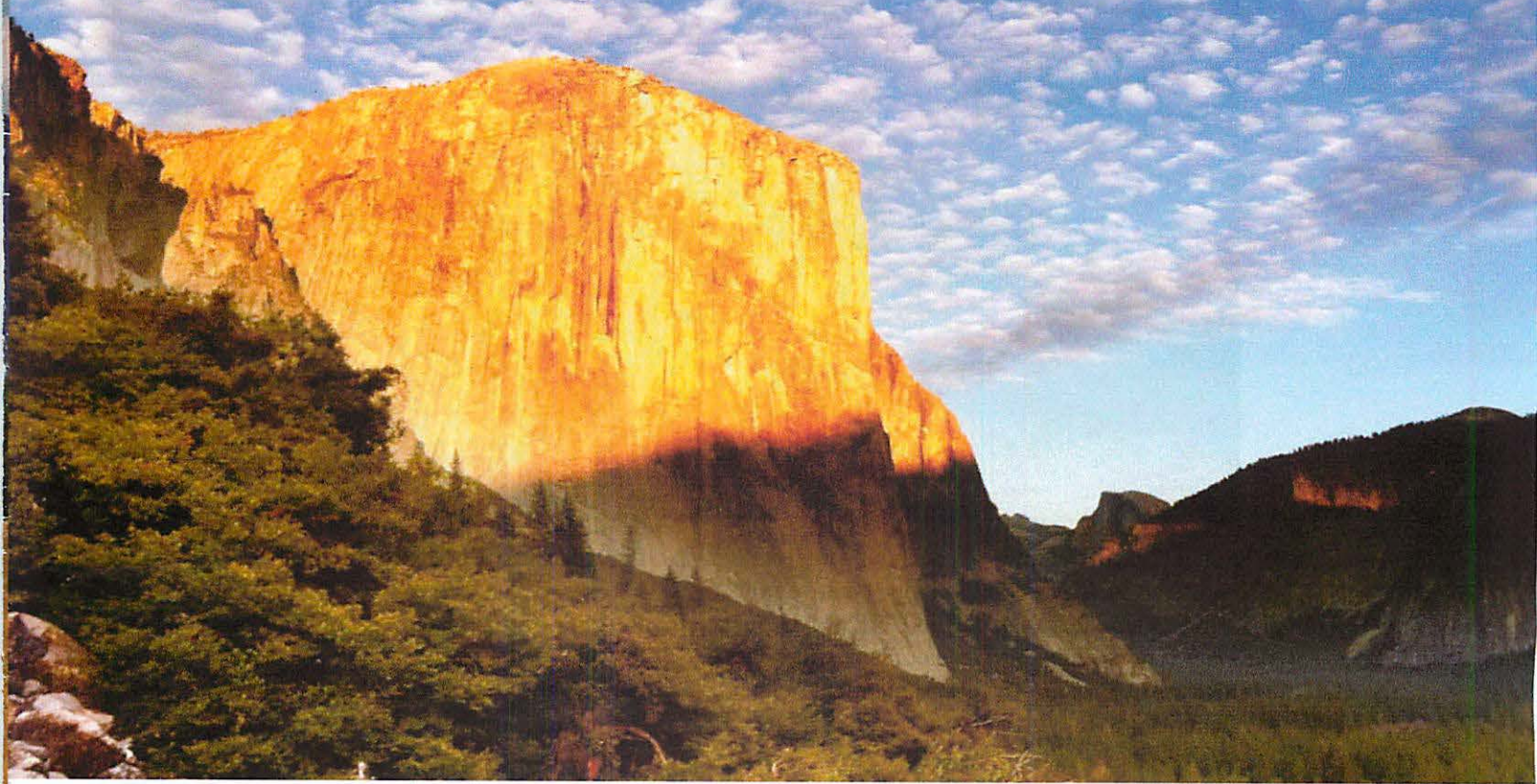




International Affairs Program



El Capitan and Half Dome
in the evening sun.

Yosemite International Affairs Program

The National Park Service protects and interprets many of America's most outstanding historical, cultural, and natural resources. It is internationally recognized for its preservation and administration of over 400 National Park Service sites. On June 30, 1864, when Abraham Lincoln signed the "Yosemite Grant," setting aside 39,000 acres, which would later become Yosemite National Park, and eventually usher in the national park idea.

The International Affairs Program at Yosemite National Park is designed to share the story and knowledge of the park with other conservation areas throughout the world. Yosemite has several successful international relationships through sister park arrangements, short-term international exchanges, and support for visiting delegations and dignitaries. The park is noted for its longstanding tradition of conservation, recreation, interpretation, and visitor use management, which allows Yosemite to successfully engage and support strong international partnerships. Through meaningful relationships and exchanges, Yosemite carries on the tradition of global stewardship.

Sister Parks

Yosemite's sister park arrangements provide a framework for collaboration with parks and protected areas that face similar challenges. Yosemite National Park and each respective sister park have developed action plans together, creating goals that recognize and address pressures of stewardship in the 21st century. As we move forward as a fast-paced and globalized society, Yosemite National Park will continue to support the future as our perspectives on conservation and public lands continue to evolve. Yosemite currently has three formal sister park relationships with Huangshan National Park and Jiuzhaigou National Park in China, and Torres del Paine National Park in Chile.

Huangshan National Park, China

Yosemite's first sister park arrangement was formalized in May 2006, when representatives from Yosemite National Park and Huangshan National Park signed a sister park arrangement in Beijing, China. Over the past 8 years, the parks have shared information on resource protection and park management. In July 2013, a delegation led by the Secretary of Huangshan Municipal Party visited Yosemite Na-



Tanzania

tional Park, in the spirit of continuing international cooperation. In May 2014, a representative from Yosemite attended a Dialogue on UNESCO Designated Places and Sustainable Development, which was held at Huangshan. The Superintendent of Huangshan plans to visit Yosemite in October 2014.

Jiuzhaigou National Park, China

Yosemite has had a formal sister park relationship with Jiuzhaigou National Park since 2006. The relationship was formed to cooperate in scientific research, exchange technical information, plan interpretative signs, safety education, and the public dissemination of information. In the past, Yosemite and Jiuzhaigou have made several personnel exchanges in order to pave the way for these efforts, as both parks recognize that they have similar land management issues regarding high visitation numbers and ecologically sensitive landscapes.

Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

Yosemite National Park and Torres del Paine National Park signed their sister park arrangement in May 2007, in Santiago, Chile. The formalized sister park relationship is an effort to provide mutual support and communication related to land management, education, and budget management. Torres del Paine is particularly interested in the structure and function of Yosemite Conservancy as a possible model for the development of a formal friends group.

Developing Relationships

Berchtesgaden National Park, Germany

Berchtesgaden National Park and Yosemite National Park will be formalizing a sister park arrangement in the summer of 2014. Berchtesgaden's Superintendent will visit Yosemite in late July 2014 to discuss common goals, shared interests, and the formalization of a sister park arrangement. The details of the arrangement are forthcoming.

Mongolia Parks

The Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Green Development and Yosemite will announce their intention to work together in strengthening the capabilities of both organizations, while sustainably managing the natural, cultural, and recreational resources in large landscape conservation areas in their respective countries. The letter of intent to cooperate and pursue a sister park relationship will be signed and then hand delivered in Mongolia in July 2014.

Mount Aspiring National Park, New Zealand

Mount Aspiring National Park and Yosemite are exploring the components of a formal relationship. Some topics that have been discussed will focus on invasive species management, Preventative Search and Rescue, migratory bird research, park volunteer programs, and gateway community relations. The park continues to talk to representatives in New Zealand on a regular basis, with the goal of formalizing a sister park arrangement at a later date.

Top: This deer is known as a "Rothirsch", which, translated into English, means "Red Buck" or "Buck".

Bottom: The horned goat is called "Steinbock" in German, which translates to "mountain rock goat".





Jiuzhaigou National Park is world famous for their spectacular waterfalls.

Nepal Parks

Yosemite National Park and various Nepalese parks are going through the process of formalizing sister park arrangements. Yosemite and Nepal are envisioning programs and plans that recognize the unique niches that each geographical area holds. For example, in Chitwan National Park, discussions are being initiated for the Chitwan Visitor Center Interpretive Concept Plan, while in Langtang National Park, connections have been forged through youth and bird education programs. Sagarmartha National Park, home to Mt. Everest, currently shares in technical rescue, climbing, and resource protection training with Yosemite through a Sherpa Exchange Program.

Ngorongoro Crater Conserv. Area, Tanzania

As a unique ecosystem that is home to great biodiversity, Ngorongoro Crater provides numerous learning opportunities that can be shared, including information on preservation, wildlife poaching issues, and visitor management. Yosemite National Park and Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area are currently in the process of building an international relationship via representative exchanges between both parks. Future collaborations are being explored.

World Heritage Fellows

In the fall of 2012, Yosemite National Park hosted its first residency program for the International Affairs World Heritage Fellow. The Director of the Wadi

Rum Reserve and World Heritage Site in Jordan, Nasser Al Zawideh, visited Yosemite for one month. During his stay, he attended meetings with key staff, and worked with them in order to get an in-depth experience of Yosemite's day-to-day management. Al Zawideh also participated as a presenter at the monthly Yosemite Open House, and was a speaker for a special session of the "Croaking Toad" series for Yosemite staff.

Yosemite's participation in the World Heritage Fellow Program sparked awareness and engagement in global protected management, as well as the exchange of unique experiences and perspectives. Given the success of the program, Yosemite will continue to participate in these exchanges on a regular basis.

Visiting Delegations

Yosemite National Park regularly hosts between 25-30 visiting international delegations each year, who come to the park from around the world to represent the interest of protected areas, heritage sites, and other government entities. Many of these visits include talks, meetings, and walking tours through the park. The meetings provide information on park management, visitation, history, resource protection, and global collaboration. Additionally, these visits provide the park a forum to exchange ideas, establish global connections, and share innovative ideas on how to best protect the beauty and grandeur of protected areas throughout the world.

