

A World Without Glaciers?




The Mountain Institute
2008 ANNUAL REPORT

“A World Without Glaciers?”

The title of our 2008 Annual Report reflects the growing global concern for the world’s mountains in the face of accelerating climate change.

For millennia glaciers have provided fresh water for drinking, agriculture, and power for downstream populations.

Their loss poses a major threat to the security of billions of people in both developed and developing countries.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Changes (IPCC) estimates that 80% of all glacial ice in the Himalayas and Tibet will be gone by 2035.

Likewise, Andean glaciers are rapidly losing their ice cover and their rate of retreat has accelerated during the past decade.

In July 2009, The Mountain Institute, in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. National Science Foundation, the University of Georgia, and the International Resources Group, will convene international scientists, practitioners, and policy makers in Peru to examine the impacts of glacial recession due to climate change. They will consider the implications of diminishing glaciers on freshwater supplies; the impact on communities and economic sectors; the development of adaptive strategies; and the priorities for research and pilot projects. They will also identify ways that scientific findings can be incorporated into the processes of decision making to better protect vulnerable people and nations.

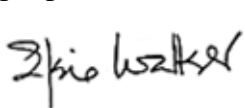
For more information please visit:

www.mountain.org.

Dear Friends of TMI,

As we look back on 2008 -- a year of such upheaval and downturn -- we are amazed at what our staff and partners have accomplished. At a time when climate change and the global economy are intensifying the challenges of work and life in the mountain world, we have completed one of our most active and successful years. To our supporters, partners, Board and staff, we are most grateful. Their hard work, like mountain communities themselves, is often hidden from view. Given this inaccessibility, we are especially pleased that for the second time, TMI has been short listed for the Hilton Humanitarian Prize. We would like to thank our former President and CEO, Dr. Jane Pratt, for her role in this. We have excerpted some of Jane's nomination letter to the Hilton judges, because we feel it so embodies the essence of our work and organization. The jury is still out, but we are nonetheless appreciative of them, and our other donors and partnering institutions for their attention to the urgent plight of impoverished mountain people and environments.

We know that 2009 and the years beyond will see increasingly complex problems confronting the world's mountains, but with our friends, staff, community and development partners, we are confident -- even excited -- about seizing the opportunities to make a real difference for the mountains themselves, the people who live in them, and the world at large.



Elsie Walker
President



Bob Davis
CEO

Distinguished Members of the Hilton Humanitarian Prize Jury:

I wish to nominate TMI for consideration for the Prize in 2009.

I served as President and CEO of TMI from 1993-2002, after leaving the World Bank, where I was Chief of Environmental Operations and Strategy, and headed the Bank's preparations for the 1992 Earth Summit. In my experience at the Bank, I was struck repeatedly that almost half of the world's biodiversity 'hot spots' are in mountains and that mountain people endure a level of hardship even worse than I saw in my years of work in Bangladesh or Africa. The 2004 UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment chapter on "Mountain Systems", for which I was a lead author, notes that mountains supply nearly half the world's population with clean water, even in regions far from mountains; and on average, poverty is higher in mountain regions, with 90% of mountain people living in developing and transition countries...

The coincidence of high priority conservation areas and abject poverty, not to mention their importance to global climate change, should have led development organizations to target these areas long ago. Sadly, neither they nor their government counterparts are equipped to work in such remote and difficult areas. The Mountain Institute is the only international non-profit solely devoted to helping mountain communities create and sustain environmentally responsible development. Since retiring, I have cheered from the sidelines as TMI's staff -- now almost 60 full time professionals -- continues working to restore the dignity of mountain people, preserve the fragile ecosystems that nurture them, and help them prepare and adjust for inevitable change...

Dr. D. Jane Pratt
Purcellville, VA
October 30, 2008



Mountain Challenges & Institutional Objectives

TMI organizes its work around three key themes: Economic Development for Mountain People; Conservation of Mountain Environments and Ecosystems; and Support for Mountain Cultures. TMI approaches sustainable development in mountain communities by designing large-scale, multi-faceted programs using these three themes in combination. In addition, TMI has identified ten Critical Mountain Challenges facing today's world and has developed corresponding Institutional Objectives to address them. In our 2008 programming, we addressed eight out of the ten listed here.

Mountain Challenges

- ❖ Access to clean, adequate fresh water
- ❖ Poverty and economic insecurity
- ❖ Social and political marginalization
- ❖ Climate change
- ❖ Lack of critical information about mountains
- ❖ Barriers to formal education
- ❖ Environmental and biodiversity degradation
- ❖ Disappearing cultural heritage
- ❖ Lack of access to renewable energy
- ❖ Insurgency and conflict

Institutional Objectives

- ▶ Improve conservation and management of mountain watersheds
- ▶ Increase economic security for mountain people
- ▶ Increase Upstream-Downstream linkages and cooperation
- ▶ Improve adaptation and resilience to climate change in mountains
- ▶ Link local knowledge and scientific research with decision makers
- ▶ Enhance educational opportunities for mountain people
- ▶ Conserve and restore mountain ecosystems
- ▶ Value and sustain mountain cultures
- ▶ Increase sustainable energy solutions for mountain communities
- ▶ Increase innovative cooperative approaches in mountains

2008 Program Accomplishments

South America Programs

High-altitude conservation and community-oriented economic development projects help to sustain Andean life and culture and preserve biodiversity hotspots along the Andean range extending through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile.

Andean Paramo Project

Objective ➤ *Conservation of Watersheds*

Paramos are humid high altitude tropical grasslands in the northern Andes. They comprise an intricate hydrological system that provides water for numerous mountain communities and lowland cities in Northern Peru.

Community Paramo Management Plans in Four Communities of the Cajamarca and Piura Departments

Objective ➤ *Conservation of Watersheds*

Management plans were advanced 80%. The process involved training six local NGO partners in both Departments as well as training over 150 community leaders in applying 'appreciative participatory planning and action' methods (APPA). This was followed by participatory geographical mapping and zoning. Community leaders had a chance to present their draft Paramo Management Plans to authorities in their local municipalities and in the city of Piura (Cajamarca scheduled for 2009).



Creating Awareness of the Environmental Services of Paramo and Other Mountain Ecosystems in Piura

Objective ➤ *Upstream-Downstream Linkages*

The "Mountain Ecosystem Week: Paramo 2008", held from August 18th to 24th 2008, was the result of an intensive six-month preparation period and involved multiple partners in its implementation, from the Ministry of Environment, to the Regional Government of Piura, majors of mountain paramo sites, communities, NGOs, the city council of Piura, water companies and many more.

Peru Ecuador Transboundary Paramo Project

Objective ➤ *Conserve Mountain Ecosystems*

Three management plans and three financial sustainability plans were completed for Podocarpus National Park (Ecuador), Colambo Yacuri Protected Forest (Ecuador) and Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary (Peru). These three areas are located in a corridor of *paramo* extremely important to preserve unique paramo endemic species and sources of water for Northern Peru and Southern Ecuador. The Government of Ecuador has agreed to elevate the protection level of Colambo Yacuri to that of a National Park.

Southern Conchucos Polylepis Forest Corridor

Objective ➤ *Conserve Mountain Ecosystems*

Polylepis is the highest-growing tree species in the world (up to about 5,000 meters). The Polylepis cloud forest once covered extensive areas of the high Andes before the domestication of grazing animals. There are only 3% of the species remaining, and they are biological treasures (a new mammalian species was discovered in this forest by TMI partner ECOAN). In 2008:

- Fourteen community agreements to protect *Polylepis* forests through a program that provides compensation for these efforts were implemented. Two of these communities may decide to establish formal protected areas for their forests.
- The project has integrated development and conservation targets. Development targets were accomplished 100% while only 30% of the latter were achieved. Eight communities established over 70 hectares of grasslands in lower areas to help reduce pressure on forests that were to be protected and animal yields were improved
- Over 150 hectares were planted, but less than 50 hectares survived due to weather.

The Great Inca Road Initiative (GRI)

Objective ➤ *Economic Security*

The GRI initiative envisions using the ancient Inca Road system, which crisscrosses the Andean highlands of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile, to develop a series of integrated mountain conservation and community development projects. Our main partners for this regional action are the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the Andean Community of Nations, including the governments of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.



A participatory study of three Inca Road sections in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia was completed. The study was conducted in partnership with the IUCN South America program and financed by the Andean Community of Nations (CAN). The study served as a blueprint for the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) to design a five-year investment program that will be supported by the Spanish government. Spain pledged approximately 800,000 euros to launch the program in 2009.

Highland-Lowland Interactions

Objective ➤ *Climate Change Adaptation*

TMI began developing its “highland-lowland interactive systems” approach to: a) biodiversity protection, b) the conservation of mountain watersheds, c) valuing of ecosystem services provided to lowland societies by highland ecosystems, and d) as a buffer to the impacts of climate change. The approach is scheduled for application in 2009 in the Huascaran National Park, Peru through a new project in partnership with USAID.

Asia Programs: Nepal, India and China

From establishing major protected areas around Mt. Everest to implementing environmentally responsible economic and cultural conservation programs, TMI's deep-rooted partnerships have benefited the Himalayan peoples of Nepal, India and the Tibetan areas of China for more than 30 years.

Asia Program: Tibetan Plateau, China

Objectives *Economic Security, Sustain Mountain Cultures, Conserve Mountain Ecosystems*

- Winner, International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management. We were cited by the Yunnan provincial governor as an example of how to implement high quality integrated development projects.
- In-depth multi-department government inspection of our project sites in Sichuan's nomadic areas resulted in a glowing score card.
- A senior Foreign Ministry officer expressed both strong approval of TMI's current work and continued support for an expanded TMI presence in China.
- Pilot rangeland co-management approaches in nomadic areas have reduced mortality rates of livestock by more than 40% and official stakeholders are moving forward to declare our project area a national model demonstration site.
- Pilot alternative energy projects implemented in two villages have now become the basis for a multi-million dollar project primarily funded by the Chinese government which seeks to reach an additional 2,300 households.
- A 2,000 year pottery tradition under threat of extinction is now linked to markets and is increasing incomes and creating employment for mountain artisans.
- A coalition of Shangrila's top tourism companies focused on cultural heritage eco-tourism projects that have been negotiated and shaped in partnership with local communities.
- We promoted the largest traditional dance competition and festival in Gyalthang's modern history with thousands of people in attendance.
- Following the May 12th Wenchuan earthquake, UNDP-GEF initiated the project PIMS 4187 Emergency Biodiversity Conservation Measures for Recovery and Reconstruction in Response to the Wenchuan Earthquake in Sichuan Province in cooperation with the



Chinese Government and the Sichuan Provincial Environment Protection Bureau. TMI was requested to share models, approaches, and expertise.

- TMI joined several implementation and planning organized by the Chinese Government, UNDP, and GEF. At these meetings, the project began transfer of development learning and approaches and preliminary capacity building of stakeholders integration and application.

Our subgrant program has broadened the reach and depth of our core program. Subgrants have included:

- Innovative public-private-community cultural heritage tourism partnerships;
- Donzhuling Lamasery Sacred Library preservation;
- Protection of Damo Cave's sacred carvings;
- Digital classical Tibetan arts multi-media platform;
- Tibetan ancient document rescue; and the support of a traditional art and craft development center in Hongyuan.
- Baima Snow Mountain trail improvements and awareness building;
- Community based natural resource management in Hamagu Village's conservation zone;
- Community based habitat protection of the Snub-nosed Monkey

Livelihoods Along the Beyul Trail Project

Objective ➤ ***Sustain Mountain Cultures***

The program has reached more than 50,000 people and raised awareness about importance of conserving mountain culture. The program is also establishing a Multipurpose Mountain Training Center and organizing livelihood improvement trainings for herders, artisans, and tourism entrepreneurs to build their capacity and improve livelihoods. The program is working with monasteries, communities and protected area authorities to promote culture and culture-based enterprises in the project area. It has vitalized the dying Sherpa language by:

- Compiling a Sherpa language dictionary
- Producing illustrated books
- Producing documentary film in multiple languages
- Initiating language teaching program in local schools and
- Raising awareness through radio, newspapers and seminars of the importance of language and culture

Lake to Lake: Food For Enterprise Project

Objective ➤ ***Economic Security***

Mid West Nepal: Humla, Mugu, Jumla and Dolpo Districts

- Distributed 1934 metric tons of rice to food deficit villages



- 12,093 households received 160 kg of rice each
- Currently conducting one nutritional supplemental feeding program to serve children aged 6-59 months in food deficit villages, serving approximately 12,000 households
- Conducted 3 health camps
- Using “Food for Work” approaches, completed 184 village infrastructure projects, including construction of
 - 12 medicinal plant nurseries
 - 3 irrigation schemes
 - 2 village drinking water projects
 - 37 schools support programs
 - 62 trail improvements totaling 143 km in length
 - 12 improved flour grinding wheels
 - 40 wooden bridges
 - 12 miscellaneous projects including stone paving at cultural site, campsite improvements, trail clean up, etc.



Alpine Conservation Partnership Expands in Nepal and Peru

Objective *Conserve Mountain Ecosystems*

The Alpine Conservation Partnership, a joint project of TMI and the American Alpine Club, expanded its activities in alpine conservation and restoration by launching new projects in the Makalu-Barun National Park and Buffer Zone, Nepal, and Huascarán National Park, Peru. Working with local lodge owners, more than 500,000 kg of fragile alpine shrubs, formerly used by mountaineering expeditions for fuel, are now protected in the Makalu-Barun National Park; and grazing pressures on the Huascarán National Park's alpine zone have been reduced significantly through the improvement of lowland pasture regions.



Climate Change Awareness

Objective *Climate Change Adaptation*

In partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Nepal, TMI was a member of the 2008 “EcoEverest Expedition” that included a ‘leave no trace’ climb of Everest, climate change awareness building, and a display of TMI climate change photographs in the Everest base camp. The project generated requests from 24 different international media organizations (television, magazines) to use the photographs; seven new climate change publications; and speaking engagements that included the World Bank, UNDP, USAID, American Alpine Club, Telluride Mountain Film Festival, and the Cosmos Club.

Cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, East Nepal

Objective *Economic Security*

- Provided on-going extension services and market training to 2500 farmers
- Developed certification system and certified 10,000 farmers growing cash crops on private lands, allowing them to sell products while waiving government royalty taxes and ensure greater profit to farmers
- Reforested 15 hectares of degraded land
- Generated approximately \$250,000 in revenues, (2008 figures)
- Reduced livestock herd sizes grazing on environmentally sensitive lands by approximately 20% (from 5,268 head to about 4016 head, census on-going)
- Increased wild-land range capacity and pasture quality by 11.5% in 2007, repeat transects scheduled in late April 2009
- Increased wild population of medicinal plants by 7.5% in 2007, repeat transects scheduled in late 04/2009
- Converted 8 traditionally managed forests into Community Forests recognized by the Government of Nepal, (approximately 1000 hectares in total)
- Received Cognition and Cash Award of Rs 50,000 from Government of Nepal for International Year of the Mountain, recognizing projects addressing Food Security issues for Mountain people.
- Established community managed dairy cooperative serving 27 former yak herders who contributed 50% of total capital equipment costs. They have recovered 80% of their 50% investment in the first eight months of operation. By consolidating milk processing in one location, the project is helping save an estimated five trees of firewood per day or approximately 1,500 trees per year. Replicated project approaches in Upper Arun valley, serving between 4-600 households with training on-going.
- Constructed three medical plant demonstration plots in Upper Arun.



TMI INDIA

We are continuing to operationalize TMI India program activities, including providing funding for staff, operations, technical program management, and assisting with Board management. An International Development Marketplace (IDM) grant from World Bank to conserve biodiversity in Sikkim enabled the following:

- Registering of two self-financing Sacred Lake Conservation Committees
- Reducing solid waste at these lakes by more than 50% in 1 year
- Developing Lake Conservation Plans endorsed by Government of Sikkim
- Training 30 conservation advocates and monitoring specialists recognized by the State of Sikkim
- Providing training and equipment to build the capacity of the Sikkim Biodiversity Knowledge Center
- Assisting to develop 17 micro plans for Eco-development Committees (EDC)
- Forming three new EDCs in the Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) of Sikkim

Under the Indian Tourism Project we:

- Trained 16 tourist guides
- Trained 17 cooks
- Trained 10 home stay operators
- Developed Zero Waste Guidelines for Lachen village
- Published guidebook for Lachen village
- Formed 4 weavers groups and trained them in handicraft design and marketing skills
- Marketed 8 homestays in Lachen
- Developed publicity materials for marketing and conservation awareness
- Organized an Tourism Day ceremony with full participation of high level Government of Sikkim officials
- Conducted Snow Leopard Monitoring in partnership with the Nature Conservation Foundation, with field surveys on-going in North Sikkim
- Conserved over-harvested medicinal plants through cultivation, marketing, and registration activities
- Supported alternative fuel projects along major tourist trail in KNP

North America Programs

Education and renewable energy are the hallmarks of our work in the Appalachians of West Virginia; our National Parks partnership is training the environmental leaders of the future at Mt. Kilauea in Hawaii, Mt. Rainier in Washington State and several sites in the western Rockies.

Fuji-Mt. Rainier Teacher Exchange

Objective ► *Educational Opportunities*

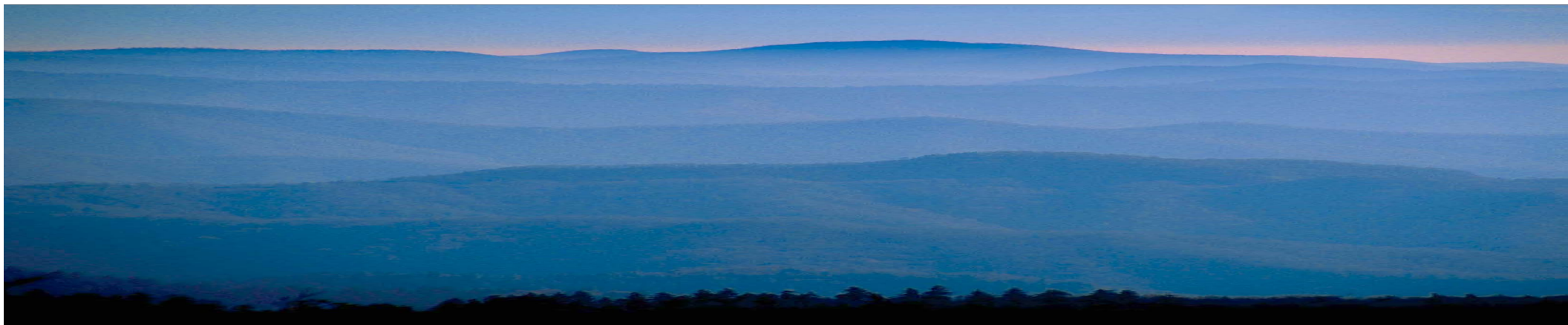
TMI continued its promotion of international cooperation through its management of the “Mt. Fuji-Mt. Rainier Sister Mountain Project” in partnership with Mount Rainier National Park. Now in its second year, the project is working with Japanese and American teachers to develop new and innovative physical and cultural curricula based on student expeditions and the “ascent” of each mountain.

Alternative Energy for Mountain Communities

Objective ► *Alternative Energy*

Accomplishments in 2008:

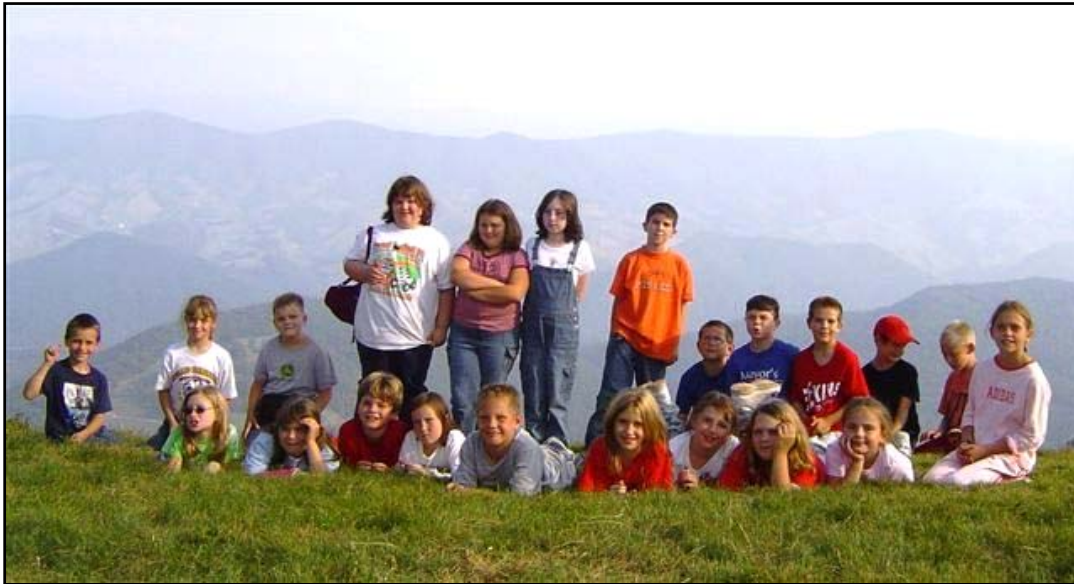
- Landfill methane gas is now being developed in WV as a renewable, alternative energy fuel, thanks in large part to awareness-raising and promotion by our energy team;
- Streambank restoration and tree plantings with school groups are protecting the Potomac watershed, and native brook trout, in partnership with Trout Unlimited;
- TMI staff now work with other organizations to support *youth development, recreational trail maintenance, community conservation, and climate change awareness.*



Education at Spruce Knob Mountain Learning Center

Objective *Educational Opportunities*

- Winner, Trout Unlimited Partner Project of the Year
- Our Watershed Education programs have expanded from a Potomac region focus to a West Virginia-wide effort, and now to a regional initiative involving schools and watershed organizations from West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania...we call it Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM)
- Our “Reading the Landscape” curriculum has received a three-year grant from the Toyota USA Foundation, and was recognized in October at an event attended by WV First Lady Gayle Manchin and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito
- We “raised the roof” on our main activities yurt at the Spruce Knob Mountain Center, maintaining its original structure but making it drier than it’s been in years... accomplished with donations from friends and many hours of volunteer labor
- Our new *astronomy observatory* expands the horizons (literally!) for visitors



Dr. Brent Bailey, center, TMI North American Program Director, receives Toyota USA Foundation check from Jeff Moore, VP, Toyota West Virginia. From left to right: Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito; Josh Nease, TMI Staff; Dr. Brent Bailey; Jeff Moore; and West Virginia's First Lady, Gayle Manchin.

In June 2008, TMI received a generous grant from the Toyota USA Foundation for our “Reading the Landscape” Program. This grant will allow TMI to reach a greater number of students in the Appalachia region and to target key educational priorities through field trips and in-class activities. It will also allow us to expand the number of professional development opportunities that we provide for teachers involved in the program and will serve as a model for future work in our growing National Parks Partnership.

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J. F. and Ethel Hornbeck
Mr. and Mrs. John Hoskinson
Bill and Bev Hudnut
Donald Humpal

Elizabeth Jones
Daniel Kivel
Carrie and Michael Kline
Karen Koenig
Robert and Nicole Krause
Jenny Krygger
Claire Lang
Thupten Jinpa Langri
Katheline Lauffer
Ledlie and Roxana Laughlin
Arthur Levan
Claudio Lilienfeld
Deborah Lodge
Mark London and Dania
Fitzgerald
Brita Lundberg and Robert
Horsburgh
Shirley Lyle
Jim Macey
Barbara Maddoux
Bruce Mallory
Clifton Maloney
Patrick and Mary Manhart
David and Martha Martin
Richard and Victoria Martin
Susan Martin
Robert McIntire and Gail
Wippellhauser
Michele McNabb
Mrs. G.W. Merck
Michael Mills
Jim and Micheline Moorhouse
Janet Nash
Carol Nash and John Eckman
Lee and Mary Newcomb

Stephanie Odegard
Takako Okura
Kevin and Mary O'Neill
Brendan and Jane O'Sullivan
Jeff Owens and Susan
Goldman
Frances Pasmanick
Caroline and Rodney Pelton
William Peniston
Gail Percy and Wade Davis
Kathryn Pernice
Thomas Poe
William and Jan Portman
Jeremy Prout
The Rosemary L. Ripley
Family Foundation
Bob Rhoades and Virginia
Nazarea
Hugh Rogers and Ruth
Blackwell
Constance Rokicki
Matthew Rosefsky
Harold Rosen and Susan
Wedlan
Bret Rosenblum
Keith and Lee Ross
John and Bonnie Schlueter
Jane Seegar
Andrew Shannon
Gale Simplico
Barbara Sloan
Gare Smith and Serena
Wilson
Oliver and Natasha Sienitsky-
Platts-Mills-Lika

Kathy Slobogin and Barry
Spodak
Constance M. Soja
Katherine Stephen
Michael Stirratt
Susan Straight
Susan Striz
Marjo Talbott and Mark
Vershbow
Daniel Taylor
Dianne Dubler and John
Taylor
Harry Thayer
Tina Thuermer
The Northern Trust Company
John and Katharine Pan
Sabina Thomas
Yanki Tshering
Malaika Underwood
Ted and Franny Van Dyke
Richard and Ann Walters
Mary Christine and Elliot
Weintrob
Richard Weiss and Edie
Heilman
Eileen and J. Robinson West
Thomas Westfall
Francene Weyland
Jean and Janney Wilson
Kimberly Woodard
Louie Yang
Warren Young

2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2008

2008

Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 452,963
Donations and grants receivable	2,010,915
Employee and other receivables	145,414
Prepaid expenses and other	37,945
Total current assets	2,647,237
Property and equipment, net	331,249
Grants and Contributions receivable, net of current portion	942,074
Investments	
Long-term investments	401,625
Endowment investments	387,312
Total investments	788,937
Total assets	\$ 4,709,497
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current & Long-Term Liabilities	
Note Payable	\$ 207,801
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	175,488
Refundable Advances	76,005
Total current & long-term liabilities	459,294
Net assets	
Unrestricted	(374,853)
Temporarily restricted	4,237,744
Permanently restricted	387,312
Total net assets	4,250,203
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 4,709,497

Statement of Activities for the year ended September 30, 2008

2008

Revenues and support	
Grants and contracts	
Private foundations	\$ 1,691,640
Government grants	1,315,967
Multilateral organizations	1,206,553
Other organizations	647,718
Donations	313,841
Tuition and fees	314,344
Contracts and consultants	90,902
Other income	7,614
Investment income, net	(108,528)
Total revenues and support	5,480,051
Expenses	
Program services	
Asia	1,737,689
North America	614,279
South America	578,389
Global	93,898
Total program services	3,024,255
Supporting services	
Management and general	641,101
Fundraising	209,966
Total supporting services	851,067
Total expenses	3,875,322
Change in Net Assets	1,604,729
Net assets, beginning of year	2,645,474
Net assets, end of year	\$ 4,250,203

