

TBeNEWS 6

November
2012



Welcome Note



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The 6th issue of the TB eNEWS brings forward many interesting cases of transboundary conservation initiatives globally, but before continuing with these introductory notes, we would like to acknowledge the extremely dedicated work of Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby who left us this August after a brief illness at the age of 56. Martin was the longest-serving staff member of EuroNatur Foundation (Germany), working extensively on nature conservation in South-Eastern Europe, especially on the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. Not only a passionate conservationist, he will be remembered for his endless enthusiasm, kind and warm personality.

In this issue, *TBPA in Focus* features the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. A vast conservation area in southern Africa not only protects abundant wildlife, but also presents opportunities for socio-economic development with benefit generation for nearby communities.

We report briefly from major recent events such as IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, EUROPARC Federation's TransParcNet meeting, and other, regional and local events where WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG) members were present. An important event for advancing global transboundary conservation practice was held during the IUCN WCC and organised by TBC SG, Korea National Park Service and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). WCC ended with a Jeju Declaration and 112 Motions, one of which calls for the establishment of a forum for transboundary protected area managers "that promotes knowledge and information-sharing, capacity-building, and collaboration in addressing common concerns and interests". Further on, new Chair of IUCN World Commission on Protected

Areas was elected during the Congress Ernesto Enkerlin Hoeflich, a Mexican conservationist, long-standing WCPA member, and IUCN-awarded environmentalist (2008 Packard Awards and 2009 Kenton Miller Award). Ernesto Enkerlin appointed Kathy McKinnon as WCPA Vice-Chair, while in Europe, Andrej Sovinc was appointed as Regional Vice-Chair.

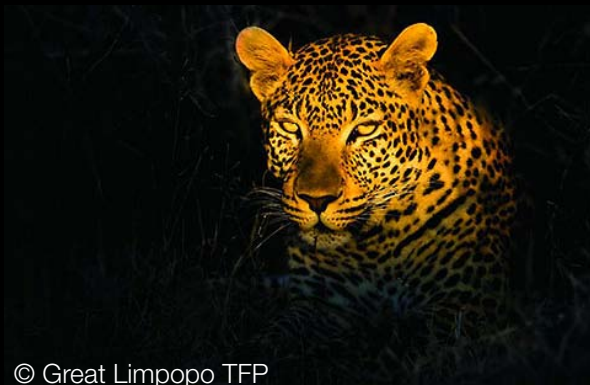
"Protected Planet", managed by the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and supported by IUCN and WCPA presents relaunched and repackaged the World Database on Protected Areas in a user friendly internet accessible manner and linked to Google applications. Be sure to check www.protectedplanet.net.

Trevor Sandwith, Director of IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme was recently elected as Chairman of the International Academy for Nature Conservation, part of BfN, located on the island of Vilm, Germany. Andrej Sovinc is also on the Council. The Academy provides support and interchange to nature conservation professionals in the European Union countries.

After these quick introductory news, we invite you to read about transboundary initiatives in this issue of the TB eNEWS. We thank everyone for their contributions and we are looking forward to receiving more success stories, reports relating to know-how in dealing with transboundary problems, information about relevant events and other interesting stories.

*Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
Executive Committee
IUCN WCPA*

Southern Africa's Great Limpopo park



© Great Limpopo TFP

Name:	GREAT LIMPOPO TRANSFRONTIER PARK
Countries:	Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe
Surface:	35 000km²
IUCN category:	II
Year of formal TB agreement:	2002

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) links the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, Kruger National Park in South Africa, Gonarezhou National Park (NP), Manjinji Pan Sanctuary and Malipati Safari Area in Zimbabwe, as well as two areas between Kruger and Gonarezhou, namely the Sengwe communal land in Zimbabwe and the Makuleke region in South Africa into one huge conservation area of 35,000 km². The GLTP brings together some of the best and most established wildlife areas in southern Africa. The park is managed as an integrated unit across three national borders by the trilateral Ministerial Committee consisting of the relevant Ministers, Joint Management Board consisting of the senior officials, and management Sub-Committees consisting of the relevant specialists.

The establishment of the GLTP is the first phase in the establishment of a bigger transfrontier conservation area measuring almost 100,000 km² which aims to include Banhine and Zinave NPs, the Massingir and Corumana areas and interlinking regions in Mozambique, and various privately and state-owned conservation areas in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The GLTP comprises a vast area of the lowland savannah ecosystem which is bisected by the Lebombo Mountains running along the border between South Africa and Mozambique. Five major river systems cross this ecoregion in a generally west-east flow. The four main landscapes include lowland plains savannah in the majority of the area, a somewhat hilly granite plateau in the western portions, the Lebombo Mountains that rise to an average of only 500 m above sea level, and floodplains.

Transfrontier conservation areas have the potential to foster regional socio-economic development through the development of transboundary tourism products. Based on the broad open plains and abundant wildlife associated with its bushveld area, four clusters of products are proposed for the GLTP: a trails concession between Mozambique and Zimbabwe at the Save River confluence, a 4x4 trails concession between the Kruger and Limpopo NPs, an adventure trails concession consisting of foot safaris and a canoe trail, and a self-guided eco-trail. Plans are ahead to implement a pilot trails concession between South Africa and Mozambique, the Shingwedzi Cliff trail. In addition, there has been the development of the Giriyondo tourist access facility linking Kruger and Limpopo NPs in South Africa and Mozambique, the translocation of wildlife from Kruger to Limpopo NP in Mozambique (4,885 in total), development of the GLTP integrated development plan, and others.

Management challenges that GLTP faces comprise: recent and current political dynamics limiting full participation of all three countries, local communities living within and adjacent to components of the GLTP, differences in capacity to participate equally in joint processes, and the current onslaught on rhino compromising the security of the area.

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AHEAD-Great Limpopo: A new way to support transfrontier conservation implementation



The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park straddles Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Over the past decade, most of the challenges for transboundary conservation implementation have been related to human-wildlife conflict in the access to and use of natural resources. Furthermore, other regional and global drivers have indirectly exacerbated the situation and the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) implementation seems at an impasse from a number of perspectives.

For the people and institutions directly involved in the GLTFCA, however, the past decade has marked the search for solutions to critical socio-ecological problems affecting health, development and conservation. Mostly, they have worked and shared knowledge through the Animal and Human Health for Environment and Development (AHEAD)–GLTFCA Working Group.

Established in 2003, during the IUCN World Park Congress in Durban, South Africa, this Working Group has grown to include key political and managerial role-players for the GLTFCA, supported by a global pool of researchers from a variety of disciplines. Since its inception, the Working Group was coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), under their AHEAD global programme, and supported with South African National Parks (SANParks).

In 2011, however, the AHEAD-GLTFCA Working Group and network agreed with WCS on the need to regionalise the group and increase local ownership. The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria and SANParks volunteered to initially fund the position of Network Coordinator, which was filled in September 2012. The critical tasks are to re-focus the network around its Annual Meeting and stimulate its influence for the sustainable implementation of the GLTFCA.

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Dogs without borders



There is a new sign by the road in Caprivi depicting wild dogs, erected by the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism in a bid to reduce wild dog fatalities caused by speeding cars. Namibia's Caprivi Region is at the centre of Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area, and the transfrontier landscape holds the largest wild dog population in Africa, with a great deal of genetic diversity. KAZA recently held a Symposium on Wild Dogs in May this year, at Mahangu Safari Lodge on the Okavango River. The Symposium was organized and funded by WWF in Namibia.



The passion of the participants was expressed by Dr Greg Rasmussen of Painted Dog Conservation, Zimbabwe, who calls them “probably the most social animal on the planet.” Years in the field have taught him to appreciate *Lycaon pictus* – wild or “Painted Dogs” – as lovable, if not exactly friends.

The experts at the Symposium were looking for ways to improve the KAZA area for wild dogs to roam. One pack needs 750 square kilometres. Modern roads are a huge problem for many species, not only dogs. Angola is planning another highway parallel to the Caprivi road, and Zambia is upgrading the road along the Zambezi in order to bring in more tourists. Somehow, a balance has to be struck between development and conservation. The Symposium was a great start to collaboration within KAZA, and the first positive result was the wild dog road signs.

WWF's transboundary specialist Russell Taylor will be producing the report of the proceedings soon.

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Krkonoše/Karkonosze National Parks: Two languages—one discourse



© Kamila Antosova KRNAP

Krkonoše in the Czech Republic and Karkonosze in Poland, sometimes called as Giant Mountains, have been protected as national parks since 1959 (on the Polish side) and 1963 (on the Czech side). During the Communist era before 1989, the state border between former Czechoslovakia and Poland was strictly guarded, regardless of the fact that both countries belonged to the Soviet bloc. Soldiers with machineguns could be seen on the top of the mountain, rigorously watching people passing by. After 1989, borders started to be guarded by civil servants dressed in police uniforms. Since 2008, all guards are gone, with borders in Schengen area, within the European Union, being removed.

Two things however still remain. First, after many decades people still have their own “borders in mind”. People on both sides of the border still perceive Krkonoše or Karkonosze just from their side, not as one cross-border mountain. Second, although Czech and Polish are rooted in the same language family, the languages differ and a

language barrier is still faced, including between staff of the two national parks. Of course people do understand the vast majority of what is being said if the language is spoken slowly, but when there is something more difficult, staff normally switches to English as common “Esperanto”. This natural handicap is being overcome by an educational project for employees from both national parks. The main motto of the project is “Two languages, one discourse”.

The project is focused on the education of national parks’ employees in the language of their partners. Lessons are focused not only on basic language skills but also on specific conservation-related topics such as legislation, nature conservation and management, etc. All trainees also pass a one-week internship at their partners’ park.

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The Barents Protected Area Network for conserving unique northern nature



The four Barents countries, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, share similar challenges in the conservation of biodiversity of the unique northern nature. The Barents Region boasts one of the largest intact ecosystems on Earth, but threats to the remaining wilderness areas continue to grow. Increasing and often unsustainable use of natural resources forests, mires, gas, oil and minerals causes habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity. Climate change further threatens northern nature.

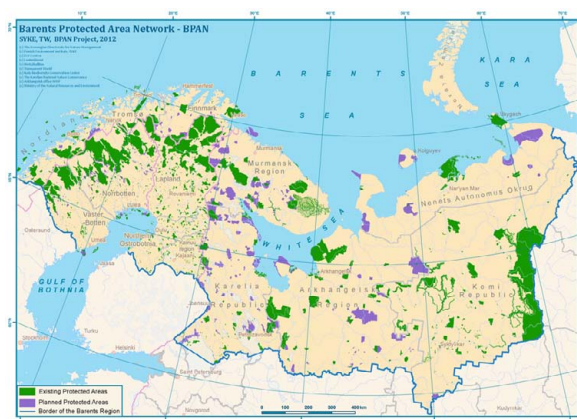
The Barents Protected Area Network (BPAN) project promotes the establishment of a representative network of protected areas in the Barents Region. Conserving northern forests and mires maintains natural ecosystems and valuable ecosystem services. Additionally, protected areas are important tools for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The BPAN project as a regional initiative, contributes to the Convention on Biological Diversity Nagoya Aichi Targets to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020, with special emphasis on transboundary cooperation.

The BPAN project is implemented by nature conservation authorities, scientific institutes and NGOs in Finland, Sweden, Norway and northwestern Russia. The project provides a platform for cooperation and exchange of information on nature conservation issues between 13 regions. The work implemented across national borders includes compiling, harmonizing and evaluating data on protected area network. The experts produce thematic

maps, basic statistics and more detailed analysis on the protected area network for the decision makers, authorities and general public. The creation of the common protected area classification, based on strictness of protected area regulations to conserve nature, will help provide a common picture of the level of protection across national borders.

More analyses of the representativeness of the protected area network are still needed. For biodiversity conservation, it is of outmost importance that connectivity of protected areas and functionality of ecosystems are preserved. The aim is to raise issues related to representativeness of protected areas both locally and internationally.

Read more: www.bpan.fi

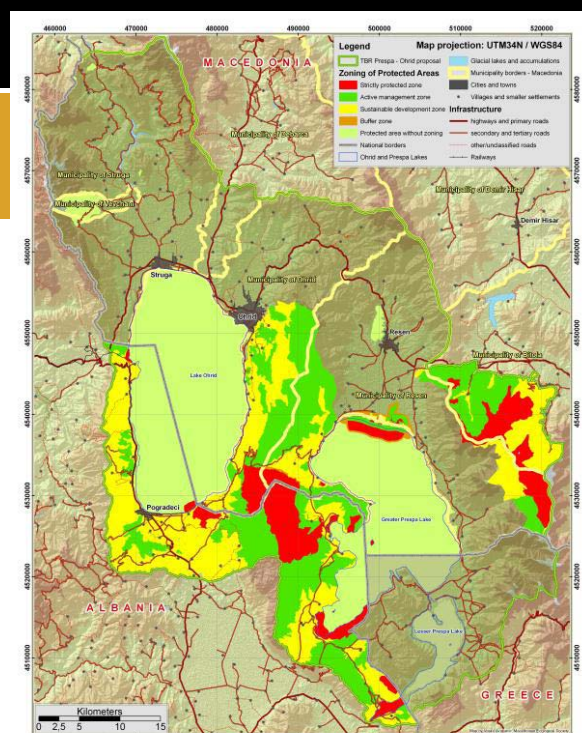


Albania and Macedonia sign declaration on Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Ohrid-Prespa

A Declaration of Commitment for the establishment of a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) Ohrid-Prespa was signed on 2 October 2012 by the Albanian and Macedonian Ministers for Environment, Mr. Fatmir Mediu and Mr. Abdilqim Ademi respectively. Mayors and managers of protected areas and forestry departments in the Albanian and Macedonian parts of the Ohrid-Prespa region have also supported the TBR establishment.

The initiative for creation of the UNESCO TBR was launched by the Secretariat of the joint Ohrid Watershed Commission and the Albanian Ministry of Environment, with facilitation and financial support of the project *Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa-Support to National Park Prespa in Albania* financed by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through the German Bank for Reconstruction (KfW). The process started as a bilateral approach between Macedonia and Albania, while keeping the doors open for the Greek side to join the nomination process for a trilateral Biosphere Reserve at their convenience.

A joint Declaration of Commitment recognizes the following ecosystem services of the Ohrid-Prespa region: habitat function for species in the area; resources for



local population by supplying firewood, non-timber products and fish; water supply and regeneration; climate protection; erosion protection; climate moderation function by evaporation of water through vegetation or intact lake ecosystems; carbon sequestration function; recreation and nature experience area to attract visitors and tourists; and education area.

The signed Declaration and the received support of UNESCO will enable the continuation of the initiative and formal beginning of the reserve's nomination process within the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme. Further activities include a wide information and participation campaign in order to acquire support from all relevant stakeholders in the region.



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Celebrating a decade of problem solving on water issues in the lower Jordan River



The WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG) were privileged to be invited to the Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) “Good Water Neighbours” conference held in Jericho, the Palestinian Authority, from 12 to 13 September 2012 in celebration of a decade of community based work focused on solving problems related to shared water resources in the lower Jordan River basin. FoEME is an NGO that recognises the demise of this system, including the Dead Sea, and are using grassroots projects to demonstrate the value of transboundary cooperation in an effort to influence decision-making at the political level.

FoEME has three areas of focus, namely, the leveraging of funding from international donors, application of these funds to community based water projects, and the use of these projects to “exert ‘bottom-up’ pressure on national decision makers in order to generate the political will needed to advance solutions at the national and regional level”. There are currently 28 communities involved in 19 transboundary projects which are grouped according to

shared water resources at both the fine scale (stream or spring) and at the larger scale (watersheds and aquifers). In the last five years FoEME’s efforts to leverage funding have resulted in approximately US\$ 400 million being invested in the three countries.

One example of FoEME’s work is the establishment of ‘water trustees’ in the target communities, who undertake the process of ‘hazard mapping’ within a one kilometre perimeter of their schools. This information is captured on GIS and overlaid on water resource maps which provide an indication of the implications of the hazards to the water resources. Local decision-makers are then engaged in a process of formulating and implementing solutions. This initiative has gained such momentum that it is to be integrated as a permanent feature of the Israeli school curriculum.

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FoEME: www.foeme.org

Transboundary master planning of the lower Jordan River basin



The WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group participated in the Stockholm International Water Institute's conference on the "Transboundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin" in Amman, Jordan, 9–11 September 2012. The conference was hosted in collaboration with Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) with the objective to review and solicit support for the work of drafting a Transboundary Master Plan for the lower Jordan River, and to get feedback from Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli government representatives and experts, as well as key international and regional experts.

The severely degraded condition of the lower Jordan River, i.e. from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea, is because of over abstraction and pollution from untreated sewage and agricultural and industrial effluent. The prevailing political dynamics exacerbates the situation with proponents for its rehabilitation facing massive challenges in their attempts to get relevant officials and decision-makers to speak

to each other and agree on the need for addressing the demise of the system and the required rehabilitation effort.

The current situation is that the annual flow volume has been decreased by almost 97%, from a historical average of 1.3 billion m³ per annum, to one of between 20–30 million m³ per annum. As a result, the Dead Sea is also threatened and is dropping at a rate of one meter per annum. While the Dead Sea is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the lower Jordan River is also of great biodiversity and cultural significance. It is part of the flyway for 500 million migratory birds and is of religious significance as it includes sites such as the place Jesus was baptized. It is hoped that the Master Plan will provide the answers and a way forward to reverse this situation and secure the integrity of the system.

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Fostering transboundary conservation in one of the largest tropical karst areas worldwide



© Li Migura

The Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (PNKB NP) is located around 200 km north of Hue in the central Vietnam province of Quang Binh and spans over an area of around 86,000 ha (plus 31,000 ha extension area). The park, since 2003 a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features worldwide unique karst formations and an extensive cave system, as well as rich biodiversity. The Hin Nam No in Lao People's Democratic Republic, declared a National Biodiversity Conservation Area (NBCA) in 1993, is bordering PNKB NP. The PNKB NP and the Hin Nam No NBCA represent the largest protected area of limestone mountains in Indochina.

GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) projects active in the PNKB NP region and Hin Nam No NBCA are looking for advancing and strengthening integrated transboundary biodiversity conservation. The current cooperation is based on the agreement between the two provinces' authorities, Quang Binh and Khammouane, and on the support of international organizations and the two parks' Management Boards. Both parks and their surrounding areas are challenged in fostering sustainable management and economic development. Current and future transboundary collaboration, thus, is committed to further strengthening information sharing on legal,

financial, socio-economic and cultural aspects between the parks' Management Boards. Further on, cooperation seeks to develop and strengthen linkages among localities and relevant agencies, raise awareness on biodiversity conservation in general and wildlife trade in particular among communities in the cross-border areas, and advance progress beyond a draft agreement for future transboundary collaboration.

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Bhutan, India and Nepal agree to enhance cooperation in the Kanchenjunga Landscape



The unique, culturally and biologically rich landscape around Mount Kanchenjunga covers parts of western Bhutan, northeastern India, and eastern Nepal and is one of several Himalayan areas where countries need to work together to conserve and manage biodiversity. In an expert consultation meeting held at Gangtok (Sikkim) during 16 to 18 August 2012, senior officials and experts from Bhutan, India, and Nepal prepared a road map for carrying out collaborative work in this area. The countries agreed to work towards preparation of feasibility assessment reports, conservation strategy, and comprehensive environmental monitoring plan. These documents would focus on identification and long term conservation of 'biological corridors', and also address the common problems such as poaching of wildlife, overgrazing, forest fire, and spread of alien invasive species.

The consultation was organized by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and hosted by the GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIED) in India, with support from

the Forest Departments of Sikkim and West Bengal. It was attended by more than 40 representatives of governments and non-governmental organizations. Through participatory and consultative process, the three Governments, Bhutan, India and Nepal, have agreed to prepare the above mentioned documents which will result into a regional cooperation framework for transboundary cooperation in the landscape within next 18 months.

In addition to Kangchenjunga, ICIMOD, an intergovernmental regional knowledge and enabling centre, has identified six critical transboundary landscapes (Brahmaputra-Salween, Cherrapunjee-Chittagong, Everest, Karakoram-Pamir, Kailash and Wakhan) in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region (HKH) as potential areas for piloting the 'ecosystem approach' in conservation and development advocated by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and provisioned in its Programme of Work on Mountain Biodiversity.

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A step towards an Ecological Network of Moldova



© Tomasz Pezold

In the last three years IUCN and its member, BIOTICA Ecological Society, in close cooperation with the Moldovan Ministry of Environment, were actively working on the creation of the National Ecological Network (NEN) in Moldova, through the project "Development of the National Ecological Network of Moldova as part of the Pan-European Ecological Network, with emphasis on transboundary cooperation." Taking into consideration the agricultural expansion and dense rural population, the physical creation of the NEN is of great importance for biodiversity and landscape conservation, soil and water protection, as well as for the improvement of the agri-environment reality and for climate change adaptation.

As a result of the project, a Geographic Information System of the NEN was created and a Directory of the key elements of the NEN published. This Directory comprises descriptions of 9 NEN core areas of international importance, 13 of national, and 91 of local importance. In addition, descriptions of 13 core areas of Ukraine in a cross-boundary zone were also included.

A monetary assessment of ecosystem services of the NEN was carried out showing that the total monetary value generated by these services for 10 years would be three times more than the total cost of the physical creation of the NEN covering many expensive civil works (creation/improvement of corridors, ecological reconstruction of grazing lands, etc.). Among other project results are a guide on management planning for core areas, an info-set for decision-makers, and 9 indicative maps including a transboundary zone with Ukraine.

The project, financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has made the first contributions towards implementation of NATURA 2000. The project results are considered to be an important step towards the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and Ramsar Convention.

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Peaks for peace: A transboundary hike through the southern Balkans



In July 2012 I took part in the international expedition “Discover Balkan Peaks” across the southern Dinaric Alps “to promote free access to the mountain paths, and friendship in the triangle of Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania”. The trek was organized by the Alpine Club of Kosovo, to celebrate their recent joining of the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA).

The trek began in the Rugova valley accessible from Peja, Kosovo. Through forests of conifers and alpine pastures we reached the traditional, scattered little village of Babino Polje, Montenegro. Scenes of old, traditional farming delighted our eyes at sunset: manual hay mowing, hay-stacks, horse-pulled carriages. In 4WDs we then reached Zastan and hiked over the border to Theth in Albania through rugged landscapes reminding of the Dolomites. Decrepit machine-gun posts formerly guarding the border increased the landscape’s dramatics.

Theth is a lively village where the recently refurbished private farms now also function as guest houses. The initiator was Pavlin Polia, a young Albanian who working in Italy got acquainted to the “Slow food” philosophy. Returning home he invested his savings in sustainable tourism, safeguarding of the environment and traditional

agriculture. We reached Valbona through a 1,799 m high pass to end our memorable five-day trek.

My sincere thanks go to the organisers of this hike symbolizing peace and friendship across the borders, and hope for the future.

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Mura-Drava-Danube added to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves



On 11 July 2012, the UNESCO MAB Committee officially added the Croatian-Hungarian part of the Mura-Drava-Danube area to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. This is a key step towards the world's first penta-lateral Biosphere Reserve (BR). Together with the upcoming nominations of Serbia, Slovenia and Austria, Mura-Drava-Danube will become Europe's largest protected river landscape, covering 700 river km in a total area of 8,000 km². The Mura-Drava-Danube BR covers about 80% of the future 5-country BR clustered around 13 protected areas.

The BR is the result of ten years of work by WWF, EuroNatur and their partners. Big milestone was a Ministerial Declaration of the five countries from March 2011 to jointly establish the reserve. On 12 and 13 June 2012, the meetings of the penta-lateral Coordination Board (attended by government representatives) and the International Working Group (attended by local and

regional stakeholders) were held at Kopački rit Nature Park in Croatia, the famous confluence of the Drava and Danube («Amazon of Europe»). The 48 participants from the Mura-Drava-Danube region reviewed progress since October 2011 and agreed to develop common principles and guidelines for the region's joint management. The initiative was also presented in a side event on 12 July at Ramsar COP 11 in Bucharest. The BR status will increase protection and allow restoration measures, while also helping to stop sediment extraction and advanced plans of hard waterway engineering.

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<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/multimedia/photos/mab-2012/>

<http://www.amazon-of-europe.com/en/menu31>

Green diplomacy across the Alps: Towards the candidature of the Monviso Transboundary Biosphere Reserve

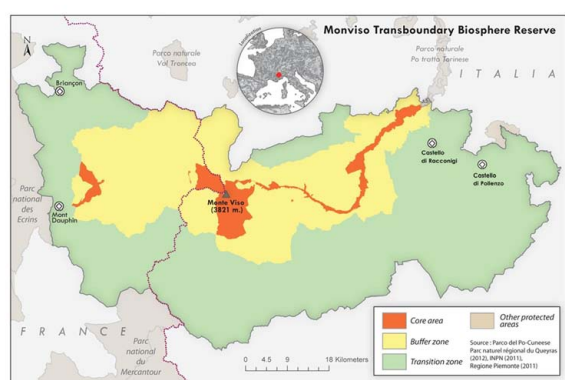


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Once upon a time, the Stone King (the way that Monviso Mountain was called in the local legends) was standing alone and visible from far away, somewhere in the south-western corner of the Alps. Passing across its valleys was always a challenge: Hannibal, with his elephants and troops, had to invent creative solutions to remove the hard stones that used to block his way to Rome. Legends naturally mix truth and myth. The iconic significance of that triangular-shaped massive has remained vivid over the centuries and interesting examples of 'transboundary' territorial regimes are found in the more recent past: the 'Escartons' proudly defined themselves a 'free transfrontier identity', that has existed for about four centuries (1400-1700) across the current

French-Italian border, around the Monviso massive. This cultural heritage has remained and represented the ground for the current, and hopefully future, transboundary cooperation.

Since 2000, Queyras Regional Nature Park, France, and Po Cuneese Regional Park, Italy, planned to reinforce their cooperation by adopting an internationally recognised designation. By using the framework of a large EU funded transboundary project (called ALCOTRA) human and financial resources have been made available to pave the way towards the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) designation, in accordance with the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme framework. The two national dossiers have been submitted and the transboundary annexes are in preparation. The Biosphere Reserve model proves to be the most appropriate to accommodate the protection activities (in the respective core zone) and the research and sustainable development initiatives in the surrounding 'buffer' and 'transition' areas. New pieces of the Alpine green diplomacy 'puzzle' are to be composed, hoping to give a new sense to nature conservation activities within a European context.



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Wilderness does not stop at borders



'Nature knows no borders' was confirmed when PAN Parks Foundation announced the first successful verification of a transboundary wilderness area of Oulanka National Park, Finland, and Paanajärvi National Park, Russia. This verification strengthens the wilderness protection across political boundaries.

Oulanka and Paanajärvi were both certified PAN Parks. After a decade of hard work to harmonise the two parks' management plans, the third-party verification conducted by PAN Parks' experts confirmed that management bodies of the two parks work in close cooperation.

This transboundary area is the largest protected area within the European Wilderness Preservation System set up through the PAN Parks' network. The two parks cover over 132,000 hectares, from which 103,000 hectares are managed according to wilderness principles, meaning there is no extractive use within the wilderness zone. *"No hunting, no logging, no grazing with domestic animals, but nature developing on its*

own", explains Vlado Vančura, Conservation Manager of PAN Parks Foundation.

Although the two areas have already been part of the PAN Parks network, the transboundary verification brings a number of added values. Transboundary cooperation will likely help to avoid the opening of the newly planned gold mines close to Oulanka National Park. It will help to improve the information exchange and harmonisation of management actions between the two parks. *"This verification also increased the size of a formerly verified wilderness zone; therefore it means a significant step towards our objective to protect 1 million hectares of wilderness in Europe by 2015. I am glad to announce that with the increase of the wilderness zone of Oulanka/Paanajärvi, the PAN Parks' European Wilderness Preservation System includes over half million hectares now!"*, adds Zoltan Kun, Executive Director of PAN Parks Foundation.

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European Transboundary Parks meet again



© Maja Vasilijevic

This year's annual EUROPARC TransParcNet meeting took place on 11-14 June 2012 in one of the most distinguished transboundary areas in Europe, the Trilateral Pasvik-Inari Park formed by the Inari-Vätsäri Wilderness Area (Finland), Øvre-Pasvik National Park (Norway), and Pasvik Zapovednik (Russia). The meeting was organized by Metsähallitus, the Finnish Natural Heritage Services, with support of Norwegian and Russian experts.

The meeting brought together about 40 participants from 16 countries, managers of transboundary parks and experts, including a representative of the IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG). The meeting was a great opportunity for participants to present recent developments in transboundary conservation in Europe, share experience and knowledge on conservation science and practice, but also bring forward some of the challenges transboundary conservation in Europe is facing lately.

Apart from discussing relevant issues pertaining to transboundary conservation, this year's meeting marked a progress in cooperation between EUROPARC and IUCN by inviting a representative of the WCPA TBC SG to present the work of the Specialist Group. *"IUCN WCPA and EUROPARC are two largest networks and pools of expertise on transboundary cooperation in Europe. Only by working together we will be able to bring transboundary agenda forward and apply its principles on the ground"*, added Boris Erg, Director of IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe and Regional Coordinator for Europe of the WCPA TBC SG.

After the working session the participants had the opportunity to visit the unique Trilateral Pasvik-Inari Park and learn about its values, management and the history of joint transboundary cooperation endeavours.

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EUROPARC's Transboundary Parks:
<http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/transboundary-parks/>

Guidelines to support local action across the Albania-Montenegro border



IUCN has published Guidelines to accompany the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Albania and Montenegro, concerning their cooperation in environmental protection, tourism, recreation and sustainable development in the transboundary context of the Bjeshkët e Namuna/Prokletije Mountains. The Guidelines explain articles of the MoU and suggest LAGs how to implement them in their own countries and collaborate on their implementation across the border. There is a description of a wide range of possible ground actions in the field of nature and environmental protection and sustainable use, tourism and recreation opportunities, provision of high quality tourism services, marketing and promotion, communication, cooperation and funding.

The MoU and Guidelines are prepared as a result of the author's expertise and experience, enriched by:

- The conclusions of a joint workshop held in Shkodër, Albania, on 12-13 September 2011, attended by members of both LAGs, representatives of other stakeholder organisations and international experts; and
- Guidance on transboundary protected areas and cooperation produced by IUCN and the World Bank, among others.

The MoU is not a common transboundary agreement given that unlike national or regional authorities, the LAGs do not have statutory powers of their own. It is not legally binding, but it does provide a framework for cooperative actions. Although a strong level of cooperation between the LAGs is hoped for, this is inevitably limited by logistics, available resources, capacities and language differences. Having in mind the enthusiasm from all actors involved, the prospects for future cooperation and sustainable development of this area are promising.

The Guidelines are available in English, Albanian and Montenegrin language and together with the MoU were published within the "Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc" project implemented by IUCN, WWF Mediterranean Programme and SNV (Netherlands Development Organization), and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

For further information and to download the Guidelines please visit:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/about/places/belgrade/news/?11169/Support-local-action-across-the-border>

MAIA: Atlantic MPA managers' network is born



© Bojan Ernjakovic

Conservation of marine biodiversity has become a key national issue in the Atlantic European countries, especially through the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The MPAs in the Atlantic Arc network (MAIA) project gathers 9 partners from 4 European countries: the United Kingdom (UK), France, Spain and Portugal. The project aims to create a network of MPA managers and ultimately, an efficient network of MPAs.

From 2010 to 2012, three technical workshops were organised within the MAIA framework: on establishing indicators and monitoring strategies in MPAs (Sessimbra, Portugal, November 2010); on involving stakeholders in the MPA designation process (Totnes, UK, September 2011); and on defining and implementing management plans (La Coruña, Spain, June 2012). Numerous documents have been produced, such as field studies, global overviews and current legislation related to MPAs in the project partner countries. All these documents are available for downloading on the MAIA web site. The website is a dynamic web portal that includes a

private collaborative space, a document database, and a GIS database.

MAIA will end 2012 by organising the First Conference of the Atlantic Arc Marine Protected Areas Network from 3 to 6 December in Arcachon, France. The objective of the conference is to promote the development of a well-managed MPA network in the Atlantic arc by gathering MPA practitioners and organisations to share their experiences and to consolidate the momentum created by the project. The MAIA network will also be formally launched during the event, extending it to the Atlantic region as a whole. During the conference, debates will be translated simultaneously in French, Spanish, English and Portuguese. Atlantic Arc MPA practitioners, academics, relevant institutions, organisations, decision makers for MPA planning and management, and other MPA stakeholders are welcome to attend.

The MAIA network's team: maia@aires-marines.fr,
www.maia-network.org

Rio+20 at the crossroads of conservation and development



© Maja Vasiljevic

Transboundary cooperation between adjacent countries epitomizes the ambition of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 13-22 June 2012. As discussed during a side event “At the crossroads of conservation and development: Transboundary natural resource governance for enhanced cooperation, security and livelihoods in border regions”, organized by IUCN, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and Italian Development Cooperation (DGCS), transboundary conservation offers early results and insights into the relevance of natural resource management for the green economy.

The side event's panel debate focused on the critical questions of establishing cooperation between countries and sectors within countries to pursue sustainable development goals. “Transboundary conservation areas are natural solutions that may provide opportunities for a better institutional framework and green economy”, said Kathy McKinnon, Vice Chair, WCPA. The lessons learnt from Africa (Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park), South-Eastern Europe (Dinaric Arc), and Central America (El Castillo-San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor) highlighted the prospects

and risks associated with using conservation action as a foundation for employment, food security, watershed management and disaster risk reduction, while maintaining ecosystem integrity and biodiversity conservation outcomes: “Transboundary connectivity conservation initiatives in Nicaragua and Costa Rica have addressed many challenges and issues brought by the context and prospect of a green economy through the promotion of ecotourism and payments for environmental services”, said Olivier Chassot, Director of Science, Tropical Science Center and Regional Coordinator for Central America, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group.

Transboundary cooperation is an essential cross-cutting theme that resonates with different realities across time and regions. “It is symptomatic of how similar the issues we deal with are when it comes to transboundary nature conservation initiatives in the three different continents”, stated Tomasz Pezold, Ecosystem Project Officer, IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe.

Tomasz Pezold, Ecosystems Project Officer, IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe, tomasz.pezold@iucn.org

Moving forward with the transboundary conservation agenda



A major workshop on “Sharing Benefits and Values from Transboundary Conservation” has taken place under the auspice of the WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG) during the IUCN World Conservation Congress, held from 6 to 15 September on Jeju Island, the Republic of Korea. Co-organized with the Korea National Park Service (KNPS) and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the event successfully managed to present some of the most prominent transboundary initiatives and case studies, bring together eminent panellists, including a profoundly diverse audience.

One of the main objectives was to advance global transboundary conservation practice by discussing the state of transboundary conservation, its prospects and benefits to nature and societies. With the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the European Green Belt and the Himalayas as the centrally positioned case studies, the discussion revolved around key issues such as the main opportunities versus challenges arising from TBC, gaps, replicability of experiences and lessons learned, the role of IUCN and WCPA in future TBC endeavours.

This event is crucial in terms of keeping the momentum, visibility and discussion on transboundary initiatives up and running, especially in the light of the milestone VIth IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia in 2014, aimed at setting a new mid-term global agenda for protected areas. There was a prevailing sentiment that TBC continues to be recognized as the key tool in conservation across state boundaries, evolving and proving its validity for many decades now. On the other hand, the event made clear that further efforts are required if we want to move ahead. There is a need for specific evidence on the benefits of TBC, new tailor-made tools for TBC practitioners, and stronger multi-stakeholder engagement. WCPA TBC SG has much to say when it comes to all of these issues as well as the future of transboundary conservation in general.

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IUCN WCC:

<http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>

New diagnostic tool to assess the feasibility for transboundary conservation



© Charles Besancon

On 11 September 2012 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Jeju, the Republic of Korea, the Protected Planet Pavilion hosted an event on “Regional Platforms for Enhanced Conservation” focused on the experience from South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. The event was organized by the IUCN Regional Office for Europe and WCPA Europe and consisted of panel discussions and presentations built around the state of progress in regional and transboundary conservation in the Dinaric Arc ecoregion of the South-Eastern Europe and the range of protected area governance models in the Caucasus ecoregion.

The event saw the announcement of a major new publication on transboundary conservation prepared by IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe and WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG) entitled *“Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner’s guideline based in the experiences from the Dinaric Arc”*, edited by Boris Erg, Maja Vasiljević and Matthew McKinney. While the guideline is about to be published in November 2012, the *Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners*, which forms part of the guideline, is already

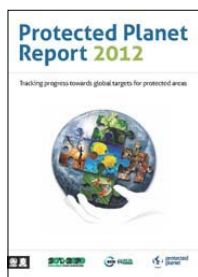
available as electronically adjusted edition on the TBC SG’s website: www.tbpa.net. The diagnostic tool consists of 91 carefully selected questions with the aim to assist protected area authorities, governments, non-governmental organisations, local communities, and other interested parties in determining feasibility for transboundary conservation, and thus helping in efficient planning of a successful transboundary initiative. This practical tool assesses the need for transboundary conservation approach by indicating a sufficiently compelling reason for this approach; readiness (i.e. capacity) of stakeholders to engage in the process; multiple opportunities that could either fasten the process and/or be generated by the process; and the risks that could hinder the process.

The electronic edition of the diagnostic tool enables automatic scoring and automatic report development, designed to be user friendly. The tool is intended to be dynamic and it is planned to be updated over time based on the comments, reviews and case studies completed.

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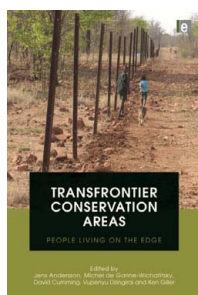
Publications

Protected Planet report



The Protected Planet Report is a new initiative that tracks global progress towards Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Aichi Biodiversity Targets: at least 17% of the world's terrestrial areas and 10% of marine areas to be equitably managed and conserved by 2020. It underlines the successes of countries, communities and NGOs with respect to protected areas. It has been compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and a wide range of organisations that build on the work of the CBD-mandated Biodiversity Indicators Partnership. More info and download at: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_biodiversity/gpap_protectedplanet/?10866/ProtectedPlanet-Report

People living on the edge



Edited by Jens A. Anderson, Michel de Garine-Wichatitsky, David H.M. Cumming, Vupenyu Dzingirai and Ken E. Giller, Transfrontiers Conservation Areas. People Living on the Edge focuses on the forgotten people displaced by, or living on the edge of, protected wildlife areas. The introduction of transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) in southern Africa was based on an enchanting promise: simultaneously contributing to global biodiversity conservation initiatives, regional peace and integration, and the sustainable socio-economic development of rural communities. Cross-border collaboration and eco-tourism became seen as the vehicles of this promise, which would enhance regional peace and stability along the way. However, as conservation and development policymaking progressively shifts from the national to regional and global arenas, the peoples most affected by TFCA formation tend to disappear from view. For list of contents and more information, see <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781849712088/>

Transboundary nature conservation in the Western Balkans



Experts from IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (Maja Vasiljević), IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe (Tomasz Pezold), EuroNatur (Martin-Schneider Jacoby(t)) and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN, Florian Carius) compiled a paper that emphasizes the relevance of and the need for transboundary nature conservation in the Western Balkans. High mountain ranges, wetlands and water bodies along the borders in the region are retreat areas for an outstanding variety of plant species and for rare large carnivores. Cross-border cooperation efforts are key for preserving their ecological integrity but have to face many challenges such as lack of funding and political awareness for declaring further Transboundary Protected Areas. The article (in German) was published in the special issue on nature conservation in Europe of Natur und Landschaft, the oldest German academic journal on conservation issues and can be downloaded from http://www.kohlhammer.de/wms/instances/KOB/appEN/nav_product.php?product=OP-978-3-00-153183-4

Innovative approaches to manage protected areas



Edited by Michael Getzner and Michael Jungmeier in 2012, this publication is a product of Alpe-Adria University in Klagenfurt (Austria), Masters Programme in Management of Protected Areas. It is a collection of interesting student case studies from their different home countries. Additionally, the EUROPARC Federation has recently opened new library on protected area management at the Klagenfurt University: more than 2,000 publications are currently presented there. The book can be purchased at: http://www.verlagheyn.at/buch/detail/innovative_approaches_to_manage_protected_areas/ More information at: www.mpa.uni-klu.ac.at

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Supported by

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TB eNews is edited and prepared by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG). The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and TBC SG accepts no liability for any errors, misprints or omissions. Unless stated otherwise, the opinions in this newsletter should not be interpreted as those of IUCN WCPA.

TB eNews is prepared on a bi-annual basis.

www.tbpa.net

Guidelines for your contributions

The TB eNews contains information on your activities related to enhancement of transboundary conservation and cooperation. You are welcome to send us news about relevant projects and initiatives, to review any past event on transboundary conservation, and announce a future workshop, seminar, or a conference. We shall include any new publications, websites or funding opportunities that you send us.

In order to ensure all articles are included in one of our next issues, we would welcome contributions that contain up to 300 words in length. Please also include any graphic addition (photograph, logo, map or similar), indicating the credits. The size of the photographs has to be minimum 500 kB. You are responsible for the content of your contributions and all articles should contain the name of the author and contact email.

This newsletter is being prepared by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, which reserves the right to edit and shorten the texts as appropriate.

All contributions should be sent to Maja Vasilijevic at maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group Executive Team

