

# Mountain Protected Areas UPDATE



December 2023 # 120



Clouds rise above forests in the Eastern Arc's Usambara Mountains  
photo: *Marije Schaafsma (Mongabay)*

## A note from the editor

Welcome to the 120th Mountain UPDATE. This edition is a real mixed bag of mountain stories, from World Heritage Sites to tiny high altitude Andean leaf-eared mice.

The Update finishes with a cynical cartoon assessment of COP28 climate talks so far...lets hope it's more satire than truth. Regrettably it seems the COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber did say there is "no science" indicating that phasing out fossil fuels is necessary to restrict global heating to 1.5°C. The IPCC and scientific community clearly think otherwise.

The climate crisis is having real time influences across the globe but mountain biodiversity and mountain peoples (both high in the mountains and downstream) will be/are disproportionately impacted. The ICIMOD Director General, Pema Gyamtsho, speaks with eloquence and urgency on this matter.

Finally 'happy' International Mountain Day for 11 December—whatever the situation the beauty of mountains remains worthy of celebration and reflection.

*5 December 2023*

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### Mountain SG Committee

Mountain Update is a quarterly newsletter distributed to members of the Mountain Protected Areas Network.

The Mountain Specialist Group acknowledges the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters where we live and work and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship they have to Country.

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

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## Global

### World Heritage Mountains



From Dr Peter Howard [MOUNTAINS | Natural World Heritage Sites](#)

Mountains feature prominently on the world heritage list, with 40 sites falling within this category. To some extent this reflects the fact that mountains are difficult places to live, so natural habitats have persisted for much longer here than in areas that could be settled more easily. It has consequently been relatively easy to establish parks and reserves in mountain areas during the modern era, and ultimately inscribe them on the world heritage list.

It is perhaps surprising that only two or three of the Seven Summits (the highest peaks on each continent) are included in the world heritage list. So while Mount Everest (8848m) and Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m) are inscribed, Mount Aconcagua (6961m), as South America's highest peak, Mount Denali (6194m) in North America, Mount Elbrus (5642m) and Mont Blanc (4810m) (as European alternatives) and Mount Vinson (4892m) in Antarctica are not included.



Toward Mount Denali, USA Photo: *peopleinnature*



Toward Mont Blanc, France Photo: *peopleinnature*

Many of the world's most prominent mountain ranges – including the Himalayas, Rockies, Andes, Alps and Urals – owe their origins to the collision of the Earth's tectonic plates. Other mountains have arisen through fracturing of the Earth's crust, creating faults such as Africa's Great Rift Valley. Such fracturing may allow rock to be forced upwards in large blocks (such as the Rwenzori Mountains), or cause the build-up in pressure of magma below the surface, eventually spilling out over the younger rocks above as a volcano. These mountain building processes have contributed to a great diversity of land forms amongst the mountains on the world heritage list.

The Himalayas are by far the world's highest mountain range with 14 peaks above 8,000m (peaks on other continents are all below 7,000m). Four natural world heritage sites are found in the Himalayas, with similar numbers in North America's Rocky Mountains and South America's Andean mountain chain. The Swiss Alps and Italian Dolomites are listed, as well as the Pyrenees site of Mont Perdu. Elsewhere, sites in Africa include areas associated with the Great Rift Valley (Virunga, the Rwenzoris); great escarpments of basaltic cliffs derived from ancient lava flows (Simien and the Maloti-Drakensberg) or relatively recent free-standing volcanoes (Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya).

### International Mountain Day 2023 11 December

Restoring mountain ecosystems is the theme of this year's [International Mountain Day](#) on 11 December. This theme was selected to fully include mountains in the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030](#), co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN Environment Programme. The Decade is an opportunity to draw together political support, scientific research and financial resources to significantly scale-up restoration and prevent further degradation of mountain ecosystems.

# America—north

## *Fat Bear Week camera helps rescue hiker: Katmai National Park, Alaska*



Dumpling Overlook, Katmai National Park photo: NPS

From US NPS, The Guardian & Washington Post September 2023

**Wildlife enthusiasts** tuned into the Dumpling Mountain live camera hoping to catch a glimpse of the brown bears at Katmai National Park and Preserve. Instead, all they could see was a desolate mountainside shrouded in a thick mist.

The scene was one the most remote parks in the United States, accessible only by plane or boat, so it was a surprise when a soaked hiker entered the frame and paused in front of the camera. Although there was no live audio, he seemed to say “lost” and “help me” several times, according to commenters who said they were able to read his lips. This sparked a chain of events that ended with the safe recovery of the unknown hiker by search and rescue teams, according to rangers.

“Dedicated bear cam fans alerted us to a man in distress on Dumpling Mountain. The heroic rangers sprang into action and mounted a search, saving the man,” Explore.org, the company that operates webcams for the US National Park Service (NPS), posted to X, formerly known as Twitter.

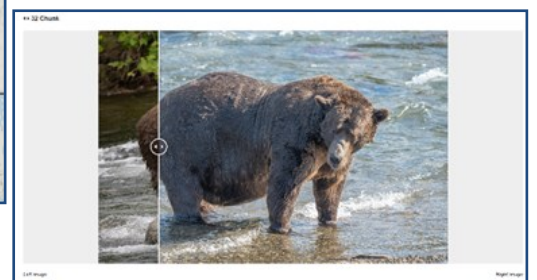
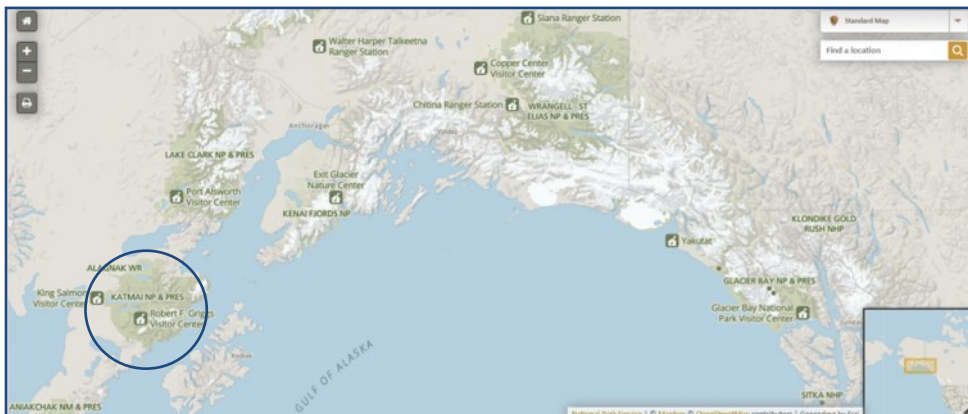
“That was a first for the bear cams for sure,” said Mike Fitz, a resident naturalist with Explore.org and creator of **Fat Bear Week** — an online ‘game’ measuring the pre-hibernation preparation of Katmai bears that has brought the park fame in recent years.

### What is [Fat Bear Week](#)?

**Fat Bear Week is a celebration of success and survival.** It is a way to celebrate the resilience, adaptability and strength of Katmai’s brown bears.

Bears are matched against each other in a tournament style competition and online visitors can vote on which bear is ultimately crowned the Fat Bear Week 2023 Champion.

Over the course of the week in October, virtual visitors learn more about the lives and histories of individual bears while also gaining a greater understanding of Katmai’s ecosystem through a series of live events hosted on explore.org.



## America—south

*Mice at 6700 meters—higher than mammals were thought able to live!*



summit of Volcán Salín (6029 meters) where researchers found mummified leaf-eared mice

**From Science News October 2023 doi: 10.1126/science.adl5261**

Few places are as inhospitable as the top of Lullailaco, a 6700-meter volcano on the border between **Chile and Argentina**. Winds howl nonstop and no plants live there; daytime temperatures never get above freezing and plummet even more come nightfall. Oxygen levels are just 40% of those at sea level, too low for mammals to live there —or so biologists thought until 3 years ago when a research team captured a live leaf-eared mouse at its summit.

Now new work shows this animal was not a fluke. The team has found other leaf-eared mice on additional volcano tops, and genomic studies of these summit dwellers and their lower elevation relatives confirm the rodents make their homes nearly 7000 meters above sea level, making them the highest dwelling vertebrate found so far. (Some birds soar higher but appear not to dwell at those elevations.) The team has also come across five other mouse species living above 5000 meters on various mountains in the Central Andes.

The cold temperatures and low oxygen associated with high altitudes have long been thought to set a limit on the heights where cold-blooded and even warm-blooded animals can permanently live. “Mammals in general are not very good at dealing with low oxygen environments,” says Catherine Ivy, a comparative physiologist at the University of Western Ontario. They require oxygen to convert food into energy and the colder the environment, the more energy they need.

So, whereas a 1000-kilogram hairy yak can thrive at 5000 meters, small animals living at those heights shed heat faster and were expected to have trouble generating enough energy to keep warm, says Sahas Barve, an evolutionary ecologist at Archbold Biological Station. (The previous elevation record holder for mammals was pikas, a rabbit relative, found nearly 6200 meters up on Mount Everest a century ago).

Read whole article [HERE](#)



Andean leaf-eared mice, *Phyllotis vaccarum*, surprised researchers by living above 6000 meters. Photos: Marcial Quiroga-Carmona

The [genomic results and other evidence](#) reported in *Current Biology* “lay to rest any doubt that mammals live at these really extreme altitudes,” says Grant McClelland, a comparative physiologist at McMaster University who was not involved with the work. “It expands our understanding of the environmental limits of animals, especially mammals.”

Whatever their adaptations, “I might add leaf-eared mice to my list of ‘extremophiles’ normally reserved for microorganisms,” McClelland says. Their existence shows it’s important “to not underestimate the capacity for species to invade and adapt to seemingly inhospitable environments.”

# Africa

## Unique Plant Haven: Ovahimba mountains Namibia & Angola



Ovahimba mountain range, Kaokoveld region photo: Vera De Cauwer

Taken from *The Conversation* October 2023— Associate Professor Natural Resource Management, Namibia University of Science and Technology

The Kaokoveld region, covering north-western Namibia and south-western Angola, is one of the remotest areas in southern Africa. Although it's extremely dry, it is a centre of species endemism: many species occur only there and nowhere else on

New species continue to be found, especially in the Ovahimba mountain range, which runs parallel to the cold Atlantic ocean and is separated from it by the gravel plains and dunes of the northern Namib Desert.

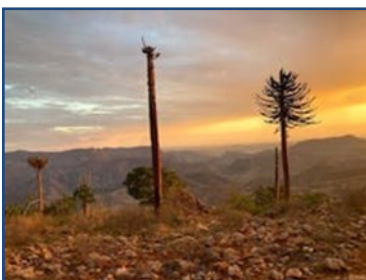
The highest mountain peaks of this range are so inhospitable and difficult to access, because of the lack of roads and water, that few have ever scaled them. The exceptions are local herders of the semi-nomadic Himba, who drive their cattle and goats to richer pastures in the mountains during dry periods.

In 2021, a team of researchers from Namibia and Angola investigated the biodiversity and endemism on three of the most remote peaks. They hypothesised that the mountain peaks harboured a large number of species, especially plants, insects and reptiles. That's because there's a rapid change in climate and topography (land features) from the hyper-arid, cool desert near the coast and the arid and seasonally warmer plains further inland to the cooler mountainous escarpment.

Through an EU-funded transfrontier conservation project, SCIONA, they had the opportunity to use the only safe option to get to the Ovahimba mountain peaks: a helicopter. Two were in Angola – Serra Cafema and Serra Tchamalindi in Iona National Park – and one was in the Otjihipa range of Namibia. The mountain tops were selected based on their altitude and remoteness. They also have many ecological niches based on exposure to wind and sun.

Of the 285 plant species encountered, 34 species are endemic to the Kaokoveld. One is new to science and at least six endemics fall in the endangered IUCN red list category. Sixteen plant species that were previously known only from Namibia were found in Angola. Also recorded were two bird species, the Cape Eagle Owl and Layard's Warbler, in Angola for the first time.

**These mountain flora deserve priority conservation efforts to protect endemic and other plants that have survived in these refuge sites, providing a habitat for some unique fauna.**



*Euphorbia eduardoi*  
Otihipa photos: Vera de Cauwer



Plant biodiversity on Serra Cafema- 56 species per 1,000m<sup>2</sup>



### Protecting biodiversity

There is no doubt that yet more unusual and interesting plants and animals are waiting to be discovered on these inaccessible peaks, especially because the visit took place after 10 years of drought.

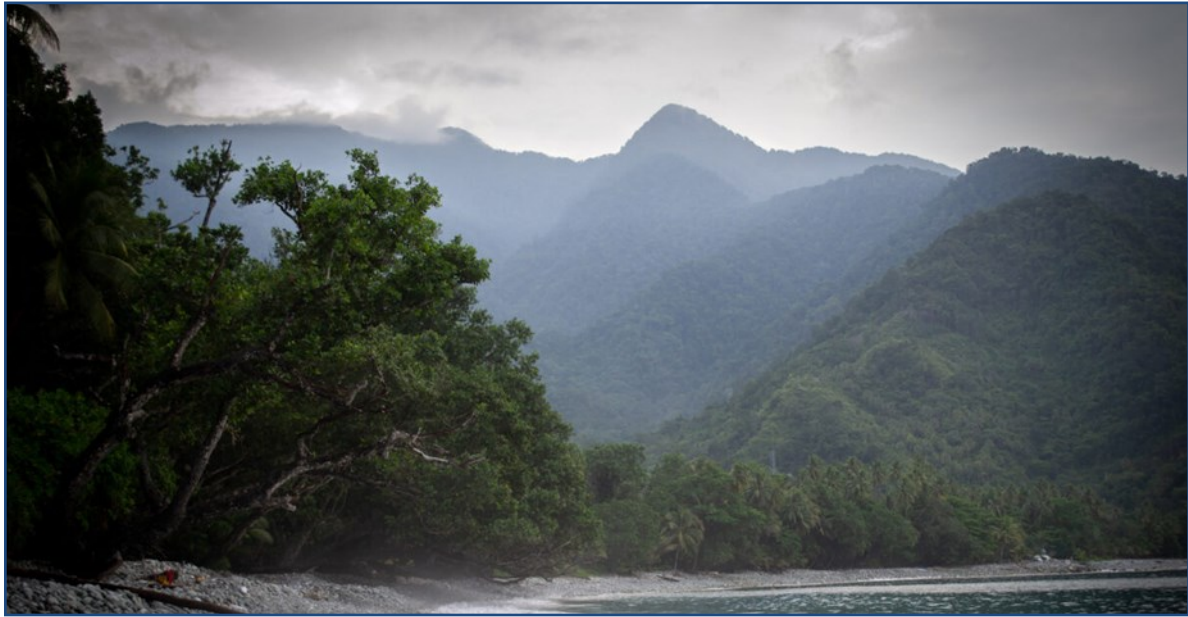
However, the survey did show that the plants here need protection. They are threatened by climate change and overgrazing by livestock.

Management of the Ovahimba highlands is in the hands of Namibian communal conservancies, the NGO African Parks and the Namibian and Angolan governments.

African Parks recently took over management of Iona National Park, which may offer opportunities to protect the mountain habitats.

# Oceania

## Rediscovery of egg laying mammal: Cyclops Mountains, Papua



The Cyclops Mountains, Indonesia's Papua region *photo: Expedition Cyclops*

### **From Mongabay November 2028**

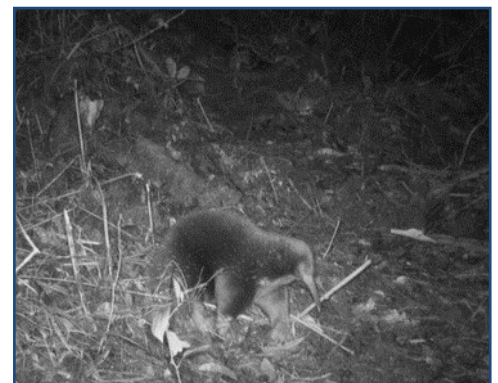
Read whole article [Collaboration key to rediscovery of egg-laying mammal in Papua's Cyclops Mountains](#)

Collaboration between international and local researchers, conservation authorities, NGOs and Indigenous groups was key to the success of an expedition in Indonesia's Cyclops Mountains that uncovered new sightings of a rare egg-laying mammal and multiple unidentified species.

"I think the trust between the expedition team and the community was important in the success of the expedition, and a lack of trust may have contributed to former searches being less successful," said University of Oxford researcher James Kempton who proposed the expedition in 2019.

The highlight of the expedition was camera-trap images of Attenborough's long-beaked echidna, distantly related to the platypus, which scientists hadn't seen since 1961 and which they'd long feared was extinct.

The expedition also found the Mayr's honeyeater, which scientists haven't seen since 2008; an entirely new genus of tree-dwelling shrimp; countless new species of insects; and a previously unknown cave system.



Attenborough's long-beaked echidna, photographed by a camera trap in the Cyclops Mountains. *photo: Expedition Cyclops*



### Cyclops Nature Reserve | Cyclop Mountains

The Cyclop Mountains are a relatively small range of high mountains (highest peak 2158 m) in the Northeast of Papua. It is an official National Park, but it is unclear where this park begins or where it ends. *Trek Papua web*

# Europe

## *Brown Bears in Europe*



***From European Wilderness Society (EWS) News October 2023***

The current brown bear population in Europe (outside Russia) is estimated to be around 17,000 individuals. Populations are scattered across several countries. The largest single population outside Russia around 5,000 to 6,000 of these animals is likely in the Carpathian Mountains part of Romania.

Approximately 2000 years ago, the original brown bear population in Europe was much larger, with estimates ranging from tens of thousands to over 100,000 individuals. However, habitat loss and hunting in the following centuries, have significantly reduced their numbers. This process resulted in the smaller current population across the continent.

The extinction of brown bears in the western part of Europe can be attributed to a combination of factors, primarily habitat loss and extensive hunting. Over centuries, widespread deforestation and the expansion of agriculture and urban areas drastically reduced bear habitats. Additionally, bears were hunted relentlessly due to threats to livestock, human safety concerns, and the demand for their pelts and body parts.



Bear poaching is still a serious problem in some countries. Its cause is primarily the illegal trade in bear trophies as well as various parts of bears for the needs of traditional medicine. A special issue is bear trophies on the black market.

Currently, brown bears are protected in most European countries due to their vulnerability. They also serve as a flagship species for the protection of biodiversity. By protecting the brown bear and its habitats, these countries contribute to broader conservation efforts.

A brown bear compensation system is a mechanism established by some countries or regions to compensate farmers or livestock owners for any losses incurred due to brown bear predation on their livestock

# Himalayas—Central Asia

*Human stakes: climate change in glaciers & direct population impact*

*From ICIMOD November 2023*

ICIMOD Director General, Pema Gyamtsho, addressed the November high-level opening session of the **first global summit on Earth’s mountain glaciers and poles.**

“The cryosphere of the Hindu Kush Himalaya is a critically important water source for one of the world’s most populous and most biodiverse regions. We need immediate action from world leaders to make good on their commitments to limit temperature rise from fossil fuels and deforestation,” said Pema Gyamtsho, ICIMOD Director General. “And, given its extraordinary level of exposure to climate impacts, this region simply must be prioritised for investment: to support the millions that will be forced to move as we hit the hard limits to adaptation, to fund the fight to reverse nature loss and species extinction, and to turbo-charge the transition to renewables.”

ICIMOD’s attendance at the One Planet Polar Summit follows the recent visit of the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres to Nepal to witness the rapid retreat of the cryosphere. Guterres issued an emotional call to the world to “stop the madness” of continued fossil fuel use, in order to protect glaciers in the Himalayas and around the world. He said, “We must act now to...limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, to avert the worst of climate chaos. The world can’t wait.”

The focus on high mountain areas and the polar regions at the One Planet Polar Summit comes at a critical moment ahead of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP28 when the international cryosphere community will call on global leaders to enshrine 1.5°C in the Cover Decision.

## Early Warning for ALL *From ICIMOD October 2023*

The economic price of climate-driven storms, floods, heatwaves and droughts has been calculated for the first time—and found to have already, over the course of the last two decades, cost humanity, collectively, \$16m an hour. Two-thirds of the costs were due to loss of life. The rest, to property and other assets.

These are not mere statistics to the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Already, across our region this year, families have borne unbearable losses due to climate disasters. Hundreds of lives have been lost. Many more have been turned upside down as homes, crops, possessions have been lost in devastating floods and landslides. Most recently, last week’s flood of the Teesta River in Sikkim caused by a glacial lake outburst served as a stark reminder that nature’s fury knows no bounds.



### **India News October 2023**

In merely 10 seconds, the 60-metre-high dam of the Teesta III hydropower project was completely washed away by floods originating from the South Lhonak Lake. The project took two decades to complete.

The detailed study, *Future Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) hazard of the South Lhonak Lake, Sikkim Himalaya*, highlighted that South Lhonak Lake had witnessed a significant increase in lake growth in the past decades due to glacial retreat, thereby increasing its chances of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF).

Larger questions have also emerged regarding the ecological sensitivity of the glacial regions around Sikkim, their susceptibility to extreme weather events, rapid infrastructure creation, and the lack of climate adaptation efforts.



## Scree and Talus

### Aboriginal values & wilderness fundamental to World Heritage Area From *Tasmanian National Parks Association* September 2023

Conservation groups welcome the new [Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#) for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) of Lutruwita/Tasmania, Australia. The Statement, provided by the Australian government, was approved by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in Saudi Arabia.

World Heritage properties are required to provide a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value if they were inscribed as a World Heritage property before 2007. The TWWHA was inscribed in 1982.



Arthur Range, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area photo: *Grant Dixon*

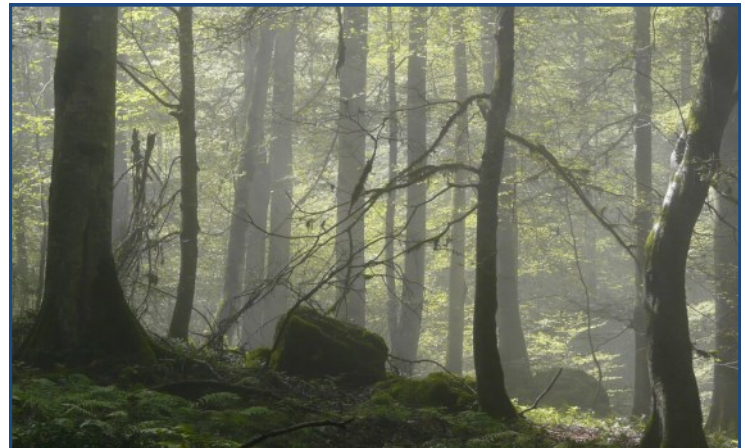
**This new statement makes clear that the Tasmanian wilderness area’s outstanding cultural and natural values are intertwined as “one of the world’s largest and most spectacular temperate wilderness areas and a precious cultural landscape for Tasmanian Aboriginal people”.**

### more World Heritage News From *IUCN* September 2023

There is a 29% increase in [World Heritage](#) areas globally followed advice from IUCN, in a major set of new commitments for the conservation of geological heritage and biodiversity under the World Heritage Convention at its current meeting in Saudi Arabia. The World Heritage List now covers 266 sites encompassing 476.8 million hectares, strictly protected for their natural values. The Committee inscribed 12 new World Heritage sites for their natural values, evaluated by IUCN.



Sanetti Plateau, Bale Mountains NP, Ethiopia’s newly inscribed natural WH Site Photo: *Daniel Rosengren (UNESCO)*



Hyrcanian Forests, Iran extended to Azerbaijan, adding highly valuable ancient forests straddling the Caspian Sea Photo: *Fariba*

### Review of climate change impact on biodiversity: Hindu Kush Himalaya From *Nakul Chettri ICIMOD*

This review is an open access paper and can be accessed [here](#). Key highlights from the paper are:

Climate change is emerging as a major driver of change for biodiversity loss in the HKH.

The increasing trend of research on climate change and biodiversity is influenced by global discourses and realization but with decreasing priorities to vulnerable ecosystems such as wetlands.

The research priorities changed over the period from climate science and biodiversity to impact, vulnerability, and adaptation.

Multidisciplinary and collaborative research are emerging with 56 countries collaborating in the HKH research – but with less collaboration among the HKH countries.

Large portion of research is from Tibetan plateau and less attention to the countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar.

## Scree and Talus cont.

### [Centuries-old tree being trucked through Hobart \(Australia\) CBD](#)

*From The Guardian October 2023*

A photo of a centuries-old tree on the back of a truck being driven through the centre of Hobart has prompted fresh calls for laws to be changed to protect Tasmania's native forests from logging.

It is the latest in a series of pictures of large trees being hauled on the state's roads in recent months.

The Bob Brown Foundation's campaign manager, said it was legal under state and national law to fell the tree pictured on the truck, believed to be [Eucalyptus regnans](#) and estimated to be approaching 3 metres in diameter at breast height and at least 200 years old.



The image of the logging truck on the city's main south-north thoroughfare, was posted online by the Bob Brown Foundation, an environment group

### [Mining stakes claim as glaciers retreat](#) *SCIENCE* NOV 2023 VOL 382, ISSUE 6673 DOI: [10.1126/science.adj49](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adj49)

As climate change warms Earth, the melting cryosphere creates nascent ecosystems that have future value as habitat but that are also the frontlines for resource extraction. For example, glacier retreat uncovers rivers and valleys that go through rapid ecological succession to provide new habitats for important species, such as moose and Pacific salmon.

However, mining companies are looking to retreating glaciers for newly exposed mineral deposits. This proglacial mining is a global pressure, from Greenland to Kyrgyzstan to western Canada. Yet environmental and mining policies might fail to consider the future ecological value and capacity of emerging habitats.

These issues are illustrated by exploring the overlap of glacial retreat, Pacific salmon future habitats, and mining pressures in western Canada and southern Alaska. Stewardship of glacierized landscapes, and other ecosystems that are being transformed by climate change, urgently need forward-looking science and environmental policy.

### [Ancestral Forests, Aceh](#) *From Mongabay October 2023*

The Indonesian government has recognized 22,549 hectares of ancestral forests in Aceh, on the northern tip of Sumatra — the first time for the region.

In total, Indigenous communities in Aceh seek recognition of 144,497 hectares of customary forests, and thus activists are calling for the government to recognize the rest of the forests.

The communities welcome the recognition, saying it will give them legal protection to manage their forests in a sustainable manner.



Gunung Leuser National Park, Aceh

### [Indigenous Youth discuss Mountain Solutions](#) *Taken from Mountain Partnership News October 2023*

Indigenous youth from mountain regions worldwide convened to exchange insights on opportunities and solutions at a side event held during the [United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum](#) on 18 October 2023.

The side event "Mountain Youth Hub: Elevating Indigenous youth voices for a better mountain future" was facilitated by the Mountain Partnership (MP) to launch the newly established [Mountain Youth Hub](#).

### [Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains](#) *Taken from Mongabay October 2023*

Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains, home to nearly 5,000 different plant species and dozens of amphibians unique to each isolated massif, provide the world with ecosystem services worth more than \$8 billion, a group of international scientists says.

But the challenge lies in translating more of the value of intact forest landscape there into benefits for the more than two million people who live around the mountains, many of them farmers who are expanding their fields into the forests.

Read Mongabay article about the 10 year collaborative study [Here](#)



## Tools, Publications & other media

Following are a number of short video clips—two interesting ones from Alparc to begin.

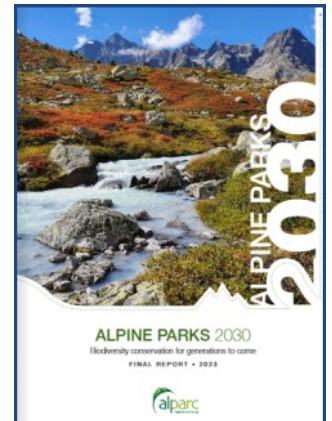
### [Alpine Parks 2030](#) from Alparc

*Alpine Parks 2030* is our most recent physical publication, showing biodiversity protection efforts across different Protected Areas of the Alps, big or small.

The volume is a comprehensive assessment of the state of Alpine Protected Areas (APAs) in the form of data and scenarios, as well as thoughts on how to address the challenges of consolidating the network of nature protection in the Alpine region. It serves as a timely Alpine contribution to the international discussions and developments in the field of biodiversity.

We offer an online version of this report, which you can access [here](#).

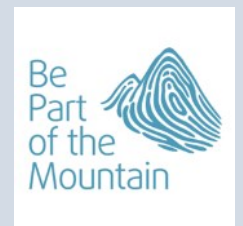
If you would like to see our short movie clip: Alpine Parks 2030, click [here](#) for the English version (we also offer the clip in [German](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), and [Slovenian](#)).



### [Be Part of the Mountain](#) ALPARC November 2023

Although many organizations and public bodies in the Alpine countries have long been engaged in awareness-raising communication, wildlife disturbance and its impacts are still a major concern in many areas. To increase the awareness of the problem among outdoor participants and contribute to the visibility of the many existing initiatives, ALPARC has developed the joint communication initiative: 'Be Part of the Mountain', which is due to launch its Winter campaign!

To learn more, watch clip [here](#), and check out our web [Be Part of the Mountain website](#)



### [Connectivity Animation](#) From *Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group*

The [Wildlife Connect](#) team has developed an explainer animation on what ecological connectivity of landscapes is and what losing it means for the future of our planet. It also shows what the initiative is doing to maintain or increase connectivity, ensuring viable wildlife populations, ecosystem services, resilience to climate change, and human well-being.

Please find [here](#) the English version and [here](#) the Spanish one. Coming soon in Swahili, Nepali and Portuguese!

### [How can knowledge support restoration & conservation of mountain ecosystems?](#) MRD Talk #06 6 December 2023, 17:00 CET/UTC+1, on Zoom

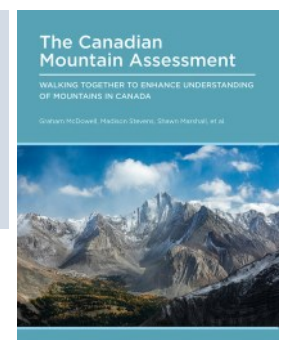
Conserving and restoring mountain landscape functions is an important focus of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. MRD Talk #06 aims to contribute to this global effort. An MRD author and three other panelists will provide insights into how their work supports evidence-informed restoration of mountain landscapes for resilient mountain communities. In a discussion among all participants, we will explore how such transformative knowledge is best generated, shared, and put into action. [Read more and register](#)

### [Mountain Innovation Fair 2023](#)

Due to their remoteness, harsh environment, exposure to natural hazards, and changing climate, it has always been vital that people living in mountain areas are able to maintain their livelihoods and constantly adapt to their environments and to do so, new solutions are constantly being developed and implemented. In this way, challenging living conditions have the power to become drivers of innovation. In October, Eurac Research hosted the Mountain Innovation Fair 2023 with the aim of creating an interactive workspace where people from all over the world could share the challenges and successes of innovative approaches in mountain areas.

### *University of Calgary* <https://ucp.manifoldapp.org/read/the-canadian-mountain-assessment>

*The Canadian Mountain Assessment* is a groundbreaking work of knowledge co-creation that showcases the diversity and significance of mountain areas in Canada, clarifies challenges and opportunities facing mountain systems, and will inform and inspire future mountain-focused research, policy, and action.



Looking for Mountain Research and many other excellent tools and publications? The Mountain Update has only a very tiny selection!

Try [Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment \(GMBA\)](#), [Mountain Research Initiative](#), [ICIMOD](#) and [Mountain Partnership](#)—to mention a just few great sources of mountain information!

## Important links

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas for an outline of the role of Mountain Specialist Group [WCPA Mountain Specialist Group](#)

Please go to [https://youtu.be/ NuY89TWscl](https://youtu.be/NuY89TWscl) a short video of Protecting Mountains IUCN WCC presentation by Peter Jacobs (Chair Mountain Specialist Group).

## Some events of interest

[Events - MRI - Mountain Research Initiative](#)

Mountain Partnerships Events [Here](#)

WCPA Mountain Specialist Group Committee		
Executive Committee	Name	Email
Chair	Peter Jacobs	<a href="mailto:Buffalo_springs@bigpond.com">Buffalo_springs@bigpond.com</a>
	Patrizia Rossi	<a href="mailto:patriziarossi.rossi@gmail.com">patriziarossi.rossi@gmail.com</a>
	Mike Tollefson	<a href="mailto:miketollefson1@gmail.com">miketollefson1@gmail.com</a>
	Fausto Sarmiento	<a href="mailto:fsarmien@uga.edu">fsarmien@uga.edu</a>
Editor Mountain Update	Gillian Anderson	<a href="mailto:peopleinnature@bigpond.com">peopleinnature@bigpond.com</a>
WCPA Regional Representatives	Name	Email
Southern Africa (Eastern & Southern)	Clinton Carbutt	<a href="mailto:CARBUTTC@ukzn.ac.za">CARBUTTC@ukzn.ac.za</a>
West and Central Africa	Sonigitu Ekpe	<a href="mailto:sonigitu.ekpe@graduateinstitute.ch">sonigitu.ekpe@graduateinstitute.ch</a>
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While Mountain Network members can choose not to be WCPA members and still be involved and receive the Mountain UPDATE, the WCPA Chair, and Mountain Specialist Group Executive and would like to encourage all to become WCPA members. This helps to secure good governance and management of the WCPA and the Mountains Group and enlightens all members to the wider activities of the WCPA.

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Welcome to PENGUINTV

COP28! Finally the world is going to do something about climate change.

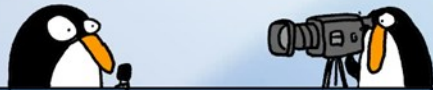
Just a moment I'm being handed a note...



COP28 already? I'm still recovering from the glittering spectacle that was COP27.



Things are getting warmer (globally) so getting effective decisions out of COP28 is critical the closer we get to the consequences of governments not following through on the decisions made at all the previous COPS



This year they are trying something different. The president of COP28 is none other than Sultan Al Jaber CEO of the UAE State Oil Company. If you want an expert this guy knows fossil fuels. No prizes for guessing how it is turning out though.

COP28



There is no science behind demands for phasing out fossil fuels



He also said if you want those responsible for the emissions to change you must include them in the process. You must bring the fossil fuel companies to the table.

Fossil fuel companies at the table...

All those in favour of making record breaking profits again next year?



Concerns were also expressed when it was discovered that the UAE planned to use COP28 as an opportunity to negotiate literal actual oil deals.

But those countries are already here! It would be a waste not to - think of all the jet emissions we are saving. So green!

We already made the t-shirts!



Australia is here of course

Sorry we're late - We've been flat out approving a huge gas thingy in the NT

Woah is that the time? Can't stay gotta go open some more coal mines.

Also there's a couple of climate protesters who aren't in jail yet so no rest for the wicked as they say!

Seeyas

COP28 AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION

EXIT



Were the annual COPS ever going to result in real action on climate change?

Who knows. But any time there's a chance of global consensus on climate, fossil fuelists will always try to ruin everyone's non-apocalyptic picnic fun. They're so mean.



Taken from The Guardian @ First Dog On The Moon

First dog on the moon