

Stewardship and Human-Powered Recreation for the New Century National Mountain Conference (USA)

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- Ensuring a voice for mountain regions at the international level, while working in close synergy with existing organizations.
- Encouraging governments and international authorities to become more involved in supporting mountain regions and recognizing their diversity.
- Creating a place for debates and exchange of information between mountain populations.

From the World Mountain

Forum to “Montagnes du Monde”

The Draft Charter project specifies that the name “World Mountain Forum” must be abandoned to avoid any confusion with the existing Mountain Forum network (<http://www.mtnforum.org>). The

name “Montagnes du Monde” (“Mountains of the World”; “Montañas del Mundo”) was suggested for this new organization.

Publication of the proceedings of the World Mountain Forum has been scheduled for the end of 2000.

Final questions

The ANEM initiative was a fruitful exercise that should mark another step in creating awareness of mountain issues. Solidarity and communication were 2 key concepts debated at the WMF. It is expected that the next meeting will be held in 2002 in Quito (Ecuador) or Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).

The Draft World Charter for Mountain Populations and creation of a new global association of moun-

tain communities proposed in Chambéry raised significant expectations. They also caused some concern in terms of procedure and content. The Mountain Forum, the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains, and the FAO need to join hands and work with ANEM and other proponents of these proposals in order to make sure that participatory and inclusive approaches are applied to develop them further. There is a need to ensure that these projects and initiatives are heading in a direction that leads to sustainable development.

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Stewardship and Human-Powered Recreation for the New Century National Mountain Conference (USA)

A National Mountain Conference in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, USA, was planned and cohosted by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, 14–16 September 2000, at Golden, Colorado. The partners in this effort were an alliance of The American Alpine Club, the American Hiking Society, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Colorado Mountain Club, and the Mountaineers. Ten members of IUCN's Mountain Protected Area Network played a role in the program presentations.

Topics covered ranged from the threats posed by mining, logging, and motorized recreation to a consideration of the sacredness of mountains, the impacts of trophy homes, suburbanization, and gateway communities. Water and air quality problems were discussed along with alien species problems and habitat fragmentation. Twelve critical issues were identified as forming the basis of an action agenda, including drafting letters to the

presidential candidates in the November US elections.

These worrisome dozen issues are:

- Encroaching urban environment.
- Proliferating human infrastructure.
- Damaging natural resource extraction.
- Declining ecological diversity.
- Diminishing mountain air quality.
- Impairment of water resources.
- Changing climate conditions.
- Loving mountains to death through recreational overuse and misuse.
- Ballooning numbers of inexperienced users.
- Increasing user group conflicts.
- Losing access to public lands.
- Losing the mountain experience and solitude.

Examples of problems linked with these issues were presented from mountains all over the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

At the same time, there was also discussion of areas where progress has been made in retarding processes of degradation.

Larry Hamilton, Vice-Chair for Mountains in IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, gave a keynote address on “A Campaign for the World's Mountains,” which shifted the focus from the national to the international scene, and highlighted both the Mountain Chapter of Agenda 21 and the forthcoming International Year of Mountains 2002.

An all-day field trip into the heart of the ski development country and old mining area allowed participants to see first-hand and up close what shape these critical issues take in reality.

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