

# Mountain Populations & Their Vision for the Future

Agenda >  
Southwest Asia

20-24 May 2002  
Fianarantsoa,  
Madagascar

The Africa Section of the World Mountain Populations Association (Association des Populations de Montagnes du Monde, APMM) extends an invitation to a lively debate and mutual learning experience among different mountain actors from Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa, the Mascareignes Islands, and Madagascar. Affirming a community of mountain peoples with a common destiny, the workshop will contribute to the ongoing process of networking for a common vision and a joint African Mountain Action Plan.

By Peter Schachenmann &  
Hanta Rabetaliana

The central theme "African mountain development, how stakeholders can become shareholders" is examined from five angles:

- Memory and Landscape, the Anatomy of Change: from culture and nature in natural coalition and *co-evolution* to accelerating social-ecological transformation, constrained by rapid changes of the cultural, socio-economic and socio-political context
- Natural Resources: negotiating a desired environment, from theory to action, state rights becoming community rights, duties, and responsibilities
- The dichotomy of Development and Conservation Objectives: how to move from conflict to synergy between people and protected areas
- Democracy and Good Governance: society and its actors, how to get self-interest to work for a common good
- Scientific Research and Appropriate Technology: orchestrating a mutual learning process, how to synergetically match local knowledge and traditional solutions with scientific insights and modern technology.

## Background

Most mountains and highlands in the world have since long had a human dimension. Over centuries nature and

people reacted to disturbances in an iterative cycle of change and adaptation. Nature and culture systematically reorganized themselves and thus *co-evolved*. In recent decades and particularly so in Africa, demographic pressures, lack of sustainable economic opportunities, inappropriate patterns of land tenure, user rights and development led to sharply increased connectedness and increasingly negative interactions between people and nature.

This made fragile mountain ecosystems more brittle, putting in motion at accelerating speed and increased number of sites a vicious cycle with Nature responding by reduced ecosystem resilience and resource degradation, leading to more hazards and significantly reduced ecosystem services. Society in turn reacts to these degrading aspects of life in the mountains and constraints for local livelihood development with weakening social values, loss of traditional knowledge and cultural identity often leading to poverty, insecurity, migration, and conflict. Working towards sustainability therefore requires long-term systemic visions and participatory approaches at multi-scale levels.

## About APMM

Notwithstanding that natural sciences have during the last century accumulated wide knowledge of ecosystem structures and processes,

important gaps of understanding remain with civil society, where broad integrative values and goals are less well known or marginalized and most importantly less articulate. Seeing this as its entry point, the Association of Mountain Populations of the World was designed as a key initiative to create increased awareness and understanding, to bring into global focus issues affecting mountain peoples and ecosystems. Furthermore AMPW was developed to shift old paradigms, translating into national and regional strategies and on-the-ground action that will bring about measurable

improvements in the quality of life for mountain peoples and the protection of mountain ecosystems.

In recognition of the fact that sustainable development of mountain regions can only succeed with the full involvement of those people and institutions who are in daily contact and interaction with both, constraints and opportunities provided by particular mountain features and resources, APMM has the ambition that throughout the UN International Year of Mountains 2002 and onwards, voices of mountain peoples be heard in their communities, their countries, and

around the world. This should facilitate more equitable and sustainable integration of mountain issues and mountain stakeholders in a global development agenda. <

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## Burma-Myanmar(r) Research and its Future: Implications for Scholars and Policymakers

Agenda >  
Southeast Asia

21-25 September  
2002  
Gothenburg, Sweden

The First Collaborative International Conference of the Burma Studies Group (BSG) aims to bring attention to recent scholarship on Burma-Myanmar, to foster dialogue among scholars from Burma-Myanmar and the international community and to establish "fresh comparative perspectives" with other countries in transition. It is our intention to arrive at a more enduring coordination of regular international academic exchanges on Burma-Myanmar.

The conference will be held in conjunction with the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Centre for Asian Studies (CEAS), and Gothenburg University, is sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Nordic Academy for Advanced Studies (Nordisk Forskerutdanningsakademi, NorFA).

### Information >

#### Conference Organizing Committee:

Dr Gustaaf Houtman (Chair)  
Royal Anthropological Institute  
50 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 5BT, United Kingdom  
E-mail: at@therai.org.uk (e-mail contact preferred)

#### Visit the conference website:

<http://www.therai.org.uk/anthcal/myanmarburma2002.html>

#### Anthropology Today can be found at:

<http://www.therai.org.uk/pubs/at/anthrotoday.html>

The keynote speakers are: Chao-Tzang Yawngnwe, F.K. Lehman, and James C Scott. Definite discussion panels are: "Half a Century of Burma Studies" (involving: John Badgley, F.K. Lehman, Michael Mendelson, June Nash, Josef Silverstein, Melford Spiro, and David Steinberg) and "Diplomacy: the Nature of Dialogue and Reconciliation", while twenty-five other panels have already been proposed. <

Dr Gustaaf Houtman is Editor of Anthropology Today and deputy director of the Royal Anthropological Institute, London. In October 2001 he was appointed European representative trustee on the Burma Studies Foundation for a five-year term and he seeks to help develop Burma research initiatives in the Nordic countries.  
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# Fourth Avignon Conference on Slavery and Forced Labour

Call for papers >

16-18 October 2002  
Avignon, France

The international conference on "Women in Slavery – In Honour of Suzanne Miers" will examine the roles of women in slavery across all geographical regions of the world, in different systems of slavery (indigenous and imported), from antiquity to contemporary times. In addition we will examine the trade and other means of acquiring female slaves, as well as their tactics of "resistance" and other accommodations to the positions in which they found themselves. Themes, within the relatively recent Atlantic experience of slavery, may include:

- the economic importance and roles of the female slave (child and adult)
- the sexual role of the female slave
- slave relations: women-children; female-female; female-male
- women and the 'slave family'
- slave women in the families of their masters
- ideology, religion and the female slave
- 'memory' and the female slave
- culture and the female slave
- the female slave in literature
- female resistance to slavery
- the role of the female slave rebel (her status; her function; female-male rebel relations during revolt and in the rebel camp)
- consequences of resistance for the female slave
- gender issues across the slave/master divide

### Contact >

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However, participants are also invited to consider rethinking their planned presentations in the light of growing evidence from Asia, Africa, antiquity, and other slaving in world history that its practice focused more on females (and children) than the literature generally appreciates. Is it within the reach of this conference to reformulate definitions and theory away from the still-usual reference to "the slave" as "him"?

## ESCAS VIII

Agenda >  
Central Asia

25-28 September 2002  
Bordeaux, France

### "Central Asia in Transition: Models, Disruptions, Centrality"

Section I Questions of Periodization: The Centrality of Central Asia and the Rewriting of History

Section II Political, Economic and Social Models in the Central Asian History

Section III Cultural and Religious Models

Section IV Colonial and Soviet Disruptions

Section V Post-Soviet Transformations

Participation proposals are to be submitted before 15 April 2002 in the form of a summary of your paper in French or in

English, a brief CV, and your complete address (as well as your fax or phone number and e-mail address). A circular letter will be sent to you within one (1) month after the proposals' submission deadline informing you of the decision of the Organizing Committee about your participation at the ESCAS VIII conference.

The organizing Committee of ESCAS VIII is the Board of the ESCAS:

Mr. T. Atabaki, President;  
Mrs. G. Rasuly-Paleczek, Vice-president;  
Mrs. I. Baldauf; Mrs. C. Poujol;  
Mr. G. Rota; Mr. M. Tabor.

#### Paper Presentations:

Your paper in French or in English should not last more than 20 minutes, there will be also 10 minutes of discussion. In each section, there will be from 4 to 6 papers per half-day.

#### How to fund your participation?:

The Organizing Committee of ESCAS VIII encourages the participants to seek their own funding for participation at the conference, travel, and living expenditures. <

### Contact >

#### Please send proposals to:

Mrs. C. Poujol, ESCAS VIII coordinator  
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#### Or at postal addresses:

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