



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

**POSITION WCPA: CHAIR: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION SPECIALIST GROUP**

**NAME: KEVAN ZUNCKEL**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2021– 31 December 2021**

**OVERVIEW OF 2021** (*insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year*)

Besides the difficulties imposed by the Covid pandemic, the many virtual platforms that have emerged have provided members with more opportunities to network than were available prior to the pandemic. The SG certainly capitalized on this situation as can be seen by the many presentations and engagements reported on below. However, the SG is stagnating and needs revitalization. Recommendations for this will be submitted to the new WCPA Chair early in 2022.

**PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS** (*Comment on progress on goals set for 2021 Add more lines if needed*)

**Objective 1: Strengthen knowledge and information on transboundary conservation areas**

**Goal 1.1: Promote and encourage the development of a comprehensive global database of transboundary conservation areas by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, consulting the IUCN WCPA definitions of transboundary conservation area types.**

Nothing to report.

**Goal 1.2: Encourage the IUCN Environmental Law Centre to establish a legal resource centre on transboundary conservation areas, in cooperation with the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group and the World Commission on Environmental Law.**

Nothing to report.

**Goal 1.3: Coordinate the Global Transboundary Conservation Network ([www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net)), a virtual hub of transboundary conservation related knowledge.**

The website was kept up to date with a number of news items being published on line.

**Goal 1.4: Enable efficient information and knowledge exchange through the electronic newsletter TB eNEWS and the e-listserv.**

Piet Theron (Southern and Eastern Africa): Ongoing efforts to secure funding for the TB eNews online publication, which has not been successful to date.

Without the funding required to compile and regular newsletter, the SG has not been able to publish one for 2021.

Maintenance and hosting of [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) is being done by Imre Sebestyén on a voluntary basis ([office@unitgraphics.com](mailto:office@unitgraphics.com)) and it has been kept up to date with the posting of news items provided by members.

**Objective 2: Provide technical guidance for successful implementation of transboundary conservation initiatives**

**Goal 2.1: Encourage the work on the improvement of the Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners through the review, testing and processing of feedback from practitioners.**

Contribute to the IUCN Vital Sites Webinar Series by arranging, facilitating and participating in a session entitled “The Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners aims to support the decision-making process leading to the institutionalisation of transboundary conservation.”, in collaboration with Maja Vasiljević, Boris Erg, Dominique Verdugo and Todd Walters.

**Goal 2.2: Promote the development of a methodology and tool for the monitoring and evaluation**

<b>of the effectiveness of transboundary conservation programmes.</b>
Nothing to report.
<b>Objective 3: Contribute to capacity development and networking of transboundary conservation specialists</b>
<b>Goal 3.1: Promote and contribute to the development and implementation of training modules for capacity building at all levels based on 2015 WCPA Guidelines.</b>
<b>Goal 3.2: Promote, facilitate and contribute to international and/or regional workshops aimed at building capacity.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charles Bescancon (North America) facilitated an online webinar on transboundary marine conservation called, "Virtual Learning Exchange for Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) under the EU Ocean Governance Project". This webinar included presentations from across the Atlantic so that knowledge could be exchanged between Southeast Asia, South America, Central America and North America.</li> <li>• Jim Barbarok (North America): 2021 was another year of no international travel, but through the CSU Center for Protected Area Management I continued to work at a distance on a USNPS-funded project to promote cooperation between US border parks, particularly Big Bend, and the neighboring Mexican protected areas along the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo, particularly regarding capacity building for rangers from the northeastern Mexico region of CONANP, that country's protected area agency. We have had to repeatedly postpone a long planned joint float trip with NPS staff and Mexican rangers down the Rio Grande which is now scheduled for next fall.</li> <li>• Piet Theron (Southern and Eastern Africa): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A learning and knowledge sharing initiative on the planning, development and management of Transfrontier Conservation Areas was initiated last year and between SADC &amp; EAC. To date, 3 webinars have been organised on a range of topics and themes.</li> <li>○ Process to develop a thematic on-line resource library as part of the SADC TFCA Programme Intranet site has been slow. However, a learning and knowledge sharing initiative on the planning, development and management of Transfrontier Conservation Areas was initiated last year and between SADC &amp; EAC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kevan Zunckel: delivered a presentation on the Diagnostic Tool at a webinar hosted by the Convention on Migratory Species and IUCN in Partnership with the SADC TFCA Network and East African Community TFCA Working Group.</li> <li>• Boris Erg (Europe): delivered a presentation on Transboundary Governance as per the TBC Best Practice Guidelines, to the European Commission's virtual LIFE Platform meeting on 'Lessons from LIFE on ecological connectivity towards a coherent, functional and resilient network of protected areas' with assistance from Kevan Zunckel (Chair) and Maja Vasilijević (Co-chair).</li> <li>• Boris Erg (Europe): arranged and facilitate a Campus Session at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille in September 2021 entitled "The ABCs of Transboundary Conservation" in which the following topics were addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines on transboundary conservation by Maja Vasilijević, Co-chair of the TBC SG;</li> <li>○ Initiating Transboundary Conservation - Main Messages from the Training Module by Andrea Strauss, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN);</li> <li>○ Managing Transboundary Conservation Areas by Srijana Joshi Rijal, ICIMOD;</li> <li>○ Assessing the value of transboundary conservation by Kevan Zunckel, Chair of the TBC SG;</li> <li>○ Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners by Maja Vasilijević, Co-chair of the TBC SG; and</li> <li>○ Governance and management of Transboundary Conservation Areas by Boris Erg, IUCN ECARO.</li> <li>○ Welcome remarks were provided by Trevor Sandwith, IUCN GPAP.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3.3: Promote and encourage the translation of the WCPA Best Practice Guidelines No. 23 to other global languages.</b>

Nothing to report.
<b>Goal 3.4: Establish partnerships with relevant institutions to promote and enhance transboundary conservation.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piet Theron (Southern and Eastern Africa): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participating in a SADC TFCA Steering Committee initiative to develop a business case / value proposition for the development of transboundary conservation areas in the region</li> <li>○ Part of a team commissioned to develop an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the IUCN SADC TFCA Financing Facility.</li> <li>○ Part of the World Bank team working in partnership with IUCN assessing the potential for the development of a global Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation and Transboundary Water Management Programme.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stefania Petrosillo EUROPARC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ new member of the EUROPARC TransParcNet: the International Nature Park Bourtanger Moor – Bargerveen (NL/DE) and renew Julian Alps, composed of Preapli Giulie Nature Park (Italy) and Triglav National Park (Slovenia) and Bavarian Forest National Park &amp; Šumava National Park (respectively Germany and Czech Republic) as transboundary areas (<a href="https://www.europarc.org/news/2021/01/new-tb-area-international-nature-park-bourtanger-moor-bargerveen/">https://www.europarc.org/news/2021/01/new-tb-area-international-nature-park-bourtanger-moor-bargerveen/</a> and <a href="https://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/discover-our-transboundary-areas/">https://www.europarc.org/nature/transboundary-cooperation/discover-our-transboundary-areas/</a>).</li> <li>○ The EUROPARC TransParcNet contributed to the Conference on the Future of Europe: “The EUROPARC Transboundary Protected Areas are ready to collaborate with the European Institutions for a Green Future of Europe”.</li> <li>○ Our TransParcNet, the network of areas certified by the EUROPARC Transboundary Programme, has a new member: Haldi Transboundary Area, composed by Reisa National Park, Ráisduottarhaldi Landscape Protected Area (NO) and Käsivarsi Wilderness Area (FI).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> <i>(Comment on implementation of changes to region/theme structure)</i>
The TBC SG ExCo remains unchanged but is likely to undergo a revamp in early 2022.
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> <i>(Comment on recruitment of members in regions and themes, gender and youth)</i>
<p>Membership of the SG remains at just more than 270 with three new members joining in 2021, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Aurore Maureaud, Postdoctoral Associate from Yale University;</li> <li>• Romain Kana, Programme Officer with Fondation Tri-national Sangha in Camaroon; and</li> <li>• Dr Anthony Giordano, Executive Director, Chief Conservation Scientist with The Society for the Preservation of Endangered Carnivores and their International Ecological Study based in the USA.</li> </ul> <p>Membership may be declining as regular notifications are received via the Listserv of email addresses that are no longer valid. It can only be assumed that members are moving on without providing notification of change of address.</p>
<b>COMMUNICATION</b> <i>(Provide full details of publications released, and note other contributions below)</i>
<b>Publications:</b>
Nakul Chettri (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) - I am excited to share the news of a launching of a report, Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, which was produced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wild Heritage and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and supported by the National Geographic Society.
<b>Presentations:</b>
As reported above.
<b>Strategic Stakeholder Communication</b>
Nothing to report.
<b>Contributions to media, website, newsletter</b>
As reported above.
<b>ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF IUCN</b> <i>(Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)</i>
Kevan Zunckel (chair) selected to act as Commission Focal Point for the following Resolution(s) and/or Recommendation(s) adopted last October 2020, in the run up to the World Conservation

Congress:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCC-2020-Res-013 Supporting the Lower Mekong Basin countries with the transboundary management of water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity</li> <li>• WCC-2020-Res-015 Cooperation on transboundary fresh waters to ensure ecosystem conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development</li> <li>• WCC-2020-Res-075 Transboundary cooperation for conservation of big cats in Northeast Asia</li> </ul>	
<b>FUNDS UTILISED IN 2021</b> <i>(Indicate the total of funds used in 2021 for WCPA activities)</i>	
<b>Commission Operating Funds used</b> <i>(Indicate total used in 2021 and use financial report for details)</i>	
No funds provided to the SG by the Commission.	
<b>Funds raised</b> <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>	
No funds raised by the SG.	
<b>In-kind value</b> <i>(Indicate the number of days you have worked on WCPA issues without remuneration in 2021)</i>	
20	
<b>Funding proposals in the pipeline</b> <i>(for funds to be used directly for IUCN WCPA activities)</i>	
No funding proposals are in the pipeline.	
<b>IUCN GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2022</b>	
IUCN has the following Union Impact Targets within the IUCN Programme 2021-2024. Please identify which targets your group or region will support in 2022 by placing an X in the relevant box(es). Specify only those where you will contribute directly.	
<b>IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 4.1: PEOPLE</b>	
<b>Union Impact Targets</b>	
1. Fully realised rights, roles, obligations and responsibilities to ensure just and inclusive conservation and sustainable use of nature	X
2. Equitable and effective governance of natural resources at all levels to benefit people and nature	X
3. Enhanced realisation and enforcement of the environmental rule of law	X
<b>IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 4.2: LAND</b>	
<b>Union Impact Targets</b>	
1. Ecosystems are retained and restored, species are conserved and recovered, and key biodiversity areas are safeguarded.	X
2. Thriving production landscapes are sustainable, and nature's value and benefits are safeguarded in the long term.	X
3. Nature and people thrive in cities while delivering solutions for urban challenges and a sustainable ecological footprint.	
<b>IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 4.3: WATER</b>	
<b>Union Impact Targets</b>	
1. The loss of freshwater species and decline of freshwater ecosystem health is halted, and restoration initiated.	X
2. Equitable access to water resources and all associated ecosystem services are secured.	X
3. Water governance, law and investment decisions address the multiple values of nature and incorporate biodiversity knowledge	X
<b>IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 4.4: OCEANS</b>	
<b>Union Impact Targets</b>	
1. The loss of marine species and decline of marine ecosystem integrity is halted, and restoration initiated.	X
2. Uses of marine natural resources generate overall positive biodiversity outcomes and sustain livelihood benefits for coastal communities.	X

<b>3. <i>Ocean and coastal processes are maintained as a key foundation for planetary stability.</i></b>	<b>X</b>
<b>IUCN PROGRAMME AREA 4.5: CLIMATE</b>	
<b>Union Impact Targets</b>	
<b>1. <i>Countries use Nature-based Solutions to scale up effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change.</i></b>	<b>X</b>
<b>2. <i>Countries scale up Nature-based Solutions to reach climate mitigation targets.</i></b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3. <i>Responses to climate change and its impacts are informed by scientific assessment and knowledge to avoid adverse outcomes for nature and people.</i></b>	<b>X</b>

<p><b>GOALS FOR 2022 for your REGION, THEME, GROUP</b>  <i>(Indicate draft goals for 2022 pending approval by Commission Chair)</i></p>
<p><b>Objectives and goals as reported on above remain the same subject to any strategic planning that a revamped TBC SG ExCo might do in early 2022.</b></p>
<p><b>REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022</b></p>
<p>Besides the difficulties imposed by the Covid pandemic the many virtual platforms that have emerged have provided members with more opportunities to network than were available prior to the pandemic. The SG certainly capitalized on this situation as can be seen by the many presentations and engagements reported on above. However, the SG is stagnating and needs revitalization. Recommendations for this will be submitted to the new WCPA Chair.</p>
<p><b>FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT</b> <i>(comments will be sent via email)</i></p>
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