



IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
ANNUAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE
SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION
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REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2020

OVERVIEW OF 2020 (<i>insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year</i>)
Despite the challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic there were some good outputs from some of the Specialist Group members, particularly in relation to the refinement of the diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planning, and involvement in webinars exploring the broad topic of transboundary conservation. It is important to note that the pandemic has presented the conservation fraternity with an opportunity to use technology to increase its reach and networking capacity. Webinars and virtual meetings, workshops and even conferences allow for continued engagement without the environmental externalities and financial burdens of travel.
PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS (<i>Comment on progress on goals set for 2018. Add more lines if needed</i>)
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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No progress has been made with this Goal since the efforts that were put in to link with the UNEP WCMC in 2018.
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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No progress in 2020.
Goal 1.3: Coordinate the Global Transboundary Conservation Network (www.tbpa.net), a virtual hub of transboundary conservation related knowledge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The e-listserv continues to be the primary channel for communication within the network with all important communications received from the WCPA Chair being forwarded on to members.A number of post-graduate students have used the e-listserv to connect with members in order to distribute and enlist responses to surveys for their studies on TBC.No newsletter were published in 2020 due to a lack of funding to support this.
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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This goal has been accomplished. Version 2.0 of the globally applicable Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners that assesses feasibility for transboundary conservation was developed in 2020 and made available at the TBC SG's website: http://www.tbpa.net/page.php?ndx=22. Version 2.0, authored by Maja Vasilijević, in cooperation with Boris Erg and Kevan Zunckel, was built on the findings presented in the Best Practice Guidelines on transboundary conservation (2015) and the experience collected through

the implementation of the original Diagnostic tool in various regions of the world since 2012. The Diagnostic tool is an important asset in supporting the decision-making process leading to the institutionalization of transboundary conservation, i.e., the establishment of Transboundary Conservation Areas, and the TBC SG encourages its use in various phases of the transboundary conservation process. Specific objectives of the Diagnostic tool include: (1) Enabling transboundary conservation planners and facilitators to assess and evaluate feasibility for efficient design and implementation of a transboundary conservation initiative process, (2) Enabling the improvement of implementation of ongoing transboundary conservation initiatives by providing an update on the status of issues critical for efficient functioning of a transboundary conservation process, (3) Strengthening the capacity of stakeholders in the potential/ongoing transboundary conservation initiative on issues that are critical for the establishment and implementation of a transboundary conservation initiative, (4) Offering the possibility of interactive participatory approach at transboundary or national levels in assessing the feasibility for transboundary conservation through completing the diagnostic tool at specially organized workshops, and (5) Enabling rapid self-assessment of the feasibility for transboundary conservation. The results of the assessment provide details on: (1) The need and key motivation for undertaking transboundary conservation approach, (2) Stakeholders' interests, (3) Readiness and willingness of stakeholders to initiate and engage in transboundary conservation process, (4) Opportunities that could enhance the process and/or be generated by transboundary conservation, and (5) Risks that could hinder the transboundary conservation process. The development of Version 2.0 was made possible by WWF Adria's regional programme 'Protected Areas for Nature and People II', funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Goal 2.2: Promote the development of a methodology and tool for the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of transboundary conservation programmes.

- No progress in 2020 since the SADC TFCA Network M&E framework was completed.

Objective 3: Contribute to capacity development and networking of transboundary conservation specialists

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.

- EcoPeace Middle East is an environmental peacebuilding organization of Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians founded in 1994 to advance sustainable regional development and the conditions for peace, by promoting collaboration around shared environmental challenges, especially the need for water and with a focus on the Jordan Valley. Given that much of the region is inaccessible for many people, which has been exacerbated by the restrictions imposed through the Covid-19 pandemic, the organization is working at building a virtual experience using a variety of apps that will allow access across borders and to otherwise inaccessible sites of cultural and conservation significance. Here the users will be able to meet and interact with neighbors from adjacent countries where they can get to know one another and share experiences. It is hoped that once the pandemic subsides to allow physical interaction, where the participants will be able to meet face to face within the transboundary conservation area, i.e. the Ecopark in the Jordan Valley.

Goal 3.2: Promote, facilitate and contribute to international and/or regional workshops aimed at building capacity.

- The SADC TFCA Network facilitated a series of 20 online webinars over a period of ten weeks covering a range of topics related to TBC establishment, governance, management, etc. Many of the SG members were involved in these webinars, either as presenters, chairs, moderators and/or participants.
- The Southern African Wildlife College ran a series of capacity building webinars for their students where various TBC specialists were engaged to present on topics similar to the above.

Goal 3.3: Promote and encourage the translation of the WCPA Best Practice Guidelines No. 23 to other global languages.

- No progress in 2020 due to lack of funding.

Goal 3.4: Establish partnerships with relevant institutions to promote and enhance transboundary conservation.

- Jim Barborak, and the Center for Protected Area Management at Colorado State University, have begun a new project, funded by the US National Park Service, to promote greater transfrontier cooperation between Big Bend National Park in Texas, a UNESCO recognized biosphere reserve, and several adjacent federal protected areas in northern Mexico.

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

- The TBC SG ExCo remained unchanged for 2020.

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

- Growth in membership was slow with only a few new members joining in 2020.

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

Publications:

- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) produced a number of publications in 2020 as follows:
 1. Uprety Y, Chettri N, Dhakal M, Huger A, Chand R, Chaudhary RP (2021). Illegal trade a threat to wildlife conservation in Kailash Sacred Landscape, Nepal. Journal of Nature Conservation. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2020.125952>
 2. Kandel P, Chettri N, Chaudhary S and Uddin K (2020). Ecosystem services research trends in the water tower of Asia: A bibliometric analysis from the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Ecological Indicators. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2020.107152>
 3. Sharma P, Chettri N, Uddin K, Wangchuk K, Joshi R, Tandim T, Pandey A, Gaira K, Basnet K, Wangdi S, Dorji T, Wangchuk N, Chitale VS, Uprety Y, Sharma E (2020) Mapping human wildlife conflict hotspots in a transboundary landscape, Eastern Himalaya. Global Ecology and Conservation. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2020.e01284>
 4. Subedi, CK, Rokaya, MB, Münzbergová, Z, Timsina B, Gurung, J, Chettri, N, Bania CB, Ghimire, SK, and RP Chaudhary (2020). Vascular plant diversity along an elevational gradient in the west Nepal, central Himalayas. Journal Foila Geobotanica. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12224-020-09370-8> (Impact Factor 1.242).
 5. Uddin, K, Chettri N, Y Yang, M S Lodhi, N Z Htun and E. Sharma (2020) Integrating geospatial tools and species for conservation planning in a data poor region of the Far Eastern Himalayas. Geology, Ecology and Landscape 4(3): 187-202. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24749508.2019.1610840>
 6. Shakya, B., Uddin, K., Yi, S., Bhatta, L. D., Lodhi, M. S., Htun, N. Z., & Yang, Y. Mapping of the ecosystem services flow from three protected areas in the far-eastern Himalayan Landscape: An impetus to regional cooperation. Ecosystem Services, 47, 101222. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2020.101222>
 7. Kotru, R. K., Shakya, B., Joshi, S., Gurung, J., Ali, G., Amatya, S., & Pant, B. (2020). Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region: Are Transboundary Landscapes a Promising Solution?. Mountain Research and Development, 40(2), A15. <https://doi.org/10.1659/MRD-JOURNAL-D-19-00053.1>
 8. Joshi, S., Shrestha, L., Bisht, N., Ning, W., Ismail, M., Dorji, T., ... & Long, R. (2020). Ethnic and cultural diversity amongst yak herding communities in the Asian highlands. Sustainability, 12(3), 957. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12030957>
 9. Chettri N, Shrestha A B, Sharma E (2020) Climate Change Trends and Ecological Resilience in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. In A. P. Dimri, B. Bookhagen, M. Stoffel and T. Yasunari and Petra van Steenberg (eds). Himalayan Weather and Climate and their impact on the environment. Springer Nature, Switzerland. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-29684-1_25
 10. Chettri N, Lama A K, Gaira K S, Pandey A, Dema K, Uprety Y, and Eklabya Sharma 2020. Transboundary cooperation for mountain tourism in the Kangchenjunga Landscape. In Wymann von Dach, S. & Ruiz Peyré, F., eds. Vibrant mountain communities. Regional development in mountains: Realizing potentials, tackling disparities. Bern, Switzerland, Centre for Development and Environment. (CDE), University of Bern, with Bern Open Publishing (BOP). 56 pp.

<p>https://boris.unibe.ch/146720/1/Vibrant_Mountain_Communities_2020.pdf</p> <p>11. Kotru, R., Pradhan, N., Shakya, B. & Amatya, S. (eds.) (2020). Beyond boundaries: Contouring transboundary landscapes in the Hindu Kush Himalaya. Kathmandu: ICIMOD. https://lib.icimod.org/record/34730</p>	
Presentations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the report on the SADC TFCA Network webinar series at https://tfcaportal.org/sadc-tfcas-webinars-celebrating-20-years-transfrontier-conservation-southern-africa. Work was done to present a webinar on the Diagnostic Tool using the Vital Sites platform with a programme and a series of speakers secured. Unfortunately this did not happen and was postponed to early 2021. 	
Strategic Stakeholder Communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership with WWF Adria within the framework of 'Protected Areas for Nature and People II' regional programme (2019-2022) that is being implemented in the Western Balkans. 	
Contributions to media, website, newsletter	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of a leaflet 'Transboundary conservation', prepared within WWF Adria's programme 'Protected Areas for Nature and People II' (https://www.wwfadria.org/?363739/Transboundary-Conservation). Promotion of Version 2.0 of the Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners at TBC SG's website (http://www.tbpa.net/news.php?ndx=46) and IUCN WCPA's website (https://www.iucn.org/news/world-commission-protected-areas/202006/version-20-diagnostic-tool-transboundary-conservation-planners-released). 	
ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF IUCN <i>(Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing to report for 2020. 	
FUNDS UTILISED IN 2018 <i>(Indicate the total of funds used in 2017 for WCPA activities)</i>	
Commission Operating Funds used <i>(Indicate total used in 2017 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 2018)</i>	
20	
Funding proposals in the pipeline <i>(for funds to be used directly for IUCN WCPA activities)</i>	
None.	
GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2020	
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 2019 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	
(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	
(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 2021 for your REGION, THEME, GROUP

(Indicate draft goals for 2020 pending approval by Commission Chair)

Note that the strategy for the SG remains unchanged for 2020

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REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020

- After a relatively quiet 2020 the members of the SG are to be surveyed in terms of their suggestions to breath more life into the network and the possibility of revamping the ExCo needs to be addressed..

FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT *(comments will be sent via email)*