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ON PROTECTED AREAS



BEAUTY AND THE BEEF

TBPA in Focus
Cooperation to
Save the Turtles:
Turtle Islands

EXPEDITION
REPORT:
CYCLING SILK

NEW VIDEO

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Transboundary Conservation

TBeNEWS 5

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2012



Welcome Note



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September is approaching. Leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, business and social organizations will soon gather at the largest conservation event IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), to be held in the Republic of Korea (Jeju) to discuss and bring forward solutions for the most pressing environmental and development issues in the world. One of the most guarded borders in the world, the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), is newly emerging as a wildlife sanctuary requiring integrated approach in safeguarding its natural heritage and peace on the peninsula. IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group has partnered with Korea National Park Service and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) to organize a 2-hour workshop on 11 September 2012 and discuss Korean DMZ future alongside experiences from the European Green Belt Initiative and lessons learnt from international transboundary conservation areas.



© Maja Vasilijevic

More details about the workshop titled *Sharing Benefits and Efforts from Transboundary Conservation* are available at the 2012 WCC website.

TBPA in Focus in the 5th issue of the TB eNEWS presents Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area, a marine transboundary site shared between Malaysia and the Philippines, where all efforts are focused on conservation of the marine turtle population. More news from marine

protected areas is featured in the French Atlantic Marine Area article. Kate Harris has reported on the exciting Cycling Silk expedition, covering 10,000 kilometres and visiting transboundary protected areas on the route from Turkey to India. In addition to the news from Asia, you have sent us transboundary conservation related articles from North America, Europe, and Africa, and as ever, enabled us to share information about your initiatives covering almost all continents! We thank everyone for your contributions and we are happy to continue to distribute news about your work in transboundary projects, to inform the wider community about problems and issues you deal with in your regions, and to enhance awareness about the need for cooperative work in nature conservation.

Special thanks to all of you who participated in the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group's Survey for the Legal Concept Paper, prepared and led by Michelle Lim and Tanya Rosen. The results of the survey are now ready and can be viewed at www.tbpa.net.

Further on, we invite our network members to put the link to www.tbpa.net on your transboundary projects' websites, to enable easier sharing of information about global transboundary conservation issues. In case you would like to feature your work in the *Members' Corner* section of our website, you are welcome to use this service!

*Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
Executive Committee
IUCN WCPA*

Cooperation to Save the Turtles: Turtle Islands



| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Name: | TURTLE ISLANDS HERITAGE PROTECTED AREA |
| Countries: | Malaysia and the Philippines |
| Surface: | 242,649 ha (total for the islands is 308.0 ha) |
| IUCN Category: | II |

Turtle Islands is an island group composed of nine islands, three of which are within Sabah, Malaysia (Bakkungan Kechil, Selingaan and Gulisaan), and six are in the Province of Tawi-Tawi, Philippines (Baguan, Taganak, Lihiman, Langaan, Bakkungan Besar and Boaan). This island group is managed by the Malaysian Sabah Parks and the Pawikan Conservation Project under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines. A bilateral agreement for the conservation and management of the marine turtle population in the Turtle Islands was reached on 31 May 1996. The agreement established the Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area (TIHPA) which represents the first marine transboundary protected area established globally. This initiative is now placed under the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion initiative and the Coral Triangle Initiative.

TIHPA, together with Berau Islands of Indonesia, form one of the few remaining major green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting habitats in the world where more than 1,000 turtles nest annually. While the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) also nests in the TIHPA, the majority nests in Gulisaan Island, Malaysia. In 2011, a total of 14,220 green turtle nests were recorded in Baguan, breaking the previous record of 12,311 nests in 1995. The 2011 figures translate to 2,844 nesting green turtles and 1.44 million turtle eggs laid.

Both the Malaysian and the Philippine Turtle Islands are inhabited. A total of 55 people reside on the Malaysian side, mainly Park staff, security personnel and a small number from private operator residing at Selingaan. On the Philippine side, there are about 6,000 people comprising

migrants of various ethnic backgrounds. Almost 72% of the residents live below poverty line with high degree of underemployment. The local economy is highly dependent on marine resources for subsistence with excess product marketed to nearby Sabah. Ecotourism has huge economic potential for the area, offering opportunities to witness turtle conservation initiatives, do bird watching, snorkelling, and visit a mud volcano in Lihiman and white sandy beaches.

The following are some of the areas of concern for TIHPA:

- Turtle eggs are collected by the local population and brought to Sandakan (Sabah, Malaysia) for sale, thus creating a serious threat to the conservation efforts;
- High incidence of intrusion in the vicinity of the Taganak Island;
- Illegal fishing; and
- The island group is a jump off point for smuggling and for illegal migrants to/from Sabah.

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Further reading:

http://oneocean.org/ambassadors/track_a_turtle/tihpa/index.html

<http://www.arbec.com.my/sea-turtles/tihpa1.php>

<http://www.sulusulawesi.net>

<http://www.coraltriangleinitiative.net>

The Lady with the Gun



© WWF Namibia

Memory Shakoi has an engaging smile. Dressed in a colourful chitenge, the simple cloth wrap that women wear for a skirt in Zambia, she seems like any other young lady in the village. Dressed in trousers, and with a rifle, she's a different proposition.

Memory is a village scout in Imosho district, just a few kilometres across the border from Namibia. There is little to separate the two countries at the border – there's no river, just a line on the map. On both sides there are trees, elephants; and poachers. As a village scout Memory is on the lookout for the tracks poachers leave, for snares, and sometimes for dead elephants.

Imosho is sparsely populated. The villages are within the borders of Sioma Ngwezi National Park. There are a few sandy tracks connecting the settlements, and one of them leads to the Namibian border. Rumours travel faster than vehicles here, and acting on a tip off Memory set up a road block, waiting for a car. When it arrived, there

were three men inside and a haul of elephant tusks. The poachers were taken by surprise by the two young ladies, who called the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), which arrived to arrest the poachers.

Memory's salary is paid by the WWF. Her job is to support the ZAWA park rangers in their anti-poaching efforts. But as elephants are no respecters of borders, the anti-poaching teams in both countries have to work together. Namibia and Zambia conduct joint anti-poaching patrols and discuss wildlife movement on a regular basis. Wildlife corridors are being established to link the five countries, allowing elephants to move from Botswana, where they are in great numbers, through Namibia and Zambia to traditional habitats in Angola.

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Advance Albania



© Tomasz Pezold IUCN

What can be done to help Albania—a country of rich natural wealth but where many people struggle to make ends meet? One plan under way is to get the country's national parks and other protected areas to support the needs of people as well as nature.

Despite its small size, Albania has a rich biological diversity and over a third of the country is covered in forests—home to wolves, bears, lynx, wild boar and many more species.

In a two-year project, experts from IUCN and the Italian Development Cooperation (DGCS), in close collaboration with Albania's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration, are identifying priority needs in safeguarding ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation. The project is targeting sustainable economic activities for local populations living near or within Shebenik-Jablanica National Park and Velipojë Protected Landscape, both selected for the vast ecosystem services they provide to people.

The project, led by IUCN, aims to actively involve the local population in shaping the future of Velipojë and Shebenik, training officials on the management of protected areas and raising awareness that will help local and national governments to better exploit the natural potential of these areas. Shebenik-Jablanica National Park and Velipojë Protected Landscape border with

Macedonia and Montenegro, respectively. The project will bring stakeholders together from Albania and these two countries to discuss their needs and views and, it is hoped, lead to a broader, systematic approach to conservation in the region.

The project (costing around € million) is financed by DGCS and its implementation is supported by two IUCN Members in Albania: Institute for Nature Conservation of Albania (INCA) and Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA).

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Networking for Migratory Species



© Ludwig Siege

Migratory animals often cover large distances during their annual journeys, linking different ecosystems and countries, and ignoring international borders. Clearly, conserving and sustainably managing these animals on the move requires international cooperation. The UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) acts as a catalyst for transboundary cooperation, and brings together range states and stakeholders to enable coordinated conservation efforts.

The 10th Conference of the Parties to CMS (November 2011, Bergen, Norway) highlighted the need for ecological networks to secure migration pathways. In

Resolution 10.3, CMS Parties called for the establishment of ecological networks for migratory species, and effective transboundary cooperation among all stakeholders concerned. At the same time, CMS launched a joint publication entitled “Living Planet: Connected Planet”, which illustrates migration routes and key threats to species such as snow leopards, red knots and saiga antelopes, and outlines a set of key recommendations in order to ensure animals can continue to undertake their long journeys.

CMS is working to implement this mandate to establish and maintain ecological networks, and to reinforce transboundary conservation of migratory species. Current projects include a case study on the White-eared kob migration between Ethiopia and South Sudan to help ensure that the spectacular transboundary migration of almost 1 million kobs is maintained. The project, which will be implemented by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) in collaboration with the Gambella Trans Frontier Conservation Task Force, will use satellite-collars and ground surveys to identify the ecological corridors of the species, provide training for law enforcement personnel, awareness raising and facilitation of transboundary cooperation through a participatory workshop, drawing on the expertise of CMS in strengthening learning, cooperation and synergies across different countries.

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Website:

www.cms.int; www.grida.no/publications/rr/living-planet/

Two Nations One Region: The Heart of the Continent Partnership Hosts International Community Congress



In October 2011, over 90 community leaders from Minnesota and Ontario, gathered for a multi-day forum to develop strategies for creating sustainable economies and promoting interest in public lands. Ten community teams participated in this innovative and collaborative international workshop that focused on communities that neighbor public lands. The session was based on The Conservation Fund's Balancing Nature and Commerce in Communities that Neighbor Public Lands training. Throughout the four days participants heard from a mix of guest speakers and completed team exercises that led to an action plan.

Ten teams included individuals from the National Parks, National Forest, Ontario Provincial Parks, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, county commissioners, a Tribal Chairman, city and township elected officials, a university chancellor, a former member of Canadian Parliament, a mining executive, and a number of small business, environmental groups, motor users, and non-profit organizations. The teams emerged from the Congress with concrete, workable action plans to improve the sustainability of their individual economies

and connect with other communities and their public lands in the broader Heart of the Continent region.

The Heart of the Continent Partnership, an American/Canadian coalition of local stakeholders and land managers, seeks to sustain and celebrate the health, beauty, diversity and productivity of the natural and cultural resources of the border lakes region through collaboration to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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Oulanka-Paanajärvi Potentially the First Transboundary PAN Park



© Minna Koramo

Oulanka National Park in North Finland has been a certified member in the PAN Parks network since 2002. The neighboring Paanajärvi National Park, on the Russian side of the border, has been a member since 2005. The long-term collaboration between the parks was acknowledged with the EUROPARC Transboundary Park certificate in 2005. Now the next logical step is to jointly apply for a PAN Parks certificate.

A joint PAN Parks membership requires that all the principles and criteria for certification are evaluated for the whole transboundary park. In park management this means preparing a summary of all the essential documents, including the management plan and sustainable tourism plan. Also, a common stakeholder forum to address transboundary management issues has to be established to ensure local support and dialogue with local communities around the parks.

The work was started in October 2011 as a joint effort of Metsähallitus, the manager of Oulanka National Park, and the management of Paanajärvi National Park. We were assisted by Ms Elena Osipova, who worked on preparing the necessary documentation as part of her internship. An independent evaluation group will do an on-site evaluation in June 2012. While working on the PAN Parks process, the parks are preparing to start a joint EU-funded development project with key emphasis on the improvement of capacity for tourist services.

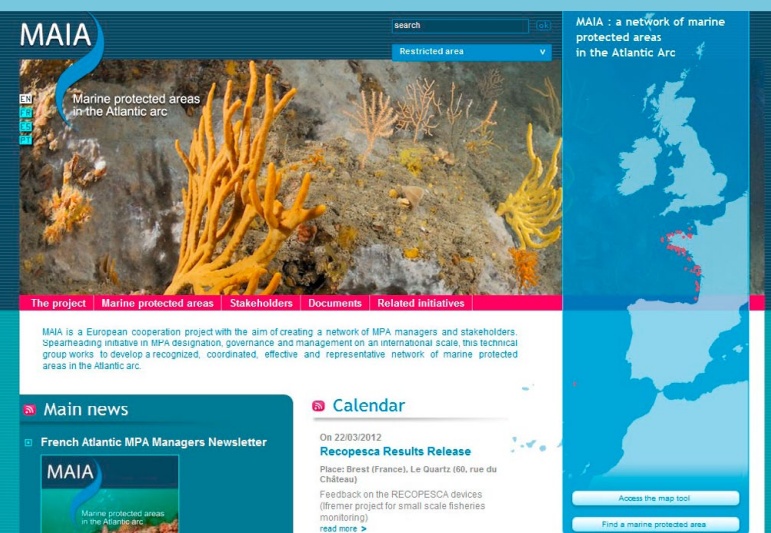
Matti Hovi, Park Superintendent, Oulanka NP,
Metsähallitus, matti.hovi@metsa.fi

Additional information:

<http://www.outdoors.fi/destinations/nationalparks/oulanka/Pages/Default.aspx>

<http://parks.karelia.ru/paanajarvi/>

French Atlantic Marine Area: A Pilot Area for IUCN Management Categories



Moreover, relevant information about standard data and MPA sites' management issues is synthesized in the on-line MPA datasheets.

The MAIA GIS database will make IUCN's work in France easier, as almost all French MPA designations are present in the French Atlantic area. The Water and Biodiversity department of the French Ministry in charge of ecology will then officially confirm the IUCN PA management categories designations, with the assistance of an advisory council. The final assignment of IUCN categories for all MPAs of the French Atlantic coast will be presented during the 1st Conference of the Atlantic Arc MPAs Network, to be organised within the framework of the MAIA network, in Arcachon (France) from 3-7 December 2012. Save the date!

The MAIA network's team: maia@aires-marines.fr

For more information about the Atlantic MPA on-line datasheets:

http://www.maia-network.org/homepage/marine_protected_areas/mpa_data_sheets

The French Atlantic has been chosen as a pilot area to assess IUCN protected area (PA) management categories for a group of French marine protected areas (MPAs). In the context of a national process of assigning IUCN categories, a partnership between the French IUCN Committee and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency (Agence des aires marines protégées) launched the process in 2012 for MPAs and highlighting the potential of the MAIA on-line GIS viewer.

The MPAs in the Atlantic Arc network (MAIA) is a European cooperation project with the aim of creating a network of MPA managers and stakeholders. MAIA gathers partners from the UK, France, Spain and Portugal, involved in MPA designation and management. The French Marine Protected Areas Agency is the lead partner of the project. The latest achievement of the project is the creation of the MAIA portal, which offers a geographic overview of MPAs in the Atlantic Arc thanks to a dynamic map tool.



Good Progress and New Risks for the “Amazon of Europe”



© Goran Safarek

The lower courses of the Drava and Mura Rivers and a connected section of the Middle Danube are among Europe's ecologically most important riverine areas: WWF calls it the “Amazon of Europe”.

The 700 km long “green belt” connects more than 800,000 ha (including 230,000 ha of protected areas) of highly valuable natural and cultural landscapes in Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia that will become the world's first penta-lateral Biosphere Reserve. This is the key message of a Ministerial Declaration signed in March 2011 by the five countries concerned.

A first meeting of the new governmental Coordination Board (CB) establishing the Mura-Drava-Danube Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (MDD-TBR) was held on 28 October 2011 in Budapest. It was preceded by the first meeting of the International Working Group, an informal stakeholder forum supported by WWF, ensuring regular inputs from non-governmental bodies to the work of the five governments. These meetings, prepared by the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development and WWF, indicated different stages of national preparatory work for the MDD-TBR. While Hungary (2009) and Croatia (2011) already submitted their nominations to UNESCO, Austria, Slovenia and Serbia are expected to follow by 2013.

At the Budapest meetings, WWF presented a Road Map for implementing the TBR. This supports common understanding, timing and commitment on the way towards a well functioning TBR-MDD. Under the CB

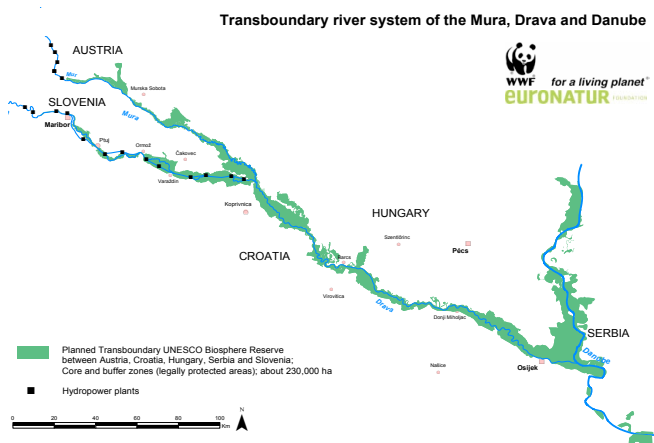
lead, key issues, common principles and guidelines for harmonised management will be agreed and applied in the future TBR cooperation framework.

The CB agreed to hold its next meeting in May 2012 in Croatia at the TBR core area, Kopacki Rit Nature Park. At the same time, however, progressing detail engineer plans for regulating the lower Drava and the Danube constitute urgent threats. They trigger multiple intensive NGO lobbying and appeals for more integrated government work to preserve this river jewel.

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For more information:

<http://www.amazon-of-europe.com/>



Expedition Report: Cycling Silk



© Kate Harris

Last year my friend Melissa Yule and I completed a 10-month, 10-country, 10,000-kilometer field expedition called Cycling Silk, starting in Istanbul, Turkey and finishing in Leh, India. Our goal in launching this project was to test and deepen our understanding of the science, conservation, and geopolitics of borderlands, using the remote alpine deserts of the Silk Road as case studies, and using a bicycle to reach them.

From the Caucasus to the Karakorum mountains, and on the Ustyurt, Pamir, and Tibetan plateaus in between, the Silk Road's borderland ecosystems are oblivious to, yet threatened by, the arbitrary boundaries that atlases depict and armies enforce. So we spent months in each region, learning the lay of the land, tracking migratory species across their transboundary ranges, and interviewing local communities, wildlife biologists, and government officials—all to better understand how borders impact the integrity of wild species and spaces. Now back home—to the relief

of our legs—I am now writing a book based on these explorations. Fusing conservation field research with creative nonfiction, and natural history with adventure, my aim with this book is to throw the contours of the Silk Road's transboundary wildernesses into sharp relief, and in the process, I hope, inspire more people to think beyond borders.

We want to thank everyone in the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group who offered encouragement, advice and contacts before and during the expedition. One of the greatest joys of this project has been the opportunity to interact with so many fantastic conservationists around the world, whether online or in the field. Your commitment to protecting the wild borderlands of the world are a continual source of inspiration and hope.

Kate Harris, www.cyclingsilk.com

The Mayombe Forest Transfrontier Conservation Initiative



© Tamar Ron

The Mayombe forest, shared between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Angola, the Republic of Congo and Gabon, forms the southern-western margin of tropical rainforest in West and Central Africa, and of the distribution of a large variety of related flora and fauna, among them the central chimpanzees, western lowland gorillas and forest elephants. Despite its ecological importance, the Mayombe forest was subjected to decades of intensive degradation and biodiversity loss through logging and encroachment, poaching, unsustainable development and mining, and invasive plant species. It still enjoys only little protection.

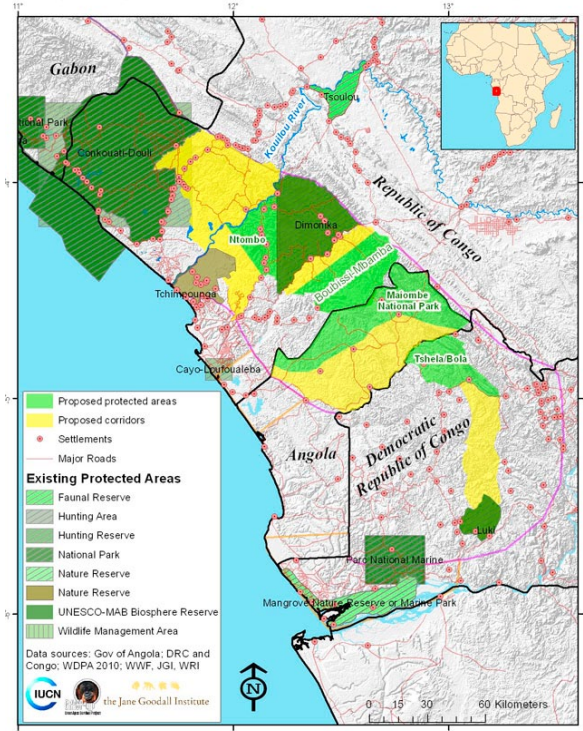
The Mayombe forest transfrontier conservation initiative, aiming to protect and sustainably manage the area through cooperation between the countries that share it (initiating from its southern part), and through a participatory approach with stakeholders' engagement, was conceptualized in Angola since the early 2000s. The Cabinda Declaration and Memorandum of Understanding were signed between the Ministers of the Environment of Angola, Congo and DRC in July 2009. National funding was further committed in January 2012.

Protected Areas in the Mayombe ecosystems include Luki Biosphere Reserve in DRC; Dimonika Biosphere Reserve, Conkouati-Douli National Park and Tchimpounga National Reserve in Congo; and the recently gazetted Maiombe National Park in Angola. Several studies were realized to identify potential conservation areas and ecological corridors, and to analyze the conditions for creating the

Mayombe Forest Ecosystems Transfrontier Conservation Area, including land uses, policies and legislation. A draft strategic plan was presented for the governments' approval.

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Existing and Proposed Protected Areas and Potential Corridors within Mayombe TPA



Intercontinental Cooperation Sets Goals until 2015



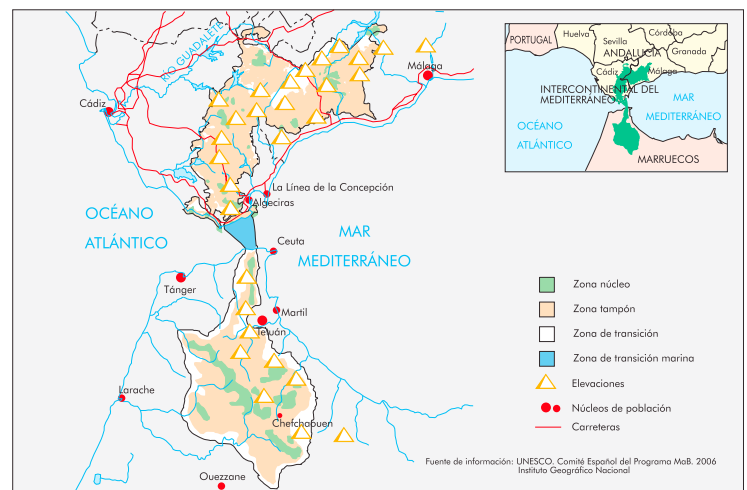
© Regional Ministry for Environment, Andalusia, Spain

The Intercontinental Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve (IMBR), Andalusia (Spain) – Morocco, is a transboundary Biosphere Reserve declared by UNESCO in 2006. Spanning 907,185.02 hectares, the IMBR includes the Spanish provinces of Malaga and Cádiz, and the Moroccan cities of Chefchaouen, Larache, Ouezzane and Tetouan, inhabited by more than 500,000 people. The cooperation between Spain and Morocco in the management of IMBR is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by the High Commissioner for Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (Morocco), the Ministry of the Environment, Rural and Maritime Affairs (Spain), and the Regional Ministry of the Environment, Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain), on 5 July 2011. The Joint Action Plan 2011-2015 enables the implementation of IMBR objectives, including to: contribute to the conservation of natural resources; promote a sustainable model of development; and promote the institutional cooperation and shared management between the Spanish, Andalusian and Moroccan administrations.

Considering the high number of people living in the transboundary IMBR, with the strait of Gibraltar being at the centre between the two countries, the 2011-2015 Action Plan includes communication, sensitization and social participation as its specific objective. The MoU represents a very important base for the continuity of the Biosphere Reserve, as it formally enables coordination of relations between all the actors involved in the complex management system of this transboundary reserve.

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Wilderness Guidance Document in Europe



© PAN Parks Foundation

There were two remarkable policy successes for Europe's wilderness in 2009. First of all, the European Parliament adopted a special report on wilderness with a huge majority of yes votes, which provides the popular mandate for NGOs to work on wilderness issues. Secondly, the European Commission financed a wilderness conference under the Czech EU Presidency in May, which resulted with the development of the Agenda for Europe's Wilderness and Wild Land Areas (a.k.a. Prague Message). Following upon these successes the European Commission decided to finance the drafting of a special wilderness guidance document for Natura 2000 site managers.

A consortium formed by Alterra (lead partner), Eurosite and PAN Parks Foundation was contracted to input into the guidance document. Starting from December 2010, the project is about to end soon. The draft guidance document was submitted to the European Commission which will put the final wording after consultation of Member States representatives. The project included the following elements: proposal of a practical definition of wilderness, analysis of the current policy framework for wilderness protection in Europe, ecosystem resilience,

ecosystem services and benefits of wilderness areas, management strategies and communication approaches of wilderness areas.

Based on a questionnaire, which was distributed among Natura 2000 site managers, various management measures are presented in the document. While best-practice examples from EU Member States are not included in the document, they will be accessible at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/wilderness/index_en.htm. The wilderness guidance document will be available at the same website.

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Towards Collaborative Management of Transboundary Protected Areas



© Joelle Dufour

In August 2011, the governments of Cameroon and Chad signed an agreement for the cooperative establishment and management of the Bouba N'djida and Seno Oura transboundary complex. The recent massacre of more than a hundred elephants in the Bouba Ndjda National Park in Cameroon demonstrates the urgent need for implementation of this agreement.

The key features of this agreement are:

- Enhancement of community involvement in the management of protected areas, in order to avoid people-wildlife conflicts;
- Creation of collaborative management platforms between the two countries to foster co-management of protected areas and sharing of experiences;
- Sensitization of communities on the importance of biodiversity and protected areas;
- Strengthening of protected areas management structures at all levels, and particularly the field-based ones;
- Harmonization of strategic biodiversity management policies;

- Fostering the fight against poaching through strengthening of the park security, increase of personnel, and strengthening of anti-poaching capacities of personnel.

The implementation of this agreement will surely improve the livelihood of local communities and enhance the sustainability of natural resources. This is also expected to contribute to avoiding dramatic situations such as the recent massacre of elephants in Bouba Ndjida. One could build on the experience of collaborative management of transboundary complex such as the Tri-National Sangha between Cameroon, the Republic of Central Africa, and the Republic of Congo.

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New Structure of the European Green Belt

IUCN decided to retreat from their active role as overall coordinator of the European Green Belt Initiative, while taking over a more representative role in the sense of a patronage. The European Green Belt runs from the Barents to the Black and Adriatic Seas following the former Iron Curtain. The Initiative to protect these European-wide areas was coordinated by IUCN, while for each geographical section, a Regional Coordinator was called in: the Baltic Fund for Nature (BFN) assigned by the Association of Zapovedniks and National parks of North-West Russia in charge of the Fennoscandian and the Baltic States, BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) of the Central European, and EuroNatur of the southernmost stretch, the South-Eastern European Green Belt. As no core funding for the European Green Belt Initiative is available, most of the coordination and communication activities implemented by IUCN as overall coordinator and by BFN, BUND and EuroNatur as Regional Coordinators were financed within externally funded projects or by own resources of the respective organization. This proved to be no longer feasible, and with IUCN stepping out as the overall coordinator, there was a need to re-structure management of the Initiative.

One approach is to strengthen the role and the cooperation of the Regional Coordinators by creating an Executive Board of the European Green Belt Initiative. In this Executive Board – which will take decisions between Pan-European Meetings – also one National Focal Point and one NGO Partner per region should be represented. In order to get things started the Regional Coordinators agreed that EuroNatur acts as information hub for the European Green Belt Initiative till the next Pan-European Meeting which is scheduled for 2012.

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B3P Activities in the Balkans



© Peter Spafford

At this time of year, the Balkans Peace Park Project (B3P) is firming up plans for its fifth Summer Programme in the Albanian highlands. Children and young people in the community of Thethi will once again be joined in their school by international volunteers and local Albanian teachers with a varied curriculum of English, environmental studies, and outdoor activities. This year sees a new outpost of the summer programme. For the first time, a team of teachers and volunteers will spend time in Vermosh, a village near Thethi and if anything more remote. The team have a range of skills and experience to bring to the young people of Vermosh, including teaching English, drama, and creative writing.

As ever the B3P has the bigger picture in view. In October 2011 an important meeting was convened by the charity, along with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International cooperation/GIZ) and others, to address the challenge of cross-border controls. It was attended by a healthy variety of tourist organisations, mountain activity and environmental groups, as well as border police from Kosovo (territory under the United Nations Interim Administration Mission), Montenegro and Albania. Being able to walk through the transboundary mountains of Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Nemuna is essential to the vision of the Balkans Peace Park Project. Helpful steps were taken to enable this to happen.

B3P also participated in the first trilateral stakeholder meeting in the proposed transboundary protected area Prokletije/Bjeshkët e Nemuna Mountains, held on 15-16 March 2012 in Gusinje, Montenegro. The discussions involved international organisations, ministry representatives from Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo and also regional NGOs, and were aimed at achieving joint actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the cross-border region.

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Turkey's First Wildlife Corridor



© Kate Harris

The Kars region of northeastern Turkey, a high plateau located at the intersection of Caucasus and Irano-Anatolian global biodiversity hotspots, is one of the most important places in Turkey for brown bears, wolves, lynx, and wild cats. In the past six years, environmental organization KuzeyDoga, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP), has been doing long-term, community-based conservation, ecological research, and village-based ecotourism work focused on northeastern Turkey's wildlife. Their research documented wild cat and two subspecies of lynx, discovered a new breeding population of lynx in Kars, obtained the first home range estimates for wolves in Turkey and showed that in only two months these keystone predators use an area 13 times larger than the Sarikamis-Allahuekber National Park (NP) they were captured in. However, legal and illegal logging of Sarikamis' shrinking old-growth forests continue, providing inadequate habitat for large mammal species, increasing their vulnerability, and potentially reducing their genetic diversity.

Turkey's first wildlife corridor is the next step in KuzeyDoga's landscape conservation vision. Initially proposed in 2008,

KuzeyDoga created the corridor map with the government officials in 2011, and signed the final agreement with the Ministry of Forestry and Water Works in December 2011. The wildlife corridor will cover 23,500 hectares and will extend for 82 km, from Sarikamis Forest-Allahuekber Mountains NP, through the provinces of Kars, Erzurum, Artvin, and Ardahan, all the way to the Caucasus forests on the Turkey-Georgia border. As Ardahan's Posof forests are connected to Georgia's Akhaltsikhe forests that border the Borjomi-Kharagauli NP, Turkey's first wildlife corridor will also promote transboundary conservation in the region.

This corridor will provide additional habitat for large carnivores, will connect their isolated populations, and hopefully will also help reduce the local human-carnivore conflict.

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Website: www.kuzeydoga.org

‘Beauty and the Beef’



© Dr. Mark Atkinson / WCS

Produced in 2012, “Beauty and the Beef: Achieving Compatibility Between Wildlife Conservation and Livestock Production” is a must see video for anyone interested in the wildlife / livestock / human health and livelihoods interface in southern and East Africa. It examines a dilemma faced by many African farmers, particularly those living in transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs). International trade practices preclude them from farming cattle for meat export in the same area as wildlife because of disease concerns. If they want to export their beef to wealthy nations, they will have to get rid of wildlife species like buffalo or put up environmentally damaging veterinary fences.

Robin Lyonga lives in the Kavango Zambezi TFCA. He and his community are poor. What should he choose when trying to lift himself and his community out of poverty: protecting the wildlife and pursuing opportunities related to ecotourism and trophy hunting, or turning his back on conservation and selling his cattle into the lucrative beef export market? The truth is that there is a win-win solution: Robin Lyonga and his community can earn an income from conservation and sell their beef to the export market. All that is needed to enable this potentially bright future for millions of African cattle farmers is a small change in attitude on the part of wealthy trading nations.

The video (22 minutes) is viewable via Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) AHEAD website www.wcs-ahead.org, and a limited number of DVDs are available upon request.

Shirley Atkinson, AHEAD Senior Policy Advisor, WCS, satkinson@wcs.org



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Announcements

Towards the IUCN World Conservation Congress



Registration for the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC), to be held in Jeju, Korea, from 6 to 15 September 2012, is now open. 30 percent discount is available if you register until the 5th of July. WCC will explore environmental and development issues in relation to Nature+ climate, Nature+ food, Nature+ development, Nature+ people and governance, and Nature+ life. To register for the Congress, visit:

http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/get_involved/congress_registration

Web-spaces for Forum events are also accessible at www.iucn.org/2012forum. The web-spaces give visitors access to all important information on events and provide event organizers with a platform to promote their event, hold online discussions etc.

If you plan to hold small events on an hourly basis, **WCPA Members booth** can be booked by contacting Delwyn Dupuis at ded@iucn.org. Deadline is 10 August 2012.



A **Protected Planet Pavilion** will be the hub for protected area events during the Congress and for showcasing Protected Planet. It will include launches of products, initiatives and projects implemented by partners, discussions, network gatherings and many more activities that will enable you to promote your work on protected areas.

More information on your travel to Jeju can be found at:

http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/get_involved/practical_tips/

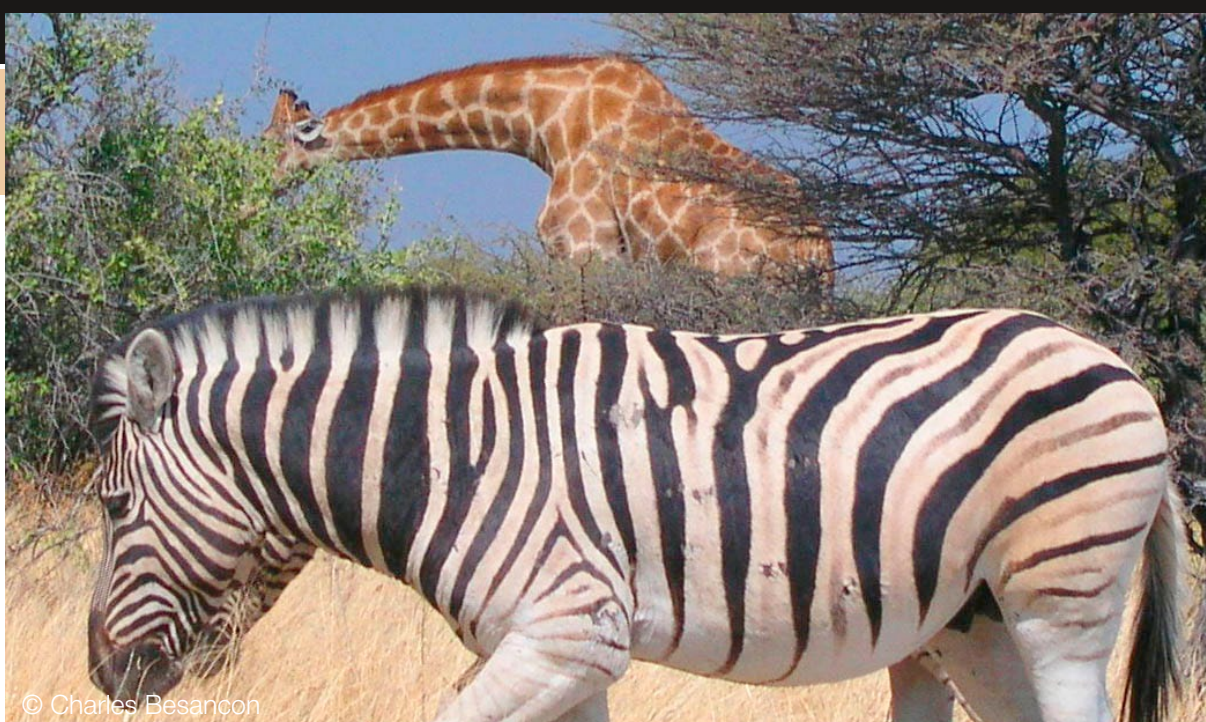
Changes in WCPA Europe Leadership

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) recently appointed Andrej Sovinc as interim Regional Vice Chair for Europe, after Stig Johansson had to step down from this position. Stig Johansson moved to Washington DC to work with the World Bank as the Senior Forestry Specialist, and was unable to continue coordinating WCPA Europe. The Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group wishes him all the best in his future work!

Andrej Sovinc has been involved with WCPA work for many years. One of the key products coordinated by him was a 1997 publication *Parks for Life: Action for Protected Areas in Europe*. Among one of the five thematic priorities, the publication included cooperation in transboundary protected areas. Currently, the new Vice Chair for Europe is seeking WCPA European Members input about their work in protected areas. Highlights of the initiatives and outcomes of the meetings you are involved in, experiences in protected areas and how you can contribute most to the work of WCPA in Europe.

Andrej Sovinc can be contacted at: wcpa.sovinc@gmail.com

Transboundary Ecosystems Bill Passed in East Africa



© Charles Besancon

The East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) passed the East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Bill 2010 on 31 January 2012 in Kampala, Uganda. The Bill, now moving closer to be signed into law by partner heads of states, aims to ensure sustainable use and management of shared natural resources in East African wetlands, forests and protected wildlife. It seeks to establish a Commission managing transboundary ecosystems in the region, and thus contributing to the protection of livelihoods and improving the quality and conservation of the region's ecosystems.

The EALA, an independent, legislative body of the East African Community, was formally launched by the heads of states of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania in 2001, to be later joined by Rwanda and Burundi. Its mandate relates to enabling cooperation between the above countries on matters of common concern. The EALA's debate on

the Bill lasted some six hours. Some members of the Assembly noted the Bill must not contradict with existing laws and policies in the partner states, while it was also noted that the Bill actually complements the existing laws on issues of transboundary nature. While addressing issues of common interest, the Bill, and hopefully the future law, harnesses the region's natural assets for the future, seeking to manage potential conflicts on the transboundary areas such as Lake Nyasa and Lake Tanganyika.

The East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Bill will now go to the heads of states for assent and should it be signed by the five countries, it will become the law.

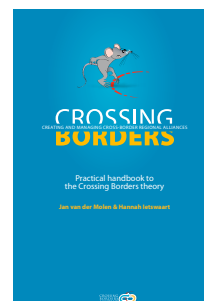
More information:
www.eala.org

Publications

Cooperation in Practice

Jan van der Molen and Hannah Letswaart wrote a book titled *Crossing Borders: Creating and Managing Cross-border Regional Alliances*. Published in March 2012, the book focuses on transboundary regional cooperation in daily practice. The foundation of this book is formed by the Crossing Borders theory (Van der Molen, 2011), supplemented with practical experiences of the authors in the area of cross-border cooperation. This book offers a practical theory of action with knowledge, strategies and tools to initiate, manage and design cross-border partnerships, taking into account the effects of state borders. The book can be downloaded for free on the new website:

www.crossingbordersacademy.org



What Do We Think about Transfrontier Partnerships?

Attitudes and opinions of local and national public sector stakeholders towards Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, Botswana, a paper wrote by Naomi N. Moswete, Brijesh Thapa, and Brian Child, published in the International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology (Vol 19, Issue 1, February 2012), assesses the attitudes and opinions of primary stakeholders about establishing partnerships between protected areas, adjacent communities and other management agencies. The study employed a qualitative inquiry to assess factors that influence public sector stakeholder support for community based ecotourism development in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Findings revealed variations in opinion between local and national representatives in relation to cooperation and partnerships, conservation projects, park management, tourism development and park benefits to local communities. There was overall uncertainty with respect to the designation of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, due to unfavourable conditions for adjacent local people, local authorities and village leaders it generated. Major policy concerns were a low level of community participation in park activities and a lack of collaboration and communication between management and residents. The paper can be downloaded from <http://www.tandfonline.com>



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Governance of Shared Waters

The goal of the publication *Governance of shared waters: legal and institutional issues*, by Grethel Aguilar and Alejandro Iza, is to contribute to a better understanding of the legal and institutional arrangements necessary for promoting good governance of transboundary waters between two or more states. The publication aims to strengthen the capacity of various stakeholders, and to help reach the ideal that water should be considered as a vehicle for integration rather than as a source of conflict. Download at: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/EPLP-058-rev-En.pdf>



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TB eNews is prepared on quarterly basis.

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 300 words in length. Please also include any graphic addition (photograph, logo, map or similar), indicating the credits. The size of the photographs has to be minimum 500 kB. 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.

All contributions should be sent to Maja Vasilijevic at maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group Executive Team

www.tbpa.net

