

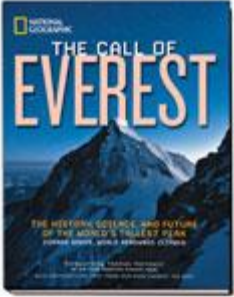
Peak to Peak

The Mountain Partnership Newsletter



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HIGHLIGHTS



New book celebrates 50th anniversary of American Mount Everest expedition

The National Geographic Society is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first expedition of an American team to successfully reach the summit of Mount Everest with a book detailing the venture. *The Call of Everest* marks the 1963 expedition and an attempted 'legacy climb' in 2012 during which a team also undertook medical, geological and geographical research. Among contributors to the publication are conservationist and mountain geographer Alton C. Byers, whose chapter focuses on the flora and fauna that exist in the thin air of Nepal. [Read more](#) (Main image above: Barry Bishop/National Geographic Stock)

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the [University of the Mountains](#) (Greece) as a new member of the Mountain Partnership. Please feel free to contact them for possible collaborative projects and ideas.

As of April 2013, there were 209 members of the Mountain Partnership: 50 governments, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 143 major group organizations (e.g. civil society, NGOs and the private sector). For information on their activities and contact details, and to update your own details, visit the [members section](#) of the Mountain Partnership website.

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Kyrgyz Republic mountain forest project pilot sites discussed

Kyrgyz Republic-based Mountain Partnership members met with national consultants working on a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on sustainable mountain forest management in Bishkek on 5 April 2013. The discussion was organized by the [University of Central Asia](#) to review the selection criteria of pilot territories developed and presented by the project's team of national consultants. "The two hour discussion was effective in terms of getting feedback and recommendations from the Mountain Partnership members, and to learn from their vast expertise of rural development," said national consultant Venera Surappaeva. "We'd like to keep the members involved in the project development and hope to have more meetings like this." [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

GLOBAL

Online MSc in sustainable mountain development



Places are available for an online MSc in Sustainable Mountain Development, run by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). The part-time interdisciplinary degree addresses social, environmental, economic, and professional development issues in mountain areas. Students take one or two modules per semester and can exit at three levels: postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma and MSc. The degree has international recognition as an activity of the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development, based at the Centre for Mountain Studies at Perth College UHI. A scholarship for European residents is available. [Read more](#)

Global Charter on Resource Management in development

The World Mountain People Association (APMM) is developing a programme on the management of common property land and its resources with the aim of preparing a Global Charter on Resource Management to protect mountain people's interests in the face of mining and other natural resource extractions by multinational companies. The programme got under way with a seminar in Argentina in early March and will involve collecting information through similar events, workshops and case studies. [Read more](#)

AFRICA

CHIESA holds annual project meeting in Ethiopia

CHIESA, the project on the impacts of climate change on insect pests in eastern African mountains coordinated by the [International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology](#), held its second annual project meeting in the Jimma highlands of Ethiopia in March. True to the project's capacity building objective, training sessions were also held on several topics including an introduction to geographical information systems and general principles of insect pest monitoring. [Read more](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

ICIMOD launches Water and Life photo competition

The [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#) (ICIMOD) is organizing a digital photo contest on the theme of 'Water and Life' in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region to celebrate its 30th anniversary, coinciding with the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation 2013. Deadline for submission is 20 May 2013, and entrants must be over 18. Public voting will take place on ICIMOD's Facebook page, with cash prizes for the three winning photos. [Read more](#)

CEE Himalaya celebrates World Wetlands Day

The [Centre for Environment Education Himalaya](#) (CEE Himalaya) celebrated World Wetlands Day this year with school children from 15 schools, local NGOs, conservationists and government agencies in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand. Watch a [short video](#) of the celebration

CENTRAL ASIA

Glacier workshop held in Kazakhstan

A regional workshop on the impact of glacial melt on water resources in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 11-12 April, organized by the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, UNESCO, the World Bank and IFAS. Participants agreed on the need for collaborative research, regional cooperation and continued dialogue to raise awareness of the problems of mountain ecosystems in the region. A report of the workshop by the Regional Mountain Centre of Central Asia is now online. [Read more](#) (in Russian)

Local development strategies developed in Kyrgyz provinces

The [Mountain Societies Development Support Programme](#) (MSDSP KG), an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation, supported a series of public hearings held by local governments in the Osh and Naryn oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic in April to discuss new local development strategies. In order to identify development priorities and needs of the community, 15 working groups held interviews and focus group discussions among the residents of 59 villages, where about 89,000 people live. MSDSP KG provided methodical guidance and consultations. The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. [Read more](#)



EUROPE

Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Carpathian Mountains in development



The development of a strategy focusing on sustainable tourism development is under way in the countries of the Carpathian Mountains, with consultations with government representatives, tourism agencies and NGOs along with a series of stakeholder meetings and case studies. The resulting strategy will be delivered to the next Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in October 2014. The project is being carried out by Ecological Tourism in Europe (ETE) together with project partners CEEweb for Biodiversity, WWF Danube Carpathian Programme, the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas. [Read more](#) (Photo: Zuzana Okanikova)

Glacier Trust turns five

The Glacier Trust is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. The British NGO was founded with the help of Southampton University to mitigate the impacts of climate change on Nepal's mountain communities. The Trust works with Nepali NGOs to provide expertise, education and funding for climate change adaptation programmes. [Read the latest newsletter](#)

Active Remedy contributes to UN water brief

[Active Remedy](#) has contributed to a United Nations Analytical Brief which aims to provide a starting point for discussion on water security, identifying the challenges that lie ahead, the necessity of relating water security to policy development, and offering possible options for responding to these challenges. The brief will be considered by a group of 30 member states tasked with drafting the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. [Read more](#)

LATIN AMERICA

Celebrating 125 years of Costa Rica's National Meteorological Institute

The [National Meteorological Institute](#) (NMI), a branch of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, celebrated its 125 anniversary in April with a series of activities for schools and institutions. In particular, activities centred on highlighting the NMI's role in decision-making

processes for the management and conservation of water resources, most of which come from aquifers and springs in the country's mountain areas. Increasing awareness of this major resource is especially important in Costa Rica, where 90% of energy in use is hydroelectric. [Read more](#)

NORTH AMERICA

Celebrations for the tenth anniversary of International Mountain Day are continuing at [Utah Valley University](#). Among initiatives, the university's Utah International Mountain Forum shared experiences of sustainable mountain development with visiting United Nations ambassadors from [India](#), [Macedonia](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Switzerland](#). The Mountain Forum also hosted an [essay contest](#) for Utah high school students on water sustainability, cooperation & accessibility. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Scientific Journalism Seminar: High Mountains 16-17 May 2013 Loja, Ecuador

The Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization are among the sponsors of this seminar, the theme of which this year is High Mountains: the economic, social and environmental importance of the Andes. [Read More](#)

Mountain Days 2013 11-13 June 2013 Mittersill, Austria

Stimulated by the renewed commitment of Switzerland and Austria to foster mountain research, an overwhelming number of scientists responded to the first call of the Swiss-Austrian Alliance for the Mountain Days conference in June. This interdisciplinary event is currently taking shape and registration is now open. [Read more](#)

Climate Change and Migration in Mountain Areas Workshop 28-29 May 2013 Neuchatel, Switzerland

This workshop at the University of Neuchatel aims to bring together scholars with a strong interest in migration and climate change in mountain areas, including major mountain ranges such as the Himalayas, the Andes and the Alps. For more information contact [Read more](#)

Fifth Regional Meeting on Mountain Forests - First Symposium of Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve 30-31 May 2013 San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina

Partly organized by Mountain Partnership member Foundation ProYungas, this meeting aims to bring together researchers from various disciplines working in the areas of mountain jungles and/or Las Yungas Biosphere Reserve to exchange knowledge and to identify possible research projects. Deadline for abstracts is 15 March. [Read more](#)

National Scientific Conference: The Importance of Mountain Areas in Europe 2020 Strategy

7 June 2013
Wroclaw, Poland

This conference organized by the Committee on Management of Mountain Regions of the Polish Academy of Sciences will focus on assessing the scale of influence of Europe 2020 strategy on upland and mountainous areas. Deadline for abstracts is 19 April. For an application form, contact conference secretary [Tomasz Szuk](#).

We Create the Climate! Civic Participation and Climate Change in Alpine Cities

20-21 June 2013
Villach, Austria

The Alpine Town of the Year Association and ALPSTAR are organizing this conference to publicize success stories from municipalities in the Alps that are reducing emissions and promoting the use of renewable energies. ALPSTAR is supported by the European Regional Development Fund, within the European Territorial Cooperation Alpine Space Programme. [Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

The Grassroots Story: Indian Himalayas

The Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation has published a report on its work in two mountain states in the Indian Himalayan Region over a period of two decades. The Grassroots Story: 1992 to 2011 contains information about its work on water and sanitation, renewable energy, ecological security, livelihoods and micro-enterprises in the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. [Download](#)

CALL FOR NEWS

Keep other Mountain Partnership members informed about your activities! Please [send us info](#) about new projects and programmes, initiatives, events, publications, newsletters, vacancies and calls for papers for inclusion in next month's Peak to Peak.