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40 years of UNESCO World Heritage Convention **P.1**Mountain site in danger: Mount Nimba **P.2**Water services on the roof of the Andes **P.3**Advocating a youth-friendly outcome of Rio+20 **P.4**MOUNTAINS
in DANGER

Forest fire spread on Thursday 26 January in Lijiang city, a UNESCO Heritage Site at the foot of the famous **Dongshan Mountain**, in southwest China's Yunnan Province. As of Thursday, the fire had engulfed 45 hectares of mountain forests.

Almost 2,500 people strove to put out the fire on the north eastern front before dawn, aiming to prevent it from spreading to **Yulong Snow Mountain**.

IMMEDIATE ACTION

If a site is inscribed on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**, the World Heritage Committee can take immediate action to address the situation. This has led to many successful restorations. The **World Heritage Convention** is also a tool to rally international attention and actions, through international safeguarding campaigns.

40 years of UNESCO
World Heritage Convention

This year marks the 40th anniversary of UNESCO World Heritage Convention. UNESCO is one of our most prestigious members, and we have asked Marc Patry from the World Heritage Centre what the Convention envisages for mountains.

How is UNESCO ensuring protection of mountain sites - could you highlight any mountain-related initiatives?

The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972. We have 188 countries that have ratified the Convention. Although we have a Marine Programme,

a Forest Programme, a Tourism Programme – to this day we don't have a specific Mountain Programme. Mountains are dealt with as distinct cases, as issues arise. So, we are not doing anything specific for mountains in the context of the 40th anniversary. Perhaps that's where we could be doing something together with the Mountain Partnership! Many of our sites are, in fact, mountains sites – such as Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. They do raise the flag on global concerns such as climate change.

(continues on p. 2)




Mountain site in danger: Mount Nimba

The Côte d'Ivoire component of the transboundary **Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve**, inscribed onto the list of World Heritage in Danger, has been awarded a Rapid Response Facility (RRF) small grant. The grant

will help repair and re-equip vital park protection infrastructure.

This site has a **unique geography**, rising above the surrounding savannah and consisting of **dense forest and mountain pastures**. Important fauna here includes endemic **viviparous toad species and tool-using chimpanzees**. For many years Nimba has been **under threat from the bushmeat trade and removal of medicinal plants**.

Following the **Ivorian political crisis** that began in 2002, Nimba was also subject to massive **infiltration of refugees escaping conflict**, and from the resultant exploitation of natural resources.

 **Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve**

UNESCO RFF Grant

The RRF is an **emergency small grant programme** that provides rapid support to allow immediate responses to major threats to wildlife conservation, primarily in UNESCO designated natural World Heritage sites. It aims to process emergency funding requests of up to US \$30,000 in just eight working days.

For more information about the RRF visit www.rapid-response.org,

or send an email to: rrf@fauna-flora.org



“The Convention is a powerful tool to ensure that the conservation message is not lost at the national and international level”

left: Marc Patry, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO

(follows from p.1)

Mountains are important ecosystems, as recognized in the Zero Draft of Rio+20. How does the World Heritage Convention deal with mountains?

Let's take Mount Nimba, a trans-boundary world heritage site located in Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. Some mining activities are taking place there. Besides, it's on the danger list:

“The Convention has a lot of visibility at the public level. Therefore, at the political level”

the World Heritage Convention Danger List, indicating there are some serious threats to the site and concerted action is required to deal with them. Mount Nimba is very rich in minerals.

So, there's a number of challenges

that come together.

I could talk about the Virunga Mountains in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*in the photo below*). Again, the mountains are on the danger list, there are several management challenges there. The

Convention has been actively pursuing them, in some cases it has even involved the UN Peacekeeping forces to reduce conflicts and work together with the government of DRC to manage that site.

The World Heritage Convention is in the news. We have appeared in the « Economist » magazine and « New York Times » - it's a Convention that has a lot of visibility at the public level. Therefore it raises a lot of

interest at the political level. That's why it has a certain capacity to encourage conservation actions at the highest level.

How does it work?

I can point to you an interesting site in Latin America, between Panama and Costa Rica: the Amistad National Park. The *hydroelectric dam* built on the Panamanian side in the last year raised conservation concerns. On the Costa Rican side there is a possibility of building even more hydroelectric dams within the site. So we are currently looking at this issue very closely with both the governments of Costa Rica and Panama.

The Convention is a powerful tool to ensure that the conservation message is not lost at the national and international level - for mountain sites, as well.



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION



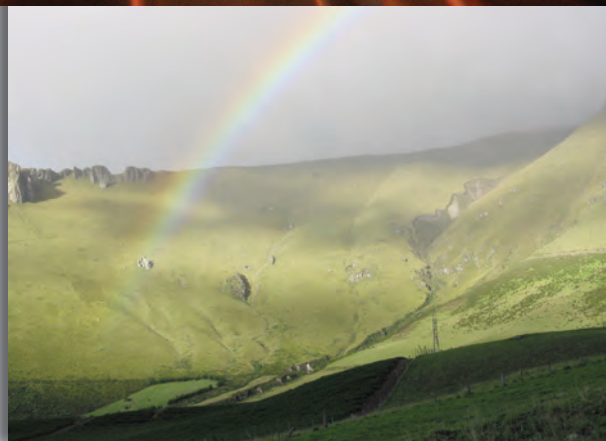


Uganda, charting a new start for Ecosystems Based Adaptation

Uganda is one of the countries where the joint UNEP-UNDP-IUCN Ecosystems Based Adabptation (EBA) programme funded by the German BMU is implemented.

The buildup of community interest and the mobilization of the national government and civil society, together with other stakeholders, provide the enabling environment for country EBA project implementation and the opportunity to capitalize on the momentum of the inception workshop held last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE WRITE TO
MUSONDA.MUMBA@UNEP.ORG



Water services on the roof of the Andes: the Andean Paramos

Paramos form the upper part of the Northern Andes. Paramos provide important hydrological services for domestic use, irrigation, industrial consumption and generation of hydropower, benefitting directly and indirectly about 100 million people, according to IUCN data.

The Andean Paramo Project is a regional initiative led by CONDESAN for the conservation of these ecosystems and the development and improvement of the quality of life of their inhabitants.

THE ANDEAN
PARAMO PROJECT



How can women's land rights be secured until 6 February 2012 online discussion

The ILC Secretariat and the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) are facilitating the online discussion. Inputs will feed into the side event organized by ILC, FAO and IFAD at the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) CSW on 1 March 2012.



Interdisciplinary Climate Change Research Symposium

Thirty early-career scholars will be selected through a review process with the expectation that invitees will become leaders in their chosen fields. **Airfare and on-site expenses are supported** through grants from NSF and NASA.

Application deadline:
29 February 2012



International Conference on Geological and Environmental Sciences

29-30 June 2012
South Korea

2012 International Conference on Geological and Environmental Sciences (ICGES 2012) will bring together leading engineers and scientists in Geological and Environmental Sciences from around the world.

Abstract submissions are invited.

Deadline: 10 March 2012.

For more information
please write to:

icges@cbees.org

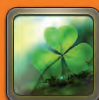


Healthy food, living soil: promoting fair trade and "clean mountain labels" based on ancient knowledge

The **Global Mountain Action** is a not for profit association set up in 2009 with offices in Ethiopia, Peru and Switzerland.

A new partner in the mountain dialogue, the **Global Mountain Action** focuses broadly on migration, market linkages, decentralization and integrated approaches to rural urban development. Their recently published report documents initial studies on issues of migration, and on mushrooms as a forgotten, but a valuable food and medicine in one, to improve well-being. The **Global Mountain Action** report is meant for anyone interested in mountain issues, especially as they relate to food security, wellbeing, health and environment.

READ THE GMA REPORT



Training youth on mountain issues

APMN/ICIMOD organized the largest ever Asia Pacific Youth Meeting and training session on Rio+20 with mountain focus (attended by 43 youth from 17 countries).

In addition, APMN has issued three volumes of its journal "Asia Pacific Mountain Courier" on youth and climate change and Rio+20.

For further details: please write to initiative coordinator Mr Tek Jung Mahat at tmahat@icimod.org



Asia Pacific Youth Meeting: advocating a youth-friendly outcome of Rio+20

There's a significant role youth can play in implementing Rio+20 while making sure that the outcome is more youth-friendly

Negotiations for the Outcome Document of Rio+20 have started, and a youth group has already made two submissions on mountain issues to the Zero Draft document: the *Asia*



Pacific Youth Position Paper Towards Rio +20 and the first *Asia Pacific Youth Declaration On Climate Change And Sustainable Development*. The Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) have launched a campaign known as "Asia Pacific Youth on Rio+20 (Earth Summit 2012)".

This youth community has increased to include more than 550 youth in the

virtual discussion group, 1560 youth on Facebook, over 200 followers on Twitter. Currently, the Asia Pacific group is the only youth group advocating for Mountain Agenda globally, and the largest youth group working on Rio+20 from the Asia Pacific region.

VISIT THE BLOG



Peak to Peak Issue 48 Month 1 Year 2012

Postcard from the mountains



Share with us:



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



Take a look at a **timeline** of climate change related activities over 2010 - 2011