

June 2024 # 122

Welcome to the 122th Mountain UPDATE. It seems many

The Mountain Specialist Group acknowledges the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters where we live and work and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the

The views expressed in this UPDATE are not necessarily those of the IUCN-WCPA.

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News of the Canadian government's intent on to explore creation of a new national park in Yukon Territory's Gwich'in and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun territory is welcome, say staff at Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative.

Lands and waters being considered include the Peel River corridor, Turner Lake Wetlands, and



*The Guardian March 2024*

From the moment the rangers first saw him on their trail cameras, the

*Act on on feral horses: Kosciuszko NP, Australian Alps*



Feral horses on the plains above Kandra in the Kosciuszko national park. Photo: Mike Bowers/The Guardian

*From Invasive Species Council & The Guardian May 2024*

Conservationists said for the first time the number of horses removed from the park would exceed the annual growth in horse populations, giving hope that a major threat for under-pressure ecosystems was starting to be addressed.

Data released by the government this week shows 5,539 horses have been killed since aerial shooting resumed late last year. A further 427 horses were removed through other methods, such as trapping and rehoming and ground shooting, since the last population surveys in October, which estimated the number of feral horses in the park had ballooned to 17,000.



"The numbers speak for themselves. There have been simply too many wild (feral) horses in Kosciuszko national park," Minister Sharpe (above with image of endangered Broad-tooth rat) said. "The NSW government is delivering on its commitment to protect and restore our environment, and I am sure we will soon see the benefits for our native plants and animals as well as our precious alpine







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### Indigenous Filipinos fight to protect biodiverse mountains from mining

At the foothills of the Victoria-Anepahan Mountains in the Philippines, the Indigenous Tagbanua have lived with the rhythms of nature for generations. They rely on the lush landscape for everything they need, from food and water to non-timber products.

But their forest and way of life are under threat as mining companies covet the mountains for their nickel and other mineral resources, which are highly sought after for the global transition to renewable energy. The Indigenous Tagbanua are organizing to halt these mining plans before they begin, along with downstream farmers, church and civil society groups. Concerns raised by the Tagbanua and other mining opponents include loss of land and livelihood, reduced supply of water for irrigation, and damage to a unique and biodiverse ecosystem.



Aurora borealis fills an overnight sky, with rare sightings all over Europe - The Grossglockner mountains near Zell am See in Austria 11 May 2024

### Tanzania's 'mountain of millipedes' yields six new species

Scientists have recently described six new species of millipedes, including one from an entirely new genus, in Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains. This brings the number of new species found in the Udzungwa Mountains since 2014 to 81 — further confirming the rich biodiversity of these isolated mountain blocks.

### Grizzly Bears

In Washington, NPS has partnered with US Fish and Wildlife on a plan

to protect grizzly bears in the Northwest and Alaska — a plan that will help protect the species and habitat in the US and Canada.

### Warmer & Wetter Monsoon Season

As Afghanistan reels from flash floods that have killed more than 300 people and destroyed thousands of homes, the countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya are braced for what might be a difficult monsoon season ahead, with experts warning of above average temperatures, and higher rainfall for Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. The outlook for June to September comes after a heatwave broke temperature records across the region last month—Nepal saw wildfires blaze in every province when high temperatures followed below-average winter precipitation.



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*The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development* (ICIMOD)  
and the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)

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