



**2009
Annual Report
The Mountain Institute**

TMI's Mission

Mountains sustain life on earth. In a world facing unprecedented change, The Mountain Institute is committed to protecting its mountains. Through empowering mountain communities and conserving mountain ecosystems, TMI ensures that mountains will continue to provide the essential resources—natural, cultural and inspirational—needed for mankind's survival on a healthy planet.

**In a world facing unprecedented change,
The Mountain Institute protects mountain
communities and environments.**

Dear Friends of TMI:

Not long ago, "glacial change" meant slow change -- almost imperceptible change. Now, glaciers are melting and disappearing. Mountain environments are being altered quickly. Mountain people -- as well as those living downstream -- are being forced to adapt to unprecedented changes, often caused by global climate change.

We protect mountain environments and communities so effectively that the Hilton Foundation has honored us *three times* as a finalist for its prestigious \$1.5 million Humanitarian Prize. This Prize is awarded annually to an organization "making extraordinary contributions to alleviate human suffering." We currently are recipients of grants from USAID, the World Food Programme, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the Toyota Foundation, the Wallace Genetic Fund, the Blue Moon Fund and many others. We are delighted and humbled to be so honored.

We work for mountain people and environments that generally are hidden from view, often many days' walk from the nearest road. It requires very special people to understand the significance of our work, to support us, and to work with us. We thank all of our dedicated supporters, partners and Board members, including our new Board members, Ambassador Douglas Hartwick (ret.) and Tony Barclay. In particular, we wish to honor and thank Robert Rhoades, a friend of the mountains and a guiding member of our Board, who passed away this year.

Our greatest appreciation, however, is for our extraordinary staff, whose work in the mountains exemplifies the best and highest ideals of The Mountain Institute. Our staff is responsible for our many honors, as well as the confidence (and contributions!) of our many supporters. They work very closely with our partners, local mountain communities and their leaders; by working together, we made significant accomplishments in 2009. Those honors and accomplishments are described in this Annual Report, including our successful "Adapting to a World Without Glaciers" conference in Peru and the \$1.2 million USAID grant to implement the recommendations of the Conference (see p.3 and 10), our Tibet Plateau Development Program in China (see p.3,4 and 14,15), the "Food for Enterprise" partnership in Nepal with the World Food Programme (see p. 16), and our Building Livelihoods along Beyul Trails project in Nepal (see p.4 and 19, 20).

In early 2010, TMI's Board announced a strategic reorganization to enable TMI to respond more effectively to the challenges of accelerating global climate change on mountain communities and environments. At the Board's request, I became TMI's CEO. Robert Davis, who led TMI as our CEO for five successful years, is now TMI's Chief Operating Officer. Elsie Walker, who served ably as our President for those five years, continues to focus on development for TMI as our Senior Fundraiser. TMI's Board of Trustees thanks Bob and Elsie for their many years of superb leadership and for their continued dedication to The Mountain Institute.

The Mountain Institute continues to protect mountain communities and environments around the world, as it has for the past 37 years. We thank our supporters, our partners and our staff for continuing to support TMI's critically important work.

Bill Carmean
Chairman and CEO

Highlights of 2009

Inspirational developments at the local level are the lifeblood of The Mountain Institute. Often the smallest achievements carry the most meaning. This year, in addition to many important small steps, several major achievements stand out.

“Adapting to a World Without Glaciers” Conference in Peru

TMI’s South American Program staff directed by Jorge Recharte organized a highly successful international conference of 250 scientists, public policy experts, students and governmental officials in July in Peru. The Conference examined the implications of glacial recession and melting mountain ice and snow on current and future water supplies, and recommended specific research and actions to help remedy the long- and short-term issues. The Conference also studied the issue of glacial lake outbursts. The Conference was conducted in partnership with the U.S. National Science Foundation, USAID, International Resources Group (IRG), the University of Georgia, and Peruvian governmental ministries and universities. Recognizing its significance, USAID granted TMI \$1.2 million to implement Conference recommendations in TMI’s project "From the Glaciers to the Coast: Building Climate Change Awareness and Resilience in Watersheds of Northern Peru." Through this project, TMI is taking specific action to address the effects of climate change in the Andes, as well as developing a climate change adaptation model that can be applied throughout much of the mountain world where glaciers are in rapid retreat.

Adapting Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitoring (AWSM) program to Community and “Citizen Science” Needs



In our Appalachia Program, we have joined the Chesapeake Bay Network, a coalition of non-profits that exchanges information on issues in the Bay area. We are also participating in an advisory group for the Blue Moon Fund to develop a set of funding priorities for Chesapeake Bay conservation and water quality programming. In addition, we finalized an agreement with the US Office of Surface Mining to provide watershed curriculum support for an eight-state region of Appalachia. TMI's role is to use its watershed education curriculum as a model in all eight states. We

will assess educational standards and requirements in these states and recommend curriculum activities based on water quality that meet local educational goals. This is an outstanding way to blend water concerns -- which are significant in coal mining regions -- into the public education systems, teaching students about how to evaluate water quality and quantity in their region.

Completion of two major programs in Asia:

Tibet Plateau Development Program (TPDP)

Under the direction of China Program Director, Chris LaDue, five years of work on the Tibetan Plateau in rangeland conservation, enterprise development and cultural heritage preservation was successfully completed. Donors for this program included USAID, the Government of New Zealand, Swiss Re, The Blue Moon Fund, the Government of Germany, the International Foundation, family foundations and private donors. (For full list of Accomplishments in 2009, please see the Asia section)

Major achievements include: increases in income for herders and farmers; the establishment of a rangeland co-management model; the resuscitation of the ancient Nixi pottery tradition; the establishment of community-based ecotourism in and around the community of Shangri-la; the restoration of cultural sites, books, traditions and most importantly the uptake by the local governments of several pilot projects for replication in western China. TPDP project activities were implemented in three counties of Diqing Prefecture, Yunnan Province and Hongyuan County of Sichuan, covering a total of 25,509 beneficiaries, of which 45% were women. Two outside evaluations were very positive and identified several pilot projects that have since been adapted by the local governments for replication, which prove the efficacy of our From Pilot to Policy model. Examples:

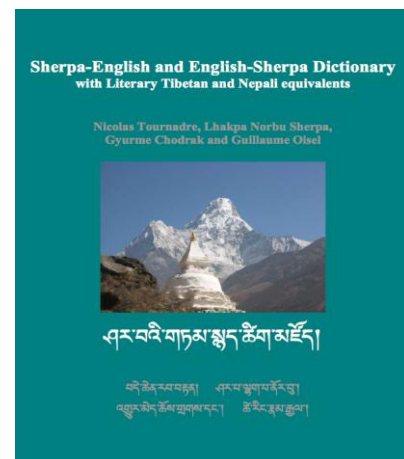
- After our interventions in Yunnan, the Diqing Cultural Management Bureau was subsequently invited by UNESCO to present its appeal at national level meetings.
- TMI China’s participatory grassland co-management model and community-based multi-stakeholder working were formally adopted by the Hongyuan Bureau of Animal Husbandry and carried out under the Modern Livestock Development Pilot Project (MDLPP) in Anqu Township with public funding from the People’s Government of Aba Prefecture. MLDP resulted in a government approved plan that is identified as the first community grassland management livestock development plan to use ‘bottom up’ approaches in the prefecture’s history.

Building Livelihoods along Beyul Trails – Nepal

Under the direction of the Himal Program’s Co-Director, Lhakpa Sherpa, the purpose of this three year project was to spread the benefits of tourism more equitably among the local people in the Everest region of Nepal, while preserving indigenous culture and environment through education and awareness building.

(A list of completed projects in 2009 can be found in the Asia section)

This project was successful in strengthening the linkages between culture, livelihoods, and environmental conservation. Some important outputs were produced, including the first Sherpa-Nepal-English dictionary; a lexicon of Sherpa material culture and concepts that will have lasting impact on preservation of Sherpa language and culture; and a documentary film on the important but little known and understood concept of Beyuls, the sacred valleys of the Himalaya. All of these were attractively produced and distributed to the general public in Nepal and beyond, and were well received. The documentary and its release at the Kathmandu Film Festival had a significant impact on public understanding of the synergies between culture and conservation in mountain communities of the Khumbu region specifically, as well as those of Tibeto-Burman people living throughout the Himalayan region in general.



Awards Received in 2009

Finalist – Hilton Humanitarian Award – Institutional Award

The \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize is awarded annually to an organization making extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering in the world. This is the third time TMI has been selected as a finalist for this prize.

Mountain Development Award – Nepal Program

In late December 2008, TMI and its NGO partner, Shree High Altitude Herbal Growers Group, received the ‘Mountain Development Award-2008’ from the Nepali government. The award is granted to the best NGO working in the field of biodiversity conservation, livelihood development and food security in Nepal.

New Zealand Embassy Development Project Fund 2009 Award - China Program

This award featured a TMI initiative in rural alternative energy designed to reduce poverty among rural Tibetan women and their families while improving productivity of the natural grassland environment on which their livelihoods depend.

2009 winner US Department of State for a Citizen Exchange Program - China Program

This grant was given to foster cross-cultural understanding, support conservation of traditional Tibetan pottery and build Sino-US cooperation and exchange.



Awards Presented by The Mountain Institute in 2009



Our annual Mountain Hero Awards were presented at a wonderful event in October. The awards are presented during an evening spent communing with old friends and saluting new ones. Lonnie Thompson, an intrepid glacier expert, and Jamie Ross and Ross Spears, documentary filmmakers, were this year's deserving awardees. Their citations read:

Lonnie Thompson (far left)

“For your years of painstaking research in the highest and most remote corners of the world; for living at uncomfortable altitudes for months at a time despite physical discomfort, oxygen deprivation and the absence of any convenience whatsoever; for your low key temperament which makes the near impossible seem routine; for the establishment of the Byrd Polar Research Center and its unique contribution to important scientific data; for finding a way to understand the history of climate change and for spreading the word about its acceleration; for helping the world appreciate that mountains and their glaciers are the fresh water towers for the planet and need the world's attention; for your years of dedicated teamwork. For your wife Ellen and your colleagues at the Byrd Research Center, whom we also honor with this award, and for sharing the values that we hold dear, we honor you with The Mountain Institute's 2009 Mountain Hero Award.”

Jamie Ross and Ross Spears: (middle and right)

“For a professional partnership that transcends individual acclaim in favor of a highly creative cooperation; for your quest to capture the essence of special people, important ideas and spectacular places that have deep meaning for American cultural heritage; for your years and years of tireless effort in making the film, APPALACHIA: A HISTORY OF MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE; for your inspired realization that the mountains themselves should be the star of your film series; for your love for forgotten people whose collective footprint on the American psyche you honor so beautifully; for your ability to tell a complex story without over simplifying or under complicating; for your deep love of the Appalachian mountains and for helping the public realize how precious they are, and for sharing the values that we hold dear, we honor you with The Mountain Institute's 2009 Mountain Hero Award.

Geographic Program Accomplishments in 2009

North America Programs



TMI was established in 1972 in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, where its work focused on experiential and leadership education for West Virginia's youth. This work was based at a 400-acre nature preserve on the slopes of Spruce Knob, West Virginia's highest mountain. Over the years, programming in the Appalachia region has expanded its focus to include a wide range of cultural and environmental conservation programs. In addition to our work in the Appalachian range, TMI has also developed a partnership with the National Parks which to date has focused on cultural conservation and education projects for several mountain sites in the Western US, as well as Mt. Kilauea in Hawaii.

Appalachia Program

Mountain Learning (West Virginia)

Mountain Learning comprises a wide variety of educational courses and programs that inform students, teachers, local organizations and international delegations about the special attributes of mountain economies, culture and conservation. More than 40,000 students, teachers and activists have participated in our programs at our 400-acre research and learning facility, the Spruce Knob Mountain Center.

Progress in 2009:

- More than 1500 students in grades 4-12 received educational services from TMI staff in programs that generally included an overnight field experience. Many programs included multiple sessions and involved more than 20 contact hours of instruction per student. More than half the students represent traditionally underserved and low-income populations from Appalachia. States represented by students include WV, MD, PA, VA, TN, DC, NJ, and NY.
- TMI staff offered workshops and seminars to 120 teachers participating in conferences sponsored by the WV Environmental Education Association, 3 Teacher Leadership Institutes organized by the WV Department of Education, the Health Science and Technology Academy of West Virginia University, and the West Virginia Science Teachers Association.
- Assessment of test scores from two schools that participated in TMI educational programs were conducted, and students in both schools demonstrated gains above their previous year's scores, especially in key science areas such as understanding the scientific process (developing and testing a hypothesis) and analyzing results of data through charts and graphs. The schools are very pleased with these improved results and link them to our partnership. We are in discussion with faculty from the West Virginia University Department of Education for developing improved evaluation mechanisms that can be implemented with all our participating schools to track student progress.

Appalachian Watershed and Stream Monitors (AWSM)

This is a watershed assessment and stream sampling training, education, and community service program. More than 30 teachers and 1100 students have been trained since 2005. Streams in the Potomac and Ohio River watersheds have been sampled, and results compiled by the state's environmental agency. Riparian restoration and stream bank erosion reduction projects have been undertaken with more than 1,500 trees planted in fragile zones.

Progress in 2009:

- We have joined the Chesapeake Bay Network, a coalition of non-profits that exchanges information on issues in the Bay area. We are also participating in an advisory group to develop a set of funding priorities for Chesapeake Bay conservation and water quality programming.
- We finalized an agreement with the US Office of Surface Mining to provide curriculum support to their Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team, covering an 8-state region of Appalachia. TMI's role is to use its watershed education curriculum as a model for use in all eight states. We will assess educational standards and requirements in these states and recommend curriculum activities based on water quality that meet their educational goals. This is an outstanding way to blend water concerns -- which are significant in coal mining regions -- into the public education systems, teaching students about how to evaluate water.

Wind Development Project

A grant from the US Department of Energy to the Mountain Institute is supporting a project to examine the potentials and limitations of wind energy development in the central Appalachian mountain region. This study will synthesize information on state and national policies, natural resources, and economies to identify reasons for the proliferation of wind energy projects in some regions, and compare them to the regions where available wind power has not been developed.

National Parks Partnership Program

Interpretive Materials Project

TMI facilitates the integration of indigenous cultures and beliefs into visitor interpretive materials by facilitating national parks planning and community outreach meetings with Hawaiian community representatives in mountainous national parks.

Progress in 2009:

- Exhibitions and cultural materials were developed for two Hawaiian Parks. Beneficiaries include 260,000 native Hawaiian residents of that state, as well as 2.2 million visitors to those two national parks.

Exploring Our Living Mountain Laboratories: K-12 Teacher Training and Learning Exchanges on Mt. Fuji and Mt. Rainier (Washington State and Japan)

This project provides an innovative approach to increasing teacher and school children awareness of the linkages between the United States and Japan through the hands-on study of two of the world's premier mountains—Mt. Fuji and Mt. Rainier, including their landscapes, peoples, cultures, and similarities.

Progress in 2009:

- The program has continued, although exchanges planned in 2009 had to be rescheduled for 2010 because of the swine flu epidemic, which curtailed travel for Japanese teachers to the US. We will reconvene the group in 2010. Program support has been renewed by the US Japan Foundation for the coming year. We will use our connections to Mt. Rainier National Park to add youth development opportunities to our project roster.

Youth Development in Mountain National Parks

We received an award for a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and are engaged in discussions with numerous mountain National Parks about how to expand their outreach to local youth to offer job training and work experience in conservation and natural resource management in the Parks. Building on TMI's Spruce Knob experience with youth leadership and staff development (education, outdoor skills, stewardship, leadership), this program will focus on young adults from diverse backgrounds.

Nuwuvi Knowledge-to-Action

This project is located in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area of Nevada and is part of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex Tribal Partnership and Stewardship Project.

Progress in 2009:

- This new program received funding in 2009 for two years. It will create a method for consultation between the National Forest Service and the Nuwuvi nations for collaborative management of lands that were traditionally used by the Southern Paiute and Chemihuevi nations and are now part of the National Forest. The program will be implemented in partnership with a working group of designated representatives the Nuwuvi nation.

South America Programs



The Mountain Institute's, (Instituto de Montaña), South America Program was established in Peru in 1996 during a time of rapid social change in the mountain communities of the northern Andes. Traditional means of livelihood were in decline at the same time that large-scale mining and hydroelectric projects and tourism were rapidly growing, leading to conflicts between the private sector and local people, not to mention the degradation of mountain ecosystems. To address these issues, TMI developed comprehensive community-based projects to demonstrate the potential to diversify local livelihoods through community-based tourism and protection of biodiversity hotspots. The program has grown in 10 years and Instituto de Montaña is now recognized as one of the leading NGOs in Peru.

The TMI Andes staff coordinated a groundbreaking and productive international climate change workshop in July 2009, which is described on page 3 in the *Highlights* section of this report. The activities described in the program below are the result of the findings from that workshop.

Photo by Ed Bernbaum

From the Glaciers to the Coast: Building Climate Change Awareness and Resilience in the Ancash and Piura Watersheds of Northern Peru

This program is strengthening Peru's climate change research and action agenda by developing the linkages between academics, policy makers, and communities while increasing the capacities of highland-lowland (upstream-downstream) stakeholders to adopt effective adaptive climate change responses, design practical mechanisms to build resilience, and implement strategic remedial actions.

Progress in 2009:

- Instituto de Montaña received \$1.2 million in 2009 to implement this project over three years. Work was begun in September. TMI is currently developing cooperation with communities and municipalities located in the upper sections of the two major river basins of northwestern Peru, the Santa and Chira rivers in Ancash and Piura Regions. Community groups design grassland and forest restoration and conservation plans in cooperation with municipalities as means to buffer climate change impacts. In partnership with these municipalities, the project supports the development of climate change adaptation plans. The project also fosters cooperation of highland communities and municipalities with lowland groups that depend on mountain water for the sustainability of their agricultural export economies. These are coastal regions with a dynamic export agriculture economy. These lowland groups will develop mechanisms to support conservation of mountain areas that are important sources of water for their economies.
- In February-March 2010, the first climate change "Vulnerability and Adaptation" (V&A) training of trainers (ToT) and communities was conducted by USAID, International Resources Group (IRG), and TMI in Huaraz and Chimbote, Peru. V&A is a six-step method designed to encourage stakeholders to identify their vulnerabilities (e.g., water supply) as well as adaptive strategies to lessen or eliminate the threats imposed by climate change and other stressors. TMI staff and NGO/Governmental stakeholders were trained by USAID and IRG between 17-18 February in Huaraz; and an all day

planning workshop was held on 19 February in preparation for the community training in Macara, a nearby village. The team then departed for the coastal city of Chimbote and conducted a stakeholder training workshop there on 19 Feb. TMI, IRG, and USAID/Washington representatives debriefed USAID/Peru on 23 February, with USAID clearly pleased with the training and calling 'Peaks to Coast' its "flagship" project. Geohydrologist Daene McKinney and Alton Byers then completed a 5 day "water supply and stressor" transect from the Cordillera Blanca to major irrigation schemes on the coast, interviewing farmers, government officials, glacial lake control specialists, power plant personnel, and irrigation projects. Results will be compiled into a 'Peaks to Coast' case study with co-authorship by the University of Texas, IRG, and TMI.

Andean Paramo Conservation (Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador)

Based on a 1997 TMI ecological assessment of this northern alpine wetlands/grasslands ecosystem in Ecuador, TMI partnered with Eco Ciencia and University of Amsterdam in 1998 to design and implement a project to protect the water regulation functions of this fragile and critical landscape by creating sustainable development opportunities for mountain communities using these ecosystems. Since then, the project has expanded to Venezuela, Colombia and Peru.

Progress in 2009:

- The Andean Paramo project (GEF/PNUMA) completed its fourth year of implementation. Local and regional governments as well as the central government of Peru (i.e. Ministry of Environment) increasingly recognize the strategic importance of paramo grassland ecosystems for their unique biodiversity and their very important role in water regulation. Reflecting this growing recognition, TMI signed agreements with the regional government of Piura to identify the paramo areas that need to be protected (and is in the process of signing similar agreements with the Ministry of Environment of Peru).
- Three master level theses documenting critical aspects of paramo environmental services were supported by the project.
- All communities participating in the program have developed Management Plans, including four plans for the communities of Chetilla, Ronquillo (Cajamarca) and Pacaypampa and Ayabaca (Piura). These documents are scheduled for publication by March 2010.

Water Forever (Peru)

TMI, in partnership with Uripichallay, a local NGO in the Cordillera Blanca range, developed water quality monitoring training programs for rural Quechua communities affected by mining operations, lack of sewage treatment and other pollution sources. The program has operated since 2000 and has multiplied in more than ten locations. It has been promoted by Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, (the Peruvian Environmental Law Association), for inclusion in national policies.

Progress in 2009:

- Through cooperation with water quality scientists from Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, a set of biological indicators based on fresh water macro-invertebrates was identified and validated. These are biological indicators that can be managed by local communities and provide a more complete assessment of the health of rivers than more traditional and costly methods based on water chemistry indicators.



Dr Jorge Recharte speaking at Peruvian Embassy

Great Inca Road (Peru and Ecuador)

Initiated in 2004 on a 7,000 kilometers section of the "Royal Inca Highway" in Ancash (known in the local Quechua language as Inka Naani), this project connects six remote communities that now provide services to visitors, creating new sources of income and development opportunities for the local people. In 2008, this initiative was replicated in a new section of the Inca highway in Piura, in northern Peru and was extended two new sites in 2009.

Progress in 2009:

- TMI and World Conservation Union (IUCN) established a partnership with the General Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations (SGCAN) to replicate this initiative in three new sections of the Inca Road in National Park Sangay in Ecuador, and Nor Yauyos Protected Cultural Landscape and Huascarán National Park both in Peru. This extension was possible thanks to the generous support of the Government of Spain.
- In partnership with IUCN and Abertis Corporation, TMI staff Miriam Torres wrote an introductory book on Ancestral Roads and Biodiversity Conservation. This publication presents the concept to local policy makers in mountain regions. In addition to the book, a traveling exhibit was set up in Huascarán National Park headquarters. The exhibition is scheduled to travel to other Inca Road sites to create awareness of the potential of this initiative for cultural and biodiversity conservation of Andean heritage.
- Partnership with REPONS (Responsible Tourism) was established. A grant from IUCN-Netherlands facilitated this partnership, which is dedicated to supporting market access of community-based tourism along the Royal Inca Highway.

Southern Conchucos Polylepis Forest Conservation Corridor (Peru and Ecuador)

Targeting the last remnants of queñual (*Polylepis* spp) cloud forests in Ancash Region, this initiative was launched on a small scale in 2000 and has since scaled up through a partnership with Conservation International and the Ancash Association. It supports mountain communities interested in protecting and restoring these unique high alpine forests that provide a habitat to several endemic plant, animal and bird species. Restoration of these forests contributes to the health of the ecosystem and is linked to the creation of livelihood opportunities that reduce local pressure on forests. It is estimated that protecting these remnant forests will provide sanctuary to approximately 55%

of all endemic bird species in the Andes of Peru and Bolivia and will protect 67% of all birds in danger of extinction in this vast region.

Progress in 2009:

- Twelve forest conservation agreements have been established with communities in Ancash to support restoration and protection of these forest remnants. The community of Huasta, which holds the largest Polylepis forest tracks in Ancash region outside of Huascarán National Park joined the project and initiated restoration of these forests.
- TMI completed a diagnostic study and community consultation process to develop a Forestry Conservation Strategy in the highland regions of Piura Department (Carmen de la Frontera District). These native forests include large tracks of Polylepis forests. The study included a technical assessment of the potential for carbon sequestration through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM). The project included a comprehensive program of community workshops to assess stakeholder interests in projects to reverse environmental degradation. A menu of potential community forestry projects was developed in this region that is the headwaters of a major new irrigation project in coastal Peru.

Alpine Conservation and Restoration Project (Asia and South America Programs – Nepal, Peru and Patagonia)

This project protects and restores alpine ecosystems degraded by unregulated adventure tourism in Nepal (Mt. Everest National Park; Makalu-Barun National Park), Peru (Huascarán National Park), and Patagonia (Glaciers National Park). The impacts so far include saving 500,000 kg of fragile alpine shrub juniper (formerly used as fuel by tourist lodges) per year through community action and regulation; restoring high altitude ecosystems through better local stewardship, and mobilizing the climbing and trekking communities worldwide to become better high altitude conservationists, donors, and volunteers.

Progress in Peru in 2009:

- An 80% increase in grass/herbaceous cover was measured at TMI's project site in the Huascarán National Park, Peru that was being destroyed by over grazing (villagers moved the cattle to "improved pasture exclosures" at lower elevations).

Asia Programs



TMI's conservation programs in Asia started in the mid-1980's with the "Heart of the Himalaya" initiative for the establishment of two new mountain protected areas: the Makalu-Barun National Park in Nepal, and the Qomolangma (Mt. Everest) Nature Preserve in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, (Tibet). Both were founded on the principle of participatory design and management between park managers and local communities. These pioneering projects in community-based project design and collaboration between communities and governments in the management of natural resources have become the basis for many of TMI's programs.

China

The Human Dimensions of Climate Change

TMI is retooling its programming in China to focus on the impacts of climate change at the local level. We will begin the program in Yunnan at two sites – one in a highland area and one downstream near Lijiang. Studies conducted through this program will dovetail with our long-standing work in the in the Eastern Himalayas and contribute information and insight into the problems facing the Mekong Delta downstream of these critically important headwater regions.

Progress in 2009:

- TMI received funding from the Blue Moon Fund and private donors to begin this work.

Tibet Plateau Development Program (TPDP)

Four years of work on rangeland conservation, enterprise development and cultural heritage preservation was successfully completed in 2009. Major achievements include: increases in income for herders and farmers; the establishment of a rangeland co-management model; the resuscitation of the ancient Nixi pottery tradition; the establishment of community-based ecotourism in and around Shangri-la; the restoration of cultural sites, books, traditions and most importantly the uptake by the local governments of several pilot projects for replication in other locations in western China. TPDP project activities were implemented in three counties of Diqing Prefecture, Yunnan Province and Hongyuan County of Sichuan, covering a total of 25,509 beneficiaries, of which 45% were women.

Progress in 2009:

Natural Resource Management:

- 22 high altitude four-in-one (greenhouse + toilet + pig pen + digester) biogas units installed in poor rural households in Sichuan and Yunnan. The units help lower carbon emissions intensifying global warming, improve community sanitation conditions and reduce women's labor burden
- 84 solar water heaters and two community water supply systems installed in poor upstream communities, providing villagers with public health improvement in environment and infrastructure.
- Villagers and government agencies mobilized to plant more than 6,000 willow tree saplings, covering an approximate area of 20,000 m² to help reduce soil erosion and regulate the quantity and quality of water flow in a critical watershed.

- Official site visit to Shangri-la by the Deputy to the Consul General from the German Consulate in Chengdu and the Sichuan Liaison to the German Chamber of Commerce strengthening multi-lateral collaboration between domestic governments, international donors and civil society.
- Winner of the 2009 New Zealand Embassy Development Project Fund. The project, Building Stakeholders' Institutional Capacities to Promote Biogas Across Pastoral Areas of NW Sichuan, is an initiative in rural alternative energy designed to reduce poverty among rural Tibetan women and their families while improving productivity of the natural grassland environment on which their livelihoods depend.

Cultural Heritage Preservation:

- Supported the Diqing Prefecture Bureau of Cultural Management to host a high-level seminar on indigenous traditional culture and development with official representation from the UNESCO Culture and other guests.
- Publication of a full-color, tri-lingual (Tibetan – English – Chinese) brochure, introducing TMI's cultural heritage preservation activities in Sichuan and Yunnan.
- 2009 winner of a US Department of State Citizen Exchange grant to foster cross-cultural understanding, support conservation of traditional Tibetan pottery and build Sino-US cooperation and exchange.
- Rural marketing support, promoting traditional artisanal craftsmanship and building critical market linkages for small, village-based, family-owned operations.

Enterprise Development:

- Erected visitor signage and tourist facilities in the Baimang Mountain Nature Reserve, promoting environmental awareness in fragile mountain areas.
- Partnered with a community-based organic honey processor in Bazhu Village to enhance competitive strength through effective supply chain management .
- Strengthened yak meat processing thereby creating a five-fold increase in product sales and generating an estimated 2.4 million Yuan (over US\$ 350,000) in revenue for Hongyuan County.
- Trained local tour guides on the history, culture and production of Nixi black pottery; as well as village-based tourist service providers on hosting, and other tourism-related activities. Trainings provide a range of key outputs, including job creation, income generation, increased local competitiveness, the provision of advice to local entrepreneurs, the creation of small businesses and other community improvements.
- Developed codes of conduct for ecotourism and nature tourism in national parks, promoting equitable, green and sustainable development at the community level.
- Structured partnership activities between village-based entrepreneurs and the Banyan Tree Hotel, an internationally renowned luxury line, helping rural communities expand market access and improve income generation.

Sub-grant Program:

Our sub-grant program broadens the reach and depth of our core program. Sub-grants supported:

- Local NGO's to safeguard traditional Tibetan Zhani music, a unique and inspiring two-string instrument facing rapid extinction.
- Roots & Shoots to integrate environmental education into the primary school curriculum in Hongyuan County
- Publication of a book of proverbs compiled from remote farming and nomadic villages in western Sichuan
- Dongzhulin Lamasery to safeguard traditional Tibetan mask dance and help convey the rich culture and vibrant past of the Tibetan people to local, national and global audiences.
- The Hongyuan Women's Federation to improve female herders' access to health education and basic service delivery in Anqu Township
- Training for local villagers in biodiversity monitoring and publication of a guidebook of alpine flowers, supporting environmentally-responsible niche tourism in Shangri-la



Fastblock™

In collaboration with its China Program, TMI designed and manufactures a Compressed Earth Block Machine, which produces tongue and groove earth block that is ideal for building housing in poor and remote areas and in areas where other building materials are absent or less preferred. The machine is transportable and creates houses that are durable, thermally efficient, and in combination with appropriate designs, resistant to earthquakes. Fastblock™ also reduces dramatically the use of wood and concrete in construction, making it environmentally and climate-friendly.

Progress in 2009:

- A Fastblock™ machine was manufactured and shipped to the Sudan for use in housing construction in Darfur.

Nepal



The Food For Enterprise Program

TMI is working in partnership with the UN World Food Programme to provide food and community development assistance to food-scarce regions of Nepal. Since February 2008, TMI has delivered over 13.6 million pounds of rice and lentils to 27,168 farming families in extremely remote villages in mid-western Nepal effected by severe drought. In exchange for the food, the communities work on projects developed with TMI's assistance, including improvements to community schools and trails, community agriculture and irrigation projects, and water-driven gristmills. These projects meet basic but critical needs, and help create the foundations for mountain enterprises. 319 micro projects are currently underway in 4 districts, and are expected to be completed by June 2010.

Progress in 2009:

- By end of June 2010, TMI will complete programs in 54 village development committees of Humla, Mugu, Jumla and Dolpo districts including to deliver 4,100 metric tons of rice and lentils to 22,159 food deficit households (total population of 139,101 people).
- Food was used to pay for unskilled labor and 245 community micro-projects were completed, helping families meet four months of their annual food needs. Community projects include:
 - Eleven agricultural land improvement projects covering 12 hectares
 - 201 enterprise-based projects (e.g., apples, medicinal plants, boundary wall construction, land preparation)
 - Forty irrigation canal construction /improvement projects that irrigate 160 hectares of agricultural land
 - Twenty-two trail improvement projects that improved over 30 kilometers of trails
 - Forty school support programs
 - Five community bridges
 - Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) cultivation and conservation training to 1200 farmers
 - Market study of medicinal and aromatic crops and other cash crops
 - Farmer-to-farmer visits to east Nepal medicinal and aromatic crop sites
 - Feasibility study and pilot on minimum tillage (Simikot)
 - Support for distribution of micro-nutrient packets to children in all four districts (serving approximately 15,000 children under 60 months of age)

Alpine Conservation and Restoration Project (Asia and South America Programs – Nepal, Peru and Patagonia)

This project protects and restores high altitude alpine ecosystems degraded by unregulated adventure tourism in Nepal (Mt. Everest National Park; Makalu-Barun National Park), Peru (Huascaran National Park), and Patagonia (Glaciers National Park).

Progress in Nepal in 2009:

- In the Hongu valley in Makalu-Barun National Park, Nepal, the burning of all shrub juniper has been completely discontinued as a result of project activities—a savings of about 250,000 kg of shrub juniper annually that was formerly ripped out and burned by lodges and expeditions (results to be published in a forthcoming paper in *Botanica Helvetica*). The first alpine project in the Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park (2004) continues to save 100,000 kg of alpine juniper and vegetation annually. Nurseries with alpine species have been established in both the Khumbu and in Mera Peak areas and seedlings are being distributed to local people and lodge owners to replant degraded areas on public and private lands.



Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (MAPs) Project (Nepal and India)

The Khangchendzonga area of Nepal and Sikkim (India) is a global biodiversity hotspot and requires coordinated transboundary, landscape-level conservation efforts. Local inhabitants are poor and resource-dependent, especially on forest products and pastureland. India's national ban on grazing has forced herders to shift their livestock into Nepal, putting increased pressure on traditional grazing areas and forcing herders to cut forests to create new grazing areas. The goal of this multi-year project is to conserve the biodiversity of the Khangchendzonga landscape and improve local livelihoods.

Since 2003, TMI has worked to conserve biodiversity rich corridors of the Khangchendzonga landscape between Nepal and Sikkim, covering more than 1670 square kilometers. By the end of 2009, the project had trained over 5,589 farmers to cultivate medicinal plants as an alternative to wild collection of endangered species, generating more than US\$70,000 in revenues from sales of one medicinal plant species in 2009 alone. Working closely with more than 400 herders, TMI has helped reduce livestock herds that graze in these biodiversity rich forests by more than 25%, and reduced the creation of new pastures in these forests by 85%. These forests contain some of the best red panda habitat in the Eastern Himalaya. TMI helped convince herder groups in Sikkim to shift from herding to ecotourism based enterprises, generating more than \$33,000 in earnings in 2006. Villagers have planted more than 757,681 seedlings of native forest species, reforesting and actively managing over 3325 hectares of degraded forest land. TMI continues to expand these programs to more communities in the Khangchenjunga landscape, helping resource dependent families increase their livelihoods while protecting local biodiversity.

Progress in 2009:

- TMI trained 550 farmers in medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation techniques, who trained approximately 250 additional farmers. (Since the start of the project in 2002, TMI has trained 5,675 households in eastern Nepal). In 2009, these farmers sold high value MAPs species valued at \$481,741.
- Herders reduced their herd size by 4,292 animals this year, approximately 30% of their total herd size—taking pressure off grazing lands and forests—while increasing the productivity of the remaining livestock through improved breeding and more efficient stall-feeding. In addition, TMI helped herders

establish formally recognized cooperatives that generated \$38,509 in revenues since they were registered in late 2007.

- 30.5 hectares of degraded alpine pasture was reforested. TMI also helped form seven new community forest user groups and completed the formalities to renew 11 additional forest user groups for a five-year period.

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Research Project (Asia Program and South America Program – Nepal and Peru)

Progress in 2009:

- Between October 4 and November 18 2009, TMI, in partnership with Hokkaido University, Japan, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal, and the American Alpine Club (AAC), launched a 35-day scientific field expedition to the remote Hongu valley of Makalu-Barun National Park. The goal of the expedition was to scientifically assess the condition of nine glacial lakes that have grown significantly over the past 20 years as a result of global warming and climate change. These lakes are usually contained by terminal moraines forming dams of loose boulders and soil, presenting an associated risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) that can result in the destruction of downstream farmland, infrastructure, and villages. Team members conducted detailed assessments of each lake's history, physical characteristics, water volume, growth rates, potential for catastrophic outburst, and prospective mitigation methods. Resulting data and insights will be shared with the Government of Nepal and the scientific community in forthcoming publications and workshops.
- As a result of the expedition, a \$3-5 million proposal is being prepared for submission to the National Science Foundation, Water Sustainability and Climate Change program in partnership with the University of Texas-Austin (Hydrology Dept), Hokkaido University (glaciology) and TMI (Byers as physical geographer, Jorge Recharte as anthropologist/social scientist).

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Mitigation Project (Asia Program and South America Program – Nepal and Peru)

This initiative convenes GLOF experts from the Peruvian Andes and Hindu Kush-Himalayan countries to exchange information and experience in the control and mitigation of the impacts of dangerous new glacial lakes, also assessing how the lakes might be used for water storage and power generation. A workshop based on this "south-south exchange and collaboration" was proposed as an outgrowth of the successful "Adapting to a World without Glaciers" workshop held in the Cordillera Blanca, Peru between 7-15 July 2009. Themes of the proposal Nepal workshop, scheduled for April 2011, would include:

- (1) Glacial lake formation, risks, control methods, water storage and power generation,
- (2) Freshwater availability scenarios and modeling methods most applicable to the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region, and
- (3) Local people's experiences in the development of climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies.

Progress in 2009:

- Alton Byers visited the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Studies (ICIMOD) and USAID in Kathmandu in October 2009 where the workshop concept was received with enthusiasm and several pledges of financial support were made.

Building Livelihoods along Beyul Trails – Nepal

This three-year project was completed in 2009. Its purpose was to spread the benefits of tourism more equitably among the local people in the Everest region of Nepal, while preserving indigenous culture and environment through education and awareness building. Major results in 2009 include:

Direct Beneficiaries:

- 1,000 school children from Khumbu and Pharak will benefit from the Sherpa language and script instructions.
- More than 20,000 tourists visiting Khumbu will benefit from cultural information disseminated through the interpretive displays, brochures and films.
- More than 1,500 people residing in the target communities of Thame, Phortse, and Gyiphide will directly benefit from home-stays, and cultural/ecological trekking.
- Approximately 600 households in off-the-trekking-route communities within the Thame Valley in Sagarmatha National Park and in Tate, Sengma, Lhawo and Gumela villages in the Pharak Buffer Zone will benefit from the business and tourism enhancement training.
- Non-local individuals working and visiting the Park, such as middle class Nepali people, low-income Himalayan porters, and employees of the governmental and non-governmental organizations, will benefit from cross-cultural education and information that will lead to increased respect, harmony and peace in the society.

Progress in 2009:

Cultural:

- Completion of the development of a Sherpa Dictionary
- Completion of documentation of Sherpa folksongs
- Installation of the interpretive exhibit at Sagarmatha National Park Visitors Center
- Installation of the ritual arts exhibit at Kyarok Monastery
- Development of a visitor information center at Namche Monastery
- Completion of the Nepali-language version of the Beyul documentary film
- Completion of Sherpa language educational resource materials
- Sherpa language teacher trainings
- Establishment of the Kathmandu International Film Festival (KIMFF)
- Offering ceremony of Sacred Vase 'Tenrel Nyesel Bumpa'

Economic:

- A seven-day village tourism operators training
- Completion of the home stay trial program
- Development of an interaction program on village tourism

- Construction of the Khumbu Mountain Center
- Development of an income generation project at Thame Monastery
- Production of plays at Thame Monastery
- Facilities improvement at Kyarok Monastery
- Yak handicraft development training
- Yak handicraft production workshop
- Handicraft Group Formation

Replication:

- Sacred Sites, Conservation and Livelihoods Workshop
- Project Evaluation and Interaction program in Namche

BEYUL
Sacred Hidden Valleys of the Himalaya

"How we view ourselves and the world around us... affect our attitudes and our relations with our fellow beings and the world we live in."
- A Buddhist Monk

Khumbu, the homeland of the Sherpa people located at the base of Mt. Everest, is an ancient *beyul* - one of the sacred hidden valleys of the Himalaya. Sherpa people believe that Padmasambhava, the 8th century Buddhist saint has concealed many valleys for his followers to be discovered at times of great need such as famine, disease and conflicts. It is believed that Sherpa ancestors discovered and settled in Khumbu *beyul* over 400 years ago to escape religious persecution in Tibet.

This documentary introduces traditional Sherpa views of the land as a spiritually powerful place, co-habited by many other natural and supernatural beings, where negative thoughts and actions such as quarreling, polluting, and taking life are discouraged. It is these positive human attitudes with the sense of self-restraint among local residents that make Khumbu not only a peaceful place to live and visit but also a safe refuge for wild animals and plants.

This *beyul* has now become Sagarmatha National Park and a World Heritage Site. This film raises awareness among viewers of the role of the indigenous people's belief system in conserving environment and maintaining harmony between people and other beings. The film also highlights the challenges of preserving the indigenous culture and values in a time of rapid change.

BEYUL Sacred Hidden Valleys of the Himalaya

Concept by
Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa

Produced and Directed by
Tsering Rhitara Sherpa

The Mountain Institute
P.O. Box 2785, Kathmandu, Nepal
Ph. +977-1-4419356/4414237 Fax: +977-1-4410073
Website: www.mountain.org Cover designed by Ashish

Financial Contributions in Calendar Year 2009

TMI remains deeply grateful to our generous donors.

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International Potato Center	Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund	Farmer, Jane
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2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2009

2009

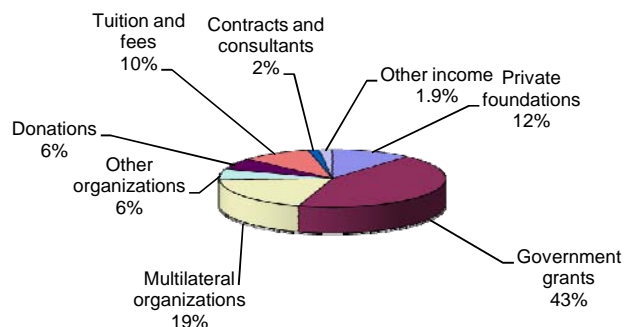
Assets	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 181,133
Donations and grants receivable	2,303,731
Employee and other receivables	88,448
Prepaid expenses and other	24,773
Total current assets	2,598,085
Property and equipment, net	330,704
Grants and Contributions receivable, net of current portion	292,893
Investments	
Long-term investments	428,920
Endowment investments	387,312
Total investments	816,232
Total assets	\$ 4,037,914
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current & Long-Term Liabilities	
Note Payable & Line of Credit	\$ 228,400
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	299,753
Refundable Advances	38,678
Total current & long-term liabilities	566,831
Net assets	
Unrestricted	(367,364)
Temporarily restricted	3,451,135
Permanently restricted	387,312
Total net assets	3,471,083
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 4,037,914

Statement of Activities for the year ended September 30, 2009

2009

Revenues and support	
Grants and contracts	
Private foundations	\$ 366,463
Government grants	1,386,453
Multilateral organizations	618,397
Other organizations	191,852
Donations	202,420
Tuition and fees	319,885
Contracts and consultants	49,693
Other income	26,696
Investment income, net	33,794
Total revenues and support	3,195,653
Expenses	
Program services	
Asia	2,005,301
North America	648,354
South America	662,174
Global	14,710
Total program services	3,330,539
Supporting services	
Management and general	565,423
Fundraising	78,811
Total supporting services	644,234
Total expenses	3,974,773
Change in Net Assets	(779,120)
Net assets, beginning of year	4,250,203
Net assets, end of year	\$ 3,471,083

2009 Revenues & Support



2009 Expenses

