmod@mtforum.org / Fax: +1-304-358-2400.

Mountain Calendar

Events That Have Taken Place Since September 1998

The events listed below were not included in previous MF bulletins. For a complete listing of past events, please see the past editions of the MF bulletin, or visit the Mountain Forum Calendar online. If you would like more information about any of these events, please contact the Mountain Forum Moderator at The Mountain Institute, P. O. Box 907, Franklin, WV 26807, USA, E-mail: <mfmod@mtnforum.org> Descriptions of calendar events are archived on the Mountain Forum website at:

<http://www.mtnforum.org/mtnforum/calendar/calendar.htm>

September 1998 Second Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories, Vladikavkaz, Russia, Contact: Frolov K.B, Vice-President of RAN, President of the Organizing Committee of the Conference, Russia, Moscow, 101830. Fax: (095) 200 42 39, 135 77 69.

6-13 September 1998 Present and Historical Nature-Culture Interactions, Prague, Czech Republic, Contact: Czech LALE Conference, Organizing Committee, Faculty of Sciences, Charles University, Benatska 2, 128 01 Praha 2, Czech Republic, Fax: +420-2-21953125. E-mail:

<cle98@prfdec.natur.cuni.cz> Website: <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/confer.htm>

7-12 September 1998 Sustainable Tourism in the Next Millennium, Kathmandu, Nepal, Contact: Head, Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal, Fax: 977 1 331319. E-mail: <cdg@wlink.com.np>

6-11 October 1998 European Forestry Commission, Marienbad, Czech Republic, Contact: Mountain Forum Moderator, Fax: +1 304 358 240. E-mail: <mfmod@mtnforum.org>

4-8 November 1998 Banff Mountain Festivals, Banff, Alberta, Canada, Contact: The Banff Centre for Mountain Culture, Box 1020, Stn. 28, Banff, Alberta, Canada T0L0C0, Fax 403.762.6277, Email: <cmc@banffcentre.ab.ca> Website: www.banffcentre.ab.ca/CMC

14-16 March 1998, Sustainable Summits: A Vision for Sustainable Moun

tain Resort Communities in the 21st Century Vail, Colorado, USA, Contact: Meredith Miller or Kirstin Leonard, Center for Resource Management, 1410 Grant Street, #C307, Denver, CO 80203, USA, Tel: 303-832-6855, Fax: 303-832-5622.

20 March 1999 4th Annual International Wildlife Law Conference, Washington DC, USA, Contact: American University's School of Law, E-mail: <jiwlp@pacbell.net> Website: <http://celink.net/~asilwildlife/index.htm>

5 April 1999, Inspiring Creative Opportunities For Our Future Well Being, Cortez, Colorado, USA. Contact: Orpha Shamoon, Conference Coordinator Tel: +1-970-564-1978, Fax: +1-970-564-1782, E-mail: <wings@fone.net>

22-25 April 1999 Ecotour '99 Moterrey, Mexico, Contact: Ana Diaz, Email: <cavewolf@intercable.net>

12 April - 14 May 1999, Mountain People, Forests, and Trees: Strategies for Balancing Local Management and Outside Interests, An electronic conference of the Mountain Forum, Contact: Mountain Forum Moderator c/o The Mountain Institute, PO Box 907, Franklin, WV 26807, USA, Fax: +1-304-358-2400, E-mail: <mfmod@mtnforum.org>

Upcoming Events

Please let us know of any upcoming events so we can include them on the Mountain Calendar (on the Mountain Forum web page and in future MF Bulletins.)

14-25 May 1999 International Festival of Central Asian Folk Crafts, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, Contact: Mamadazimov Abdugani, National Foundation "Silk Road-Road of Consolidation", 44 Aini St., Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, Fax (3772) 51-01-02 34-70-35, Email: <abdu@napst.td.silk.org>

27-28 May 1999 Philippines' First National Conference on the Science and Management of Mountain Ecosystems, Mt Makiling, Los Baños, Philippines, Contact Dr. Edwino S. Fernando, Director, Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, The University of the Philippines Los Baños, College 4031 Laguna, Philippines, Fax: + 49 536 3572, Email: <mcme@laguna.net> Website: <http://www.laguna.net/mcme>

5 April 1999 Inspiring Creative Opportunities For Our Future Well

Being, [Sustainable development in the Four Corners Region of the United States] Cortez, Colorado, USA, Contact: Orpha Shamoon, Conference Coordinator, Fax (970) 564-1782 or Email: <wings@fone.net>

14-17 June 1999 Master Planning in Torrent Watersheds - On the Base of Hazard Mapping, Rauris, Salzburg, Austria, Contact: Dr. Gernot Fiebiger or Dipl.-Ing. Erich Scheltunger, Forest Technical Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control Paracelsusstr. 4 A-5027 Salzburg, Austria Fax: +43-662-870215

22-24 June 1999 Mountain Regions of Central Asia: Sustainable Development Issues, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Contact: Organization Committee, 10 Academicians Rajabovs Prospect, Dushanbe, 734042, Republic of Tajikistan (FSU), Fax: 007 (3772) 217135, Email:

<CHIEF@tecuni2.td.silk.org>

24-27 June 1999 Problems of Ecological Stability in the East Carpathians, Sinevir National Park, Ukraine, Contact: Andriik Eva, Golovposhtamt a/s # 12B, Uzhgorod 294000 Ukraine, Phone: (03122) 3 23 54, E-mail:

<kolesnyk@hades.univ.uzhgorod.ua>

2-4 July 1999 The General assembly of the European Mountain Forum Françoise Mees, European Mountain Forum, 28 rue Mauverney, CH 1196 Gland, Switzerland, Tel: 00 41 22 999 02 24, Fax 00 41 22 999 00 20, E-mail:

<europe@mtnforum.org>

4-9 July 1999 The Ninth Gender and Science and Technology Conference, Accra, Ghana, Contact: Mamaa Entsua-Mensah by Email:

<mamaa@libr.ug.edu.gh>

4-11 July 1999 Tourism, Sustainability and Territorial Organisation, Faro, Portugal, Contact: Webpage: <http://www.ualg.pt/ucee/cider/european.htm>

07-10 July 1999 Local Agenda 21: Through Case Method Research and Teaching Towards Sustainable Future, Kaunas, Lithuania, Contact: Dr. Timi Ecimovic, Head of SEM Institute for Climate Change, Zadruzna 9, SI-1218 Komenda, Slovenia, Phone/Fax: + 386 61 841 325, Email:

<timi.ecimovic@siol.net>

6-10 September 1999 Structure of Mountain Forests - Assessment, Impacts, Management, Modelling, Davos, Switzerland, Contact: Walter Schoenenberger, Section Mountain For

ests, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL). E-mail: <walter.schoenenberger@wsl.ch> Website: <http://www.wsl.ch/hazards/rotten/gwbE.html>

9-11 September 1999 Conference on Displacement, Forced Settlement and Conservation, University of Oxford, UK, Contact: Dawn Chatty, Refugee Studies Programme, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3LA, Fax +44(0)1865 270721, Email: <dawn.chatty@qeh.ox.ac.uk>

16-19 September 1999 Local development - new businesses - rural women: Strategies and practice, Stjørdal, Norway, Contact: Mr Magnar Forbord, Centre for Rural Research, Fax. +47 73 59 12 75, Email: <magnar.forbord@allforsk.ntnu.no>

14-17 October 1999 Gender and Rural Transformations in Europe: Past, Present and Future Prospects, Wageningen, The Netherlands, Contact: Margreet van der Burg, Conference Coordinator, Gender Studies in Agriculture, Hollandseweg 1, NL-6706 KN Wageningen, The Netherlands, Fax: ++31 317 485477 Email: <Gender.Conf@alg.vsl.wau.nl>

22-23 March 2000 Hydrology in Scotland: Agenda for the 21st Century, University of Dundee, Scotland, Contact: Dr Richard Johnson, Convenor, Mountain Environments, 31 Lagrannoch Drive, Callander FK17 8DW, Fax: 0044 1877 331020, Email: <rcjohnson9@aol.com>

5-12 June 2000 World Mountain Forum / Forum Mondial sur la Montagne

Paris, Chambéry, and the French Alps, Contact: Monique Marchal, Hôtel de ville - BP 1105, F 73011 CHAMBERY, Tél: +33 (0)4-79-60-21-01 Fax: +33 (0)4-79-60-20-74 E-mail: <forum@mairie-chambery.fr>

26-30 June 2000 8th International Symposium on Landslides, Cardiff, UK, Contact: Professor Eddie Bromhead, Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, School of Civil Engineering, Kingston University, UK, E-mail: <e.bromhead@kingston.ac.uk> Website: http://www.king.ac.uk/~ce_s011/isl8-001.htm

July 2000 Third Millennium Festival in Mt Blanc, Passy, Chamonix valley, France, Contact: Joel Jenin, E-mail: <jjenin@hol.fr>

Invite a colleague to join the Mountain Forum!

Please help us reach more people interested in equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development. Membership in the Mountain Forum is free of charge, and is completely open. You do not need e-mail to be a member, nor do you have to be a member to participate in the e-mail discussion lists. But to receive the printed bulletins and member directories you need to submit a registration form and survey to one of the regional contacts. You can also register online via our World Wide Web site at: <http://www.mtnforum.org>. Please invite any interested colleague to contact any of the Mountain Forum's coordinators listed on page 2 to register.

Tell us about your work!

Please help the Mountain Forum to make information widely available to the mountain community. Send us any mountain related references, documents, and publications lists. Let us know which information sources have been most useful to you in your work or research. Tell us about upcoming events, or share an anecdote about sustainable mountain development or mountain conservation. If you can send your information by e-mail or on disk, we can get it quickly into the network. We also welcome paper contributions, and we will do our best to summarize or scan them.



The Mountain Forum is a global network of non-governmental, governmental, intergovernmental, scientific, and private sector organizations and individuals working for or living in mountain environments. Its purpose is to provide a forum for mutual support and the exchange of ideas and experiences. The overall goal of the Mountain Forum is to empower participants to raise mountain issues on local, regional, national and international agendas and to promote policies and actions for equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development and conservation.