



IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
ANNUAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE
SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION
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REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011

OVERVIEW OF 2011 (*insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year*)

- 2011 was a year of increased activity, team work, efficiency and strengthened contribution by TBC SG network members. Apart from Executive Committee members, we were successful in identifying members of our wider network who took over the leadership of specific tasks, often long-lasting and requiring many hours of voluntary contribution.
- Progress has been achieved in several key areas of work such as: global survey of transboundary protected area managers, relevant for future establishment of global transboundary conservation complexes database; completed survey as preparatory work for Transboundary Legal Resource Centre; launch of a revised website www.tbpa.net. Jamie McCallum and Tatjana Rosen from the Executive Committee are leading the first two tasks, with help by Mike Schoon and Michelle Lim. Substantial help with legal survey was provided by Paul Martin, while transboundary protected area managers' contacts for the Americas and Oceania were collected by Wayne Freimund, Diana Bedoya and Eric Gilman. I was coordinating the website work.
- Personally, the first three months of 2011 I dedicated mainly to the development of IUCN-WCPA publication "Crossing Borders for Nature. European examples of transboundary conservation", which showcases case studies of European transboundary protected areas and lessons learnt from transboundary approaches. The publication was prepared jointly with Tomasz Pezold of IUCN.
- In March 2011, I taught "Incorporation of Protected Areas into Protected Area Systems" to MSc in Protected Area Management students, the University of Klagenfurt (Austria). The one-day-lecture contained transboundary conservation issues, alongside ecological networks (including connectivity conservation areas – Graeme Worboys provided substantial information) and PA systems.
- After the WCPA Steering Committee meeting in Gland/Aubonne in April 2011, my travelling was highly restrictive due to personal reasons (keeping pregnancy), so my activities were entirely focused on coordination of the work of TBC SG network.
- In the second part of the year, the work focused on planning the activities for the World Conservation Congress in Jeju in 2012. Boris Erg developed a workshop proposal, submitted by TBC SG. The proposal has a number of partners including IUCN SEE, ICIMOD, Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation, The University of Montana. IUCN HQ review of proposals resulted with advice to merge the proposal with German BfN and Korean National Parks Service workshops. The new workshop proposal is in progress.
- Personally, I have been cooperating substantially with IUCN SEE on transboundary issues in South-Eastern Europe. Apart from IUCN, WWF is particularly active in the Dinaric Arc transboundary cooperation, while on European scale Green Belt was revived in 2011 with financial support of Germany.
- In Korean DMZ progress has been made by adoption of a DMZ Conservation Action Plan. Peter Shadie is leading on DMZ transboundary conservation relations. The Ministry of Environment /Korean National Parks Service have submitted plans for several Biosphere Reserves within the

DMZ area and they have stated their plans for more work in 2012. The issue will be incorporated within a TB workshop planned for the WCC 2012.

- The signing of the establishment Treaty for the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) by the Heads of State for the five countries engaged in this initiative – Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, happened during the SADC Summit in August 2011. The Treaty provided the necessary legal foundation for effective financial processes and administration by internal TFCA structures, and is a further signal of the commitment by the five countries to pursue the admirable conservation and development objectives for this 444,000km² transboundary partnership.
- Linkages were established with the World Conservation Society (WCS) initiative Animal & Human Health for the Environment and Development (AHEAD) (Leo Braack and Kevan Zunckel on behalf of TBC SG). One or two meetings are held annually within southern Africa, with presentations by invited specialists and AHEAD participants. The current focus is on the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park and the Kavango Zambezi TFCA.
- Although we achieved a lot of progress in specific areas, 2011 was a difficult year in terms of communication between our members as the listserv managed by IUCN Secretariat did not function most of the time. This was (and still is) a serious problem as our network consists of more than 200 people and having a tool to enable information sharing is a necessity. IUCN indicated a new server would be set up in summer 2011, but no progress has been made yet. We tried with Google Group setting up, which was not successful as Google doesn't support many of the members' email accounts. The result is that currently we have no platform that would allow smooth communication between members, and new ideas need to be found.

PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS *(State goals and comment on progress set for the year- add more if needed)*

Goal 1: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas

- Ongoing task.
- I am working with Boris Erg (IUCN) and a number of TBC SG network members on preparation of a tool that would help assess the potential for establishment of transboundary conservation areas and transboundary cooperation between relevant parties. The tool will be presented in a TBC guideline at IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju in 2012. It is planned that this publication proposes new definitions of transboundary conservation practices, to enable clearer understanding of TBC practice.
- Progress on Transboundary Legal Resource Centre: Michelle Lim, Tatjana Rosen, with help from Paul Martin and other members of the Specialist Group developed a survey containing open-ended questions to identify globally relevant transboundary conservation legal and institutional issues and challenges and highlight regional nuances. TBC SG members were invited to participate in an online survey. Survey questions came with a summary of issues to provide a framework within which participants could respond. A synthesis of results has now been developed to allow survey respondents to comment on whether their responses have been interpreted correctly and to enable others to highlight what else may be important. The Legal Concept Paper will be developed from this during 2012.
- Work on WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation will be commenced in 2012.

Goal 2: Established database on transboundary complexes to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhance networking between managers of TBCAs

- This is an ongoing task. Much progress has been achieved during the 2011. I coordinated volunteers who collected contact details of relevant internationally adjoining protected areas' (IAPA) managers. So far, contacts were collected for Oceania, North, Central and South America.
- Jamie McCallum is the key coordinator of TBC survey which was distributed to managers of IAPAs in the Americas and Oceania. The work is supported by Mike Schoon, and with input from Dorothy Zbicz, Olivier Chassot, and Catarina Grillo.
- Survey results are due in spring 2012, with papers to be written up in the summer.

- A supplemental survey was also identified for the Americas. Mike Schoon is working with Jamie McCallum to produce and launch a survey to assess baseline metrics of ecological, economic, and political conditions surrounding TBPA's as well as levels of cooperation and collaboration in their governance.

Goal 3: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network

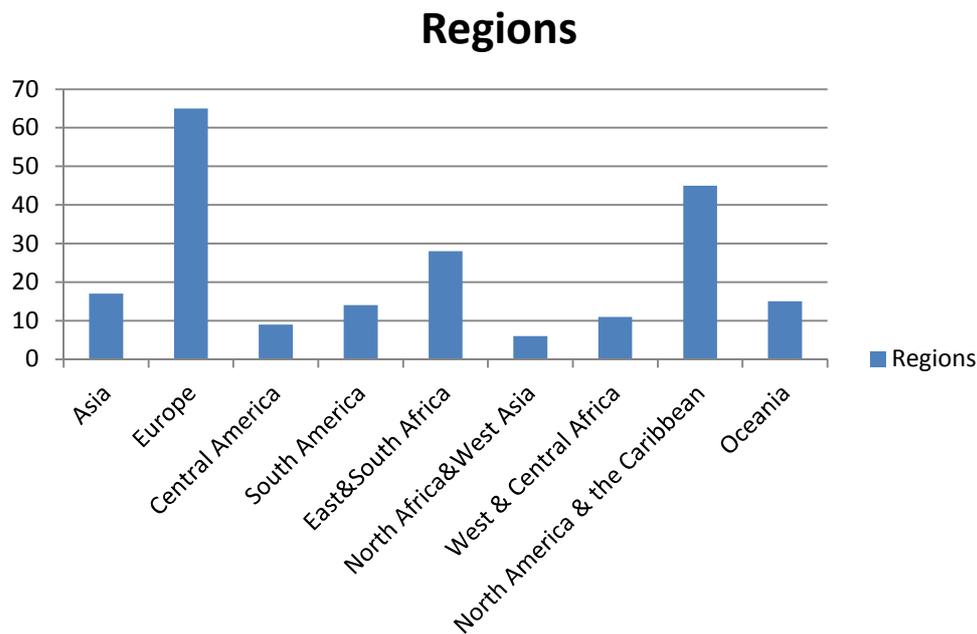
- A website, www.tbpa.net, was restructured, updated and launched in December 2012. The website acts as a platform for transboundary knowledge distribution and sharing.
- The network is very much involved in preparation of TB eNEWS newsletter.

ORGANIZATION *(Comment on implementation of changes to region/theme structure)*

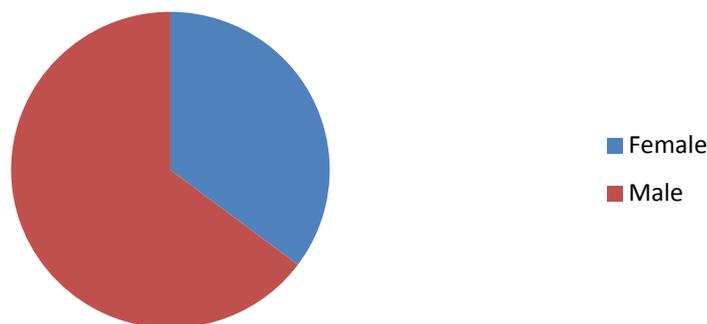
- Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group's Executive Committee consists of 16 members (Chair, Vice Chairs, Senior Advisors, and Regional Coordinators). In September 2011, Leo Braack's position of Regional Coordinator for East & South Africa was replaced by Kevan Zunckel (Zunckel Ecological and Environmental Services, South Africa).
- Membership issues are managed by Naomi Doak.

MEMBERSHIP *(Comment on recruitment of members in regions and themes, gender and youth)*

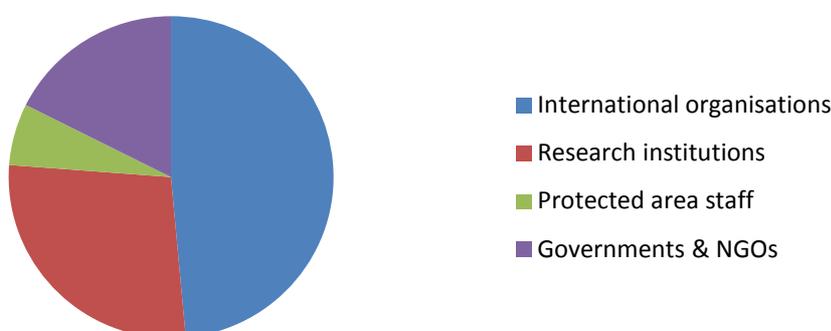
- TBC SG has 210 members coming from all WCPA regions. The following three charts show distribution of our members by regions, gender, and sectors of employment.



Gender



Sectors



INTEGRATION WITH IUCN 2009 – 2012 QUADRENNIAL PROGRAMME *(Comment on alignment and collaboration with themes and regions)*

- TBC SG mandate incorporates the following IUCN 2009-2012 Programme Areas: Core Programme Area: Conserving biodiversity; Thematic Programme 2: Changing the climate forecast; and Thematic Programme 4: Managing ecosystems for human wellbeing.

COMMUNICATION *(Provide full details of publications released, and note other contributions below)*

Publications:

- Vasilijević, M., Pezold, T. (eds.). (2011). "Crossing Borders for Nature. European examples of transboundary conservation." Gland, Switzerland and Belgrade, Serbia: IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe. viii + 72pp. Available at: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2011-025.pdf>
- Peter Shadie: DMZ Conservation Action Plan, submitted to MoE/KNPS and adopted in June 2011.
- Schoon, Michael L., and Abigail M. York. 2011. "Cooperation across Boundaries: The Role of Political Entrepreneurs in Environmental Collaboration", *Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research* 3 (2): 113-123.
- Baggio, Jacopo, Marco Janssen, Michael Schoon, and Orjan Bodin. 2011. "Landscape Connectivity and Predator-Prey Population Dynamics", *Landscape Ecology* 26 (1): 33-45.
- Schoon, Michael L. and Michael E. Cox. 2011. "Understanding Disturbances and Responses in Social-Ecological Systems". *Society and Natural Resources* (in press).
- York, Abigail and Michael Schoon. 2011. "Collaboration in the Shadow of the Wall: Shifting Power in the Borderlands", *Policy Sciences* (in press).
- Schoon, Michael L. 2011. "Commons Complexity and Understanding Transboundary Conservation Areas". The Commons Digest Issue 10 edited by Alyne Delaney.

- Chassot O. & G. Monge-Arias. 2011. Establecimiento de un área transfronteriza de conservación y desarrollo en la cuenca baja del San Juan. *Ambientico* 209, 18-20.
- Chassot O., Finegan B. & G. Monge-Arias. 2011. Red de conectividad ecológica en el Caribe Norte de Costa Rica. *Revista Latinoamericana de Conservación* 2(1), 60-70.
- González-Maya J.F., Chassot O. & A. Espinel. 2011. Sobre la necesidad y pertinencia de la gestión integral de paisajes en Latinoamérica. *Revista Latinoamericana de Conservación* 2(1): 1-6.
- In preparation:
Environmental Governance through Transboundary Conservation in the Dinaric Arc: a guideline on TBC based on case studies from the Dinaric Arc. To be co-edited by Boris Erg and Maja Vasilijevic. IUCN publication in cooperation with WCPA (approved by WCPA Chair to use the logo). Chapters and case studies under revision.

Presentations:

- I was invited to a number of meetings which I couldn't attend due to maternity leave reasons:
- International Institute for Peace through Tourism conference, Zambia, 3-8 April, 2011. Attended by Eskandar Gordmardi (TBC SG member).
- EUROPARC 10th TransParcNet meeting, Krkonosze National Park, Czech Republic/Poland, 7-10 June 2011. Boris Erg was supposed to present TBC SG's work but he also had to cancel his participation. TransParcNet is the European based network of transboundary conservation experts.
- ENVSEC-IUCN workshop, Gland, Switzerland, 27 June 2011. Attended by Boris Erg.
- Transboundary Protected Areas Congress, Copán, Honduras, 29-30 June 2011. I worked with the organizers in finding transboundary conservation experts and members of the Specialist Group who would attend the congress – Rob Wallace, Arto Ahokumpu and Zoumari Salifou were selected to provide presentations.
- Symposium on Conservation of Biodiversity and Wise Use in Korean Demilitarized Zone, South Korea, 6 September 2011. The symposium was attended by Peter Shadie and Charles Besançon.
- 7th European Ramsar Meeting in Trnava, Slovak Republic, 7-30 September 2011.
- Western Balkans IUCN Protected Area Management Categories training, Sjeverni Velebit NP, Croatia, 27-29 September, 2011. Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley were facilitators of the workshop. Organized by IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe (Boris Erg).

- The following are some of the events attended by TBC SG Executive Committee members:

Michael Schoon:

- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture Conference on Adaptation to Climate Change: "Cooperation across Borders: Large-scale Environmental Governance in an Era of Climate Change", 28 September, 2011, Mexico City, Mexico. Keynote Speaker.
- Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences conference: "Governance Structures in Transboundary Conservation: How Institutional Structure and Evolution Influences Cross-Border Response in the Face of Complexity", 23-26 June, 2011, Burlington, USA.
- Resilience 2011 conference: "Emerging Networks of Collaboration: When Does Cross-border Governance Build Resilience?", 11-16 March, 2011, Tempe, USA.
- Stockholm Resilience Centre: "Applying common-pool resource theory to the governance of large-scale environmental problems", 29 August, 2011, Stockholm, Sweden.

Peter Shadie:

- Positive steps toward achieving conservation, peace & development in the DMZ – presented at IUCN Asia RCF, September 2011.

Olivier Chassot:

- 1st Salvadoran Biological Corridors Symposium, San Salvador, El Salvador: "Conservación transfronteriza y conectividad del paisaje: estudio de caso en la cuenca del Río San Juan". Keynote Speaker.

- Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology: Status and Future of Tropical Biology, Frankfurt, Germany: "The Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*): Conservation biology for the implementation of a transboundary biological corridor in the lower watershed of the San Juan River (Costa Rica / Nicaragua).
- 15th Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico: "Experiencia de gestión transfronteriza del Corredor Biológico El Castillo-San Juan-La Selva".
- Connectivity Conservation Forum (Meeting of the IUCN-Oceania & Great Eastern Ranges), Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, NSW, Australia: "The Mesoamerican Connectivity Conservation Corridor and the conservation biology of the Great Green Macaw" (keynote presentation).
- Rio + 20 Participatory Workshop: Mountain Sustainable Development in the Andes and Mesoamerica, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Santiago, Chile: "Desde Rio 1992 a 2012 y más allá: 20 años de desarrollo sostenible en montañas; lo que hemos aprendido y adonde debemos de ir? Informe regional para Mesoamérica".

Boris Erg:

- Integrated Protection of the Transboundary Prespa Region for the Establishment of a Trilateral UNESCO Biosphere Reserve conference: "Transboundary Conservation in SEE: Enabling Ecological Connectivity", Prespa Lake, Ohrid, Macedonia, 16-18 February 2011.
- International Peace Park Expeditions 2011: "TB conservation in the Dinaric Arc" to the, Vusanje, Montenegro, 4 May 2011.
- 3rd European Green Belt Initiative Regional Meeting for South-Eastern Europe, Ulcinj, Montenegro, 16-19 November 2011.
- Various activities in the frame of the Environment for People in the Dinaric Arc project www.dinaricarc.net implemented by IUCN, WWF and SNV (e.g. signing of three TB letters of cooperation, TB conservation workshop in the Mt. Prokletije area, elaboration of TBC case studies).

Tatjana Rosen:

- Two presentations at CMS COP10 on Options for Transboundary Collaboration on the Management of Argali Sheep in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Strategic Stakeholder Communication

- Tatjana Rosen represented the IUCN TBC SG at a 3 week long mission in the Tajik Pamirs and workshop organized by Wildlife Conservation Society, the US Forest Service, with funding from the Trust for Mutual Understanding and Liz Claiborne/Art Ortenberg Foundation and hosted by the Committee of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan. They discussed and identified with relevant stakeholders, beyond the conservation needs in Tajikistan, options for transboundary collaboration and cooperation between Tajikistan, Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. They are in the process of finalizing the report and planning the next steps.
- Tatjana Rosen also discussed with colleagues from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan the role of a Memorandum of Understanding for transboundary efforts to conserve the species.
- Saleh Dadjouy discussed the possibility for establishing transboundary protected area between Iran and Turkmenistan.
- Andrew Dunn is helping to strengthen direct links between Okwangwo (Nigeria) and Takamanda National Park (Cameroon) through exchange visits and more joint ranger patrols. Further meetings are foreseen in 2012.

Contributions to media, website, newsletter

- I worked on 2 issues of TB eNEWS in 2011 (preparation of articles, editing of articles received by SG members, communication and finalization of the newsletters with graphic designer). All issues can be downloaded from: www.tbpa.net.
- Coordinated work on the www.tbpa.net – launch of a revised TBC SG website was in December 2011. The website articles were prepared by TBC SG Executive Committee members and case studies by wider network.

- Kevan Zunckel and Leo Braack: A report on the establishment of two community conservation areas adjacent to the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site in the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area was submitted and published in the newsletter. This was compiled in collaboration with the relevant conservation agency, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.
- Peter Shadie: An article on DMZ conservation was prepared and submitted to the WCPA Mountain Biome Newsletter in Oct 2011.
- Boris Erg: Contribution to www.dinaricarc.net.

ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF IUCN *(Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

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FUNDS UTILISED IN 2011 *(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

Commission Operating Funds used *(Indicate total used in 2011 and use financial report for details)*

In November 2011, 10,000 CHF were provided for communications and Best Practice Guideline start-up work. These funds will be utilized in 2012, following the approval of WCPA Chair.

Funds Raised *(Indicate the source and amount of funds raised in pursuit of the activities listed above)*

3,500 EUR (raised by Jamie McCallum).

In-Kind value *(Indicate the number of days you have worked on WCPA issues without remuneration)*

Approximately 80 days.

Funding proposals in the pipeline

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2012 *(Indicate draft goals for 2012 pending approval by Commission Chair)*

Goal 1: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas

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Goal 2: Established database on transboundary complexes to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhance networking between managers of TBCAs

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Goal 3: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network

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Goal 4: Organize a transboundary workshop at WCC, South Korea

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REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2012

- The biggest challenge facing the Group is finding funding that would support globally relevant projects and enable implementation of strategic plans.
- As landscape scale approaches and transboundary conservation are continuing to grow rapidly, the World Parks Congress in 2014 should promote TBC as a transformative philosophy to change the global picture of conservation: from “a planet of isolated green dots to a fabric of green threads repairing the earth”.
- As the TBC SG’s strength is in providing a network of transboundary conservation specialists, communication with and between members is essential. It would be beneficial to have IUCN’s support in establishing a platform for interactions between members.

FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT

FEEDBACK BY DIRECTOR: GLOBAL PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAMME ON REPORT