



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

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012**

**OVERVIEW OF 2012** *(insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year)*

- As 2012 was the year World Conservation Congress was held, majority of TBC SG activities were focused on this event. While we were co-organisers of a number of side-events, the major workshop was organised with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Korea National Park Service 'Sharing benefits and values from transboundary conservation'. Boris Erg was primary coordinator of the event on behalf of the TBC SG, and he also attended the workshop, while I was fully engaged in coordinating the event jointly with him and other two mentioned institutions. Olivier Chassot gave a presentation at the workshop on behalf of TBC SG.
- In 2012, TBC SG and IUCN published a book 'Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner's guideline based on the experience from the Dinaric Arc', which I consider as an important achievement of the TBC SG due to the fact that we presented a new tool for diagnosing feasibility for transboundary conservation initiatives. While being the primary author of the diagnostic tool, this methodology was reviewed by TBC SG members. We also prepared an electronic edition of the tool, which can be downloaded from [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net), and which is a slightly modified version of the one presented in a publication as it allows for automatic report generation. While presented and launched in 2012, 2013 should be the year of extended promotion of the tool and its testing on the ground. Currently, we are seeking funding to support this project.
- Although I was not able to travel in 2012 due to maternity leave, TBC SG members attended many events and held a number of presentations promoting transboundary conservation and WCPA's work. To mention just a few, Kevan Zunckel made good connections with Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) who joined the TBC SG, Boris Erg started up communication leading to potential cooperation with EUROPARC Federation, Tanya Rosen enabled our cooperation with UNEP/Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat (CMS) on a number of issues, Andrew Dunn promoted WCPA TBC SG during a regional event in West Africa.
- I prepared two project proposals, the one concerns further testing of the diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners, while the other concerns revision of WCPA Best Practice Guideline (BPG) on transboundary conservation. During the last half of the year, I worked extensively on fundraising, together with a number of TBC SG Executive Committee members (Boris Erg, Kevan Zunckel, Olivier Chassot). As a result, we managed to secure co-funding of the project by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). Further funds are still being sought.
- Tanya Rosen has been supporting the parties of CMS and the Secretariat in the development of transboundary cooperation for conservation and sustainable use of argali sheep in Central Asia. The plan is to develop a CMS MoU on the Conservation of Argali and review the action plan. It is

also envisaged to establish an argali working group composed of range state representatives and selected experts, supported by the IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group and the TBC SG.

- Legal survey results as preparatory work for the Transboundary Legal Resource Centre were finalised and prepared by Michelle Lim and Tanya Rosen, and presented at our website. First results of a survey prepared and led by Jamie McCallum on transboundary conservation benefits in 50 protected areas in the Americas were prepared in 2012.
- With regard to transboundary protected area management, our members were involved in enhancement of many cross-country relations worldwide. To mention just a few initiatives, in 2012, Ministers of Environment, Mayors and Heads of National Parks of Ohrid and Prespa (Macedonia, Albania) signed a Declaration of Commitment to cooperate on management of this Biosphere Reserve. A successful joint patrol and an exchange visit were organized between Cross River National Park, Nigeria and Takamanda National Park, Cameroon. A huge milestone towards a pentilateral (Austria-Slovenia-Croatia-Serbia-Hungary) Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube was achieved in July 2012 when the Croatian-Hungarian part of the planned Reserve was officially approved by UNESCO Man and Biosphere Committee in Paris. Bhutan, India, Nepal agreed to work together to conserve and manage biodiversity of the Mount Kanchenjunga. Oulanka National Park, Finland, and Paanajärvi National Park, Russia were verified as a transboundary wilderness area by PAN Parks Foundation.
- We prepared two issues of TB eNEWS as the key communication product of TBC SG. Website updates have been done regularly.

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

#### **Goal 1: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas**

- TBC SG was the key partner of IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe in developing a new publication titled 'Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner's guideline based on the experience from the Dinaric Arc' (2012). The editors of this publication are Boris Erg, Matthew McKinney, and I, while the publication was funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Further contributors were WWF and SNV. As for TBC SG, this publication is an important achievement as it offers theoretical background in the form of concrete steps for initiating transboundary conservation, and links it with practical methodology to be implemented on the ground. Much of my time in 2012 was dedicated to the development of a 'Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners: Suggested questions to determine feasibility for transboundary conservation'. This is a new tool that helps transboundary initiators in assessing the overall situation relevant for starting up a transboundary initiative. It examines the real need for transboundary approach, readiness of stakeholders to engage in the initiative, opportunities that can fasten the process and be generated by the process, and risks that could slow down the process.

While the publication contains a diagnostic tool which requires manual self-assessment and interpretation of results, we developed an enhanced edition of the tool for the web. This electronic edition enables automatic generation of results and report development, and therefore it is easy to use by anyone interested in examining feasibility for transboundary conservation initiative. Another advantage of the tool is that it allows for self-assessment.

The diagnostic tool requires further testing on pilot sites in different geographical settings and ecosystems worldwide in order to be further improved. A project proposal was prepared to enable this second stage and fundraising for it is currently ongoing.

- Progress on Transboundary Legal Resource Centre establishment: during 2011 a survey with the aim to identify globally relevant transboundary conservation legal and institutional issues and challenges was developed under Michelle Lim and Tatjana Rosen's guidance. In 2012 we gathered the responses of the survey and prepared the initial results which will serve to develop further the idea of Transboundary Legal Resource Centre establishment.

- One of the major priorities of the Group is to update and offer new knowledge in a revised WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation. Although WCPA allocated seed money for the start of this project (approx. 5,000 EUR), the Executive Committee of the TBC SG decided to fundraise for the whole project before fully engaging in the Guideline development. As a start, in 2012, we established an editorial team for WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation, consisting of Olivier Chassot, Michael Schoon, Kevan Zunckel, Boris Erg and me. The Group also started a discussion on a new definition of transboundary protected area, which lasted for some time. As at the time we didn't manage to reach agreement on this issue, in 2013 we will have to think of the most appropriate and efficient way to reach consensus on the new definition (set of transboundary conservation practice definitions).

We approached and had extensive communication with potential donors or contributors, some of which is still ongoing (e.g. MAVA, GIZ, Korea National Park Service, Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), DGCS, BfN). We received a lot of interest in providing technical input, such as from PPF, World Conservation Society, the University of Montana. As for the financial support, none of the funds were raised during 2012, but now (beginning of 2013) we received indication of interest from BfN and BMU to co-fund the project. We are now further discussing potential co-funding with KNPS.

Considering that the current Guideline is more than 10 years old and focuses only on some aspects of transboundary conservation practice, including definition of transboundary protected areas which is not compliant to the new definition of protected area, we find it essential to offer the new guideline. Development of the guideline is also one of the priorities in GPAP/WCPA Quadrennial Work Plan. Currently, our plan is to launch the new publication at the World Parks Congress in 2014, if the situation with funding allows that.

- As a result of the listing of argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) under Appendix II of the CMS at its 10th Conference of the Parties, Tanya Rosen was asked to provide support to the parties of CMS and the Secretariat in their decision on the most suitable CMS instrument to effectively foster regional cooperation on conservation and sustainable use of argali. The assessment was financed under the Regional Program on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Government. One of the options proposed was the development of a CMS MoU on the Conservation of Argali. Tanya is involved as a representative of our group in the review of the action plan and the development of the next steps. One of such steps include establishing an argali working group composed of Range State representatives and selected experts, supported by the IUCN Caprinae Specialist Group and the TBC SG, given the transboundary nature of the species, issues and the expertise that this Group could provide especially on legal, institutional, and policy matters.

#### **Goal 2: Established database on transboundary complexes to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhance networking between managers of TBCAs**

- During 2011, with help from volunteers from the Group, we managed to collect contact details of managers of the internationally adjoining protected areas (IAPAs) in North, Central and South America, Oceania, and Indian subcontinent, as well as the registry of protected area complexes in these regions. The work in other regions is still in progress and would require enhanced cooperation with key institutions in these remaining regions to enable gathering of all relevant information. UNEP WCMC database of 2007 was used as a starting point for this work.
- Considering the finalization of work in the above mentioned regions, we went a step forward and under Jamie McCallum's guidance, designed a survey for IAPA managers. The initial survey results were ready in June 2012 and it is planned to publish them in a paper in 2013.

#### **Goal 3: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network**

- The website of the Group, [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net), is being regularly updated and serves as a platform for sharing knowledge about transboundary conservation.

- Key communication product of the Group is a biannual electronic newsletter TB eNEWS, which gathers news from all regions and presents values and challenges in transboundary protected areas. Two issues of the TB eNEWS were successfully prepared in 2012 and uploaded to our website.
- Electronic membership application form was set up to enable easier application process. Our membership is being handled by Naomi Doak.
- While the Group's main communication was channelled through an electronic listserv administered by IUCN Secretariat, we experienced major problems with communication during 2011 and in the first half of 2012 due to technical issues. The new listserv, set up in June 2012, enabled again efficient communication between our members.

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

- TBC SG Executive Committee consists of 15 members (Chair, 3 Vice Chairs, 8 Regional Coordinators and 3 Senior Advisors). At the moment we don't have a Regional Coordinator for Oceania, a function that used to be held by Ana Tiraa.

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

- TBC SG has 220 members from all WCPA regions and membership is in constant rise. Majority of our members are from Europe and working for international organizations and academia. Concerning gender, more than half of the SG members are males.

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

- TBC SG mandate incorporates the following IUCN 2009-2012 Programme Areas: Core Programme Area: Conserving biodiversity; Thematic Programme 2: Changing the climate forecast; and Thematic Programme 4: Managing ecosystems for human wellbeing.

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

##### **Publications:**

- Erg, B., Vasilijević, M., McKinney, M. (eds.). (2012) Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner's guideline based on the experience from the Dinaric Arc. Gland, Switzerland and Belgrade, Serbia: IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe. ix+98p. (IUCN publication prepared in cooperation with WCPA and including WCPA logo)  
[https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/initiating\\_effective\\_transboundary\\_conservation.pdf](https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/initiating_effective_transboundary_conservation.pdf)
- Vasilijevic, M., Pezold, T., Spangenberg, A., Schneider-Jacoby, M., Carius, F. (2012). Grenzüberschreitender Naturschutz auf dem Westbalkan. In: Natur und Landschaft, Issue 9/10, Volume 87, pp 425-429. (Transboundary nature conservation in the western Balkans)  
[http://www.kohlhammer.de/wms/instances/KOB/appDE/nav\\_product.php?product=OP-978-3-00-153183-4&world=BOOKS](http://www.kohlhammer.de/wms/instances/KOB/appDE/nav_product.php?product=OP-978-3-00-153183-4&world=BOOKS)
- Catarina Grilo, Aldo Chircop & José Guerreiro (2012): Prospects for Transboundary Marine Protected Areas in East Africa, Ocean Development & International Law, 43:3, 243-266  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00908320.2012.672297>
- Borah J., Wangchuk D., Swargowari A., Wangchuk T., Sharma T., Das D., Rabha N., Basumatari A., Kakati N., Ahmed M. F., Sharma A., Sarmah A., Dutta D. K., Lahkar B., Dorji T., Brahma P. K. Ramchiary L., Tempa T., Wangdi Y., Nedup T., Wangdi T., Tharchen L., Dhendup P., Bhobora C. R., Pandav B. and Vattakaven J. (2012). Tigers in Indo-Bhutan Transboundary Manas Conservation Complex. 2012. Technical report.
- Gorricho, J. (2012). Global Peacebuilding II: High time for environmental diplomacy in the Caribbean, <http://www.governanceanddevelopment.com/2012/11/global-peacebuilding-ii-high-time-for.html>
- Mackelworth, P. (2012). Peace parks and transboundary initiatives: implications for marine conservation and spatial planning. In: Conservation letters 5, pp 90-98.
- Phuntsho, K; Chettri, N; Oli, KP (2012). Mainstreaming community-based conservation in a

transboundary mountain landscape – Lessons from Kangchenjunga. Kathmandu: ICIMOD  
[http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-mainstreaming\\_community-based\\_conservation\\_in\\_a\\_transboundary\\_mountain\\_landscape.pdf](http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-mainstreaming_community-based_conservation_in_a_transboundary_mountain_landscape.pdf)

- Shaky, B; Chettri, N; Rawat, GS (2012). Transboundary landscape management framework for ecological and socioeconomic resilience. ICIMOD Working Paper 2012/7. Kathmandu: ICIMOD  
[http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-transboundary\\_landscape\\_management\\_framework\\_for\\_ecological\\_and\\_socioeconomic\\_resilience.pdf](http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-transboundary_landscape_management_framework_for_ecological_and_socioeconomic_resilience.pdf)
- ICIMOD (2012) Kailash Sacred Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative: A regional programme implementation plan (2012 – 2016). ICIMOD Working Paper 2012/5. Kathmandu: ICIMOD  
[http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-kslcdi\\_-\\_regional\\_programme\\_implementation\\_plan\\_2012\\_-\\_2016.pdf](http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-kslcdi_-_regional_programme_implementation_plan_2012_-_2016.pdf)
- Quinn, M.S., Broberg, L., Freimund, W. (eds). (2012). Parks, peace, and partnership: Global initiatives in transboundary conservation. University of Calgary Press  
<http://uofcpress.com/books/9781552386422>
- Schoon, Michael L. (forthcoming) “Governance Structures in Transboundary Conservation: How Institutional Evolution Influences Cross-Border Cooperation”, *Conservation and Society*.
- Ali, S. (2012). Designing the ecological peace in Korea. National Geographic website.  
<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2011/12/23/designing-ecological-peace-in-the-koreas/>

#### Presentations:

During the whole year (2012) I was on maternity leave and thus didn't attend any meetings and conferences. However, the Group members attended the following events.

- Preparatory meeting for DMZ motion development for the World Conservation Congress and TBC SG-BfN-KNPS workshop, 26 April 2012, Seoul, Korea. Organised by KNPS. Attended by Boris Erg
- EUROPARC TransParcNet meeting, Pasvik-Inari Park, Finland-Norway-Russia, 11-14 June 2012. Organised by Metsähallitus. Attended by Boris Erg (TBC SG Coordinator for Europe)
- Rio +20. Workshop: At the crossroads of conservation and development: transboundary natural resource governance for enhanced cooperation, security and livelihoods in border regions, 17 June 2012. Organised by DGCS, IUCN, and WCPA. Attended by Tomasz Pezold and Olivier Chassot (TBC SG Coordinator for Mesoamerica)
- Transboundary Master Planning of the Lower Jordan River Basin, Amman, Jordan, 9–11 September 2012. Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute. Attended by Kevan Zunckel (TBC SG Coordinator for East and Southern Africa)
- Good Water Neighbours conference, Jericho, The Palestinian Authority, 12-13 September 2012. Organised by Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME). Attended by Kevan Zunckel
- 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on Protected Areas and Ecological Networks, 18-19 September 2012, Strasbourg, France. Attended by Tomasz Pezold
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Jeju, Korea. Workshop: Sharing benefits and values from transboundary conservation, 11 September 2012. Organised by WCPA TBC SG, BfN, and Korea National Park Service. Attended by Boris Erg, Olivier Chassot
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Jeju, Korea. Workshop: Marine Peace Park and transboundary issues, 8 September 2012. Organised by Korea Maritime Institute. Attended by Olivier Chassot, Boris Erg, Jungho Nam, Peter Shadie (TBC SG Senior Advisor)
- International Conference on HEART OF BORNEO +5 and Beyond “Shaping and Nurturing Sabah’s Future Together”, Sabah, Malaysia, 6-7 November 2012. Attended by Rahimatsah Amat (TBC SG Coordinator for Asia)
- Strengthening Transboundary Conservation Collaboration between Nigeria and Cameroon, Calabar, Nigeria, 6 December 2012. Organised by Wildlife Conservation Society. Attended by Andrew Dunn (TBC SG Coordinator for West and Central Africa)

#### Strategic Stakeholder Communication

- Under Boris Erg's leadership, good relations and communication was established with EUROPARC Federation. In 2013 we are looking at discussing concrete cooperative projects.
- Tanya Rosen furthered communication with the UNEP/Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat on their project proposal 'Towards integrating migratory species needs in the designation and management of networks of critical sites'. Potential cooperation is envisaged should the project get funded. TBC SG is to help CMS fulfill some of the duties under the CMS Resolution on ecological networks.
- Also, under Tanya Rosen's leadership, we started cooperation with CMS, GIZ and range states to improve transboundary conservation of argali mountain sheep in Central Asian states with the plan to help draft a Memorandum of Understanding and develop a Conservation Action Plan.
- Kevan Zunckel and I communicated extensively with Peace Parks Foundation in order to obtain their support for the transboundary WCPA Best Practice Guideline. Finally, we agreed on their technical input, as well as membership of a number of PPF staff in TBC SG.

#### Contributions to media, website, newsletter

- Two issues of TB eNEWS, electronic newsletter prepared by TBC SG. Issues can be downloaded at [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net)
- Press release about IUCN-WCPA publication 'Initiating effective transboundary conservation' and an announcement about the Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners posted on a number of websites such as IUCN, WWF, IISD, [www.dinaricarc.net](http://www.dinaricarc.net), EUROPARC's newsletter
- All major transboundary-related news was also forwarded to the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme's Update, IUCN South-Eastern European Programme's newsletter, the Convention on Migratory Species Bulletin, and IUCN WCPA Mountains Biome Update.

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

#### FUNDS UTILISED IN 2012 *(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

##### Commission Operating Funds used *(Indicate total used in 2012 and use financial report for details)*

2.252,77 CHF used in 2012. The remaining funds (7747,23 CHF) are planned to be used for continuation of the TB eNEWS in 2013 and start up work on the revision of the WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation. We kindly ask the WCPA Chair to approve use of these funds in 2013. It is to be noted that BfN/BMU expressed interest in co-funding the Best Practice Guideline.

##### 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)*

No funds were raised in 2012, but fundraising pursuit during 2012 resulted with co-financing of the Best Practice Guideline by BfN/BMU in 2013.

##### In-Kind value *(Indicate the number of days you have worked on WCPA issues without remuneration)*

40 days

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

- Revision of the Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation.
- Evaluating and strengthening the diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation initiators.

#### GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2013 *(Indicate draft goals for 2012 pending approval by Commission Chair)*

**IUCN WCPA has 3 strategic directions in accordance with the IUCN Quadrennial Programme 2013-2016. Please identify your group's goals within this framework to demonstrate alignment with specific parts of the IUCN Programme agreed in Jeju.**

##### 1. VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

##### Goal 1: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network

- Manage and further expand the Specialist Group's website [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) which acts as a

platform for transboundary knowledge distribution and sharing

- Prepare two issues of e-bulletin TB eNEWS
- Continue sharing transboundary related information via an electronic listserv
- Promote the work of the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group at national, regional and international events
- Plan and coordinate activities for the IUCN World Parks Congress in 2014 (launch of the Best Practice Guideline, side-event)

**Goal 2: Web-based database on transboundary conservation complexes developed to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhance networking between managers of TBCAs**

- Continue working towards developing a global interactive database of transboundary conservation complexes, containing all relevant information on Transboundary Conservation Areas
- Ensure linkages with UNEP WCMC's Protected Planet portal.

**2. GOVERNING NATURE'S USE AND SHARING ITS BENEFITS EQUITABLY**

**Goal 1: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas**

- Revise WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation with the view of launching the publication at the World Parks Congress in 2014
- Actively fundraise for the development of the improved edition of the *Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners* (in three IUCN languages) based on its testing in various regions and ecosystems worldwide
- Explore grounds for the establishment of a Transboundary Legal Resource Centre
- Support the Convention on Migratory Species in fostering regional cooperation on conservation and sustainable use of argali in Central Asia
- Promote and encourage cooperative management in transboundary conservation areas
- Support establishment and functioning of regional initiatives and agreements leading to enhanced transboundary cooperation and biodiversity conservation

**3. DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

**Goal 1: Transboundary conservation complexes contribute to meeting the global challenges**

- Support research on the importance of transboundary conservation as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation responses

**REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2013**

- Modest recommendation to new WCPA leadership: hopefully good internal communication with WCPA Groups as when Nik Lopoukhine was the Chair can be continued.
- As WCPA volunteers, we spend a lot of time on coordinating activities, finding suitable representatives for various events, advising on event agendas, responding to numerous emails, forwarding communication, not to mention project developments and many other issues. Fundraising, as known, is a job on its own, which we do, again, voluntarily, hoping that a project we are seeking funds for will provide certain conservation benefits. I feel that both GPAP and WCPA could try to support the SGs in this particular effort in a more efficient way.

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

**FEEDBACK BY DIRECTOR: GLOBAL PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAMME ON REPORT**

(comments will be sent via email)