



IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
ANNUAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE
SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION
MAJA VASILJEVIC

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010

OVERVIEW OF 2010 *(insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year)*

After the transition of the Transboundary Protected Areas Task Force to a new Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG) (decision taken by the WCPA Steering Committee, 2009), and the then Co-chairs Trevor Sandwith and Charles Besançon deciding to pass the coordination of the Specialist Group to the current Chair (autumn 2009), 2010 was a year in which the new leadership worked primarily on the revival of the Specialist Group. Strategic Directions for the Group's work were finalized by the end of 2009 with the help of former Co-chairs, and the Group's mandate in 2010 and years to come was clear. The mission of the TBC SG is: *"To promote and encourage transboundary conservation for the conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values while promoting peace and co-operation among nations, through enhancing knowledge and capacity for effective planning and management of transboundary conservation areas, in fulfilment of the Durban Action Plan and CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas."*

One of the first tasks to do was to strengthen the TBC SG's management by establishing an Executive Committee, which would support transboundary conservation in each of WCPA regions. During the 2010, the primary selected members and/or functions of the Executive Committee changed slightly (full composition of the Executive Committee is given in the 'Organization' section below).

Throughout the year we have tried to enhance communication between our members and revive the already established listserv. Relevant information has been sent to all network members on the regular basis and members have been encouraged to communicate with each other using the listserv. Awareness of the members' work related to transboundary conservation has been enhanced by launching the TB eNEWS, an electronic newsletter prepared by the TBC SG. The TB eNEWS contains information sent to us by our members and thus is one of the key tools for sharing of information between the members and wider networks outside of the Group. The newsletter is prepared on a biannual basis and is uploaded regularly on www.tbpa.net. Much of the work on revision of this website has been done in 2010, thanks to the commitment of the Executive Committee members and wider TBC SG network that sent their contributions for the website (to be launched in 2011). Funding for graphic design of both TB eNEWS and the new website has been secured.

Membership was strengthened in some regions (more details in the 'Membership' section below) and a comprehensive membership database developed. This database is being updated regularly.

In 2010, we focused on strengthening communication between members, networking, and promotion of transboundary conservation approaches through various events. Key events are listed below in the section 'Presentations'. A good working relationship was established with IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe as several joint activities were performed or have started in 2010 (still ongoing). Some of our Executive Committee members engaged in communication with other potential partners, such as Mike Schoon with the University of Montana, and Boris Erg with EUROPARC Federation (agreed to share information on a regular basis, discussing the potential for international certification process based on the EUROPARC's 'Following Nature Design' certification). Tanya Rosen and Michelle Lim initiated the process of developing a Transboundary Legal Resource Centre. Peter Shadie involved TBC SG in the international conference regarding the peaceful use of the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas, at which a *Framework for Action* was adopted. Olivier Chassot has been acting as a link between TBC SG and WCPA Mountains and Connectivity Theme, as was Larry Hamilton. In general, the TBC SG Chair would like to acknowledge the work of the Executive Committee, as well as the whole Specialist Group in promoting transboundary conservation and the TBC SG.

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

Goal 1: Attend WCPA Steering Committee meeting

- The TBC SG Chair did not attend the 2010 WCPA SC due to funding restrictions.

Goal 2: Enhance information exchange through web-based modes of communication

- The first issue of the e-newsletter called TB eNEWS was released in March 2010, and the second in October 2010. TB eNEWS is prepared by the TBC SG, primarily based on the information sent to the Editor (TBC SG Chair) by TBC SG members. The Chair would like to acknowledge excellent work of our graphic designer, Imre Sebestyen.
- Revival of communication and information sharing via electronic tbpa listserv was successful during the year. In 2010, there were around 150 messages circulated via the listserv about resources, research undertaken by our members, events, and other relevant issues for transboundary conservation.

Goal 3: Establish and coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network

- Prepared key documentation to be uploaded on the restructured and upgraded website www.tbpa.net in early 2011. The website will act as a Global Transboundary Conservation Network, containing key information relevant for transboundary conservation issues (e.g. documents, transboundary resolutions from congresses, case studies, etc.). TBC SG members worked hard on preparing their contributions for the website. Overall coordination is done by the TBC SG Chair.
- It is planned that within the Global Transboundary Conservation Network, TBC SG establishes a Transboundary Legal Resource Centre. Tanya Rosen (TBC SG Vice Chair) and Michelle Lim (University of New England, Australia) have undertaken coordination of this task. They have prepared a survey which will be distributed to our members in early 2011, and based on the results, it is planned to elaborate a project concept focusing on the development of legal set of tools. These will form part of a TB Legal Resource Centre in the future.

Goal 4: Strengthen TBC SG membership

- Membership increased for 70% since the beginning of 2010. Additionally, several members of TBC SG's wider network were suggested and applied for WCPA membership, which got approved. Detailed information is in the 'Membership' section.

Goal 5: Promote awareness of the value of transboundary conservation

- It is evident that transboundary conservation initiatives require sensitive approaches if they are to be successful. But apart from that, TBC has been a controversial issue in some parts of the world and in order to assess its real value, much more work needs to be done by TBC SG and organizations working in this field. Clearly, there are many positive examples of transboundary cooperation worldwide, whether having benefits for scientific research in the protected areas involved, or for social relations, or political stability. TBC SG Executive Committee team attended several events during 2010 and presented transboundary conservation practices, promoting such approach to nature conservation, and enhancing visibility of the Specialist Group and WCPA in general. For example, the SG Chair gave two keynote speeches in 2010, at the 17th GBIF's Science Symposium, and the international conference on conservation and peaceful use of the Korean DMZ. More details on events attended can be found in the section 'Presentations'.
- TB eNEWS sent to various networks outside the TBC SG.

Goal 6: Explore opportunities for preparation of TB guidelines

Resources on transboundary conservation are not exhaustive and there is a strong need to offer new knowledge, assessments, methodologies and guidance to protected area practitioners and everyone else working with transboundary initiatives. Several areas where TBC SG could contribute have been detected in 2010:

- Guidelines on transboundary World Heritage Sites nominations and management. The SG Chair developed a project concept for the preparation of two guidelines, which is currently being discussed with IUCN and UNESCO.
- Guideline on transboundary marine protected areas. Dorothy Zbicz (TBC SG Regional Coordinator for North America and the Caribbean) is coordinating this activity.
- A standardized questionnaire to assess feasibility for transboundary cooperation. The SG Chair discussed preparation of this tool with Boris Erg (IUCN SEE) and it will likely be implemented in 2011.
- Methodology for monitoring transboundary sites is being assessed by Jamie McCallum (TBC SG Vice Chair).
- Best Practice guideline on Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPAs) revision. There is a need to work on this, but we have not yet started with the plans.

Goal 7: Upgrade the database on transboundary conservation complexes

- Continuous discussions with UNEP WCMC.
- Started the process of improving the database by initially collecting contacts of internationally adjoining protected area managers. Key coordinators for data collection in each region have been selected. More about this goal under the goals in 2011.

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

The TBC SG's leadership body consists of:

Chair: Maja Vasilijevic (Consultancy)

Vice Chairs: Michael Schoon (Arizona State University); Tatyana Rosen (Wildlife Conservation Society); Jamie McCallum (Transfrontier International Ltd.)

Senior Advisors: Trevor Sandwith (IUCN); Charles Besançon (UNEP WCMC); Peter Shadie (Odonata Consulting)

Regional Coordinators: Asia - Rahimatsah Amat (WWF); Europe - Boris Erg (IUCN), North Africa & West Asia - Saleh Dadjouy (Iranian Department of Environment); West & Central Africa - Andrew Dunn

(Wildlife Conservation Society); East & South Africa - Leo Braack (Conservation International); North America & the Caribbean - Dorothy Zbicz (Consultancy); Central America - Olivier Chassot (Tropical Science Centre); South America - German Andrade (University of the Andes and Wetlands Foundation); Oceania - Ana Tiraa (Asian Institute of Technology).

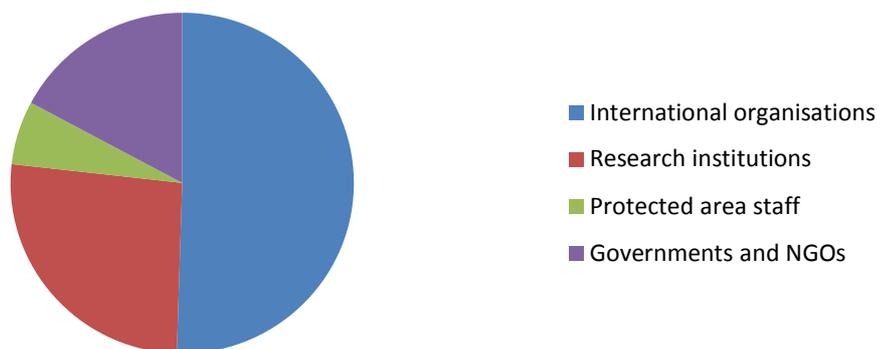
MEMBERSHIP *(Comment on recruitment of members in regions and themes, gender and youth)*

TBC SG currently has 198 members coming from 60 countries. 57% of TBC SG members are also WCPA members, while the others are part of a larger TBC SG network.

Since the beginning of 2010, our membership has increased for 70%. At the beginning of the year, we have initiated and developed a comprehensive membership database containing relevant contact information, professional affiliation and indication of particular field expertise related to transboundary conservation of each member. We have introduced a membership form as the only valid entry point into the TBC SG's network. As the Specialist Group distributes relevant information and maintains communication between its members via an electronic listserv, we have also reviewed the entire membership and removed non-valid addresses from the listserv. The membership database is regularly being updated as new members join the Group. In October 2010, we have selected our member, Naomi Doak, to keep this database updated and welcome new members into the group providing relevant information. Based on the membership directory, the following statistical data is available:

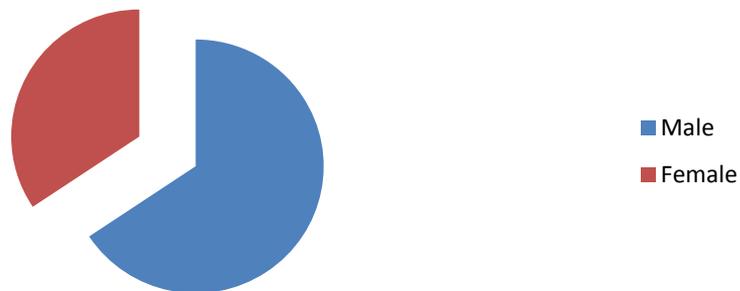
- Membership by sectors. Half of our membership goes to international organizations, with research institutions having high percentage as well. More work needs to be done to reach protected areas staff.

Membership by sectors



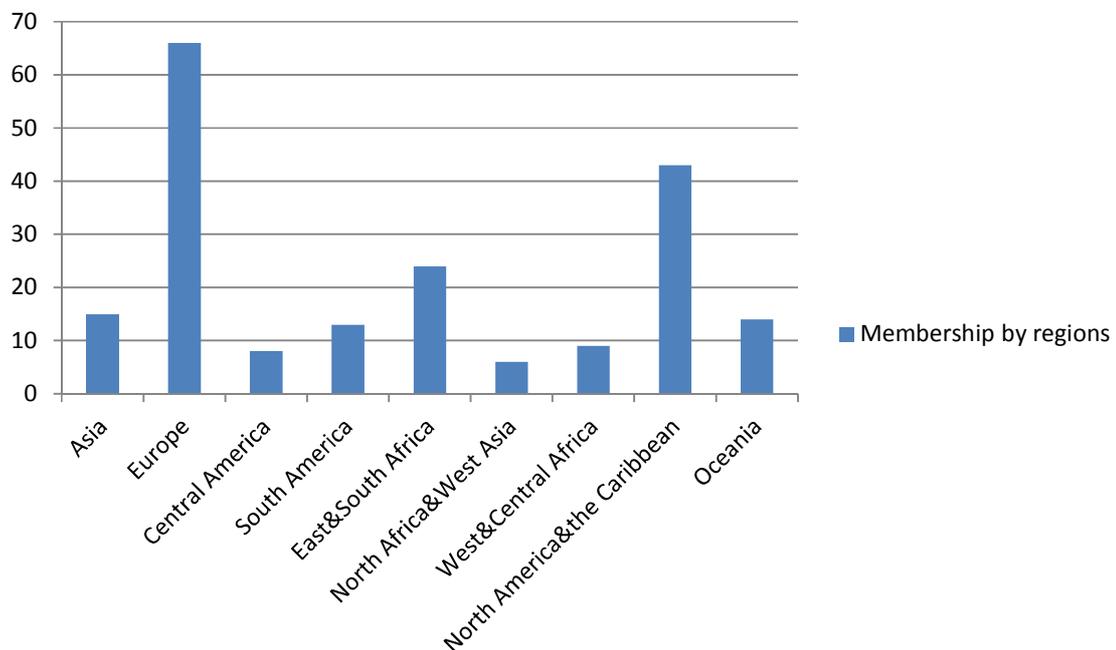
- Membership by gender. 66% of TBC SG's members are males, and 34% females.

Membership by gender



- Membership by regions. Clearly, members from Europe and North America & the Caribbean form the highest part of our membership (33% from Europe and 22% from North America). From the remaining seven regions, East & South African membership has 12%. Clearly, more effort is needed to strengthen the membership in the remaining regions, which will in 2011 be one of the primary tasks of the TBC SG's Executive Committee.

Membership by regions



- Membership by age. Our membership form does not include a category which would allow us to see how many youth members we have. However, by looking at how many members are enrolled in various University programmes (master or doctorate levels) we could suppose that at least 20% of our members are below age of 35.

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

Transboundary conservation initiatives are normally established in protected areas and as such conform to all relevant aspects of PA planning and management. TBC SG promotes participatory approaches in the TBC processes. Moreover, by spanning political boundaries and being managed in a cooperative manner, Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCAs) offer a platform for improved dialogue between protected areas, governments, and communities of the concerned countries, joint conservation planning, and improvement of economic situation at local and national levels. Apart from the goal of conserving biodiversity, integrating ecosystems (divided by political boundaries), TBCAs are important and have the potential to generate social benefits and reduce poverty.

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

Publications:

Contributions by the TBC SG Chair:

- Contribution to the report of the European Environment Agency (Report 6/2010): Vasilijevic, M. (2010) Dinaric Arc Initiative – A framework for sustainable development and conservation of the Dinaric Alps region, In *Europe's Ecological Backbone: recognising the true value of our mountains*, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen. Full report can be accessed at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-ecological-backbone>.
- An article titled 'Transboundary Conservation and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention' (Maja Vasilijevic) was written as a contribution for a book on European protected areas and international designations, to be published by the Italian National Research Council in 2011.
- Substantial work for a publication with working title 'Crossing Borders for Nature. European examples on transboundary conservation' was done in the second half of 2010. The publication will be published in 2011 by IUCN Programme Office for South Eastern Europe (IUCN SEE), with Tomasz Pezold (IUCN staff member) and Maja Vasilijevic as co-editors. Apart from co-editing the publication I contributed to it with two articles: 'Transboundary Conservation - A global context', and 'Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation in Nature Conservation'. With the approval of WCPA Chair, WCPA logo will be included on the front page.
- 2 issues of TB eNEWS, an electronic newsletter prepared by the TBC SG. These can be downloaded at: <http://www.tbpa.net>.

Several other important publications/contributions by TBC SG members are noted below:

- Ali, S. (2010) Building Biotic Peace at CBD COP10, Nagoya, In *Our World* online journal, United Nations University (<http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/building-biotic-peace-at-cop10-nagoya/>).
- Jefferies, B. (2010, draft) ASEAN Transboundary Protected Area Guidelines.
- Lim, M. (2010), Transboundary Conservation of Mountain Biodiversity in a Climate Change Impacted World, A paper presented at the 8th Annual Colloquium of the IUCN Academy of International Environmental Law, Ghent-Belgium, 13-17 September 2010.
- Guerreiro, J., Chircop, A., Grilo, C., Viras, A., Ribeiro, R., van der Elst, R. (2010) Establishing a transboundary network of marine protected areas: Diplomatic and management options for the east African context, In *Marine Policy*, doi:10.1016/j.marpol.2010.01.014.

- Büscher, B. (2010) Seeking 'telos' in the 'transfrontier'? Neoliberalism and the transcending of community conservation in Southern Africa, In *Environment and Planning*, vol. 42

Presentations:

Presentations delivered by the TBC SG Chair:

- Workshop: 'Conservation of Biodiversity and Municipal Development Planning in Dragash', UNDP-IUCN, Dragash, UNMIK Kosovo, 2-4 March 2010. Delivered two presentations: global issues related to transboundary conservation, and protected areas and its benefits. Co-chaired a Working Group 'Improving Transboundary Cooperation' jointly with Zbigniew, Niewiadomski, Senior Advisor, UNEP. Moderated day 1 of the workshop. Hired by IUCN SEE to develop the curriculum for day 1 of the workshop. Three more TBC SG members gave presentations during the workshop: Martin Solar (Triglav National Park), Tomasz Pezold (IUCN SEE), and Lee Dudley (Woodland Trust).
- International Conference on Transboundary Cooperation in the Dinaric Arc, IUCN-SNV-WWF, Capljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 29 June-1 July 2010. Presenter. Presentation is available at: <http://www.dinaricarc.net/presentations.html>. The conference was co-organized by IUCN SEE and its Director and TBC SG Regional Coordinator for Europe, Boris Erg, gave a presentation.
- Workshop: 'European Protected Areas and UNESCO Designations', Italian National Research Council, Rome, Italy, 28 September 2010. Presenter. Presentation is available at: <http://www.isgi.cnr.it/>. The workshop was also attended by TBC SG member Boris Erg (IUCN SEE, with presentation).
- 17th Science Symposium: 'Transboundary Conservation Areas, Biodiversity Conservation and Peace Parks', GBIF, Suwon, South Korea, 12-15 October 2010. Keynote speaker. Programme is available at: <http://www.gbif.org/communications/news-and-events/gbif-symposia-and-workshops/gbif-annual-science-symposium/#c1903>. Olivier Chassot (Tropical Science Centre) and Nakul Chettri (ICIMOD), both TBC SG members, were also presenters at this Symposium.
- International Conference: 'Conservation and Peaceful Use of the Korean DMZ', Korea National Parks Service, Goseong, South Korea, 11-13 November 2010. Keynote speaker. Programme is available at: <http://2010dmz.paforum.or.kr/main/program.html>. The conference was also attended by several TBC SG members who gave presentations: Kevan Zunckel (Zunckel Ecological and Environmental Services), Peter Shadie (Odonata Consulting), and Boris Erg (IUCN SEE).

Presentations delivered by the TBC SG team members on behalf of the TBC SG:

- International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests, ITTO Quito, Ecuador, 21-24 July 2010. Keynote speech by TBC SG Senior Advisor Trevor Sandwith (IUCN). Presentations by TBC SG Regional Coordinator for Central America, Olivier Chassot (Tropical Science Centre), and TBC SG member, Bruce Jefferies (WCPA Deputy Vice Chair New Zealand). Presentations are available at: http://www.fnatura.org/documentos/conferencia_2/c_i_bosques.php.
- Workshop: 'Climate Change and Connectivity Conservation in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion', UNDP-GTI, Gorno-Altai and Ust-Koksa, Russia, 23-27 July 2010. Presentation delivered by Boris Erg, TBC SG Regional Coordinator for Europe.

- Seminar: 'International Cooperation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources', Kyiv, Ukraine, 4 November 2010. Presentation delivered by TBC SG member, Gianfranco Tamburelli (Italian National Research Council).

Contributions to media, website, newsletter

- Regular contributions to IUCN SEE electronic newsletter.
- Attended press conference during the 17th GBIF Science Symposium in South Korea.
- Presentations from some of the above meetings uploaded on organizers' websites.

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

FUNDS UTILISED IN 2010 *(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

Commission Operating Funds used *(Indicate total used in 2010 and use financial report for details)*

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

Funding proposals in the pipeline

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2011 *(Indicate draft goals for 2011 pending approval by Commission Chair)*

Goal 1: Attend WCPA Steering Committee meeting 2011

- TBC SG Chair intends to attend the 2011 WCPA SC meeting.

Goal 2: Work towards preparation of a web-based database on transboundary complexes

Currently, transboundary complexes, both TBPAs and internationally adjoining protected areas, are listed in a pdf document collated by UNEP WCMC in 2007. This is a relevant first step in trying to get a general idea on the numbers and locations of transboundary complexes worldwide (although one has to be careful as the list also contains mistakes that need correction). The list has many limitations in that it does not provide information necessary for performing any substantial qualitative assessments. As a Specialist Group that promotes the value of transboundary conservation, we need to be able to assess the real global situation regarding various aspects of TB initiatives (e.g. what are the challenges, which levels of cooperation exist in certain sites, how many real TBPAs are currently operating, which legal tools are employed in certain sites, what are the benefits of TB approaches, governance structures, etc.). Only a comprehensive survey of TBPA managers would generate results that would enable us to do a comparative analysis and assess the value of TB approaches in ecological, social and political sense. The ultimate goal is to create a website-based database with appropriate search engine, based on the analysis of the survey results, and which would contribute to the general knowledge about transboundary conservation. Proposed steps for this task are:

- Collect contact details of internationally adjoining protected areas' managers. Work in progress.
- Develop a comprehensive survey containing relevant information (e.g. technical PA data, ecological data, social data, legal frameworks, political situation etc). The draft survey will be done by selected members of the SG and then finalized with the input of the whole Group.
- Perform the survey, collect and analyze the results.
- Translate the survey results to a web-based database.
- Launch the database and promote it widely.
- Link the results with WDPA and Protected Planet portal, as per agreement with UNEP WCMC.

Such database would not only be important for research purposes, monitoring of TB sites, and similar, but also as an important reference tool for practitioners working on transboundary conservation. Indirect contribution of this goal is:

- Facilitation and enabling of exchanges of experiences and personal contacts between TBPA managers.

Goal 3: Set ground for development of TB guidelines/methodology

Continue with the plans from 2010 (as stated under goals in 2010):

- Develop methodology for assessing the feasibility of transboundary conservation and monitoring of transboundary conservation areas (potentially to be launched at the World Conservation Congress in 2012).
- Further explore the potential for development of TBC guidelines (TB World Heritage Sites nominations and management, marine TBPAs, Best Practice guideline).

Goal 4: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network

- Following the launch of a restructured website www.tbpa.net (early 2011), there will be a need to further collect important information and upload on the website, as to allow the website to function as a real resource centre for transboundary conservation. E.g. we intend to 'map' institutions engaged in transboundary conservation work and present these details on the website.
- Continue to work on the establishment of a Legal Resource Centre as part of the [tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net). Steps:
 - Complete and perform a survey about the needs for legal tools involving TBC SG members;
 - Analyze results of the survey;
 - Prepare a project concept for the development of legal set of tools and seek funding;
 - Communicate extensively with IUCN Environmental Law Centre;
 - Develop the tools, promote, disseminate, and create a web-portal linked to www.tbpa.net.

Goal 5: Continue supporting knowledge exchange and dissemination

- Continue with preparation of the TB eNEWS (funding secured for 2011).
- Continue with information sharing via electronic listserv

Goal 6: Stimulate research on transboundary conservation

- Explore regional/global funds for research in a particular field. Getting access to such funds would enable us to sponsor research on transboundary issue of particular relevance to the Group.

Goal 7: Plan activities for the World Conservation Congress in 2012

Goal 8: Plan the TBC SG Executive Committee meeting

- It would be beneficial that the Executive Committee meets and discusses strategic issues related to the TBC SG future work. By now, this was not possible.

REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2011

- Better communication and information sharing between Chairs of the WCPA Task Forces and Specialist Groups to enable integration of activities and cooperation.

FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT

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FEEDBACK BY HEAD: GLOBAL PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAMME ON REPORT

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