



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

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SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

KEVAN ZUNCKEL

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017

OVERVIEW OF 2017 *(insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year)*

- In March 2017, representatives of South Korea National Parks Service visited IUCN ECARO in Belgrade, Serbia, and toured around the Balkan region. Maja Vasiljević presented TBC SG activities at the meeting organized by IUCN ECARO in Belgrade.
- Maja Vasiljević attended the International Conference of Transboundary Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Sustainable Development, organised by the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development from 5-7 December 2017 in Eberswalde, Germany. The conference gathered participants of a transboundary cooperation related project from Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, as well as a number of guests. Maja Vasiljević gave a talk on transboundary conservation from a global perspective on behalf of the TBC SG.
- Piet Theron facilitated the securing of financial support for the continued production of the TB eNEWS and two publications were made possible, i.e. Volumes 10 and 11 published in April and November respectively. Although the support secured was insufficient to cover all publication costs, voluntary effort ensured that this initiative continued to succeed. The Peace Parks Foundation and BIOPAMA South Africa are acknowledged for their joint support.
- Piet Theron has also initiated discussions with GIZ and the SADC TFCA Programme to investigate the possibility to develop a transboundary conservation resource portal as part of the new SADC TFCA Programme intranet which could be used to support the TBC SG in south and east Africa.
- IUCN WCPA's Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines No. 23, Transboundary Conservation: A systematic and integrated approach, has been used in professional application by Kevan Zunckel in his work with UNESCO and the UNDP GEF Small Grants office in South Africa to produce a COMPACT Site Strategy for the Maloti Drakensberg Park Transfrontier World Heritage Site; and in the training of officials from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority in protected area management planning.
- EcoPeace Middle East hosted two regional gatherings of Israeli and Jordanian ecology experts who discussed the importance of biodiversity protection, with the possibility of a future joint project to develop ecological corridors in the Jordan Valley, and a 3-day regional youth camp where students from Jordan, Israel and Palestine took part in several activities that focused on biodiversity and its impact on the environment.

PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS *(Comment on progress on goals set for 2017. Add more lines if needed)*

- **Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas:**
 - The promotion and application of relevant Best Practice Guidelines, particularly No. 23, at every opportunity available to TBC SG members.
- **Web-based database on transboundary conservation complexes developed to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhance networking between managers of TBCAs**
 - Pioneering work on the use of spatial data as a basis for planning and managing TBCAs has been done by Prof Willem van Riet in collaboration with IDRISI.
 - Efforts to ensure collaboration with the WCMC in this regard have been resurrected.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The TBC SG List Serve has been maintained as an effective channel through which information can be shared by members.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members have been encouraged to share TBC news for publication on www.tbpa.net. ○ Members have been encouraged to share examples of best practice for publication in the TB eNEWS. ○ Members have been encouraged to utilize the e-listserv as a channel of communication to share information and to request assistance.
<p>ORGANIZATION <i>(Comment on implementation of changes to region/theme structure)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the 2nd half of 2017 Kevan Zunckel became Chair of the SG and Maja Vasilijević became one of the Vice-chairs after servicing as Chair since 2009.
<p>MEMBERSHIP <i>(Comment on recruitment of members in regions and themes, gender and youth)</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership has grown slowly but reconciliation of the IUCN WCPA Transboundary Network and Specialist Group still needs to take place. Once this has been done it is envisaged that membership numbers may grow quite substantially.
<p>COMMUNICATION <i>(Provide full details of publications released, and note other contributions below)</i></p>
<p>Publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The book <i>The Social Ecology of Border Landscapes</i> edited by Anna Grichting and Michele Zebich-Knos was published by Anthem Press in May 2017 in which a number contributions from TBC SG members were included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chpt. 2: Social Ecology and Transboundary Conservation: (Re)connecting Nature and People in Borderlands – Kevan Zunckel; ○ Chpt. 4: Borders as Zones of Experiential Learning: The Case of the Balkans Peace Park Project – Todd Walters and Saleem H. Ali; ○ Chpt. 5: Social Ecologies in Borderlands: Crane Habitat Restoration and Sustainable Agriculture Project in the Democratic Republic of Korea – Hall Healy, George Archibald and Arthur H. Westing; and ○ Chpt. 7: From No-Man’s Land to Every-Man’s Land: Socio-ecological Approaches to Reclaiming Shared Spaces in Border Landscapes, with Examples from Germany and Cyprus – Anna Grichting.
<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maja Vasilijević: Transboundary Conservation: a systematic and integrated approach. International Conference of Transboundary Cooperation for Ecosystem-Based Sustainable Development. Eberswalde, Germany, 5-7 December 2017. Organized by the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development. ● Maja Vasilijević: Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group. A visit of the representatives of South Korea National Park Service to the Balkan region. Belgrade, Serbia, 20 March 2017. Organized by IUCN ECARO. ● Piet Theron: Presentations on the TBC SG were made to a number of SADC TFCA Network members during 2017. ● EcoPeace Middle East was invited to present our Jordan River rehabilitation efforts, including the NGO Regional Master Plan, at several conferences: (1) The "<i>RiverGathering conference</i>" in Tbilisi, Georgia gathered more than 80 organizations and activists from around the world, all coming together to share their knowledge of the effects of unsustainable River management. We presented at the opening plenary, led one session on Campaign Techniques, and presented our Jordan River Rehabilitation project in yet another session on Sustainable Development; (2) The American Water Resources Association (AWRA), together with the Water Research Center of the Tel Aviv University, held a conference "<i>Cutting Edge Solutions to Wicked Water Problems</i>" at the Tel Aviv University's Porter School of Environmental Studies. A wide range of presentations were given tackling the issue of water problems around the world including a presentation of our Master Plan which spells out, in 127 specific interventions centered around 7 strategic objectives, how to convert a polluted river and highly depressed economic area to a model for river rehabilitation, economic growth, and regional stability; (3) The "<i>Water & Climate:</i>

Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World" International summit, gathered representatives of rivers around the world, including the Amazon, Mississippi, Yangtze, Danube, Rhine, Murray-Darling and many more, aiming to raise the importance of including climate change mitigation into river management. The declaration of the conference was presented at the Climate Conference in Bonn.

Strategic Stakeholder Communication

- During the conference in Eberswalde, Germany (December 2017), Maja Vasiljević discussed the potential involvement of the TBC SG in Eberswalde University's recent initiative 'Biosphere.Center' (<http://www.biosphere.center/en/>). The initiative gathers the University itself, Michael Succow Foundation and EUOPARC Germany in building a knowledge hub and advisory centre for UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. TBC SG would act as the supporter of this global initiative.
- Various communications with GIZ offices in Botswana, Djibouti and Ethiopia relating to the promotion of the TBC SG and the use of the Diagnostic Tool and funding for its revision. Positive outcomes from these are still needed.
- Kevan Zunckel served on a Community of Practice for Monitoring and Evaluation in a GIZ funded project that sought to establish an M&E system for the SADC TFCA network which was implemented by Clara Bocchino Murphree. It is hoped that the outcome of this work may contribute to the establishment of an M&E system at the global level.
- EcoPeace Middle East hosted a national Jordanian expert's meeting that focused on the production of a National Biodiversity Master Plan.
- EcoPeace Middle East held 3 **Regional Jordan River Tour Guides Trainings in 2017**. These trainings brought together pilgrimage and religious tour guides from Israel, Jordan and Palestine, providing them with greater understanding about the regional context of the area's rich sites, highlighting the case of the Jordan River and sacred religious sites associated with it, and how people – even visitors and tourists – can participate in the efforts to rehabilitate the Jordan River. A booklet, "[Come Together at the River](#)", was produced and distributed at these trainings, containing useful information for educating tourists in the region to better understand and appreciate the majesty of the River and its surrounding areas, but also the challenges faced. We specifically cover sites of religious interest - Christian, Muslim and Jewish - in an effort to teach about the importance of the River to all the faiths that care deeply about the River.

Contributions to media, website, newsletter

- Two issues of e-newsletter TB eNEWS (April and October 2017) were prepared, posted on tbpa.net and widely distributed. The newsletter serves to gather and distribute information on transboundary conservation related activities from worldwide areas.
- Regular updates of www.tbpa.net.

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

- None

FUNDS UTILISED IN 2017 *(Indicate the total of funds used in 2017 for WCPA activities)*

Commission Operating Funds used *(Indicate total used in 2017 and use financial report for details)*

None

Funds raised *(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**)*

In-kind value *(Indicate the number of days you have worked on WCPA issues without remuneration in 2017)*

30

Funding proposals in the pipeline *(for funds to be used directly for IUCN WCPA activities)*

None

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

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 2018 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	X
(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	X
(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	
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	X
(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	

GOALS FOR 2018 for your REGION, THEME, GROUP <i>(Indicate draft goals for 2018 pending approval by Commission Chair)</i>	
Goal 1:	Please see the Terms of Reference for the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group and note that the terminology differs between that used here and in the ToR.
Goal 2:	•
Goal 3:	•
Goal 4:	

•
Goal 5:
•
Goal 6:
•
REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The year has been relatively quiet and it is hoped that once the new Terms of Reference for the Specialist Group have been approved by the Commission Chair, that these may be used as a catalyst to inspire greater activity from the Group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the Terms of Reference being compiled to reflect the realities and limitations of getting volunteers to contribute it is hoped that more progress against the objectives and goals will be possible in 2018.
FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT <i>(comments will be sent via email)</i>