

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY

Draft 4/21/2009 prepared by GMBA, MRI, Mountain Forum

The below list of key resources on mountain biodiversity is aggregated from different sources focusing on the global and key regional resources. Additional information on resources including the regional and national level is available at www.mtnforum.org/wisw/index.php. As the focus is on integrated approaches to mountain biodiversity resources focusing on single species have been left out although they play a role in many locations. For project and initiatives the focus is on key activities that can serve as an example to others.

A. ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS

Policy Organisations and Conventions

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): The CBD is derived as one of the key agreements from the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The goals are conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. The secretariat is hosted at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Montreal, Canada. Its main functions are to support the Conference of the Parties and other subsidiary bodies of the Convention, and to coordinate with other relevant international bodies. (www.cbd.int). Email: secretariat@cbd.int

The Alpine Convention: The Alpine Convention is a Framework Treaty between Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the EC for the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine region. It came into force in March 1995 and sets out the basic principles and general measures for the sustainable development of the Alpine region. Aside to the framework Treaty, eight thematic protocols have been adopted, in the fields of: land planning and sustainable development, nature protection and landscape, mountain agriculture, mountain forests, soil protection, energy, tourism and transport. An action plan on climate change has been adopted in 2009. The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is located in Innsbruck, Austria, with a Branch office in Bolzano-Bozen. www.alpconv.org
Email: info@alpconv.org

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It works through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation. The Secretariat is located in Gland, Switzerland. www.ramsar.org . Email: ramsar@ramsar.org

Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands: This strategy was formulated within the Ramsar Convention framework, with the active participation of the countries that enclose the High Andean wetlands and related areas. This strategy is a guiding framework for regional cooperation among the countries involved, within a ten year projection period (2005-2015). Its purpose is the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and wetland complexes in *páramos*, *jalca*,

puna, and other High Andean ecosystems which maintain a unique biological diversity..
http://www.ramsar.org/cop9/cop9_doc26_e.htm

Contact as above.

Andean Community (CAN): Organization composed of Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Perú with the objective to integrate the Andes ecoregion. The joint Andean Environmental Agenda contains both short- and medium-term subregional actions that add value to national efforts and help strengthen the capacities of the Member Countries with regard to environmental and sustainable development issues. Biodiversity is one of its four core subjects. The Andean Environmental Agenda guides the actions of both the Council of Ministers of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Andean Council of Environmental Authorities. (http://www.comunidadandina.org/agenda_ambiental.htm)

The Carpathian Convention: The Carpathian Convention is a Framework agreement between Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine for the protection and the sustainable development of the Carpathian Region through a multi-sectoral and integrated approach. The convention also represents a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development, and a forum for dialogue between all stakeholders involved. The secretariat is hosted on an interim basis by UNEP in Vienna, Austria.

The first Protocol to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (the Carpathian Convention) - the Biodiversity Protocol was signed by 5 of the Carpathian countries on the occasion of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) on 19 June 2009 in Bucharest, Romania. The Parties are currently undertaking the necessary steps to ratify the text of the Protocol and already started the implementation process as agreed during COP2.

<http://www.carpathianconvention.org>. Email: unep@unvienna.org

Research Organizations

Global

DIVERSITAS: Diversitas is an international programme of biodiversity science that aims to integrate biological, ecological and social disciplines to produce socially relevant knowledge and provide a scientific basis for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The organization runs several biodiversity core projects and supports cross-cutting networks. (www.diversitas-international.org). Email: secretariat@diversitas-international.org

Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA): The GMBA is a cross-cutting network of DIVERSITAS. It aims to assess the biological richness of the mountains globally and responses to global change, to synthesize results of research, to increase the visibility of mountain biodiversity on the policy agenda, advocate for research on human influence on natural and cultural mountains landscape, encourage sustainable development of rural upland areas and provide input to policy makers and stakeholders. (www.gmba.unibas.ch/). Email: gmba-@unibas.ch

Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS): The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is coordinating international efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). This public infrastructure is interconnecting an array of instruments and systems for monitoring and forecasting changes in the global environment to support policymakers, managers, researchers and decision-makers. Biodiversity is one of nine themes of GEOSS (www.earthobservations.org/geoss_bi_wpa.shtml). Email: secretariat@geosec.org

Global Research Centre for Biosphere Reserve Advancement (C-BRA):

C-BRA is operating as the scientific communication hub under the forth-coming Clearing House Mechanism for UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. It coordinates research in and for biosphere reserves, promotes cooperation with politics and media and provides a substantial library on case studies and best practice examples. <http://www.biosphere-research.org/>, email: info@biosphere-research.org

Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN): The Mountain Invasion Research Network strives to monitor and evaluate plant invasions into high mountain systems at a global scale. MIREN uses broad surveys in addition to standardized protocols and experiments in different mountain systems, spanning the major climatic zones (www.miren.ethz.ch/). Email: MIREN@env.ethz.ch

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC): UNEP-WCMC is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme and World Conservation Monitoring Centre. It develops biodiversity indicators and contributes information to global environmental assessments in order to synthesize and promote use of information on adaptation to climate change in biodiversity conservation (www.unep-wcmc.org). Email: Jon.Hutton@unep-wcmc.org

Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine Environments (GLORIA): GLORIA aims to establish and maintain a world-wide long-term observation network in alpine environments. Vegetation and temperature data collected are used for discerning trends in species diversity and temperature, assess and predict losses in biodiversity and other threats to fragile alpine ecosystems due to climate change. Currently (May 2009) the network has active observation sites in 65 mountain regions distributed over five continents (www.gloria.ac.at). Email: office.gloria@univie.ac.at

IUCN-WCPA Mountains Biome (Mountain Protected Areas Network): This is a global network of about 300 experts devoted to preserving and protecting precious mountain regions of the world. (www.mountains-wcpa.org). Email: g.worboys@bigpond.com

Group on Earth Observations - Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON): GEO BON focuses on identifying unique or highly diverse ecosystems and supporting migratory, endemic or globally threatened species, whose biodiversity is of socio-economic importance. Email: anne@diversitas-international.org. www.earthobservations.org/cop_bi_geobon.shtml

International Potato Center (CIP): Seeks to reduce poverty and achieve food security on a sustained basis in developing countries through scientific research and related activities on potato, sweetpotato, other root and tuber crops, and on the improved management of natural resources in the Andes and other mountain areas. (<http://www.cipotato.org/>). Email: cip-webmaster@cgiar.org

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT): CIAT is a not-for-profit research and development organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger while protecting natural resources in developing countries. (<http://www.ciat.cgiar.org/>). Email: ciat@cgiar.org

Conservation International (CI): Its work is based on science, comprehensive partnerships, and concern for human well-being. CI focuses on safeguarding valuable species, preserving the most important landscapes and seascapes, and supporting communities. CI focuses on innovation, raising awareness about conservation, and maintaining business-like effectiveness. (www.conservation.org/).

Regional: Europe

European Network for Arctic-Alpine Environmental Research: ENVINET is a network of 17 research organisations in Northern Europe. It focuses on multidisciplinary environmental research, primarily within atmospheric physics and chemistry, marine and terrestrial biology. ENVINET is funded by EU and managed by the Norwegian Polar Institute (www.envinet.npolar.no). Email: jonbo@npolar.no & envinet@npolar.no

ISCAR - International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps: The objective of ISCAR is the promotion of the Alpine and scientific collaboration in Alpine research as well as the transfer of research results in practice. ISCAR particularly covers research interests of the Alpine Convention. (www.alpinestudies.ch/iscar). Email: icas@scant.ch

Science for the Carpathians (S4C): S4C is a new and quickly developing network with roots going back to the intention of the Carpathian Convention. Biodiversity is one of the priority areas of future research in the Carpathians, as defined by the S4C members. www.mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-carpathians/s4c-science-for-the-carpathians.html . Email: astrid.bjoernsen@uibk.ac.at

Bioplatform. European Platform for Biodiversity: is a Thematic Network which aims to improve the effectiveness and relevance of European biodiversity research, to contribute to European Research Area for Biodiversity and to promote the dissemination of current best practices and information regarding the scientific understanding of biodiversity conservation. (<http://www.bioplatform.info/index.htm>). Email: ispinto@cimar.org

Regional: Latin America

Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN): is a network of research organisation, NGOs, universities, private sector and government agencies. It aims to facilitate cooperation for sustainable development of the Andes region by information exchange via electronic communication, virtual working groups, e-conferences and newsletters. Condesan hosts the Latin America Mountain Forum regional network InfoAndina as well as the decentralised hub for the Mountain Partnership Secretariat. It implements a GEF-UNEP project focused on the *Paramo* Ecosystem. (www.condesan.org). Email: condesan@cgiar.org

Research Institute Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources (IAvH): The Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute (Instituto Alexander von Humboldt) is a non profit organization with various members including the Ministry of the Environment, public and private universities, local government and non governmental organizations. The Institute's mission is the promotion, coordination and realization of research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Colombia. (www.humboldt.org.co). Email: webmaster@humboldt.org.co

The Institute of Environmental Sciences (ICAE): is an academic institution, attached to the Faculty of the Universidad de Los Andes, dedicated to multidisciplinary research in the field of ecology and

environment, as well as the building capacity for scientific research in these areas.
(www.ciens.ula.ve/icae/). Email: icae@ula.ve

Research and Technology Center for Andean Countries (CITPAR): This organization is investigating the effects of climate change on mountain ecosystems, ecological restoration, social management of mountain resources, cognitive appraisal of ecosystem management in communities and organizations.
Email: centro_citpa@yahoo.es

Regional: Asia Pacific

ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB): ACB is an intergovernmental regional center of excellence that facilitates cooperation and coordinating among the members of ASEAN, and with relevant national governments, regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, guided by fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity. It reinforces efforts to engage more sectors and stakeholders in the quest to save the regions biodiversity. It also forms alliances with key stakeholders in the regional and global levels. The head quarter is located in Philippines. www.aseanbiodiversity.org. Email: rufuentes@aseanbiodiversity.org

The Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), the Chinese Academy of Sciences: KIB is a leader to explore the world's plants especially from South West China and the Himalayas for better understanding, sustainable use and conservation of plant diversity by integrating multidisciplinary scientific approaches. It also focuses research on biodiversity and sustainable bio-resource use in the Southwest of China, disseminating sound, valuable scientific knowledge and training the future scientists.
(<http://www.kib.ac.cn/KIBEnglish/english/index.html>). Email: qianjie@mail.kib.ac.cn

Regional: Africa

International Council for Science Regional Office Africa (ICSU ROA): The vision: Excellence in science is to be linked to policy making and to the sustainable socio-economic development in Africa. Equitable access to scientific data and information; and establishment of scientific capacity that may be used to contribute to the production of new scientific knowledge for the sustainable benefit of society.
<http://www.icsu-africa.org/>

African Section of the Society of Conservation Biology: The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is an international professional organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of the phenomena that affect the maintenance, loss, and restoration of biological diversity. The Society's membership comprises a wide range of people interested in the conservation and study of biological diversity: resource managers, educators, government and private conservation workers, and students make up the more than 10,000 members world-wide. <http://www.conbio.org/Sections/Africa/>

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI): The insitute's mission is to promote the sustainable use, conservation, appreciation and enjoyment of the exceptionally rich biodiversity of South Africa, for the benefit of all people.
<http://www.sanbi.org/>

Global Change Research Network for African Mountains (GCRN_AM): A research network founded by GMBA, MRI and partners from universities in Africa and Switzerland. Its aim is to connect and support global change researchers working in different mountain regions of the African continent. In

2008 network members submitted a project proposal to the JRS Biodiversity Foundation.
<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-africa>

Development and Conservation Organizations and Networks¹

Global

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): UNESCO'S Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) has initiated programmes and activities focusing on diversity and resources provided by nature, humans impacts on biodiversity as well as how biodiversity affects human activities. These initiatives are indented to contribute to fulfil a global biodiversity agenda (www.unesco.org/mab). Email: veniceoffice@unesco.org

The Mountain Forum: Mountain Forum is a global network of over 5.000 individuals and organizations concerned with sustainable mountain development. It fosters information sharing and communication between stakeholders in the research, development and policy sector. It provides access to on-line and off-line resources and tools, fosters networking and capacity building and supports policy processes in strategic areas including mountain biodiversity. The Mountain Forum is composed of regional networks in Africa, L. America, N. America, Europe and Asia Pacific with a global Secretariat hosted by ICIMOD in Kathmandu, Nepal. (www.mtnforum.org). Email: secretariat@mtforum.org

The Mountain Partnership: The Mountain Partnership was launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002 as a voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to support national governments and foster matchmaking between partners. One area of focus is mountain biodiversity. The MP has decentralised hubs in L. America, N. America and Asia Pacific with a global Secretariat at FAO, Rome. www.mountainpartnership.org. Email: info@mountainpartnership.org

The Mountain Institute (TMI): The Mountain Institute is an international non-profit organization focusing on education and outreach to enhance mountain livelihoods, ecosystems and culture of mountain people. It implements programs with communities in cooperation with a wide variety of development, government, academic and technical partners. It has programs in Asia, North America and South America. (www.mountain.org/). Email: summit@mountain.org

Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF): WWF focuses on conservation efforts on species of special importance. Its mission is to conserve the world's biological diversity, ensure use of renewable natural resources and promote reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. It works with diverse partners in implementing projects and carrying out research. (www.panda.org). Email: info@panda.org

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): The IUCN supports scientific research, carries out projects in all parts of the world and brings together various stakeholders to develop and implement policies, laws and share best practice on biodiversity. IUCN has offices across the globe with its Headquarter in Gland Switzerland. (www.iucn.org/). Email: webmaster@iucn.org

¹ Development organization are defined as organizations that carry out activities and programs with development investment component other than research

Conservation International (CI): CI aims to conserve global biodiversity. It focuses on biodiversity hotspots, biodiversity wilderness areas across the globe. It works in partnership with local non-governmental organizations and indigenous people. (www.conservation.org).

Wetlands International: Its mission is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations. Recently, it has started to focus on high altitude/mountain wetlands and its biodiversity. It is a science based organization and provides tools and information to assist governments in protection and restoration of wetlands. www.wetlands.org/ . email: post@wetlands.org

The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO for its initials in Spanish): It is a not-for-profit international organization that promotes management and wise use of wetlands in the Americas via capacity building, research and communication. CREHO is an organization recognized by the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention and has the support of environmental organizations such as WWF, BirdLife and Wetlands International. (http://www.creho.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=103).

RARE Conservation: Rare is the leader in social marketing for biodiversity conservation with a successful track record in more than 50 countries to date. We train and support leaders from the world's top environmental organizations, local grassroots groups, and governments all of which are increasingly aware that failure to create support at the community level reduces the chance of conservation success. (<http://www.rareconservation.org>). Email: rare@rareconservation.org

Equator Initiative: The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses, and grassroots organizations to build capacity and to support local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Initiative started in 2002 and addresses the two interrelated problems of biodiversity loss and abject poverty. In collaboration with a wide range of partners, the Equator Initiative concentrates on three thematic action areas: Equator Prize, Equator Dialogue, and Equator Knowledge. (www.equatorinitiative.org). Email: EquatorInitiative@undp.org

Regional: Europe

The International Commission for the protection of Alps (CIPRA): The CIPRA is a network to exploit the potential of the Alpine space and preserve its cultural and natural diversity. It provides multilingual information in the form of news, calendar of events and publications and runs a broad knowledge-management project "Future in the Alps", targeted at projects and initiatives for sustainable development. CIPRA participates in the network 'Alliance in the Alps' to achieve sustainable development with local citizenry. Via the Climalp project CIPRA promotes energy-efficient housing. CIPRA participates in the Ecological Continuum and ECONNECT projects that support ecological networks in the Alps. CIPRA has offices in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, S.Tirol, Slovenia with an international secretariat in Liechtenstein. (www.cipra.org). Email: international@cipra.org

ALPARC Network: The Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) brings together the large size protected areas within the Alpine Convention area. It fosters exchange between the alpine parks, nature

reserves, biosphere reserves, tranquillity zones and other s. It links with organizations and institutions of nature protection, local actors, populations and scientists. The main goal is the practical implementation of the protocol of the Alpine Convention , nature conservation and landscape management. (www.alparc.org/the-alparc-network). Email: info@alparc.orgv

NENA network Enterprise Alps: NENA is a network of innovation ('green') enterprises and umbrella organizations across the Alps. The network aims to help alpine enterprises to stay innovative and competitive whilst increasing their contribution to sustainable development. It allows enterprises and organizations to exchange experiences, share know-how, and carry out long term cooperation on specific topics within the Alps. (www.NENA-network.net). Email: stefan.arlanch@cipra.org

Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA)

The Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) was established by COP1 (11-13 December 2006, Kyiv, Ukraine). It's mission is to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians. The CNPA is a tool for the implementation of the Carpathian Convention, by enhancing the cooperation of Carpathian protected areas with each other and with other mountain regions of Europe. Currently, a Medium-term Strategy along with a Work Plan for the period 2010 - 2015 are being developed and should be finalized by the end of 2009. (www.sopsr.sk/karpaty/index.php?p=6)

The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy: It is a forum for natural and social scientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders to identify structure and focus of strategic research to 1) use biodiversity in a sustainable way, 2) maintain ecosystem functions that provide goods and services, conserve, protect and restore the natural world and halt biodiversity loss. (<http://www.epbrs.org/epbrs/>). Email: estelle.balian@naturalsciences.be

The Woodland Trust: The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading leading conservation charity dedicated to improving biodiversity, protecting existing ancient woodlands and to increasing native woodland cover. We also aim to enhance people's awareness and enjoyment of woodland. Founded in 1972, the Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity and relies on the support of its many members and other supporters to continue its work. (<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/EN/Pages/default.aspx>). Email: enquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Regional: Asia Pacific

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD): The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, ICIMOD, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving the eight countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas. It supports regional trans-boundary programmes through partnership with regional partner institutions, facilitate exchange of experiences and serve as a regional knowledge hub. (www.icimod.org/). Email: info@icimod.org

Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities: The Alliance of Central Asian Mountain Communities is a network of municipalities active in the field of sustainable development via knowledge-sharing at community level. The organization focuses on sharing good practices and successful projects. It also conducts excursions, tours and shares information among different institutions. (www.cipra.org/en/netzwerke/zentralasiatische-bergdorfallianz). Email: international@cipra.org

Regional: North America

The Nature conservancy (TNC): The Nature Conservancy is a US charitable environmental organization aimed at preservinmg plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protectiong of lands and waters. The Nature Conservancy works in more than 30 countries, (www.nature.org).

The Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y): Y2Y is a joint Canada-US not-for-profit organization aiming to preserve and maintain the wildlife, native plants, wilderness and natural processes of the mountainous region from Yellowstone National Park to the Yukon Territory. It connects and supports networks of organizations, agencies, and individuals engaged in conservation work. (www.y2y.net/). Email: info@y2y.net

The Northwest Habitat Institute (NHI): NHI is a non-profit scientific and educational organization. Its mission is to promote and facilitate the conservation of Pacific Northwest native species and habitats through development and dissemination of data-rich and verifiable information, maps and tools and restoration and enhancement of native habitats (www.nwhi.org/). Email: habitat@nwhi.org

The Foundation for the Living Forest (VIBO): VIBO is a civil society non-profit organization founded in 1999, its main objective is the development and promotion of natural protected areas of the Sierra Madre Occidental within the State of Durango, with particular emphasis on reserves of Biosphere Michilía Mapimí in Mexico. (<http://www.bosquevibo.org.mx>). Email: vibo@bosquevibo.org.mx

Regional: Latin America

The Bolivian Mountain Institute (BMI): The Bolivian Mountain Institute (BMI) is a La Paz based non-profit organization with a hand full of projects in implementation and many plans for the years ahead. Inspired by the International Year of Mountains (IYM 2002), the BMI was founded in the same year, counting with its own modest offices since 2004. (<http://www.bolivian-mountains.org/>). Email: bmi@bolivian-mountains.org

Pronaturaleza: Its mission is to contribute to the conservation of Peru's natural heritage, especially its incredible biodiversity. ProNaturaleza promotes and executes conservation projects, develops means and management schemes for the sustainable use of natural resources and supports the creation of environmental awareness. (www.pronaturaleza.org). Email: pronaturaleza@pronaturaleza.org

Association of Andean Ecosystems (ECOAN): It's mission is to conserve species of Peruvian flora and fauna in danger of extinction, threatened ecosystems, wetlands and migratory bird species, through protection of biodiversity and use sustainable of natural resources in a framework of mutual commitment and participation with local communities involved. (www.ecoanperu.org/). Email: info@ecoanperu.org

Natura Foundation Colombia: is a civil society organization dedicated to the conservation, use and management of biodiversity to generate social, economic and environmental benefits, within the framework of sustainable human development. It carries out research and development and implements projects for environmental management and sustainable development in Colombia. (<http://www.natura.org.co/>). Email: fundacionnatura@natura.org.co

Ecuadorian Foundation of Ecological Studies (Ecociencia): Ecociencia is a scientific, private and nonprofit Ecuadorian institution which conducts scientific research on wildlife, conservation of natural and human environment, renewable and non-renewable resources, and ecological systems, and promote protection of wildlife and ecosystems. (www.ecociencia.org/). Email: direccion@ecociencia.org

AndigenA: is a Venezuelan non-profit foundation whose mission is the conservation of the Neotropical Biodiversity, with emphasis on the Andean Region. AndigenA respects native cultures, while searching viable solutions to current problems of nature conservation. It carries out projects and applied biological research, analyses of economic alternatives, and the implementation of environmental education programs, based mainly on community participation. (www.andigena.org/). Email: fundacion_andigena@yahoo.com

Pro Biodiversity of the Andes (PROBIOANDES): is a small NGO focuses on improving public awareness about the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the Biodiversity from Peru and the preservation of their ecosystems. It contributes to conservation of Peruvian genetic resources by reinforcing in situ and ex situ conservation, and promoting market opportunities to exotic products derived from them. To spread the importance of the conservation of the ecosystems and the environment to improve the quality of life of the Peruvian people. (<http://www.geocities.com/probioandes/home.htm>). Email: z.huaman@probioandes.com

International Conservation Bolivia: It is an NGO that for over 20 years promoted the conservation of Bolivian natural heritage, its biodiversity. It promotes human welfare and development in a sustainable manner and respect for nature. (www.conservation.org.bo/) Email: ci-bolivia@conservation.org

Nature's Friends Foundation (FAN): It is a private, nonprofit, organization founded in 1988 and dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity in Bolivia, to contribute to the sustainability of the planet. Their actions are characterized by scientific, technical, social participation and administrative transparency. (<http://www.fan-bo.org/1/menu.html>). Email: fan@fan-bo.org

The Mountain Institute (TMI) South American Program, Lima, Peru: TMI developed a comprehensive community - based project in the Huascaran Biosphere Reserve to demonstrate through pilot projects the potential to diversify local livelihoods through community-based tourism and protection of biodiversity hotspots. <https://www.mountain.org/programs/southamerica/index.cfm>

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Central and South America: Central America has only 0.5 percent of the world's land mass — but 10 percent of its biodiversity. The Nature Conservancy works also in nine South American countries to protect forests, grasslands, oceans, deserts, rivers, lakes and streams. <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/southamerica/>

Regional: Africa:

African Highlands Initiative (AHI): The African Highlands Initiative (AHI) is an ecoregional program of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and a network of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) hosted

by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). Its aim is to improve livelihoods and reverse natural resource degradation in the densely settled highlands of eastern and central Africa. AHI is a consortium of eastern African and international research organizations that work with local communities, local governments and development partners. <http://www.africanhighlands.org/>

Funding Organizations

The World Bank: The World Bank supports activities in the area of biodiversity including establishment and strengthening of protected areas including buffer zones, sustainable use of biodiversity outside protected areas, control invasions of alien species, and biodiversity conservation through improved management and sustainable use of natural resources in the production landscape.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/ENVIRONMENT/EXTBIODIVERSITY/0,,menuPK:400959~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:400953,00.html>

Rufford Foundation: The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation is a grant making organization and provides funds for research, development and social welfare initiatives. Under its Small Grants Programme, it has funded several research and development projects focused on mountain ecosystems in developing countries. Different projects on mountain conservation can be accessed online. www.rufford.org/search/node/mountains

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF): Founded in 2000, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a global leader in enabling civil society to participate in and benefit from conserving some of the world's most critical ecosystems. The grants are basically awarded to target biodiversity hotspots in developing and transitional countries. It provides grants to international organizations, small farming cooperatives and community association. www.cepf.net/Pages/default.aspx

The Christensen Fund: This is a grant making organization on maintaining the biological and cultural diversity of the world- focusing on five geographic regions. Its current focus is on mountains and valleys of Central Asia and Turkey.

The Global Bio-cultural Initiative is directed towards building and sharing global knowledge, wisdom and practice of bio-cultural diversity, landscape integrity and resilience, as well as supporting global institutions. Maximum grant is US\$ 200,000. www.christensenfund.org/frame_grants.html

Global Environment Facility (GEF): GEF is a global partnership to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. It provides grants for projects related to six focal areas: biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. In the online database search, a list of GEF funded projects on Biodiversity in Mountain Ecosystem can be accessed. www.gefweb.org/

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). Biodiversity is a priority topic under the theme Environment. The Agency undertakes direct actions, supports programmes of multilateral organizations, and helps to finance programmes run by Swiss and international aid organizations. (<http://www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home>). Email: info@deza.admin.ch

Global Diversity Foundation: The Global Diversity Foundation is a charity organization which generates fund and focuses on applied research on diverse aspects of bio-cultural diversity and culture at selected field sites, training and education from community workshops to university courses and field projects that improve the health, education and rights of communities under threat from the globalised economy. www.globaldiversity.org.uk/

JRS Biodiversity Foundation: The foundation is a grant making organisation in the field of biodiversity to enhance knowledge and promote the understanding of biological diversity for the benefit and sustainability of the life on the earth. Interdisciplinary activities are carried out in collaboration in developing countries and economies in transition. In particular, it focuses in Africa. <http://www.jrsbdf.org>. Email: hcerino@jrsbdf.org

Macarthur's Foundation: The MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society. (<http://www.macfound.org>). Email: 4answers@macfound.org

Darwin Initiative: The Darwin Initiative is a small grants programme that aims to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources in less developed countries. The Initiative is funded and administered by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (Defra). The Darwin Initiative assists countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the funding of collaborative projects which draw on UK biodiversity expertise. (<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/>).

Biodiversity Reporting Award: The Biodiversity Reporting Award (BDRA) is an annual award co-organized by Conservation International's Strategic Marketing + Global Communications Division, the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), the International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) and Fundación Biodiversidad (FB) founded by Spain's Environment Ministry. Fundación Biodiversidad joined as part of its mission to promote the conservation of biodiversity in Latin America. In addition to these global partners, local partners collaborate This website contains all the winning articles since 1999 to 2008. (<http://www.biodiversityreporting.org/>).

B. INFORMATION RESOURCES

Mountain Forum: has valuable and unique resources on global mountain biodiversity:

Mountain Biodiversity Organizations: searchable profiles of 330 organizations working on biodiversity in *Who is Who in Sustainable Mountain Development*. www.mountainforum.org/wisw/index.php

Over 270 searchable documents on Mountain Biodiversity

www.mtnforum.org/rs/ol/searchft.cfm?step=results&srctype=bykeyword

Global /Regional Expertise: A list of Mountain Forum organizations, experts and practitioners by different regions across the world

www.mtnforum.org/ofiles/AsiaPacific.pdf

www.mtnforum.org/ofiles/africa.pdf

www.mtnforum.org/ofiles/Europe.pdf

www.mtnforum.org/ofiles/NAmerica.pdf

www.mtnforum.org/ofiles/SAmerica.pdf

The World Bank-projects Database: Information on biodiversity related projects mostly financed by the Global Environment Facility, including project documents
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/ENVIRONMENT/EXTBIODIVERSITY/0,,contentMDK:20484516~menuPK:1170120~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:400953,00.html>

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): The GBIF mobilizes biodiversity data, develops protocols and standards to ensure scientific integrity and interoperability of data types from disparate sources. It also promotes capacity building and development of tools for improved decision-making. The GBIF Secretariat is located in Copenhagen, Denmark. (www.gbif.org/). E-mail: gbif@gbif.org

UNEP/WCMC World Database on Protected Areas: The World Database on Protected Areas is a comprehensive global spatial dataset of protected areas with information from national governments, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and international biodiversity convention secretariats. It is used for ecological gap analysis, environmental impact analysis and is increasingly used for private sector decision-making (www.wdpa.org/). Email: Charles.Besancon@unep-wcmc.org

Biodiversity Hotspots Database: It is initiated by the Conservation International to facilitate free and open access to biodiversity hotspots worldwide. It contains information about species, hotspots by region, sub-region and different Geographic Information System maps. www.biodiversityhotspots.org

ICIMOD's Information Resources: Documents on different cross cutting issues and good practices on mountain biodiversity can be found at the online library of ICIMOD especially for the Hindu Kush Himalayas. <http://books.icimod.org/index.php/search/subject/18>

GEF supported projects on Mountain Ecosystem: Projects on different themes of biodiversity and mountain ecosystems funded by GEF especially to government organizations and civil societies. (<http://sgp.undp.org/>). Email: sgp.info@undp.org

Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO-3): GBO is the flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity and preparations are currently underway for the production of its third edition. GBO-3 will be formally launched in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity. www.cbd.int/gbo3

InfoAndina Portal: InfoAndina is a CONDESAN initiative to promote knowledge generation and to bring access to Information on biodiversity experts, organizations, projects and documents. (www.infoandina.org) Email: infoandina@cgiar.org

Paramo Information Mechanism (PIM): PIM is managed by InfoAndina and the Andean Paramo Project (PPA) and makes available information about paramo ecosystems in north Andean region. Information resources include a directory of researchers, projects and institutions and virtual library. www.infoandina.org/site.shtml?x=3903

The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN): is a forum to foster technical collaboration and coordination among countries of the Americas in collection, sharing, and use of biodiversity information relevant to decision-making on natural resources management and conservation, and education to promote sustainable development in the region. (<http://www.iabin.net/>).

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL): The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) is an ambitious project to organize and make available via the Internet virtually all information about life present on Earth. At its heart lies a series of Web sites—one for each of the approximately 1.8 million known species—that provide the entry points to this vast array of knowledge. The entry-point for each site is a species page suitable for the general public, but with several linked pages aimed at more specialized users.. (<http://www.eol.org/index>).

Map of the Ecosystems of the Northern and Central Andes: The data of this map provide specific guidelines for the preparation of management plans for biodiversity and for developing policies to promote sustainable regional development in the Andean region. This study includes some information obtained at the country level, and transformed through an approval process database. This is accomplished by an overview: a regional overview on the state of conservation of biodiversity in the Andes. (<http://www.infoandina.org/ecosistemasandinos/>).

The Biodiversity Information System (SIB): The Biodiversity Information System of Colombia is a national initiative which provides all the information of the country in terms of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. The process of implementation of the SIB revolves around three main elements: capacity, infrastructure and information content. (<http://www.siac.net.co/>).

Catalog Biodiversity Colombia: It is an important data bank of several species of animals, plants and fungus. The information is related to biodiversity of Colombia and is very useful for research. It includes pictures. (<http://www.siac.net.co/sib/catalogoespecies/welcome.do>).

Biodiversity in Latin America: Biodiversity in Latin America is a website which works to disseminate information, manage documentation and sharing activities and proposals of Latin American organizations who works in defence of biodiversity. (<http://www.biodiversidadla.org>). Email: info@biodiversidadla.org

C. EXEMPLARY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The following list of projects is not meant to be final or evaluative. The idea is to give a brief glimpse of the band-width of projects concerned with mountain biodiversity on the different levels. If the exemplary projects are mainly from Latin America and Europe, this does not mean that there are less projects in

other regions – but merely that these projects have come to the editors’ attention through our regional networks.

Now we do have examples from Europe and Latin America, but that's not because there are more good projects there than in any other region of the world, but because we got information from our regional contacts there.

Policy

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): The proposed IPBES is a scientific and social platform to strengthen relations between knowledge holders on biodiversity and ecosystem services and actors involved in decision/policymaking processes.

www.ipbes.net

LIFE WEB: Is a Global Initiative on Protected Areas initiated by the CBD Secretariat aimed at establishing regional and national protected areas by supporting national governments. http://unfccc.metafusion.com/kongresse/CBD2008/templ/ply_cbd.php?id_kongresssession=1057&player_mode=isdn_real

Research

European Biodiversity Network Project (EBONE): EBONE is an EU FP7 project. The key challenge of the EBONE project is the development of a cost effective system of biodiversity data collection at regional, national and European levels. The need for the project is to develop a system for a coherent system for data collection that can be used for international comparable assessments or including the CBD reporting against the 2010 target (www.ebone.wur.nl/UK/). Email: rob.jongman@wur.nl

Governance of Biodiversity (GoBi) Research Group: The Governance of Biodiversity (GoBi) Project investigates which appropriate management and governance structures of biosphere reserves and protected areas can contribute to significantly reduce the rate of global biodiversity loss (www.biodiversitygovernance.de/). Email: gobi-project@uni-greifswald.de

Ecological Networks in the European Alps: an initiative of CIPRA, the Network of alpine protected areas ALPARC, the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research ISCAR and the Alpine Program of WWF, in collaboration with the Alpine Convention. <http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org/>

The ALPINE SPACE “ECONNECT” project: The “Econnect” project, co-financed under the Alpine Space programme and involving sixteen partners from six Alpine countries, promotes conservation of biodiversity through an integrated and cross-sectoral approach. The aim is to ensure the ecological continuum within the Alpine region. Ecological connectivity will be enhanced by overcoming legal and ecological barriers. The project’s emphasis is on the implementation of measures in pilot regions in order

to then magnify the results by way of guidelines and best-practice dissemination. The project has become operational in September 2008 and will run until the end of August 2011. (www.econnectproject.eu)

Conservation Area Project Talamanca (ProCAT): It is an international initiative of the Institute of the Rockies. to improve research on biodiversity in the Caribbean Talamanca area, belonging to Costa Rica to support management decisions and conservation. The project consists of an interdisciplinary team of scientists and local stakeholders working in coordination in various subjects including habitat modeling, mapping land use, social perceptions, conservation plans and monitoring of cats and their prey. (<http://www.procat-talamanca.org>). Email: info@procat-talamanca.org

The Data Center for Conservation of the Faculty of Forestry-La Molina University (CDC-UNALM): the centre manages information about the ecological and biological diversity of Peru. It works with species, communities and landscapes, identifying where there is high biodiversity or important natural habitats for conservation. It also collects data about natural protected areas in Peru and uses them to analyze their situation and propose measures for the development and management. (<http://cdc.lamolina.edu.pe/>). Email: webcdc@lamolina.edu.pe

Development

Bioandes: It is a regional program designed to strengthen the sustainable management of biodiversity in the Andean region of Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador. Aims to contribute to conservation and the economic, sociocultural and political status of biodiversity on the basis of the livelihood strategies of knowledge and dialogue. (<http://www.bioandes.org/>)

Andean Paramo Project (PPA): seeks alternatives for the conservation of páramos through the implementation of management actions. PPA works in the fields of research, training, and awareness raising of people linked to the ecosystem, (<http://www.infoandina.org/ppa/sitio.shtml>).

Enrichment of the number of birds and forests in the Páramos Altoandinos Génova-Quindío, and processes of education and environmental awareness around the high mountain ecosystems: The project was designed to enrich the number of birds in the zone named “Páramos y Bosques Altoandinos de Génova-Quindío” and generate ownership of the high-Andean ecosystems by the landowners and the wider community, through processes of education and environmental awareness around the importance and biological and ecological zone. Email: feremellizas@gmail.com

Sacred Himalayan Landscape: It is an initiative in the Himalayas of Bhutan, Nepal and India with a mission to conserve biological and cultural treasures of the world’s highest sacred. It implements conservation projects that include health services, informal education and livelihood projects. It has focused on engaging the governments in the equitable sharing of benefits from natural resources and empowering local communities to manage the rich natural heritage of Himalayas. Email:

shubash.lohani@wwfus.org

www.worldwildlife.org/what/wherewework/easternhimalayas/WWFBinaryitem6370.pdf