



**IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
ANNUAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE**

**SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
GROUP**

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REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

OVERVIEW OF 2016 (*insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year*)

- One of the key accomplishments in 2016 was the organization of a Hands Across Borders international workshop in Glacier National Park, USA (13-18 September 2016). This was a cooperative effort of several organizations, namely US National Park Service, Parks Canada, University of Montana, IUCN WCPA – Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG), International Peace Parks Expeditions (IPPE), Glacier National Park Conservancy, and Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly. A week-long event included a three-day capacity building workshop for about 50 transboundary conservation practitioners, field trips in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and the 84th Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly. It was organized on the 100th anniversary of the US National Park Service and welcome speeches were provided (via short videos) by the Canadian Prime Minister, US Secretary of the Interior, Canadian Minister of Environment, and US Senator. TBC SG members of the Leadership team (Matthew McKinney, Michael Schoon, Maja Vasilijević, Todd Walters and Kevan Zunckel) all worked on particular aspects of the workshop. The curriculum, including presentations, was developed by Michael, Kevan and Maja. Todd was in charge of communication with the participants who provided profiles of their transboundary initiatives, and Matthew led general organization of the event. The workshop built on the IUCN WCPA's Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines *Transboundary Conservation: a systematic and integrated approach* (2015), which were widely promoted. Fifteen members of the TBC SG (including seven Executive Committee Members) attended the workshop. Due to a large number of TBC SG members attending the meeting, we managed to organize a members meeting. Apart from the workshop, the TCB SG was presented at a sister-event, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly organized by Rotary International. We managed to present the Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners and generate considerable interest for it. The tool might be tested on Grenada, in Waterton-Glacier in relation to cooperation with the Blackfeet Nation, and US-Mexico Border (Big Bend NP). It is planned to try to organize similar workshops at the regional level as the participants found the workshop to be very valuable for their work.
- Maja Vasilijević attended a TransParcNet meeting organized by EUROPARC Federation and held in Bad Schandau, 7-10 June 2016. The host was Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland National Park Region. The meeting is a regular yearly gathering of transboundary practitioners and this year's event explored best practices and challenges in visitor management in European transboundary conservation areas. Maja presented the TBC SG and its activities, including the best Practice Guidelines on transboundary conservation.
- At IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, USA, 1-10 September 2016, a major achievement was the adoption of the IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines No. 23 *Transboundary Conservation: a systematic and integrated approach*, through adoption of a WCC Resolution 'Transboundary cooperation and protected areas' (WCC-2016-Res-035-EN)
- From May to August 2016 Kevan Zunckel was contracted, together with fellow SG member

Dominique Verdugo, to work with key stakeholders from the conservation sectors in Djibouti and Ethiopia, to compile a Joint Management Plan (JMP) for the proposed Lower Awash – Lake Abbe Transboundary Conservation Landscape. The Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners was used primarily to test the feasibility of the initiative, but also served well to help the stakeholders to systematically interrogate the natural, social and economic aspects of the initiative and the target area. This helped to generate a shared understanding of all these aspects and facilitated the process of developing a shared vision and joint management objectives as the framework for the JMP.

- The IUCN WCPA initiative “PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet” hosted a webinar entitled “Transboundary Protected Area Solutions” on 7 December 2016 and a number of SG members were involved in assisting with the development of the webinar (Kevan Zunckel and Maja Vasilijević), presenting case studies (Brady Mattsson together with Andrej Arih - “Promoting transboundary co-existence of large carnivores”; and Marina Djernaes on behalf of Gidon Bromberg – “Good Water Neighbors: Rehabilitating the Jordan River through transboundary cooperation), and providing an introduction to the SG and some closing comments (Charles Besançon).

PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS *(Comment on progress on goals set for 2016. Add more lines if needed)*

Goal 1: Support the development and dissemination of transboundary conservation knowledge products

Progress is satisfactory as we promoted the Best Practice Guidelines No. 23 at all attended events and we also co-organized an international workshop Hands Across Borders for which training modules on three topics (co-management, governance and financing) were developed.

Goal 2: Continue strengthening the information flow on transboundary conservation through the Global Transboundary Conservation Network

Regular communication via transboundary e-listserv and regular updating of TBC SG managed website www.tbpa.net was done throughout the year.

Goal 3: Promote and strengthen good transboundary conservation governance

Transboundary conservation governance principles were promoted during the Hands Across Borders workshop and participants’ capacity in transboundary governance was strengthened.

Goal 4: Support research on the importance of TBCAs in the face of climate change

No progress

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

- The Executive Committee consists of 15 members. Kevan Zunckel became Co-Chair of the SG in February 2016, and his position of Regional Coordinator for South and East Africa was replaced by Piet Theron. Tanya Rosen left the Executive Committee as Vice Chair (no replacement foreseen). Saleh Dadjouy and German Andrade also left the Executive Committee due to other obligations. After the selection process, two new members joined the Executive Committee; Gidon Bromberg as Regional Coordinator for West Asia and North Africa, and Patrick Lynch as Regional Coordinator for South America. Charles Besançon joined the SG as a Senior Advisor in July 2016.

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

- TBC SG currently has 276 members from all WCPA regions.
- In terms of gender, 68% are male and 32% female.
- The highest number of members come from Europe and North America.

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

Publications:

- Solutions in Focus: Transboundary Protected Area Solutions. PANORAMA, IUCN WCPA. Foreword provided by Kevan Zunckel and Maja Vasilijević.
- Taggart-Hoge, Tanya and Michael Schoon. (2016). “The challenges and opportunities of transboundary cooperation through the lens of the East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve”, *Ecology and Society* 21 (4): 2.

Presentations:

- **Maja Vasiljević.** *IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group: activities and plans.* TransParcNet meeting, Bad Schandau, Germany, 7-10 June 2016. Organized by EUROPARC Federation.
- **Rahimatsah Amat.** *Transboundary Conservation.* Skype seminar on Transboundary Cooperation and Protected Areas, 28 July 2016. Organized by KNPS.
- **Trevor Sandwith.** *Connecting Practice Beyond Boundaries: Toward a global platform for knowledge exchange and capacity development on transboundary conservation and peace building.* Skype seminar on Transboundary Cooperation and Protected Areas, 28 July 2016. Organized by KNPS.
- **Boris Erg.** *Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group.* May Nature Be With Us: Conservation cooperation for peace and prosperity, IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, USA, 2 September 2016. Organized by KNPS and Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.
- **Todd Walters.** Facilitated the workshop Hands Across Borders, IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, USA, 5 September 2016. Organized by International Peace Park Expeditions (IPPE), in cooperation with Transboundary Conservation SG.
- **Matthew McKinney, Michael Schoon, Maja Vasiljević, Todd Walters and Kevan Zunckel** were on Leadership Team of the organization of Hands Across Borders: an international workshop on transboundary conservation, Glacier National Park, USA, 13-18 September 2016. Organized by US National Park Service, Parks Canada, University of Montana, IUCN WCPA – Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, IPPE, Glacier National Park Conservancy, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly.
A set of presentations were provided there:
Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach, Maja Vasiljević
Types of Transboundary Conservation Initiatives, Michael Schoon
Common Stages of Transboundary Conservation, Kevan Zunckel
Cooperative Management: The Essence of Transboundary Conservation, Maja Vasiljević
Alternative Mechanisms to Establish and Govern Transboundary Conservation Initiatives, Michael Schoon
Securing Financial Sustainability for Transboundary Conservation, Kevan Zunckel
- **Maja Vasiljević.** *Global Trends in Transboundary Conservation.* Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly, Glacier National Park, USA, 17 September 2016.
- **Kevan Zunckel.** *The legacy of Dr Nelson Mandela and the status of international peace parks in Africa.* Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly, Glacier National Park, USA, 17 September 2016.
- **Rahimatsah Amat.** *Governance of Transboundary Conservation.* Plenary speech. 5th ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 24-27 October 2016. Organized by ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.
- **Trevor Sandwith.** Participated at The Next Frontier: Transboundary Conservation for Biodiversity and Peace, Salzburg, Austria, 9-13 November 2016. Organized by Salzburg Global Seminar.
- **Charles Besançon.** PANORAMA webinar on Transboundary Protected Area Solutions, 7 December 2016. Organized by IUCN GPAP.

Strategic Stakeholder Communication

- Discussions were held between Co-Chairs of TBC SG and Harvey Lock and Gary Tabor about strengthening relations between TBC SG and Connectivity Conservation SG.
- Discussions with BfN about cooperation and BfN's support to organization of a workshop on the island of Vilm. BfN approved funding for two workshops on Vilm, in 2017 and 2018. One will focus on the review of the Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners (developed by TBC SG in 2012).
- Rahimatsah Amat held preliminary discussion with Scott Perkin, Head of Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia Regional Office in Bangkok on the prospect of TBC SG getting involved with Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP). One of the core objectives of APAP is to promote transboundary cooperation. Potential of organizing a training event for APAP members on transboundary protected areas.

Contributions to media, website, newsletter

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updating of www.tbpa.net with news and other relevant content. News related to Hands Across Borders workshop featured in three regional newspapers/online articles, Missoulian, Calgary Herald and Kpax.com, plus a radio broadcast by Montana Public Radio: http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/border-crossings-conservationists-from-around-the-globe-gather-in-glacier/article_f3fba75a-385f-5f4e-961a-b4fa15fae7c8.html http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/hands-across-the-border-workshop http://www.kpax.com/story/33110735/bison-recovery-used-as-example-of-cross-border-conservation http://mtpo.org/post/waterton-glacier-workshop-draws-land-and-wildlife-managers-70-countries#stream/0 	
ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF IUCN <i>(Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In March 2016 Kevan Zunckel was contracted by the IUCN South African Office in Pretoria to develop a Terms of Reference for the development of an M&E Framework for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Transfrontier Conservation Area Network. The development of a Joint Management Plan for the Lower Awash – Lake Abbe Transboundary Conservation Landscape between Djibouti and Ethiopia has been mentioned above and this work was on behalf of the IUCN Eastern and Southern African Office in Nairobi, Kenya 	
FUNDS UTILISED IN 2016 <i>(Indicate the total of funds used in 2016 for WCPA activities)</i>	
Commission Operating Funds used <i>(Indicate total used in 2016 and use financial report for details)</i>	
None.	
Funds raised <i>(Indicate the source and amount of funds raised in pursuit of the activities listed above that are raised and managed in the name of IUCN WCPA)</i>	
None.	
In-kind value <i>(Indicate the number of days you have worked on WCPA issues without remuneration in 2016)</i>	
An indication of the number of days worked on the SG activities is not available but as this is a voluntary group, most of the work reported on for 2016 can be considered as “in-kind value”.	
Funding proposals in the pipeline <i>(for funds to be used directly for IUCN WCPA activities)</i>	
GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2017	
IUCN WCPA has the following goals within the 3 programme areas of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020. Please identify which goals your group or region will support in 2017 by placing an X in the relevant box(es). Specify only those where you will contribute directly.	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 1: Valuing and conserving nature	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.1:	
(i) Protected Planet includes all relevant information to monitor and report on implementation of Aichi Target 11	
(ii) Protected area quality enhanced through Green List of Protected Areas	
(iii) Marine protection towards achieving Aichi Target 11 accelerated	
(iv) Effectiveness of World Heritage Convention and protection of listed sites is enhanced, leadership on performance demonstrated, and nature/culture integration advanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.2:	
(i) Parties to the CBD are supported to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	
(ii) Institutional and professional capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is developed	
(iii) Financial capacity to implement the full scope of Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is enhanced	
(iv) The value of protected areas is communicated to key constituencies including urban dwellers and young people	x

WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 1.3	
(i) The ecological and functional connectivity of terrestrial and marine ecosystems is enhanced	x
(ii) Criteria for the identification of OECMs developed and applied	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.1:	
(i) Governance and equity assessment approaches for protected area systems are developed	
(ii) Pilot governance assessments conducted	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.2:	
(i) Governance quality and equity of protected areas is enhanced	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 2.3:	
(i) Legal and institutional approaches for enhancing the role of PAs in natural resource governance are piloted	
IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 3: Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.1	
(i) Case studies for nature-based solutions involving PAs in a range of sectors are collated	x
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.2	
(i) Dissemination and use of PAs as nature-based solutions across a range of sectors	
WCPA/GPAP/WH Result 3.3	
(i) Cross-sector learning and application of solutions is enabled	

<p>GOALS FOR 2017 for your REGION, THEME, GROUP <i>(Indicate draft goals for 2017 pending approval by Commission Chair)</i></p>
<p>Goal 1: Further refine and develop decision-supporting tools to assist the growing community of transboundary conservation practitioners</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners
<p>Goal 2: Build capacity and continue to promote IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines No. 23</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further promote IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines No. 23 at various events • Provide advice on transboundary conservation process to relevant parties when necessary
<p>Goal 3: Continue to strengthen its membership and further enable networking and sharing of experience</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure regular updating of TBC SG members via e-listserv and enable communication of members • Ensure regular updating of www.tbpa.net website administered by TBC SG • Continue to encourage TBC practitioners who are not yet members to consider applying for membership
<p>REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transboundary Conservation and Connectivity Conservation groups have substantial overlaps with the risk of duplication of effort and waste of valuable resources. It would be useful if a process of rationalization could be facilitated to ensure optimum synergy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT <i>(comments will be sent via email)</i></p>