



WCPA
WORLD COMMISSION
ON PROTECTED AREAS



TBPA in Focus
The World's First
International
Peace Park

GREATER
MAPUNGBWE
AND LIMPOPO TO
BENEFIT FROM
NEW TOURIST
BORDER POSTS

CAMBODIA-
THAI RANGERS
TRAINING

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Transboundary Conservation

TBeNEWS 3

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News from the TBC SG Executive Committee



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Welcome to the 3rd issue of the TB eNEWS! As always, we are thankful to all of you who contributed to this issue and help share information about transboundary conservation activities worldwide.



We would like to welcome a new member of the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group's (TBC SG) Executive Committee, **Andrew Dunn**. Andrew joined the Executive Committee as the Regional Coordinator for Central and West Africa in January 2011,

when Anna Spenceley decided to leave us due to her moving from Rwanda to South Africa. Anna is also now chairing IUCN WCPA's Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group. We are grateful for her valuable support in the Executive Committee during the 2010!

Andrew is Nigeria Country Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society and has more than 20 years of experience in protected area management. He is currently helping to coordinate a transboundary initiative between Cameroon and Nigeria. We are happy to have Andrew on the team!

The TBC SG members, **Michelle Lim** and **Tanya Rosen**, have been working intensely on the development of a survey to identify important issues and challenges of transboundary conservation, results of which will feed into the transboundary legal project concept. The ultimate goal is to establish a

virtual Legal Resource Centre to collect available knowledge about legal aspects of transboundary conservation initiatives and develop new tools. We acknowledge greatly dedicated work of Michelle and Tanya in pursuing this goal, and we also thank **Prof. Paul Martin**, Director of the Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law, University of New England, for his guidance and support in the development of the survey. The survey will be distributed to the TBC SG network members and we would appreciate your input.

The Executive Team would like to stress that the entire work of the TBC SG is on voluntary basis, thus we greatly appreciate all your contributions, from providing advices when needed, undertaking the collection of contacts for the future database of transboundary conservation areas, contributing to the newsletters, updating the membership database (**Naomi Doak's** excellent work!) and many other activities you are involved in and contributing to the work of the Specialist Group.

Note:

We received a note of correction about the photograph of children, which accompanied the article 'Balkans Peace Park (B3P) Summer Programmes 2010' in the last issue of the TB eNEWS. The author of that photograph is Su Jones. Please accept our apologies for the mistake.

We look forward to receiving more news from you.
Thank you for your cooperation!

Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
Executive Committee
IUCN WCPA

The World's First International Peace Park

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was born of an idea by Rotarians throughout Alberta and Montana. At the first annual goodwill meeting between clubs from the United States and Canada, a resolution to proclaim the two parks jointly as the world's first international peace park passed unanimously. Looking back it is amazing how quickly the idea of celebrating peaceful relations spread as just one year later, in 1932, the governments of Canada and the United States jointly fulfilled the Rotarian's dream and officially created Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

Name:	WATERTON - GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK
Countries:	Canada and the United States
Surface:	457,600 ha
IUCN Category:	II
Designations:	Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site



Waterton-Glacier remains a monument not only to peaceful coexistence between nations, but also as a model on how to jointly manage natural resources. While each country directly manages their own lands, cooperation between park wardens, rangers, and managers continues to be a key ingredient in dealing with threats and issues. Notable examples of cooperative efforts include forest fire response, search and rescue efforts, and wildlife management policies. Currently efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into park waters are being jointly planned between the two park staffs.

While reviewing the World Heritage nomination of Waterton-Glacier, IUCN evaluators were impressed by the parks' outstanding geologic features that combine extremely old Proterozoic sedimentary rocks, a massive overthrust fault, ancient blue-green algae fossils called stromatolites, and spectacular glaciated landscapes. It is those geologic features that have combined to produce an amazing array of habitats for plants and animals. Five floristic provinces

overlap in the park, allowing prairie, montane, and alpine species to mix in new ways. Although substantially smaller than either Yellowstone to the south, or the four large Canadian Rocky Mountain parks to the north, Waterton-Glacier is much more floristically diverse and contains 18 endemic species. No doubt this biological diversity has been aided by the fact that three major river systems originate in the park. Rainfall in Waterton-Glacier may end up in Hudson Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Pacific Ocean. Those river systems have provided the pathways for species to migrate upstream and establish the diverse communities found within the park boundaries. Those outstanding natural features, combined with the parks' historically significant cultural history were recognized in 1995 when UNESCO inscribed Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park on the list of World Heritage Sites.

Today a visitor boating down the lake, from the town of Waterton, in Waterton Lakes National Park, to the Ranger Station at Goat Haunt, in Glacier National Park, may not even notice the border between the two nations. Marked only by cairns and a small swath of cleared land, the dividing line is transparent to the species that live here and to the friendship our two nations share.

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Glacier National Park
<http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>

Waterton Lakes National Park
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/index.aspx>

Greater Mapungubwe and Limpopo to Benefit from New Tourist Border Posts



© Limpopo Transboundary Programme

Continuous efforts are made in creating a favourable environment for transfrontier tourism between South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The creation of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) and the adjacent Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (GMTFCA) offers new opportunities for tourism development in the region. The Joint Management Board of GLTP is discussing the options and opportunities for new transboundary tourism products, taking advantage of the values offered by Gonarezhou, Kruger and Limpopo National Parks. At the same time the Trilateral Technical Committee of the GMTFCA is evaluating strategies and actions to promote tourism between the three countries.

Transfrontier parks have to offer simple and efficient mechanisms to enable circulation of tourists without the complication of border controls. A successful example is offered by the Kalagadi Transfrontier Park, where visitors can move freely within the park in Botswana and South Africa, the experience of which can be translated to GLTP and GMTFCA. To address security issues, Defence Ministers of South Africa and Zimbabwe agreed

in establishing two border posts in Limpopo, linking the two transfrontier parks. An assessment visit in the GMTFCA was recently organized to identify possible crossing points for tourists.

The Limpopo Transfrontier Programme (LTP) is proposing a 4x4 route linking GMTFCA and GLTP. Opportunities for tourism development in Crook's Corner in Pafuri are under review, and similar activities to assess options for eco-tourism will soon take place on the Zimbabwean side. Exchange visits involving representatives of communities of GLTP are planned to raise awareness about successful involvement of communities in eco-tourism.



© Limpopo Transboundary Programme



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Joint Cambodian-Thai Ranger Training Workshop



© The Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation

Building on the success of the first Thai-Cambodian transboundary protected area workshop in Trat City (March 2010), the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation (MJP) hosted the first ever park management training workshop in Samlout, Cambodia, in December 2010. The United States National Park Service rangers from Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park and the IUCN participated as trainers in the workshop. Thai and Cambodian park rangers, law enforcement officers and regional directors representing the three protected areas (Samlout Protected Area in Cambodia; Krea Wai Wildlife Sanctuary and Namtok Khlong Kaew National Park in Thailand) practiced their ranger skills as one ranger unit for two weeks. At the conclusion of the training, the rangers requested more joint transboundary projects such as joint biodiversity surveys and wildlife monitoring training on Asian elephants and tigers.

The Samlout/Thai ecoregion covers approximately 110,000 hectares of relatively in-tact tropical forests and still hosts the Asian elephant and the Indochinese tiger. The three protected areas together constitute a potential Peace Park where cooperation between the Thai and Cambodian governments could work toward tighter control over illegal activities that are currently ravaging these protected areas, regional sustainable development interventions and conflict resolution.

MJP began its conservation programme in Samlout in 2003, and in 2008 it offered its assistance to the Cambodian and Thai Governments in designing a transboundary Peace Park to promote peace and cooperation between the two countries. National Security is no longer only about armed forces or national guards. It is about maintaining healthy green environments to secure water and food for all populations, especially in rural, low income countries

where the destruction of forests and natural habitats to feed the demands of wealthy urban dwellers is creating more internal and cross border conflicts. It is time that we add environmental security to our lexicon and place trust in an old faithful medium.

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International Workshop on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Areas in Latin America



© Gianfranco Tamburelli

Ukraine: An interesting international workshop “Sustainable Management of Natural Resources” was held at the National University Taras Schevchenko in Kyiv on the 4 November 2010. The two principal topics of the workshop were: the implementation of the commitments on climate change under the Kyoto Protocol, and the implications of the sustainable development principle on the management of natural ecosystems.

The aim of the workshop was to analyze, in cooperation with the National Research Council of Italy, current trends and guiding principles at the international level, and to identify main issues and priority actions at the national level. In this context, special attention was given to protected areas and sustainable and eco-tourism activities. The representative of the IUCN Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, Gianfranco Tamburelli, highlighted the values and opportunities offered by internationally designated and transboundary protected areas. The cases of the East Carpathians and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserves were considered. The workshop participants agreed that it would be useful to assess the material and sacred benefits generated by transboundary protected areas in the medium to long term. Further research has been suggested and the means of strengthening international cooperation will be explored before the 2nd international workshop to be held in October 2011 in Kyiv.

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Argentina: The State University of Buenos Aires, and in particular Professor Lillian del Castillo, organized, under the auspices of the Italian Scientific Attaché Office, a Seminar on: 2010 AÑO DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD – El Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CBD) – Conservación y Desarrollo Sostenible, held at the Faculty of Law on 17 November 2010 in Buenos Aires. The multidisciplinary approach used to analyze current issues concerning biodiversity protection and sustainable management of protected areas was greatly appreciated by the participants (researchers, students, experts) and the speakers themselves.

Special attention was given to the results of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 10) in Nagoya, Japan. José Luis Sutera, Adviser of the Directorate General of Environmental Affairs - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, gave a wide ranging talk on this issue. Afterwards, the debate focused on the Ramsar Convention and the sustainable management of transboundary protected areas, particularly those involving Argentina. The open issues concerning the development of some activities – like mining – were discussed.

The representative of the IUCN Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, Gianfranco Tamburelli, expressed some concern about the effectiveness of the legal regimes governing transboundary protected areas in Latin America. The participants agreed on the need to further analyse the legal and institutional means for sound management of the existing transboundary protected areas and the establishment of new ones.

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Mesoamerican Corridor at the 14th IberoMAB Conference



© Karl Heinz Gaudry

Mexico: The 14th IberoMAB meeting, also known as the Iberoamerican Conference “Biosphere Reserves: All Hands, All Voices” in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, from 9 to 14 November 2010. IberoMAB is a network organized almost 20 years ago within the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), involving 24 Latin American, Caribbean countries, Spain and Portugal. The network serves the purpose of promoting the concept and creation of new Biosphere Reserves in the region.

The conference was organized around five themes, corresponding to the working commissions agreed in 2007 and the UNESCO MAB 2008-2013 Action Plan (known as the Madrid Action Plan (MAP)). The main outcomes of the meeting were the IberoMAB Action Plan (2010-2020) and the Puerto Morelos Declaration. The IberoMAB Action Plan (IAP) articulates 29 targets for the regional development and global change resilience. The IAP, like the MAP, is organized by targets, actions and responsibilities for actions accordingly. While MAP has a time frame of five years (2008-2013), the IAP has a 10-year timeframe ending in 2020.

Puerto Morelos Declaration, drafted during the conference, called for the inclusion of Biosphere Reserves into the financing systems for studies of the effect of the measures for adaptation to, and mitigation of global climate change.

Central to the conference was the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (CBM), development of which was inspired by the Biosphere Reserve model. The conference participants emphasized that in addition to its conservation function, the CBM serves as a model for regional development. It promotes the idea that biodiversity conservation, including transboundary conservation cannot be achieved if poverty reduction and socio-economic pressures are not simultaneously addressed at the landscape level.

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Peace Park Expeditions

International Peace Park Expeditions had an exciting end to 2010, and a busy start to 2011. We are very proud of our mini-documentary *Transcending Boundaries: Perspectives from Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park* (<http://vimeo.com/18399334>), produced with the Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security and The Collaborative; helping give the Blackfeet Native American perspective a voice amongst many stakeholders in this transboundary peace park region between the US and Canada.



We are currently raising funds for an Experiential Peacebuilding Expedition that we are developing with the Blackfeet Community College, the Red Crow Community College and the local Rotary Clubs in the US and Canada, for July 2011. We are excited about our upcoming accredited academic expedition in Albania, UNMIK Kosovo and Montenegro, May 28 - June 13, 2011 in partnership with Saleem Ali and the University of Vermont, *Conservation Beyond Borders: Exploring the Proposed Balkans Peace Park*. Registration closes March 15, 2011. Academic expedition in Parque Internacional La Amistad, between Costa Rica and Panama, is rescheduled for January 2012, in partnership with the



United Nations mandated University for Peace, Community Participation in Transboundary Conservation.

Finally, we are actively seeking funders and collaborators for our Collaborative Mapping Technology Trainings in both Central America and the Balkans, and our Experiential Peacebuilding Expeditions in the Balkans and Waterton-Glacier.

Please contact International Peace Park Expeditions, Executive Director, Todd Walters (todd@peaceparkexpeditions.org) if you are interested in learning more about IPPE and our programs, and if you see potential opportunities to collaborate with your project or organization.

Websites:
<http://peaceparkexpeditions.org>,
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New Transboundary MPA Network for the Grenada Bank

A new transboundary marine protected area (MPA) network has been established for the Grenada Bank, an archipelago of more than 30 islands and cays containing the most extensive coral reefs and related habitats in the southeastern Caribbean. On 26 January 2011, representatives of Sandy Island/Oyster Bed MPA and Molinière-Beauséjour MPA in Grenada, and Tobago Cays Marine Park in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, meeting on the island of Carriacou, signed an agreement establishing the Grenadines MPA Network. Government representatives from both countries and other partners were present for the signing.

This agreement grew out of a Regional Networking and Planning workshop that was held with the park representatives on priority needs for effective management of the three MPAs and possible approaches to improving communications among them. The workshop was part of a larger project, "Building stronger linkages among MPAs on the Grenada Bank," coordinated by the non-profit organization, Sustainable Grenadines, Inc., which is active in both countries. This project was made possible by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme through the Small Grant Program coordinated by CaMPAM and GCFI with funding from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the Caribbean Challenge initiative. Support was also provided by the US National Fish and Wildlife Service.

The three MPAs are currently considering recommendations for coordinated activities, such as strengthening com-



© C.Morrall

munications efforts, working together on project proposals, and cooperating on monitoring work such as annual Reef Checks in each MPA. These all will build on the spirit of collaboration that prevailed at the workshop. The transboundary network also hopes to invite other new or future MPAs on the Grenada Bank to participate as well, and to continue pursuit of a transboundary World Heritage Site.

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Establishing a Community Conservation Area in the Upper uThukela Valley

When the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site (UDP WHS) was established in the mid-1900s, there was a substantial portion of this mountain bioregion that was in Traditional Authority land (formerly known as Traditional land), and thus excluded from the protected area. The UDP WHS is located in the KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN) of South Africa and shares a boundary with the Kingdom of Lesotho.

When the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site (UDP WHS) was established in the mid-1900s, there was a substantial portion of this mountain bioregion that was in Traditional Authority land (formerly known as Traditional land), and thus excluded from the protected area. The UDP WHS is located in the KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN) of South Africa and shares a boundary with the Kingdom of Lesotho.

To the north of the Traditional Authority land is the Royal Natal National Park, which was included in the World Heritage listing and is managed by the same authority, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The traditional area which has two portions under the leadership of the amaNgwane and amaZizi Traditional Authorities is thus a gap in the UDP WHS, and is known as the Upper uThukela Valley. Closing this gap was one of the objectives of the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project (MDTP) through engaging with these Traditional Authorities and their communities in a process to establish a Community Conservation Area (CCA).

The MDTP partnered with a number of stakeholders and invested significant resources between 2003 and 2008 towards integrating sustainable land management practices and building capacity within the communities. An outcome of these efforts was the establishment of a number of community-based committees within each of the traditional areas who are still in existence and are working hard towards the reclamation of

erosion gullies, the monitoring of San Rock Art, the identification and establishment of wilderness areas and the management of livestock grazing.

More recently, the KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme has joined efforts to secure the conservation status of the Valley and assist the communities to establish their CCA. This process has confirmed that the area has high biodiversity value and is worthy of Stewardship Agreements. The next step has been to compile a management plan that will contribute to the drawing up of Stewardship Agreements and the eventual proclamation of the two Traditional Areas as Nature Reserves (according to the relevant South African legislative framework). The management planning process has progressed well and there is agreement amongst the communities on a vision and management objectives.

The process is slow and deliberate in recognition of the need to ensure that all community stakeholders participate in the process and take ownership of the outcomes. So far it appears as if the closing of this gap is becoming a reality. Consolidation of the UDP WHS may take a little longer, but the building blocks are being put in place.

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Figure 1: While the area hosts important biodiversity features, cultural heritage is also an important feature. This figure shows the 'gap' between the two portions of the UDP WHS, the western boundary shared with Lesotho and the proposed eastern boundary that delineates the CCA (source: The African Conservation Trust).

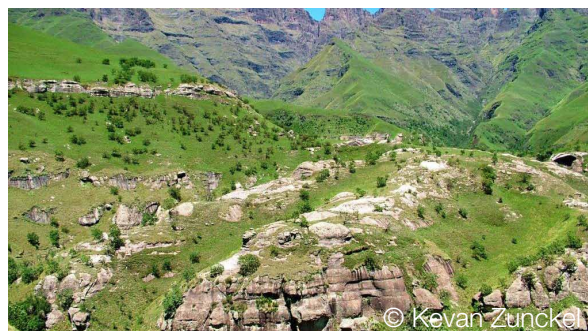


Figure 2: The Busingathi Wall to the Eastern Buttress in the amaZizi portion of the proposed CCA (photo by Kevan Zunckel). The top of the escarpment represents the international boundary with Lesotho.

EUROPARC Follows Nature Design



© Martin Šolar

Europe is made up of a variety of landscapes embedded in cultural identity. Such natural systems know no boundaries, and to achieve ecological coherence in Europe, protecting and managing Europe's natural resources in a sustainable way, as well as preventing or mitigating environmental threats, cannot be accomplished by one country alone. Cross-border cooperation in nature conservation brings its own particular challenges, adding another layer of complexity to the already difficult task of managing a protected area. The need to provide an independent practical transboundary management system was recognised by EUROPARC Federation which works towards raising awareness regarding the common responsibility for the border regions, as well as values and benefits of transboundary cooperation between protected areas. The EUROPARC's Transboundary Parks - Following Nature's Design initiative is an independent verification and certification system that promotes and facilitates transboundary cooperation between European protected areas. Through the certification process, transboundary protected areas can more effectively manage its natural resources and aspire to be models of sustainable development based on the principles that seek to harmonise the needs of people to use natural areas, yet fundamentally

protect the intrinsic value of nature itself, across borders. So far, EUROPARC has certified 8 transboundary complexes, including 17 protected areas and covering 10 countries. TransParcNet, a network of those working in transboundary complexes, has grown. The TransParcNet is being facilitated by the EUROPARC and it forms an innovative platform for further development of European transboundary cooperation, for safeguarding cross-border biodiversity ecosystem services and cultural landscapes, as well as inspiring and encouraging people to better understand the importance of transboundary approaches. The Transboundary Parks - Following Nature's Design provides for greater European integration in nature protection, translating the common European vision into practice.

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EUROPARC's transboundary programmes:
<http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/transboundary-parks>

Next TransParcNet meeting:

<http://www.europarc.org/whats-on/events/2011/06/07>

New cross-border manual (2010):

<http://www.europarc.org/uploaded/documents/455.pdf>

Framework for Action: Conservation and Peace



© Maja Vasilijevic

South Korea: International Conference on the Conservation and Peaceful Use of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was held at the DMZ Museum in Gosong, South Korea, from 11-13 November 2010. The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Gangwon Province, Gyeonggi Province, and organized in cooperation with the Korean National Parks Service, IUCN, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, UNESCO and several other partners.

The participants, ranging from research institutions, NGOs, government, international organisations and other sectors, agreed to adopt a Framework for Action for the DMZ. The document, drafted by IUCN and WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, sets a number of recommendations for achieving conservation, peace and local development in the DMZ between North and South Korea. It is seen as a mechanism for moving forward proposals to achieve multiple and joint objectives of the two countries relating to conservation of nature, sustainable use and peace in the DMZ. The Framework for Action introduces ten guiding principles for initiating transboundary cooperation between the two countries:

- Developing a shared vision
- Developing a DMZ Conservation Master Plan



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- Adopting a stepwise approach to achieve a larger vision
- Assessing Peace Park feasibility
- Transparent implementation that drives change from different levels
- Engaging international support
- Supporting the local needs of the Republic of Korea
- Supporting the capacity needs of the Democratic Republic of Korea
- Realistic timeframes
- Adaptive nature of the Framework for Action depending to changing circumstances.

Nik Lopoukhine, IUCN WCPA Chair, presented experiences of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, followed by presentations and interventions of Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group members: Peter Shadie, Boris Erg, Kevan Zunckel, and Maja Vasilijevic.

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Nature Scholarship for Young Conservationists

Three young European conservationists will be awarded with €3,000 each to undertake a study visit to protected areas in European countries other than their own. The Alfred Toepfer Natural Heritage Scholarships, donated by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation from Germany and the EUROPARC Federation, provide an excellent opportunity for scholars under

35 years of age to experience protected areas out of their countries and to strengthen their professional networks. The deadline for applications is 20 May 2011.

Guidelines and more information on the application procedure can be found at: <http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/alfred-toepfer-schol/scholarship-registra>.



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Binding Award for the Green Belt Promoters

Liechtenstein: The Binding Prize is awarded to individuals or organisations working in nature conservation. The latest awards ceremony of the Binding Prize focused on individuals who have been engaged in protection of the European Green Belt for many years. In November 2010, the recipients of the Award were: Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby (Project Manager, EuroNatur), Borut Stumberger (former President of DOPPS-BirdLife Slovenia and Regional Coordinator for the protection of migratory birds in South-Eastern Europe at EuroNatur), Dr. Uwe Riecken (Head of habitat protection and management of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation), Dr.

Kai Frobelt (Species protection officer and initiator of the project "Green Belt Germany"), and Alois Lang (former Coordinator of the European Green Belt initiative at IUCN).

The European Green Belt spans around 13,000 km from the Barents to the Adriatic and Black Seas and unites once divided countries along the so called Iron Curtain. With the aim of becoming the backbone of an ecological network, it is a symbol of transboundary conservation on a continental scale.

For further information, please visit www.binding.li.

Restoring the Natural Heart of Europe



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Belgium: During the European Presidency conference, high level EU officials confirmed wilderness should play a role in the EU's Post-2010 Biodiversity Strategy. The event 'Restoring the Natural Heart of Europe', held on 16-17 November in Brussels, provided an opportunity to review the success stories of restoration across Europe, learn of ambitious plans for new areas and initiate development of a joint strategy for large scale restoration. The conference brought together representatives of ministries, NGOs, academics and field practitioners to share good examples of restoration and to discuss several issues important for a wilder Europe, including a vision, benefits, management, policy, communication and funding.

The substantive involvement of the European Commission (EC) is extremely valuable for the European wilderness movement. Kurt Vandenberghe, Head of Cabinet for the DG Environment Commissioner, clearly stated the EC's aim to introduce the wilderness concept into European policy by including it in the EU's Post-2010 Biodiversity Strategy. He even has put the concept into a broader view of green economy, and promoted the inte-

gration of wilderness approach into the EU's reformed Agriculture Policy, Cohesion Policy and the new EU Budget.

Describing another significant plan, Stefan Leiner, Head of Natura 2000 unit, emphasised that development of a Wilderness Register would proceed in 2011 and specific guidelines for wilderness management within Natura 2000 sites would be compiled.

The conference participants also discussed large scale restoration strategies that will need to be based on comprehensive consultation over the next few months - aiming to build practical consensus with farming, forestry, land-owning, business and urban, social, as well as conservation interests.

PAN Parks Foundation – also part of the Wild Europe Initiative - was both among the organisers of the conference and presented its support for restoration initiatives.

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Integrated Protection of the Transboundary Prespa Region



© Aleksandar Ivanovski

Macedonia: A regional conference on the integrated protection of the transboundary Prespa Lakes region shared by Albania, Greece and Macedonia was held on 17-18 February in Ohrid, Macedonia. The conference was organized under the auspice of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Macedonia, with support of the Galicica National Park authority, KfW, UNESCO and UNDP.

One of the main objectives of the conference was to discuss potentials for establishing a transboundary Prespa Lake Biosphere Reserve. The Prespa Lakes (Prespa Lake and Mikri "Small" Prespa Lake) region is home to exceptional natural and cultural values. The lakes comprise a number of protected areas including the Macedonian Pelister and Galicica National Parks, and Ezerani Nature Reserve / Ramsar site, Mikri Prespa National Park / Ramsar site in Greece, as well as Prespa National Park in Albania. The nearby Ohrid Lake is designated as a World Heritage Site. There is a long history

of conservation efforts in this important transboundary area. In 2000 the prime ministers of the three countries signed a joint declaration on the establishment of a transboundary Prespa Park, reinforcing the commitment ten years later by signing the Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area.

Due to its richness in natural and cultural values, as well as the significance of shared water resources, any future effort in this area will have to recognize the principles of integrated and participatory management. The concept of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves endorses the above principles, and its application is seen as one of the ways forward for the transboundary Prespa Lake region.

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WCPA and SSC Join Forces on Biodiversity and Protected Areas

WCPA Steering Committee meeting

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Chair, Nik Lopoukhine, and Species Survival Commission (SSC) Chair, Simon Stuart, have launched a joint Task Force to address the interrelation between species and protected area conservation. The Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas has two principal objectives:

- 1) To conduct a meta-study to elucidate which factors increase the probability of protected area success in safeguarding biodiversity, especially of threatened species.;
- 2) To facilitate a process to consolidate the global standards and criteria for the identification of sites of biodiversity conservation significance, as targets for protected area expansion and management, building on nearly three decades of work in systematic conservation planning and practice, and drawing on IUCN's power to convene scientific stakeholders to generate conservation standards (as demonstrated by e.g., the IUCN Red List, the PA management categories).

The Terms of Reference of the joint task force is posted on http://www.iucn.org/biodiversity_and_protected_areas_taskforce in the three official IUCN languages.

The summary workplan can be found at the following link http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ssc_wcpa_summary_workplan.pdf.



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The yearly WCPA Steering Committee meeting will be held in Gland (IUCN) and Aubonne in Switzerland on 4-8 April 2011. The WCPA will discuss future plans of the Commission and review the last year's achievements of its Specialist Groups and Task Forces. Special emphasis will be given to the preparation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), which will be held in South Korea in September 2012. WCC's theme is Nature+, which signifies the linkages of nature to every aspects of our lives.

More information about WCPA can be found at <http://www.iucn.org/wcpa>
Further information about WCC, Jeju, South Korea: http://www.iucn.org/2012_congress/



Applications for MSc in Protected Area Management

Announcement of 2011 Conferences of Interest



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Applications for the next class of Master of Science programme 'Management of Protected Areas' at the University of Klagenfurt can now be submitted. The class of 2009 finishes in July 2011, while the next class begins in September this year. The international MSc programme offers comprehensive understanding of aims and roles of protected areas in relation to biodiversity conservation and regional development, including a range of tools for the management of protected areas. The programme was designed by E.C.O. Institute of Ecology and the University of Klagenfurt, in cooperation with a range of partners, including IUCN, WWF, Ramsar Secretariat, CBD Secretariat etc.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications until 30 June 2011.

More information at:
<http://mpa.e-c-o.at/application.html>

The VIII International Conference on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, 2-15 July 2011, Havana, Cuba. The overall event will include five congresses, among others the 8th Congress on Protected Areas, the 3rd Congress on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management, and the 2nd International Congress on Climate Change. More information at: <http://www.cubambiente.com>

2nd World Biodiversity Congress, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 8-12 September 2011. More information at: <http://www.worldbiodiversity2011.com>.

Workshop: Protected Areas as Tools for Regional Development - Perspectives for Research and Management, Parc Naturel Regional de la Chartreuse, France, 13-15 October 2011. More information at: www.iscar-alpineresearch.org.

BISE Portal Launch

The Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) is a partnership between the European Commission (DG Environment, Joint Research Centre and Eurostat) and the European Environment Agency (EEA). BISE incorporates the network of the European Clearing House Mechanism within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It is a portal that brings together facts and figures on biodiversity and

ecosystem services, links to related policies, environmental data centres, assessments and research findings from various sources.



To access the portal please visit: <http://biodiversity.europa.eu/>.

ECONNECT



The EU funded project ECONNECT: Restoring the web of life, is coming to an end mid this year. With work being carried out in seven pilot sites in the European Alps, some of which are of transboundary nature, the project aims at securing an ecological continuum across the Alpine region. The project focused on protecting biodiversity through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach aimed at encouraging the promotion of an ecological connectivity. One of the key tasks was to create and test in the chosen pilot sites a methodology, including potential measures supporting the establishment of ecological networks. Besides protected areas, ECONNECT paid attention to the areas outside of protected areas and how ecological networks may affect spatial development and economic activities, thus undertaking a holistic approach in the development of networks.

In December 2010, the last conference of the so called 'legal barriers work package' was held in Italy, at which the

six national assessments of the legal frameworks of Austria, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Slovenia, were presented to the public. Nature protection, spatial planning, ecological connectivity and transboundary cooperation form part of these assessments.

The final Conference of the ECONNECT project will take place in Berchtesgaden, Germany on 26-28 September 2011, when the project partners will present the project results and discuss them with the participants.

Further information: <http://www.econnectproject.eu>



Designation of Drava-Mura Regional Park in Croatia

In February 2011, the Croatian Government declared protection of a Regional Park Mura Drava, one of the most valuable river ecosystems in Central Europe. The Regional Park is located in the northernmost part of Croatia, and is seen as the Croatian basis for the potential future designation of a UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve which would involve also Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, and Serbia.

River Drava is one of the largest tributaries of the Danube River, while Mura is the main tributary of Drava. The three rivers are of exceptional importance as they contain some of the last remaining semi-natural to fully-natural lowland watercourses in Central Europe, including the variety of wet habitats which host numerous endangered and pro-

tected bird species (e.g. White-tailed Eagle, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Black Stork etc.). The Mura-Drava confluence in Croatia is considered as one of Europe's most valuable floodplain and wetland areas.

The Croatian and Hungarian governments signed an agreement on the establishment of a transboundary protected area in 2009. With the Regional Park designation in Croatia, transboundary cooperation between the two countries is about to progress. The grand vision of a Biosphere Reserve that could involve 5 countries would work towards protection of nature, sustainable development and support of scientific research.

More information: <http://www.dzpz.hr>

**2011 International Year of Forests
2011-2020 Decade of Biodiversity**

Announcing recent publications

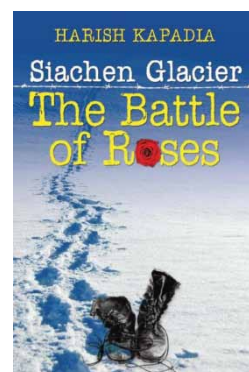
EXPERIENCES FROM THE CARPATHIANS: A MANUAL ON CREATION OF ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

The manual is based on a pilot project focusing on the establishment of ecological corridors connecting protected areas in Ukraine, Romania and Poland. It was published in 2010 by the State Agency for Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine, Altenburg & Wymenga Ecological Consultants, and InterEcoCentre. The manual can be downloaded at <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/NR/rdonlyres/9>.



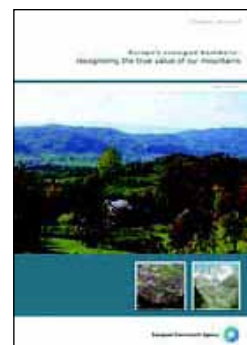
SIACHEN GLACIER: THE BATTLE OF ROSES

Written by Harish Kapadia, the book narrates the history, the political developments and state of environment of the Siachen, the longest glacier in the world outside the polar regions. Roses are found on the glacier giving its name - Sia, the rose. However, for the past 26 years, Indian and Pakistan armies have been battling it out for its control, paying a heavy price in terms of human lives, financial resources and environmental devastation. The book offers a suggestion to establish the 'Siachen Peace Park' to end this war and allow nature to regenerate. The book can be ordered at www.rupapublications.com.



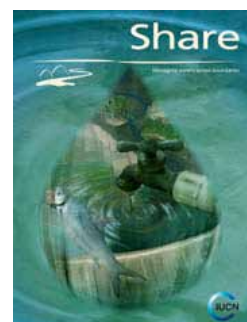
EUROPE'S ECOLOGICAL BACKBONE: RECOGNIZING THE TRUE VALUE OF OUR MOUNTAINS

This report by the European Environmental Agency (Report No 6/2010) was compiled by Martin F. Price. It includes sections on: Protected Areas, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Europe's Mountains, Ecosystem Services, Mountain People and Economies, etc. The report emphasizes social, economic and environmental importance of mountains in Europe, providing numerous case studies, regional, national or sub-national. Several boxes have been written by WCPA, including Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group members. It can be downloaded from: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-ecological-backbone>



SHARE: MANAGING WATER ACROSS BOUNDARIES

This publication was edited by Claudia Sadoff, Thomas Greiber, Mark Smith and Ger Bergkamp, and published by IUCN in 2008. It provides an overview of the world's shared water resources and insights for managing these resources. Using case studies from around the world, it describes the benefits to be gained from cooperation and the challenges of constructing legal frameworks, institutions, management processes and financing and partnership strategies to govern transboundary waters equitably and sustainably. Share presents practical tools in plain language to help practitioners and stakeholders conceptualize and implement cooperative, participatory and sustainable water management. It emphasizes the value of information, communication, institutions and adaptability. Download at <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2008-016.pdf>



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Guidelines for your contributions

The TB eNEWS contains information on your activities related to enhancement of transboundary conservation and cooperation. You are welcome to send us news about relevant projects and initiatives, to review any past event on transboundary conservation, and announce a future workshop, seminar, or a conference. We shall include any new publications, websites or funding opportunities that you send us.

In order to ensure all articles are included in one of our next issues, we would welcome contributions that contain up to 250 words in length. Please also include any graphic addition (photograph, logo, map or similar), indicating the credits. You are responsible for the content of your contributions and all articles should contain the name of the author and contact email.

This newsletter is being prepared by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, which reserves the right to edit and shorten the texts as appropriate.

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Thank you for your cooperation,

Transboundary Conservation
Specialist Group Executive Team

