



ENVIRONMENT HOUSE NEWS

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A periodic update on the Geneva Environment Network and the International Environment House, Geneva

Mountains: Safeguarding our future

By Achim Steiner, Director General, The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

With more than half of humanity depending on mountains to provide the water it needs to drink, grow food, generate electricity and sustain economic development, IUCN would be disregarding our common future if it did not pay attention to mountains in its work programme. Mountains harbour some of the world's richest biological diversity – with almost 4 million square kilometres of mountain forests located above 1,000 metres.

But mountains also host some of the world's poorest people, with inaccessibility being one of the greatest influences shaping their lives. This has preserved their distinct cultural and environmental characteristics but has also marginalized communities in terms of their access to resources, democratic processes and, as a result, political influence. Furthermore, as mountain ranges provide physical barriers and political borders, these communities are often subject to conflict – as reflected by the fact that 23 of the 27 major armed conflicts in the world in 1999 were being fought in mountain regions.

How does IUCN contribute to this frontier of sustainable development – the meeting point of environment, development and security? The International Year of Mountains obliges us to focus our collaborative action and known strengths on mountain issues – not to create parallel programmes, or to duplicate the work of other key players, but to capitalize on our unique structure that brings together those who can influence the Mountain Agenda.

IUCN's objective is to promote an integrated approach to the management of mountains – an approach that considers the full spectrum of challenges affecting mountain ecosystems and those who depend on them –

by bringing together the diverse components that create our understanding of mountains – geology, meteorology, hydrology, biology, ecology, anthropology, economics and politics – to assess the crucial relationships between upper and lower watersheds, mountain forests and alpine grasslands, mountain communities and lowland urban dwellers.

Our network of offices around the world is poised to contribute this global perspective. Nearly all of them deal every day with mountain issues, from the Andes to the Alps and from the Himalayas to the Usambaras. They are undertaking an impressive number of activities in partnership with many IUCN members, IUCN Commissions and partner organizations who consider mountain conservation and development central to their concerns.

For example, the Tropical Montane Cloud Forest Initiative is bringing together researchers, communities, decision-makers, and conservation and development practitioners to combine and integrate their understanding, awareness, policy and hands-on experience. The Initiative involves IUCN's Forest Conservation and Wetlands and Water Resources Programmes, the Mountain Theme of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, WWF's Forests for Life and Freshwater Programmes, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands National Committee for IUCN, as well as NGO representatives from Africa, Latin America and Asia.



International Year of Mountains Special Issue

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IUCN also launched and continues to support the Mountain Forum, a global electronic network of more than 2,500 individuals in 100 countries. The Forum moderates 15 discussion lists, global and regional electronic conferences, and an interactive website with membership services, a calendar of events, online library and links to useful sites. The Forum publishes a free quarterly newsletter, *Mountain Protected Areas Update* (visit <http://www.mtnforum.org>).

This form of collaboration is often even more valuable at the regional level. A prime example of such regional action is the 10-year Himal Strategy being launched by the IUCN Asia Mountain Programme. This effort reflects the aspirations of a wide range of stakeholders and builds on a number of existing initiatives in Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and, through IUCN's membership, India. It will foster links between people and institutions throughout the Himalayan region for the conservation and sustainable development of mountain biomes. The programme will begin by building a store of conservation knowledge for the region, which will then be used to build institutional and human capacity to conserve biological diversity, direct human resources toward village

eco-development, influence government policies for better management of mountain ecosystems, and promote improved governance through empowerment of local communities.

These projects prove that there is great opportunity for linking the disparate components of mountainous environments to achieve major focal areas at regional level. Such concerted action could be a major contribution to overcome hostile social, economic and political barriers.

The seemingly impenetrable monoliths of rock called mountains are in reality our repositories of biodiversity, providing homes to one tenth of the world's people as well as goods and services to more than half the global population. These fragile environments are our vital life-support systems. In this International Year of Mountains, IUCN is poised to renew its longstanding commitment to safeguarding both mountain ecosystems and mountain cultures.

Reducing disasters in the mountains

By Salvano Briceño, Director,
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

The United Nations has proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains as a way of highlighting the risks and opportunities facing communities living in these often fragile ecosystems. The challenge of coping with disasters must number among their major concerns.

Mountains are extremely active environments. They often experience dramatic winds and rains, snowfall

and snowmelt, temperature variations, rockslides and landslides, and even volcanic activity and earthquakes. All of these perfectly natural events can pose serious hazards. While events such as lava flows and rockslides pose dramatic and obvious hazards, gradual processes such as soil erosion can also put the lives and livelihoods of mountain people at risk. Unfortunately, natural hazards are increasing as resident and visitor populations continue to grow.

Mountain communities rely on traditional knowledge to minimize their exposure to natural hazards. However, such knowledge is not always used or recognised, especially in the case of slow-onset hazards. In addition, catastrophic events such as glacial lake outbursts and debris avalanches related to volcanic eruptions may occur on long cycles, or have multiple causes. They are therefore inherently difficult to predict. There is also often little choice on where to locate houses, transport routes and other infrastructure, with the result that human settlements are often confined to limited areas, particularly valleys. This adds further to the potential for loss of life and property.

What is disaster reduction?

Given their high vulnerability, mountain communities provide a good illustration of what has been done and what still needs to be done to reduce the

NatureNotes

Parc Jurassien Vaudois

As we celebrate the International Year of Mountains, our thoughts naturally turn to the animals and plants that live in the beautiful, fragile and hazardous environments of the nearby European alps. Some of us take hiking trips to great altitudes, hoping for a glimpse of an ibex on a rocky outcrop or a bearded vulture returning to its nest. But we needn't go so far to see alpine animals and plants, since many of them can be found much closer to home in the nearby Jura mountains.

There is a nature reserve not far from Geneva where you can see many species typical of the high alps. This is the Parc Jurassien Vaudois – our own 'Jurassic Park' – near the Col de Marchairuz between Lac Léman and Lac de Joux.





negative impacts of natural hazards on populations at risk.

Fortunately, the knowledge and technology needed to minimize the effects of disasters already exist. Disaster reduction measures cover a wide spectrum of activities ranging from avoiding disasters altogether (disaster prevention) to anticipating how to respond to disaster impacts (disaster preparedness) to limiting the severity of a disaster (disaster mitigation).

Successful disaster reduction also requires sound information and strong political commitment. It must be viewed as an ongoing process that is not limited to a single disaster. People at risk should engage in pro-active disaster management rather than simply responding to disasters as they happen. Because disaster reduction is multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary in nature, many people and institutions must be involved in a wide variety of interrelated activities at the local, national, regional and international levels.

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

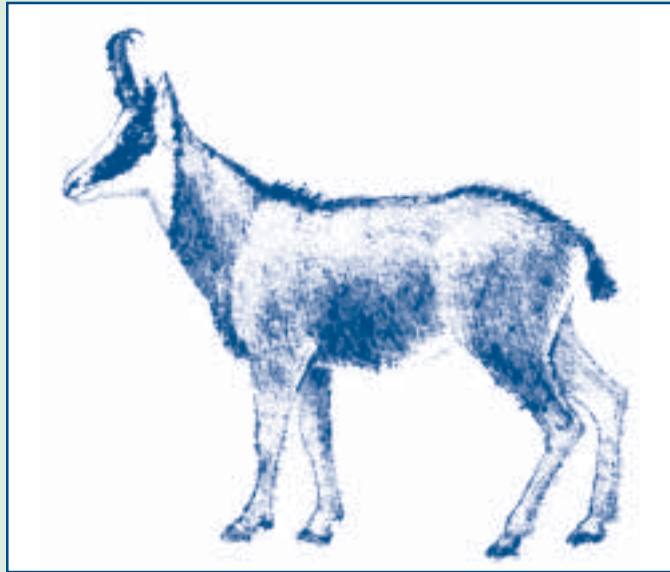
Reducing disasters in mountain regions should be a major component of sustainable development planning. The UN has established the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction as a global framework for action. Its goal is to enable all societies and communities to become resilient to the effects of natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters. Mountain regions can benefit greatly from participating in the International Strategy.

The Strategy involves a conceptual shift away from emphasizing disaster response to managing risk by integrating disaster reduction into sustainable development. This involves establishing partnerships between governments, civil society, UN agencies, the scientific community, and the media

NatureNotes

Chamois

The chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra* is found in the Alps up to 3000m. Tawny brown in summer and dark grey in winter, it is easily recognized by its small black horns (up to 20 cm) bent back like a hook at the tip. The citizens of St George and other villages at the base of the Jura often awake on winter mornings to find small groups of them grazing in their back yards.



as well as other relevant stakeholders in the disaster reduction community.

The Strategy's four goals are to increase public awareness about disaster reduction, to obtain commitment from public authorities, to stimulate inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral partnerships, and to improve scientific understanding of the causes and consequences of natural disasters. The UN General Assembly has mandated two additional tasks that are directly relevant to disaster reduction: continued international cooperation on reducing the impacts of El Niño and La Niña, and strengthening disaster reduction capacity through Early Warning measures.

To mark the International Year of Mountains, the ISDR Secretariat has dedicated its annual World Disaster Reduction Campaign to mountains.

"Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Mountain Development" seeks to raise awareness of successful disaster reduction in mountain areas so that vulnerable mountain populations can benefit from existing experiences. The Campaign culminates in the International Day for Disaster Reduction, the second Wednesday of October every year.

The ISDR Secretariat is also involved in several initiatives related to disaster reduction in mountain areas. It supports the recent creation of the International Consortium on Landslides and its International Programme for Landslides by Kyoto University, together with UNESCO. It is also currently involved in a post-event study of the recent volcanic eruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

New GEN member

Association Ecologie Economie pour un Développement Durable

<http://www.mont-blanc-leman.org/region/acteurs/associations/aee+dd/index.html>

For more information on ISDR and the World Disaster Reduction Campaign, please contact: Promotion and Public Awareness Officer, ISDR Secretariat, 52 rue des Pâquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland, tel. +41 22 917 97 06, fax +41-22-917-9098, e-mail appeln@un.org or see www.unisdr.org.



An action plan for the mountains

By Mark Collins, Director, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and Andrei Iatsenia, UNEP Regional Office for Europe/Mountain Programme Coordinator

The International Year of Mountains (IYM) promises to yield two vital outcomes: a heightened awareness around the world of the dangers facing mountain ecosystems and mountain communities, and a detailed Bishkek Mountain Platform setting out policies and actions that governments and other stakeholders can take to tackle these dangers. UNEP is already fully engaged in ensuring that the Year achieves these concrete results.

A series of workshops and other activities is well underway around the world, including plans for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. These events will culminate in the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, being held in Kyrgyzstan from 29 October – 2 November (see www.globalmountainsummit.org). The Summit will draw together all of the ideas and recommendations generated during the year and agree on specific, practical actions for promoting the sustainable development of mountain areas in the 21st century.

The entire process for the Year and the Summit is being supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (as lead agency), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Aga Khan Development Network, the

UN University, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the UN Development Programme, the World Bank, the Mountain Forum and the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Austria, Italy and Germany.

UNEP-WCMC and UNEP's Regional Office for Europe have set up a technical secretariat in Geneva to support the development of a UNEP Mountain Programme and to actively service the Summit and its preparatory events. For example, UNEP is sponsoring the production of ten thematic issues papers (see www.mntforum.org) for the Mountain Forum and the High Summit (described below). These papers will help form the Bishkek Mountain Platform, a detailed policy framework that mountainous countries are expected to adopt at the Summit and implement at home.

UNEP activities

The following list includes the most important events and activities in which UNEP is playing a major role:

Mountain Watch/Mountain Atlas/ UNEP.Net Mountain Portal. An assessment of the ecological condition of mountains worldwide, Mountain Watch is the process by which an as-

essment methodology will be devised and implemented in developing regions through a GEF project. UNEP-WCMC has already produced a World Map of Mountains and their Forests, which will provide basic materials for a proposed World Atlas of Mountains. Additional partnerships are needed for this project. All materials arising from the Mountain Watch and Mountain Atlas processes will be integrated into a Mountain Portal on the UNEP.Net Internet site.

Mountain Commons Stewardship.

This initiative seeks to promote alliances between stakeholders from the public and private sector. The UNEP Mountain Programme together with the World Economic Forum held the first roundtable on Mountain Commons Stewardship in New York in January. The GEF project "Barriers and Best Practices in Integrated Management of Mountain Ecosystems", the German development agency (GTZ), and the NGO Earth3000 are also supporting this initiative.

"From the Summits to the Seas" Exhibition. This poster exhibition was launched by the UNEP Executive Director at the European Parliament in Brussels on 27 February. It is sponsored and supported by several European Parliament members and the European Parliamentary Group "Friends of the Mountains". It will be displayed at various international meetings throughout 2002.

The Alpine Experience: An Approach for Other Mountains. This meeting will be held from 26-29 June in Berchtesgaden, Germany and is jointly organised by the German National Committee for IYM, CIPRA International and UNEP. The meeting will identify lessons learned from the Alpine Process of trans-boundary cooperation that might prove relevant for other mountain ranges. Participants will come from Alpine, Carpathian, Caucasian, Central Asian and Himalayan countries.

NatureNotes

Martagon lily

Martagon lilies *Lilium martagon* can be found up to the tree line in the Alps, but can also occur in the Jura. Introduced to Britain as a garden plant, they have spectacular purple flowers whose six petals turn back to expose six stamens and stigma. The stems, up to a metre high, are ringed with whorls of up to 15 leaves. Named for the Turkish word for a turban of similar shape, the species is also known as the Turk's cap lily. Look for them in summer at forest edges. But don't pick! They are protected.





The European Mountain Initiative. Many countries have proposed regional initiatives for the IYM for promoting the protection and sustainable management of major transboundary mountain ranges. UNEP has launched this initiative in response to requests from governments in Europe and Central Asia. The Initiative will assist the region's governments strengthen cooperation in the Carpathians, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Carpathian Cooperation. The UNEP Regional Office for Europe and the WWF International - Danube Carpathian Programme Office are working together to assist Ukraine in leading intergovernmental consultations among Carpathian countries. This effort focuses on implementing the WWF - Carpathian Eco-region Initiative, a unique international partnership of over 50 organizations; promoting the Carpathian Biodiversity Network of mountain protected areas, with the support of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas; and strengthening the participation of local communities, the private sector and NGOs.

Central Asian Charter and Caucasus Convention. The draft Central Asian Mountain Charter, initiated by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, is currently the subject of inter-ministerial consultations among the Central Asian Countries. The signature of the Charter is planned as a side event of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit. The Caucasian countries are also developing a legal instrument for the protection of the Caucasian Mountain Ecosystem.

Building Capacity for Monitoring and Assessment. The largest protected area in Nepal, the Annapurna Conservation Area, will be the pilot site for developing tools, training staff on assessing ecological and cultural values of mountain commons, and monitoring of impacts on mountain ecosystems. UNEP-WCMC will work alongside the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation in an area that has pioneered the involvement of local communities in protected area management. Lessons learned from the project will be transferable to other mountain parks.

NatureNotes

Capercaillie

If you venture quietly deep into the Jura forest you might see a grouse-like capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, a large member of the Family Gallinaceae, which also includes chickens. The best-known symbol of the Park, the bird is in decline because of its extreme sensitivity to habitat modification and disturbance. The nearly-black male is famous for its enthusiastic mating display, during which it spreads its large fan-shaped tail.



New guidelines set norms for access & benefit-sharing

By Michael Williams, Information Unit for Conventions, United Nations Environment Programme

The Geneva Environment Network organized a roundtable on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing on 2 April, just days before the opening of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The event featured presentations by Phyllida Cheyne of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Martha Chouchena-Rojas of the World Conservation Union-IUCN, Graham Dutfield of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, and Olivier Jalbert of the Montreal-based CBD secretariat. The following article draws on the roundtable discussion as well as the conclusions of COP 6.

The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity is the first international treaty to address the terms under which a foreign company or organization may exploit a country's genetic resources. While nature's genetic riches were once considered the common heritage of humankind, the Convention now recognizes that every government has a sovereign right over its own natural resources. It seeks to ensure that genetic resources can be usefully exploited by foreign entities in return for a share of the benefits.

This issue—known in the jargon simply as Access and Benefit-Sharing—is highly complex. The idea is that by granting an international company or other organization access to its genetic resources (such as plants that can be used to produce new pharmaceuticals or fragrances), a country or local community will in return receive a fair share of the benefits. This could come, for example, in the form of profits, royal-

ties, project partnerships, training, or laboratory equipment.

Doing this effectively requires satisfying a range of environmental, social, and commercial interests. A successful approach would provide biodiversity-rich countries with incentives for conserving and sustainably using biological resources. It would offer indigenous and local communities with traditional knowledge a fair share of the benefits. It would also be seen as a good deal for seed companies, plant breeders, pharmaceutical companies and other industries seeking genetic resources.

A well-known example of an access and benefit-sharing contract was agreed between Diversa Corporation and the Costa Rican National Biodiversity Institute (INBio) in 1995 and renewed in 1998. The two partners are collecting samples of microorganisms associated with larger organisms such as insects from mangrove swamps,



NatureNotes

Black vanilla orchid

One of many mountain orchids, the diminutive black vanilla orchid *Nigritella nigra* (which is found as high as 2800 m in the Alps) appears in great numbers in Jura fields and hillsides in mid-summer. They are easy to miss underfoot, and look quite black until you get close enough to see that they are, in fact, a deep velvety red. Getting on your hands and knees for a close look is worth the effort, since they have a very sweet vanilla fragrance.



coral reefs, forest soils and other locations. Diversa is looking for enzymes and structural proteins that can be used for biotechnology, crop protection and pharmaceuticals.

Under the terms of the agreements, INBio collects samples using both its own techniques and proprietary technology provided by Diversa. INBio guarantees that it will not use this technology for collecting and processing samples for other companies. All DNA sequences that INBio isolates for Diversa become Diversa's property. All microorganisms isolated from the sites remain the property of Costa Rica.

Diversa pays the salary and overheads of at least one INBio staff member. It also pays undisclosed royalties to INBio in the event that Diversa licenses a product to a client company based on samples obtained from INBio. INBio receives access to technology, equipment, and capacity building and has access to Diversa's high-throughput DNA sequencing facility. (See www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/benefit/case-studies.asp for more examples.)

Patents and traditional knowledge

Because important principles and potentially large sums of money are at stake, an intergovernmental agreement on access and benefit-sharing has proven elusive up to now. But at COP 6 in The Hague the Convention's member governments succeeded in adopting the so-called Bonn Guidelines. These Guidelines recommend how to negotiate contracts specifying

the benefits to be shared and the rules for obtaining bio-prospecting permits.

The next challenge is to translate the Guidelines into practice. Of particular importance is working with existing regimes on international property rights, notably WIPO and the World Trade Organization's Agreement on the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). A way must be found to satisfy the needs of biodiversity providers and traditional-knowledge holders while ensuring that the various regimes are synergistic and mutually supporting.

The modern patenting system was not designed to meet the needs and interests of traditional knowledge-holders. Take the case of a compound in a plant that has been used by the San people ("Bushmen") in the Kalahari Desert for hundreds of years to suppress hunger. Intellectual property law treats living things and their components as chemicals that can be patented. Because the company (unlike the San) was able to describe the compound's mode of action in bio-chemical terms, it was granted a patent to use the compound in a drug to help obese people control their eating. While the company did eventually agree to a benefit-sharing deal with the San people, the case illustrates the cultural bias inherent in the current system.

Another example comes from the requirement for patenting agencies to determine if an invention features "novelty and inventive step". The problem is that there is very little documentation on pre-existing traditional knowledge and no central databank at all. To fill the gap, WIPO has started

drawing up an inventory of available journals and literature on traditional knowledge. It is also reviewing existing legislation and rules for protecting the holders of traditional knowledge.

Next steps

The Bonn Guidelines are a good start. They must now be translated into national legislation and into national and regional registration systems. Ways of enforcing contracts need to be developed. Governments of countries that tend to consume genetic resources can develop systems for encouraging private entities to act voluntarily to share benefits with providers. All governments may want to strengthen their reporting of access and benefit-sharing activities in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Meanwhile, biodiversity-rich countries need to move towards adding value to their own raw genetic resources. Capacity-building for these technologically poor countries will remain high on the agenda. In addition, more research is needed into the needs of traditional-knowledge holders and how these needs can best be met. Many disciplines and stakeholders must be engaged in this work. The issue of access and benefit-sharing will clearly remain high on the global biodiversity agenda for some years to come.

NatureNotes

La Garenne

An easy way to get to know European fauna is to visit La Garenne, a small zoo that takes in injured or displaced wildlife and carries out captive breeding programmes for endangered species. Among the mountain animals you can see there are bearded vultures, wolves, owls, eagles and lynx.

It's a great place to take the children. They are open every day of the week from 9 to 18h. Admission: adults 8 Fr; children 4 Fr. Take the autoroute toward Lausanne, get off at Nyon or Gland, and follow signs to the village of Le Vaud. From here the way to La Garenne is clearly marked.



The Alpine Garden at Meyrin: a wealth of plant life to be discovered

By Olivier Chatelain, Chief, Environment Service, Commune of Meyrin, Geneva

The park in which the Alpine Garden is situated was first laid out in the early 20th century in private grounds covering an area of 3,5 hectares belonging to Amable Gras, a cloth merchant, who took up residence on the estate with his family. At that time, the purpose of the park was to provide a pleasant setting for its owners' day-to-day life, and the selection of plants grown was not yet as rich or diversified as it is today. However, a section of the park near the chalet was already laid out for the growing of Alpine and rock plants. A reference to this garden dating back to 1932 can be found in the French magazine "L'Illustration", which contains a colour photograph of the rock plants in flower in the month of May. After the owner's death in 1952, the rockery was left to grow wild until 1960, when the property was purchased by the Commune of Meyrin.

Exchange of seeds

From that date onward, the borough's gardeners began overhauling the rock garden and enlarging the collection by adding ligneous and herbaceous plants from all over the world. Exchanges of seeds with other botanical gardens in temperate zones the world over proved of invaluable assistance in the proper performance of this task. Seeds of plants gathered in homogenous areas of natural growth by specialists thoroughly familiar with their local flora offer a guarantee of genetic authenticity, the risk of inter-species hybridization being virtually ruled out. A catalogue of seeds proposed to 250 botanical gardens, principally in the northern hemisphere, is issued every year.

A rich and varied collection

Today the Alpine Garden at Meyrin houses 3600 species and varieties of plants, for the most part herbaceous hardy perennials, ligneous species providing an attractive supplement – aesthetic as well as botanical – in conformity with Geneva's tree-growing

traditions. The plants are suitably labeled and the labeling system is regularly added to and updated so that everyone can identify the plants in accordance with their own interests. The rockery is further embellished by a small stream and two ornamental ponds in which thriving aquatic and marsh plants are to be found.



Meyrin, a Commune in the Canton of Geneva, houses an Alpine Garden with a wide variety of flora.

Recreation areas

The Alpine Garden also includes a park area with enclosures for hens, ducks, geese and other birds which the public enjoys watching while at the same time discovering exotic or native plants whose existence they had not previously suspected. A playground for younger children is also provided for the use of families. Visitors can sit and rest in larchwood arbours covered with rambler roses or admire beds of large or small-flowered roses behind which a collection of rose trees interspersed with slow-growing conifers has been planted in order to provide a touch of colour during the winter season.

Art events

The first art exhibition was held in the villa of the Alpine Garden in 1984. Since then, local artists as well as those from other places have had opportunities to hold temporary exhibitions of their works in the villa or, in the case of larger sculptures, in the park grounds.

Biodiversity and sustainable development

Sustainable development with its social, environmental and economic components forms part of the borough authorities' priorities. That is the reason why the Alpine Garden is not just a recreation area or pleasure ground like other public parks. Numerous visits are organized, on request, for the benefit of schoolchildren, students of ecology, professional groups or simple nature-lovers. The collection also constitutes a valuable genetic fund that contributes towards the preservation of biological diversity – a function it performs by serving as a conservatory, inasmuch as the plants already in place can be multiplied by generative or vegetative means. The Alpine Garden at Meyrin, whose multifunctional nature is attested by all these activities, thus plays an essential role in the educational, cultural, social and environmental fields.

Future prospects

In pursuing their activities in all these fields, those responsible for running the Alpine Garden at Meyrin constantly bear in mind its proximity to a strongly urbanized area. A "green lung" of this kind helps to restore the balance and makes it possible to offer to visitors an exceptionally attractive site for the discovery, whether superficial or more thorough, of a wealth of botanical life in the very heart of the city of Meyrin.

For further information or to visit, send an e-mail to:

olivier.chatelain@meyrin.ch



Upcoming environment-related events in the Geneva area

Date	Event (Organizer/contact)
5 June	World Environment Day
5 June	GEN Roundtable on Sustainable Tourism (a.m.) (Geneva Environment Network, Mr. Aniket Ghai, Tel. +41 (0)22 917 8505, Fax +41 (0)22 797 3464, Email: aniket.ghai@unep.ch)
5 June	IUCN Open House, from 14h00 onwards (IUCN – The World Conservation Union, Tel. +41 (0)22 999 0000, Email: xenya.cherny@iucn.org)
6-9 June	“Tous acteurs pour un développement durable” – Four-day event on sustainable development, at the International Environment House (6-7 June) and the Plaine de Plainpalais (8-9 June) (Geneva Canton’s Department of Interior, Agriculture and Environment, Mr. Alexandre Epalle, Email: alexandre.epalle@etat.ge.ch)
10 June	<i>[Title to be confirmed]</i> (UNEP/ETB, Ms. Desirée Leon, Tel. +41 (0)22 917 82 43, Email: leond@unep.ch)
11-12 June	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Special Session (WTO, Ms. Doaa Abdel Motaal, WTO, Tel: +41 (0)22 739 5875, Email: doaa.abdelmotaal@wto.org)
13-14 June	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (WTO, Ms. Sabrina Shaw, WTO, Tel: +41 (0)22 739 5482, Email: Sabrina.shaw@wto.org)
14-15	June From Rio to Johannesburg: a reflection on the institutional foundations of world trade (IUED, Ms. Catherine Minetti, Tel. +41(0)22 906 5943, Fax +41(0)22 906 5947)
17-19 June	Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms (UNECE, Tel. +41(0)22 917 4444, Fax +41(0)22 917 0505, E-mail: info.ece@unece.org)
17-21	June 6 th Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Stockholm Convention on POPs (UNEP Chemicals, Mr. Jim Willis, Tel. +41 (0)22 917 8111, Fax +41 (0)22 797 3460, E-mail: chemicals@unep.ch)
20-21 June	WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO, Ms. Vivien Liu, Tel. +41 (0)22 739 5455, Email: vivien.liu@wto.org)
24-26 June	WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO, Ms. Gretchen Stanton, Tel. +41 (0)22 739 5086, Email: gretchen.stanton@wto.org)
25-28 June	WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (WTO, Mr. Peter Ungphakorn, Tel. +41 (0)22 739 5412, Email: peter.ungphakorn@wto.org)
2 July	Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment (UNECE, Tel. +41(0)22 917 4444, Fax +41(0)22 917 0505, E-mail: info.ece@unece.org)
3-4 July	Working Group of Senior Officials “Environment for Europe” (UNECE, Tel. +41(0)22 917 4444, Fax +41(0)22 917 0505, E-mail: info.ece@unece.org)
14-19 July	World Civil Society Forum, Geneva (World Civil Society Forum, Fax +41 (0)22 959 8851, E-mail: forum@mandint.org)

For more information on environment events in Geneva, see <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/events.html>.

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