



IUCN
The World Conservation Union

IUCN/WCPA
Transboundary
Protected Areas Task
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IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
TASK FORCE ON TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREAS
REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCE IN 2004

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The Task Force on Transboundary Protected Areas in 2004 built on the outcomes of the World Parks Congress, leading up to and concluding with activities at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress.

1. CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas

The most significant milestone in 2004 was the inclusion of the specific provisions in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. With respect to transboundary conservation, the Programme of Work requires the Parties, with specific reference to:

- (i) apply the ecosystem approach by extending protected areas beyond national boundaries, including **transboundary protected areas** and protected areas in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.
- (ii) Establish, where appropriate, **new transboundary protected areas** with adjacent Parties and countries and strengthen effective collaborative management of existing TBPAs.
- (iii) Compile and **disseminate information** on regional networks of protected areas and **transboundary protected areas**, and to provide an enabling **policy environment for transboundary protected areas**.
- (iv) Develop and adopt minimum standards and best practices for national and **regional protected area systems**; and evaluate and improve the effectiveness of protected areas management, by establishing frameworks for monitoring, evaluating and reporting protected areas management effectiveness at sites, national and regional systems, and **transboundary protected area** levels.

The Task Force has continued to provide, and increased its support to WCPA and IUCN in respect of these obligations in terms of the Convention.

2. La Maddalena workshop 16-21 May 2004

A follow-up meeting of the Transboundary Protected Areas Task Force was convened in La Maddalena, Italy, with support from the Italian Government, InWent, Peace Parks Foundation and many other organizations that sent representatives.

The workshop concluded with a **recommendation** that the work of the transboundary Protected Areas Task Force should be broadened to encompass the direction that is contained in the CBD COP7 Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

Specifically, it proposed that the WCPA consider establishing the work on Transboundary Conservation as a Theme in the WCPA/PPA Strategy and Quadrennial Work Programme.

Thirdly, it supported the tabling of a programme resolution at the World Conservation Congress, ensuring that IUCN included transboundary conservation in the work programme of the IUCN Secretariat.

Finally, its main purpose was to prepare a publication regarding the key issues for transboundary conservation, in support of the roll-out of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The publication is now in draft form, and will be published in time for the World Wilderness Congress in October 2005.

3. Networking activities of the Task Force

The website of the Task Force, <http://www.tbpa.net> that was launched at the World Parks Congress was significantly expanded to include numerous additional documents, professional papers, PowerPoint presentations, policy documents and more. Testament to the fact that this online networking strategy is working is the high placement that the Google search engine gives to [tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) web pages.

Two IUCN listservs were launched prior to the World Conservation Congress; one for members of the TBPA Task Force. and one open to the wider transboundary conservation community.

4. Other activities being conducted by members of the Task Force

The most important activity is that of the **WCPA Theme Group on Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe**, ably co-ordinated by Roland Stein.

The group has carried out a preliminary assessment of the present situation of TBPA's and transboundary conservation needs in Europe, and has elaborated a work programme for the group and a set of messages and recommendations to various key-players in the field of transboundary conservation cooperation. Recent and current activities and initiatives in TBPA cooperation include the launching and the application of EUROPARC's "Basic Standards for Transfrontier Cooperation between European Protected Areas" and its certification system "Transboundary Parks – Following Nature's Design".

The European Green Belt, the Pan-European Ecological Network, Fennoscandia and the Strategic Plan 'Conservation without frontiers ...' for the IUCN South Eastern European Programme, are backed up by major events, e.g. the UNESCO – IUCN Joint International Workshop on 'MAB Biosphere Reserves and Transboundary Cooperation in the SEE Region', in June 2004, the 'European Green Belt Conference', in September 2004', and the 'International Conference and Expert Workshop on Transboundary Biosphere Reserves', in November 2004.

5. The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2004

The Task Force convened a special session in the Global Conservation forum relating to the outcomes of the World Parks Congress. Specifically, a panel was convened to discuss the key issue of the principles

and practice of transboundary governance. It is proposed to follow this up with a full conference on Transboundary Governance during 2006.

The IUCN adopted the Durban Action Plan as a programme resolution, including all of the elements of the action plan dealing with Transboundary Conservation. Together with the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, this creates a responsibility for the IUCN Secretariat, the membership, Commissions and their Task Forces to execute the provisions of the Durban Action Plan in the Quadrennial Period 2005-2009.

6. Proposed Task Force activities in 2005-2009

Key activities in the Quadrennial Period 2005-2009 are to:

- (i) Complete the preparation of the IUCN Publication on Contemporary Perspectives on Transboundary Conservation for launch at the 8th World Wilderness Congress in Anchorage, Alaska in October 2005;
- (ii) Contribute to the further development of the regional hubs for transboundary co-ordination and capacity-building, including in the South African Development Community region, the South-eastern Europe region, the WCPA Theme Group on Transboundary Protected Areas in Europe, a South-east Asia hub and a possible hub in South America;
- (iii) Develop a comprehensive proposal for funding the Global Learning Network for Transboundary Conservation (linked to PALNet), and enhance information exchange and learning;
- (iv) Prepare for and support a Workshop on Transboundary Wilderness Areas in the 8th World Wilderness Congress 2005;
- (v) Contribute towards the preparation and launch of a CI/CEMEX publication on Transboundary Conservation Areas at the 8th World Wilderness Congress 2005;
- (vi) Prepare a proposal for an International Conference on Transboundary Conservation Governance in 2006, and conduct a preparatory meeting and expert workshop of the TBPA Task Force for this purpose;
- (vii) Further develop a proposal in conjunction with the Mountains Theme, regarding Mountain Transboundary Protected Areas for 2007.