



this issue

Earth Day 2012: Mountains witnesses of global change **P.1**

Messner, first mountain Ambassador: Encountering the mountains **P.2**

When men and mountains meet **P.3**

International Conference on Mountain Countries **P.4**

MOUNTAINS and Earth Day

While people of all nationalities and backgrounds were voicing their appreciation for the planet demanding its protection...

Europe

...the University of Zurich reported the negative effects climate change is having on the Matterhorn.

Source

Pakistan

...Pakistan has launched its first climate change adaptation project aimed at tackling the threats communities face from "mountain tsunamis" in the country's northern mountains.

Source

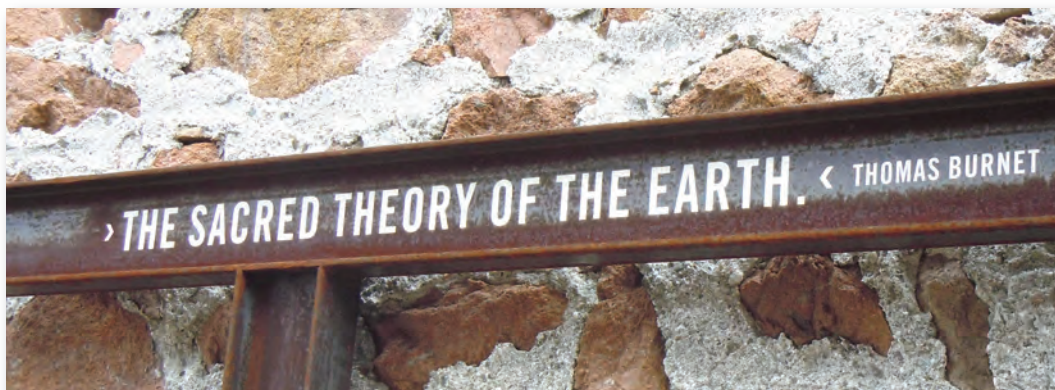
Asia

...a group of Asian glaciers have gained mass but remain a global anomaly, according to new research published in Nature Geoscience.

Source

Earth Day 2012

Mountains witnesses of global change



A quote from the Mountain Messner Museum in Firmian Castle (Italy)

Earth Day 2012, whose theme was Mobilize The Earth, will serve as a springboard for a final sprint to the UN Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) this June

On 22 April 2012, more than one billion people around the globe participated in Earth Day 2012 and helped "Mobilize the Earth".

Celebrities are pledging acts of green and the Mountain Partnership has found its first Ambassador in mountaineer, former politician, farmer and explorer Reinhold Messner.

"Great things occur when men and mountains meet", were we reminded in an exclusive interview that will be launched in Rio. Indeed, mountains are witnesses of global change and assets for "the future we want". Carbon credits, payments for watershed protection, sustainable ecotourism, wildlife monitoring... these are just some of the ways we can create a cutting edge model of community-based mountain conservation. Once conservation meant protecting the Earth *from* the people. In the 21st century conservation is dealing *with* the people's needs and development.

OLMAN SERRANO
MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT COORDINATOR



Mountains in UN “harmony with nature” event

To mark International Mother Earth Day, the United Nations General Assembly held an interactive dialogue on **harmony with nature** on 18 April 2012 at UN Headquarters to examine how human activity has affected the regenerative capacity of the planet. “As we get closer to Rio+20, we must keep the Earth in full view when making decisions and taking actions shifting from a self-centered to an Earth-centered approach,” Mr Sha told participants. “Our success and wealth must be measured by the balance we create between ourselves and the world around us; that is, by our ability to live in harmony with nature.”

Active Remedy Ltd., a recent member of the Mountain Partnership, have formulated a method for doing this. It is a combination of several modern and traditional conservation techniques that address the diverse requirements of this challenging task.

Read their statement: “Unlike resources such as coal, oil and gas, the fresh water system is a renewable and regenerative one. It has the ability of being replenished. Nonetheless **this cycle is utterly dependent upon indigenous mountain forests and plants.** The principal is to create many community managed forest patches, within close proximity to mountain communities and to link these with green corridors...”



MESSNER, FIRST MOUNTAIN AMBASSADOR ENCOUNTERING THE MOUNTAINS

MOUNTAINEER, FORMER POLITICIAN AND FARMER, REINHOLD MESSNER HAS DELIVERED A MESSAGE ON MOUNTAINS THAT WE WILL LAUNCH IN RIO



As the UNCSO Rio +20 Summit is drawing near, we met Reinhold Messner in Firmian Castle. Below is his world-view on selected topics.

Anti-clockwise or, How to visit the mountain at Juval Castle: “Juval is a strong place. For more than 5,000 years, Juval is to be visited in an anti-clockwise circle, like the holy mountains of Tibet 3,000 years ago.”

Ascent: “The power of spirit, of rocks and of clouds is equally strong throughout the world. Moreover, the nearness and distance convey an overview.”

Eco-tourism: “Long-term agriculture and long-term tourism is possible. Many people are coming to see if they can copy our system, which we invented. The farmer can grow food to sustain himself and his family; the rest he can sell directly where he lives. This way he’s able to care also about the landscape. I built similar structures in the Karakorum, in

Nepal and in the Andes.”
Human world: “The key in each adventure is not reaching the summit or any other target, but getting back from a hostile to a human world, back to the people.”

Meeting the mountains: “Each of us has different emotions in meeting the mountains. When men and mountains meet, mountains can do no mistakes: they are there.”

The sacred theory of the earth: “Fossils are also a key to the history of the landscape.”

Self-reliant mountain farming (from a sign close to Castle Juval): “We breed horses, donkeys, sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, llamas. We grow fruit, vine, spice and vegetables. We do this according to the principles of biological and organic farming. Please do not feed the animals, do not leave any litter and do not cross the fences. Thank you.”

REINHOLD MESSNER'S BIOGRAPHY



Above: Firmian is at the heart of the Mountain Messner Museum. It addresses man's encounter with the mountains. *Photos (c) Tullia Baldassarri Hoger von Hogersthal / FAO*
Below: Juval Castle is dedicated to the “Myth of the Mountain”, and the world's holiest mountains. In addition, Messner also runs an organic farm with inn and vineyard.



The Mountain and Messner

“I wanted to climb up high, to look deep inside me”. This sentence by Reinhold Messner summarises his thought and can be found in Firmian Castle, among many other quotes by poets and artists of all epochs.



MESSNER MOUNTAIN MUSEUM WHEN MEN AND MOUNTAINS MEET

OUR FIRST MOUNTAIN AMBASSADOR HAS DEDICATED TO THE MOUNTAINS AND THE MOUNTAIN CULTURE A UNIQUE MUSEUM NETWORK



The Messner Mountain Museum is a place of encounter with the mountains, with mountain people and ultimately with ourselves.

The enchanted mountain
At the heart of the Messner Mountain Museum, MMM Firmian is organized as an itinerary between the various works of art, installations and relics - leading visitors from the origins of the mountain and the religious significance of the peaks to the history of mountaineering.

End of the world
MMM Ortles is situated at 1900 m on the slopes of Mount Ortles. The underground structure is dedicated to eternal ice. The Museum describes the Terrors of Ice and Darkness, Snow Men and Lions, the Whiteout and Third Pole.

Myth of the Mountain
Juval Castle focuses on the “Myth of

the Mountain” and the world's holiest mountains. A collection of Tibetica, masks and artefacts from five continents can be admired. In addition, Messner also runs an organic farm with inn and vineyard.

The mountain heritage
In Bruneck Castle, the collection focuses on the everyday lives of the people living in the mountain regions between the Alps and the Himalayas, the Andes and Africa - from nomadic life to the sedentary world of the mountain farmer.

Museum in the clouds
Located in an old fort (1912-1914) on Monte Rite (2181 m), the Museum offers a spectacular panorama of some of the most beautiful peaks of the Dolomites. It houses a permanent painting collection as well as object pertaining to some of the great climbers of the Dolomites.

THE MESSNER MOUNTAIN MUSEUM



Mountains at Rio+20 The Mountain Pavilion

The Peruvian Government has taken the initiative of organizing a **Mountain Pavilion** at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20.

The **Mountain Pavilion** will be held at the Athletes' Park, between 13 and 24 June 2012, and open to the general public between 13 and 18 from 11 am to 7 pm.

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat received an official invitation to join forces in organizing the stand and involving members. This initiative was very well received and official letters were sent to each Mountain Partnership member, inviting them to participate in the **Third Global Assembly of the Mountain Partnership on Friday 15 June 2012** and to submit side events proposals to be held in the **Mountain Pavilion**.

If you have concrete proposals for activities to be hosted at the **Mountain Pavilion** or you are willing to provide financial or another kind of support, please contact the Organizing Committee in writing at pavilion@mntforum.org before 10 May 2012.



Monitoring the effects of climate change in protected mountain ecosystems

Through REDPARQUES and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and with support from GIZ, FAO organized a "Workshop on monitoring the effects of climate change on mountain protected ecosystems" together with the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the University for International Cooperation and the Development Bank in Latin America. The workshop was held in Santiago (Chile) from 19 to 21 March 2012. The overall objective was to analyze the current forms of monitoring protected areas in mountain regions (APZM) in order to improve environmental management so as to ensure the conservation of biodiversity, water, glaciers in the face of climate change.



International Conference of Mountain Countries (5-6 April 2012, Nepal) Climate science 'needs greater social science input'

"The climate isn't the only thing changing," said Michael Glantz, director of the Consortium of Capacity Building at the University of Colorado, at the International Conference of Mountain Countries held from 5 to 6 April 2012 in Kathmandu (Nepal). Dr Glantz noted that social behaviours also have a direct impact on the climate and need to be studied.

"They are linked in a very complex way," Masayoshi Nakawo echoed, not-



ing that some social problems typically blamed on climate change, such as water shortages, can have predominantly social causes.

In his research in China, Nakawo, executive director of the National Institutes for the Humanities in Japan, found that reforestation policies had increased, rather than decreased, the demand for water.

The measures had restricted access to traditional sheep pastures in mountain

regions, forcing nomadic pastoral communities to take up lowland farming, increasing the demand for water.

The meeting in Nepal was attended by around 30 country representatives, and concluded with a 'Kathmandu Call for Action', with a view to highlighting the specific needs of mountain countries at international negotiations, including the forthcoming Rio+20 Summit in June.

KATHMANDU
CALL FOR ACTION



Peak to Peak Issue 51 Month 4 Year 2012



Share with us:



Mountain Partnership Secretariat
FAO, Forestry Department
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
info@mountainpartnership.org
www.mountainpartnership.org

Postcard from the mountains



The toolkit "**Communicating mountains in Rio+20**" is aimed at providing crisp, up-to-date messages on the benefits the "mountain package" provides for "the future we want". Click!