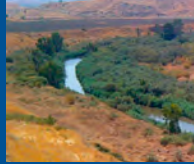




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**TBPA in Focus
Bakoura–
Prospects for
Peace Park
establishment**

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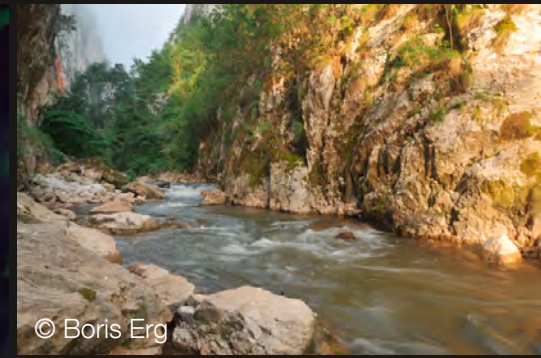
Welcome Note



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Welcome to the 7th issue of the TB eNEWS, prepared on a bi-annual basis by IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group. We thank all of you who contributed to this issue with interesting information about your transboundary conservation projects and initiatives. This issue features stories from many parts of the globe, but unfortunately none from Latin America. Obviously, major constraint is associated with language issue and TB eNEWS being prepared in English only. I would like to take this opportunity to invite conservationists from Latin America to send us articles in Spanish and share it with colleagues worldwide.

Unlike in previous issues when we featured already operational Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA) in *TBPA in Focus* section, the 7th issue features a TBPA in making. Bakoura is a potential TBPA/Peace Park located at the border between Jordan and Israel, with good prospects of becoming an example of successful cross-border cooperation. Modest attempts of bilateral cooperation are already occurring in Bakoura, and Friends of the Earth Middle East are facilitating further Peace Park development.

This issue reports on some of the meetings and workshops relevant for transboundary conservation progress in different regions. We also present several new publications and a number of stories about progress in cooperation between protected areas across national boundaries such as the Nyungwe–Kibira Landscape (Rwanda and Burundi), Tai-Sapo Forest Complex (Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia), Emerald Triangle (Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR), Krkonoše/Krkonosze National Parks (Czech Republic and Poland), and others. The issue presents a female expedition to the Siachen glacier, to be organised later this year with the aim of raising awareness about degradation of this Himalayan ecosystem and the importance of its transboundary protection.

TB eNEWS is available online at <http://www.tbpa.net>, and the guidelines for submitting articles can be found at the last page of this issue. We are looking forward to receiving more success stories, reports relating to know-how in dealing with transboundary problems, information about relevant events and other interesting stories.

Maja Vasiljević

Chair, Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group
IUCN WCPA

Bakoura—Prospects for Peace Park establishment



Name: Proposed: BAKOURA PEACE PARK
Countries: Jordan, Israel

Bakoura is located at the confluence of the Yarmouk and Jordan Rivers, the area that forms a boundary between Jordan and Israel. In the heart of the Great Rift Valley, Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), an environmental regional NGO working in Jordan, Palestine and Israel, has been promoting the establishment of a transboundary Peace Park.

The unique natural landscape of Bakoura includes both arid and wetland environments. It is situated at the centre of one of the globally important migratory flyways, with an estimated 500 million birds migrating through the area twice annually. About 390 different species migrate over the Great Rift Valley which qualified it as an Important Bird Area. Due to the area's limited physical access, Bakoura is counted as one of the most pristine habitats in all of the Jordan River Valley.

In addition to the important natural heritage of the area, the proposed Bakoura Peace Park encompasses numerous sites of cultural heritage. Many sites reflect its geographical and historical function as a crossing point over the Jordan River and as such, of interaction and cooperation between the neighbouring communities. Moreover, a historic Memorandum of Understanding, signed by Mayors from Beit Shean and the Jordan Valley Regional Council in Israel and North Shuneh in Jordan in 2007, recognizes the importance of rehabilitation and protection of the Jordan River, and opens a significant path towards creation of a Peace Park.

While there already is a form of cooperation between Israel and Jordan when military personnel coordinate opening of the fences to allow visitors to enter the Bakoura island and explore a former hydroelectric (HE) power plant without visas, more structured cooperation and common goals are still needed to be envisioned. Tourism infrastructure is more developed on Israeli side of the island, while there are plans and opportunities to establish walking, hiking, and biking trails, including scenic outlooks and migratory bird observation stations in Jordanian part of the site.

Due to volatile political situation in the region, FoEME is facing great challenges to help declare the park as a transboundary Peace Park among locals and government authorities. Despite these challenges, FoEME, in cooperation with international organization such as Green Cross, have created a feasibility study that includes the design and plan of the proposed Peace Park. One of the goals is to assist the government in establishing a protected area that would provide greater opportunities for biodiversity protection and cross-border cooperation in nature-based tourism, research and management. Conservation of Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers water system is a priority, in addition to rehabilitating old infrastructure to enable presentation of the site to visitors. The proposed Bakoura Peace Park has the potential to yield significant revenues for local and national beneficiaries, while simultaneously offering a natural habitat for a rich diversity of native fauna and flora.

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Rhino poaching threatens the future of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park



TB eNEWS 6 featured the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) which stated that the onslaught of rhino poaching was seen as a significant challenge to the management of the area. Since this feature was published there have been a number of enquiries as to the severity of this threat and discussions with relevant officials within the South African National (SAN) Parks has revealed that the future of the GLTP is in jeopardy as a direct result. While most readers will justifiably balk at the possibility of the boundary fence being re-erected between Kruger National Park (KNP) in South Africa and Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, the statistics show that SAN Parks need to take drastic measures to secure the integrity of the KNP and protect both its black and white rhino.

Major General (retired) Johan Jooste, who is in charge of security in the KNP states that the majority of rhino poaching incursions are from Mozambique with 65, 50 and 72 occurring in January, February and March this year.

It was also stated in the last TB eNEWS that the differences in capacity between the partner countries was also seen as a challenge to the management of the GLTP. More relevant though is the significant difference in the socio-economic profiles. This juxtaposition provides the ideal circumstances for the perpetuation of the criminal dynamics that are driving the rhino poaching. In the short to medium-term it may therefore be necessary to re-erect the boundary fence until such time as lasting solutions are found.

	2010	2011	2012	Jan-April 2013
RHINO POACHING				
South Africa	333	448	668	273
Kruger NP	146	252	425	201

Source: <https://www.environment.gov.za/?q=content/updateonrhinopoaching>

According to official sources, the numbers of rhino poached in South Africa in the first four months of 2013 is 273 with 201 being in the KNP. The figures for the last four years are captured below.

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Common vision for the Emerald Triangle



The Emerald Triangle is the remaining intact block of natural dry evergreen forest and dry deciduous forest along the tri-national borders of Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, which is recognized as globally outstanding habitat of large vertebrates. However, about two-thirds of the original forest has been cleared or seriously degraded. Previous research indicated that many wide-ranging species (e.g. Asian elephant, tiger, gaur and banteng) seasonally migrate across the Emerald Triangle landscape. Thus the viability of those species will greatly depend on the integrity of remaining habitats and a mutual understanding of cross-boundary issues.

The three countries have jointly implemented a project “Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao” since 2001, with the financial support from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The project sites cover the Phataem Protected Forests Complex in Thailand, the Preah Vihear Protected Forest for the Conservation of Genetic Resources of Plants and Wildlife in Cambodia and the Dong Kanthung proposed national biodiversity area in Laos.

On 1 May 2013, the project steering committee of three participating countries formulated a common vision of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forest Complex as a framework for cooperation as below:

“By 2020, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand will have established a common cooperative framework for the conservation and sustainable management of the Trans-boundary Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex of the Greater Mekong Sub-region in order to strengthen the protection of the trans-boundary habitats of wide-ranging wildlife species and will endeavour to maintain the viability and ecological integrity of the forest ecosystems and increase its land use and climate changes adaptation capability to transform the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex into an international symbol of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation”.

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The future of cross border cooperation in the Carpathians



The 2nd Carpathian Network of Protected Areas (CNPA) Conference held in the High Tatras region, Slovakia, 23-26 April 2013 included a half-day workshop entitled “Protected Area Management Planning with a Focus on Cross-Border Cooperation”. The workshop was organized by IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe and included introductory presentations on transboundary collaboration by an international panel: Michael Quinn (Canada), Alois Lang (Austria), Ewelina Zajac (Poland) and Mariann Komlós (Hungary). Approximately 20 participants representing 10 different countries and more than a dozen protected areas created 4 working groups to discuss current initiatives and needs for future improvements in transboundary cooperation across the CNPA. The wealth of experience and diversity of geographies represented by the participants generated highly productive discussions. It was noteworthy that there was representation from Pieniny National Park (Poland) and Waterton Lakes National Park (Canada)—two of the world’s first transboundary protected areas established in 1932.

Participants highlighted a variety of initiatives that demonstrated cooperation across the Carpathians and adjacent regions including specific examples from Hungary,

Serbia, Poland, Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. There were excellent examples of formal arrangements between countries, but also cases where manager-to-manager communications lead to cooperation in the absence of formal agreements. In fact, the importance of personal relationships between parks staff was identified as one of the most important facilitators of cross-border cooperation.

Participants discussed the need to move toward more formal agreements that lead to the production of joint management plans and shared information/education resources. Clear vision and shared strategies are desired, but it was obvious that jurisdictional and organizational differences will need to be overcome. Ongoing engagement through a Carpathian network was seen as essential to create and communicate common messages and to share the costs and benefits of cooperation. The CNPA serves as an ideal mechanism to develop, promote and implement innovative forms of governance.

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Progress on wildlife corridors establishment in Africa's Tai-Sapo



The Tai-Sapo Forest Complex, spanning across Côte d'Ivoire and Liberian border, represents the largest contiguous bloc of tropical rainforest within the Upper Guinean Forest Ecosystem and harbours numerous endangered species including the Western chimpanzee. In Cote d'Ivoire, the forest complex consists of the Tai National Park and three adjacent classified forests (Cavally, Goin-Débé, Haute-Dodo). In Liberia, it consists of Sapo National Park, Grebo National Forest and several large forest concessions.

The Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) started a transboundary initiative in 2009 with the aim of establishing a platform for transboundary dialogue and of establishing national and transboundary corridors between the protected areas. At the first transboundary stakeholder meeting held in Abidjan in 2009 experts identified potential corridors connecting the 5 protected areas. Potential ecosystem services including REDD+ (Reduced emissions through deforestation and degradation) were identified to provide economic incentives to land managers and communities

to conserve the forested areas. Participants also agreed on the structure of the transboundary process and established a Steering Committee to provide oversight and guidance.

On 20-21 March 2013 the Steering Committee members met and agreed on a common vision. During the two days, the role and function of the Steering Committee and the technical committees was defined. The technical committees are to focus on legislation, land-use planning and economic incentives. The next steps will include a corridor feasibility study (which will be conducted by the German Development Bank KfW) and the implementation of technical studies to prepare a strategic plan for the management of this transboundary landscape. The Steering Committee also developed an emergency plan to address the immediate threats, to be implemented in parallel to the development of a strategic plan.

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Siachen Peace Park



© Kunal Verma-KaleidoIndia

While to my shame I see / The imminent death of twenty thousand men / ... (who) fight for a plot / Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause, / Which is not tomb enough and continent / To hide the slain (William Shakespeare, Hamlet)

The Siachen Glacier area was one of undying peace, or so we thought. It was ice and rock; it had no mineral or oil resources; it could not serve as grazing for animals. Thus, after the Bangladesh War, when the Line of Control was drawn in 1972, both India and Pakistan were content to leave the demarcation vague, 'and then north to the glaciers'.

Mountaineering was spreading fast and it was inevitable that there would be a clash: from whom were they to obtain permits? Japanese climbers were foremost in trying Pakistan as the approach from Pakistan was much easier. The Pakistanis handed out permits. However, the Indians pre-empted the Pakistanis in 1984 by sending troops to occupy the high ground of the Saltoro Ridge.

Since then there has been a stalemate; in spite of this a cease-fire was successfully concluded in 2003, a major step which still holds.

Nearly 6,000 troops occupy the area on either side of the Saltoro, approximately 22,000 ft. The garbage and the human waste that is generated are unbelievable; little of it is flown out, it is mostly poured down convenient crevasses to be the headache of future generations.

Almost ten rounds of discussions have failed to get an agreement which would save hundreds of lives, prevent further damage to the glacier, stop the accumulation of tons of garbage, save millions of rupees, give up barren land which no one wanted in the first place.

Could it not be made a Transboundary Peace Park in honour of the hundreds of lives that have been lost in this futile war?

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Kashmir 2013 expedition



In August and September 2013 an international female expedition with climbers from Poland (Malgosia Skowronska), the UK (Mollie Hughes) and Australia (Sara Sheridan) plans to visit the Siachen Glacier region in the East Karakoram. The team will access the area via Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. The six weeks long expedition aims to explore southern part of the Siachen Glacier and then proceed towards Terong Glacier in order to climb a virgin peak standing at 6400 metres.

The reasoning behind this project is focused on bringing awareness about the degradation of the Siachen Glacier caused by long-term conflict between India and Pakistan. The idea of the Siachen Peace Park has been already introduced by other mountaineers as a possible solution for the ongoing conflict and degradation of this remote mountain environment. An idea that the expedition team strongly supports, hopes to contribute to, even though in small scale.

Kashmir 2013 expedition is part of a wider project, Secret Peaks Expedition Series that aims to explore some of the most remote mountain regions of the world. Each expedition raises awareness about important local issues that are faced in these remote hardly visited locations, with focus on the natural environment, regional conflict and local population.

The idea for the Secret Peaks Expedition Series was born in 2011 during an exploratory expedition in the north-eastern region of Afghanistan, the Wakhan Corridor. Inspired by this expedition, in 2012 we returned to Afghanistan for a mountaineering expedition—Afghanistan's Secret Peaks when we successfully climbed Koh-e Elgha Eli IV peak of 5725 metres.

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<http://www.secretpeaks.com>,
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Secret-Peaks-Expedition-Series/140953119407812>

Frontier on the map, cooperation in mind



© Mine Daelemans

Man-made borders are abundant in Europe, but plants and animals freely travel the continent. “Nature knows no boundaries” and neither should good nature conservation management. We realised that 40 years ago, and so EUROPARC was founded with the purpose of improving protected area management by connecting people across Europe. The successful Transboundary Parks Programme manifests our conviction that Europe’s green jewels are better protected through international cooperation. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Transboundary Programme has become a respected management tool for establishing fruitful cross-border collaboration in European protected areas.

Managing a protected area is already a difficult task, made more complex across national borders. Nature and people benefit when frontiers that limit the ability to work together are pushed. The Transboundary Parks Programme provides a tool to support protected areas enabling them to intensify their collaboration. EUROPARC awards examples of effective cross-border cooperation with the Transboundary Certificate. Handrij Härtel, Deputy Director

of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland, who received the award last year, gives insight in the benefits of participating in the programme: *“It was definitely a very good impulse for further development of our cooperation. The evaluation report helped us to assess strength and weaknesses of the current cooperation and to formulate next steps”*.

Six years ago, like-minded individuals saw the need for further knowledge exchange on cross-border conservation issues and founded the TransParcNetwork. Annual meetings take place in a different transboundary area, where good-practice examples and works on new project ideas are exchanged. More protected areas join the programme every year. From the very first park at the Austrian-Hungarian border in 2003 to a French-Belgian park being evaluated now: they all achieve the same goal—reaching a deeper level of cooperation and better management of their common natural heritage. If wildlife doesn’t worry about borders why should people?

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Common logo strengthens cooperation in Krkonoše/ Karkonosze parks

Starting with 17 April 2013, Krkonoše Mountains National Park (Czech Republic) and Karkonosze Mountains National Park (Poland) introduced a common logo, which differs only by the language of the name of the National Parks. National Parks Directors Jan Hrebacka (CZ) and Andrzej Raj (PL) perceive the common logo as a clear evidence of the level of day-to-day cooperation between the parks and their staff members.

Logo is composed of three motives: Mount Snezka, which is situated right on the border of the two protected areas and the two countries, *Campanula rotundifolia bohemica*, which is a symbol of the Polish National Park and *Gentiana asclepiadea*, a symbol of the Czech National Park.

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Conservation safari advances transboundary conservation benefits



© David Kabambo

The word *safari* in Swahili language means “long journey”. The Tanzanian Peace in Nature & Ecotourism built its programme on linking safari with conservation efforts, and particularly with transboundary conservation involving Tanzania. There are a number of national parks that have transboundary importance, such as Serengeti, Nkomazi, Kilimanjaro, and Selous, all being linked with protected areas in adjacent countries, Kenya or Mozambique. Peace in Nature & Ecotourism helps promote awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation, linking visitors with local communities and inducing cultural enrichment as well. Conservation safari tours offered and organised by this organisation directly benefit local people through ecotourism activities that act as a mechanism for poverty alleviation. Capacity development focusing on entrepreneurship skills and nature conservation help communities to more successfully put their products on local markets and guide visitors to conservation safari tours. Retired poachers often become local conservation safari tour guides.

Beekeeping also plays a major role in improving biological diversity as beekeepers are not interested in destroying trees. Beekeeping has important economical value and is one of the tools towards addressing poverty. It is one of the socio-economic benefits arising from transboundary conservation as local women trained in beekeeping and honey packaging sell their products to tourists on the way between e.g. Tanzanian Serengeti National Park and Kenyan Maasai Mara.

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Transboundary conservation in the Caucasus—is the time not yet ripe?



The call for increased transboundary conservation (TBC) in the Caucasus is loud and clear. Here, not only biodiversity hotspots converge and create a unique richness in endemic species, but also continents meet, cultures clash, and borders, at least partly, remain contested. Despite significant progress in the past 20 years, not many concrete results have been achieved. At present, no transboundary protected areas have been established, and positive examples of successful TBC yet remain to be seen.

However, there is no lack of vision and ambition, and small steps are constantly being made. A number of sites for future TBC have been identified, mirroring the state of relations between the countries in the region. The proposed sites include collaborations between Georgia and Armenia (Samtskhe-Javakheti National Park and Lake Arpi National Park), Georgia and Turkey (Machakhela National Park and Jamil's Biosphere Reserve), and Georgia and Azerbaijan (Lagodekhi Nature Reserve and Zaqatala State Reserve).

The major challenges for TBC obviously lie with political conflicts. In some cases, the exact line of national borders is unclear, leading to a strategy of 'freezing the issue' and minimizing (environmental) cooperation in these areas. At the same time, protected areas in the region are notoriously small and fragmented and the need to move "from islands to networks" also holds true within national boundaries.

The vision for improved transboundary conservation in the Caucasus ecoregion envisages:

- To continue current efforts and to increase the coverage and connectivity of protected areas, both at the national level and across borders;
- To synchronize nature conservation on both sides of the border and to subsequently up-scale these initiatives to the regional level;
- To prepare the situation on the ground and to seize the opportunities of future 'windows of opportunity', when the time is ripe.

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Nyungwe-Kibira landscape transboundary collaboration



© Nicolas Ntare

The Nyungwe–Kibira Landscape is part of the Albertine Rift, a biodiversity hotspot with high levels of endemism. Spanning over 1,400km² through the National Parks of Nyungwe (Rwanda) and Kibira (Burundi), this landscape forms the largest montane forest remaining in eastern-central Africa. Nyungwe and Kibira protected areas face similar pressures: poaching, illegal mining, fire, bamboo cutting, and encroachment, among the most pressing threats.

Since 1989, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been partnering with the Rwandan government for the conservation of Nyungwe and the promotion of development alternatives to the unsustainable use of the forest's resources. In 2006, WCS and the Burundian National Institute for Environment and Conservation of Nature (INECN) signed an agreement of collaboration promoting conservation efforts in Kibira. Since then WCS has promoted a transboundary approach to the conservation efforts in the Nyungwe-Kibira Landscape. Among the main successes of the past efforts is the

signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Rwanda Development Board (RDB, in charge of tourism and conservation) and INECN in 2008. The MoU focused on transboundary collaboration and protection of Kibira and Nyungwe National Parks. This agreement has greatly facilitated communication between the two parks and execution of a number of joint activities, including coordinated patrols, park staff capacity building, monitoring of wildlife and human threats, awareness raising and gradual tourism development in Kibira.

A transboundary strategic plan 2009-2018 has also been elaborated by RDB, INECN and their partners. WCS and the authorities of both countries are steadily working towards its ratification from the highest institutional levels, which will pave the way for a more effective, long lasting collaboration for the protection of the Nyungwe-Kibira Landscape.

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Towards enhancing transboundary sustainable management of argali



© PAN Parks Foundation

The countries of Central Asia met in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 2-4 December 2012 to discuss transboundary conservation of the argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*). The workshop was jointly organized by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Programme on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The meeting followed the completion of a report on “Analyzing gaps and options for enhancing argali conservation in Central Asia within the context of CMS” which concluded that a CMS instrument or extension of an existing one can have important positive ramifications for the conservation of argali across its range. A formal cooperation agreement among the 11 argali range states can help to endorse legal reforms in some of the countries that are beneficial for the species; stimulate joint monitoring activities across borders as well as responses to common threats. Developing a framework for the conservation of argali sheep under CMS was also identified as opportunity to bridge the divide between conservation and sustainable use, and within that realm promote and endorse trophy hunting programmes designed to ensure the conservation of the species.

At the meeting, representatives from 9 argali range states discussed the content of an international argali action plan, including different management techniques and options for sustainable trophy hunting programmes. Participants also discussed ways to improve communication and coordination among the different countries and stakeholders to facilitate implementation of this transboundary action plan, which is currently being finalized. Range states will then decide whether to negotiate the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding under CMS, which would become the overarching framework for the action plan.

CMS Website: http://www.cms.int/species/eurasian_mammals.htm

Argali Network: <http://argalinetwordpess.com/>
Report on “Analyzing gaps and options for enhancing argali conservation in Central Asia within the context of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals”: http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2012/08_aug/argali_report_full.pdf

10th anniversary of the European Green Belt Initiative: Deepening international cooperation and exchange



The 10th anniversary of the European Green Belt Initiative was celebrated with three international events on 15-16 May 2013 in Berlin, Germany. At a jubilee event, supported by the German Environmental Ministry (BMU) and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and organized together with EuroNatur and BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany), several ministers, ambassadors and further representatives of the 24 adjacent states received a Green Belt award for their commitment and as incentive to strengthen the activities for the Green Belt. The prize was awarded by BUND and EuroNatur on behalf of the Coordination Group of the European Green Belt Initiative. Several of the appointed representatives underlined their political will to support the pan-European initiative: a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed by 10 states during the event. Other Green Belt countries, which were not able to send representatives to Berlin, announced already to sign the declaration afterwards.

During the first evening of the event, about 90 stakeholders of the 24 European Green Belt countries and a delegation from South Korea met at the GreenNet Evening Reception, in the history-charged Berlin Wall Memorial. The reception was organised by BUND and it was dedicated to deepening international cooperation and exchange.

The anniversary celebrations were followed by an international symposium on 16 May in the German Ministry for the Environment. This symposium was supported by BMU and BfN. Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, welcomed the participants via video message and pointed out the great potential of the European Green Belt for building a green infrastructure across the continent. In the course of the conference achievements so far and also future challenges and perspectives of the European Green Belt were presented and discussed.

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Progress towards transboundary cooperation between Iran and Armenia



Following the agreement signed by the Department of Environment of Iran and the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia on 17 July 2012 in Yerevan, Armenia, the first bilateral consultative and training workshop on transboundary protected area management methods was held in Iran and Armenia on 11-14 November 2012.

The parties agreed on a number of important issues in relation to moving forward with transboundary conservation. Accurate boundaries of Peace Park in Dizmar (Iran) and Arevik (Armenia) with a total area of 97,566 ha were determined. Locations of ecological corridors between these protected areas were also negotiated. The two parties' working groups agreed to survey Dizmar and Arevik areas by the end of June 2013 and provide each other with GIS maps. Governments, scientists and NGOs are now working closely together with the National Coordination Committees in Armenia and Iran. The countries intend to prepare a nomination for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation in the months to come.

Dizmar-Arevik area is characterized by forests and mountains, with wild rivers Aras, Hajilar, Oshtabin and Ghoolan cross-cutting them. The Caucasus ecoregion holds exceptional floral and faunal biodiversity. Arasbaran forests that have survived through the last Ice Age are a rich unique wood community in the region containing a variety of evergreen and deciduous trees. Large mammals such as panther, bear, wolf, wild sheep, deer, wild boar, lynx, wild cat, and porcupine, inhabit the Dizmar-Arevik area. From a cultural viewpoint, Dizmar protected area that crosses the boundary of Iran, Armenia and Azerbaijan, is home to rural settlers who live in harmony with surrounding nature. The long cultural tradition, alongside to the natural values, is seen as key potential for development of sustainable nature based tourism.

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Inspirations for environmental concerns amongst youth in northern Albania



© Peter Spafford

The summer of 2012 saw the B3P (Balkans Peace Park Project, www.balkanspeacepark.org) not only carry through its annual summer programme of activities in the mountain community of Thethi, but also build upon this success by setting up two more in the region, at Vermosh and Lepushe. Originally the plan had been to go to Vermosh only, but interest from the neighbouring village was intense. This year a combination of English and environmental studies will be taught on the two new programmes, as at Thethi.

There have been a number of other exciting developments. A keen walker on the B3P committee has played a key part in helping to facilitate sustainable trekking in the mountains. This has involved detailed discussions with border officials and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) about easing visa regulations for travellers crossing the borders outside normal crossing points.

In March 2013, B3P Albania co-organised a highly successful Peace Run in Shkoder, 'Vrapo per Paqen', which brought many new people into the orbit of the Peace Park and its environmental aims in the Beshket e Nemuna mountains. This was organised very much in collaboration with local groups. 250 local runners participated, local food from Thethi and traditional clothing were also on sale. In fact many local businesses were directly involved. That said, many of the runners were from other countries making it both a local and truly international event.

B3P Albania will host a tree planting day in May, taking thirteen schoolchildren from Shkoder to Thethi to celebrate Earth Day. Each young person is to plant a tree in the village, in the hope that this will both bond them with the community, but also convey a powerful message about environmental renewal, relevant not just to Albania but to the world.

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Sharhabil Bin Hassneh: A paradise for birds



© Abdel Rahman Sultan

The Sharhabil Bin Hassneh EcoPark (SHE) in Jordan was founded as a pilot project to minimize pollution, the loss of biodiversity and habitat degradation of the Ziglab Dam Lake and surrounding land in the Jordan River Valley. Exploitation, overgrazing, and erosion had affected the natural resources tremendously. In the early 2000s, Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) mapped the area identifying environmental threats, and were provided with 11 hectares of land by the Jordan Valley Authority. Today, by commitment of FoEME and local communities, especially the Bedouins, SHE is turned from the ruined, desolate and overgrazed land into a small paradise.

The Jordan River Valley, home to SHE EcoPark, encompasses the lowest point on Earth, the Dead Sea, and touches the Fertile Crescent. FoEME staff, rangers from the Ministry of Agriculture, students, and members of the nearby communities, especially the Sheikh Hussein community, planted thousands of trees in SHE EcoPark. This restoration has been effective as rainwater is collected

in large quantities, land erosion is being fought and loss of biodiversity has been reduced. Apart from being rich in flora, some endemic to Jordan and the region, SHE lies on a major global migration route of storks, buzzards, eagles, herons and other birds, making it an important site within a transboundary migratory corridor.

The Jordan River Valley has a long and rich history where stories of the rise and fall of many historical periods from prehistoric to biblical to the Crusades to the Ottoman Empire have been told. Pilgrimage sites like Mount Nebo, the baptism site of Jesus, and the burial places of many companions of the Prophet Muhammad lure visitors from around the world. By promoting local ecotourism, the park helps bring awareness to issues such as water allocation and tackles environmental problems by providing solutions to face these problems that results in helping neighboring community development.

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Economic analysis of animal health policy in the Kavango Zambezi area



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Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)-Animal & Human Health for the Environment and Development (AHEAD) and WWF prepared a robust socio-economic analysis of how different sectors in Caprivi, Namibia, would likely fare under a range of animal health policy and related land-use regimes. A technical report titled *Economic Analysis of Land Use Policies for Livestock, Wildlife and Disease Management in Caprivi, Namibia, with Potential Wider Implications for Regional Transfrontier Conservation Areas* applies a standard cost-benefit analysis to several future policy options with emphasis being placed on the livestock/wildlife interface and Caprivi's role as central to the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA). KAZA TFCA, shared by Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, is at the verge of becoming perhaps the world's largest conservation-oriented landscape.

Empirically based enterprise models measuring private and economic values for the livestock and wildlife sectors were used to measure returns on investment for policy options regarding animal disease management and land-use allocation. Four options were considered, including

commodity-based trade (CBT) and veterinary control fencing. The results indicate that CBT approaches to disease management and formal meat production are highly likely to be economically efficient. Moreover, the economic costs associated with a CBT approach would be outweighed by new economic gains in terms of wildlife-based incomes, abattoir viability, and livestock farming incomes. On the other hand, the introduction of spatially segregated, fenced foot and mouth disease (FMD)-free compartments is technically impractical and would be economically undesirable. Here, significant loss of growth in wildlife-related incomes, and significant costs for fencing would outweigh any new economic gains in abattoir viability and livestock farming incomes. The findings have importance for development policy in the KAZA TFCA, and possibly other TFCAs in southern Africa. They strongly suggest that initiatives aimed at introduction of CBT as part of a value chain approach to sanitary risk management offer significant economic potential.

Download a PDF at:

http://www.wcs-ahead.org/workinggrps_kaza.html

WCPA Steering Committee meets in Montenegro



IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) annual Steering Committee meeting was held from 21 to 24 April 2013 in Podgorica, Montenegro. The meeting was organised with support provided by the Centre for Protection and Research of Birds of Montenegro and IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe, and endorsed by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro. While the first three days of the meeting were dedicated to presentation of results and discussion on a variety of important topics, the participants visited Lovćen and Skadar Lake National Parks on the last day. This visit was supported by National Parks of Montenegro.

The Steering Committee, headed by Ernesto Enkerlin Hoefflich, discussed commitments where IUCN was specifically named in the documents of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity meeting from Nagoya, as well as protected area related challenges linked to capacity development, governance, sustainable finance, mainstreaming protected areas in development agenda, and certification (e.g. Green List). Much of the discussion was dedicated to preparation for the upcoming World Parks Congress (WPC), to be held in

November 2014 in Sydney, Australia. WPC theme is *Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions* and its principal aim is to position protected areas firmly within goals of economic and community wellbeing, as well as increase understanding of protected areas' vital role in conserving biodiversity and delivering ecosystem services. The agenda includes eight Streams and four cross-cutting Themes that will enable the participants to debate new ideas and strategies for the future.

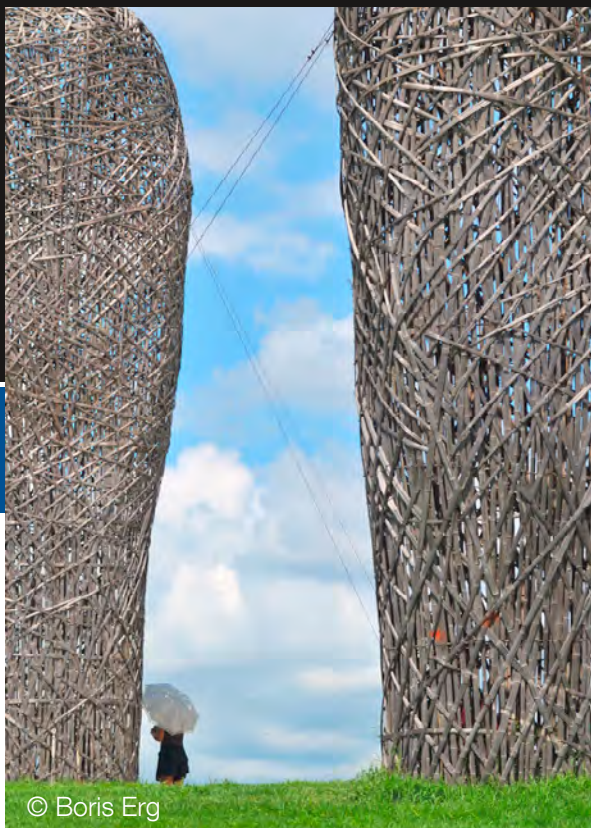
WCPA Task Forces and Specialist Groups (SG), including Transboundary Conservation SG, had the opportunity to present some of their activities and proposed directions. IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme reported on the regional workshops and implications for WCPA actions under Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), as well as progress with the Green List project.

Download presentations at:

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_wcpa/gpap_steeringcommittee/gpap_wcpascmeeting/

Asia Parks Congress

Make the world a wilder place



The city of Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, will host the 1st Asia Parks Congress to be held on 13-17 November 2013. The Congress, themed *Parks Connect*, is being organised by the Ministry of Environment of Japan and IUCN. It intends to achieve the following objectives: sharing experiences on management of protected areas and establishing a cooperative structure among various stakeholders in Asia, building regional capacity and energizing protected area community in Asia, establishing the agenda for protected areas in Asia and promoting actions towards achieving the Aichi Targets and the objectives of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, and providing regional perspective and input to the 6th World Parks Congress. Apart from plenary sessions, the programme will include six working group sessions, namely: Natural disasters and protected areas, Environmental education and tourism, Culture and tradition in protected areas, Protected area governance, International cooperation for protected areas, and Biodiversity and protected areas.

For more information visit <http://asia-parks.org>

The 10th World Wilderness Congress (WWC; WILD10), themed *Make the World a Wilder Place*, will be held from 4-10 October 2013 in Salamanca, Spain. The WILD Foundation, IUCN, WWF, PanParks Foundation, Conservation International, and many other institutions are working together as partners in the WILD10 process. The programme contains a plenary Global Gathering with leaders announcing objectives and new models from many different sectors, Excursions, and the Global Forum with popular Science and Stewardship Symposium. The main Congress is also preceded by a two-day Intergovernmental Forum on Wilderness for government employees of all types (national, provincial, local, communal, tribal, international agencies).

The WWC is an ongoing conservation project, focused on practical outcomes in policy, new wilderness areas, new funding mechanisms, trainings for communities and professionals, and more. It is not a typical “conference”—it integrates art, science, management, government, academia, native leaders, youth, corporate leaders, and advocates into a multi-year conservation programme, with unique results at each convening. Registration for WILD10 is open and more information can be found at <http://www.wild10.org>

Publications

A guideline to initiating transboundary conservation



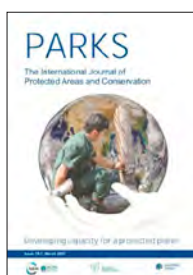
Published in 2012 and edited by Boris Erg, Maja Vasiljević and Matthew McKinney, *Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner's guideline based on the experiences from the Dinaric Arc* reinforces the lessons and experience of undertaking transboundary conservation programmes and sets out new guidance for those involved in transboundary conservation planning. The publication is prepared by IUCN in cooperation with IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, WWF, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. It proposes a diagnostic framework to determining the underlying purpose for a transboundary approach, and to guide the practitioner to respond to this purpose and need when the programme is designed and implemented. This advice is presented in the form of a self-assessment tool developed from a suite of underlying case studies from pilot sites in the Dinaric Arc. The improved, electronic edition of the *Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners* has been developed as well and is available for download at <http://www.tbpa.net> together with the publication.

Parks, Peace and Partnerships



Michael S. Quinn, Len Broberg and Wayne Freimund edited a book *Parks, Peace and Partnerships*, published by University of Calgary Press in 2012. The book arises from an international conference on transboundary conservation held in Waterton Lakes National Park, USA, in 2007. *Parks, Peace and Partnerships* reflects current global thinking about cross-border management of protected areas as a way to enhance long-term viability of ecological systems and sustainable communities. The book is a collection of essays by park managers, biologists, scholars, scientists and researchers from various parts of the world, providing examples of challenges and solutions encountered in transboundary conservation management. The E-book and other details are available at: <http://uofcpress.com/books/9781552386422>

PARKS



Last year, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) re-launched a journal PARKS: The International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation, edited by Sue Stolton and Nigel Dudley. The latest issue is now available for downloading at IUCN's website. Among other interesting papers, it contains two papers focusing on transboundary management in protected areas. Krishna Prasad Oli, Sunita Chaudhary and Uday Raj Sharma presented governance and management of the Kanchenjunga landscape shared by Bhutan, India and Nepal, while Jimmy Borah and a group of authors assessed tiger populations in transboundary Manas conservation complex. PARKS is a peer reviewed journal prepared in English with summaries in French and Spanish. It features diverse papers ranging from research papers, policy analyses, practical management issues, to debates on critical issues. For more information on guidelines for submitting a paper and to download the latest issue, please visit <http://www.iucn.org/parks>

TB eNews

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TB eNews is prepared on a bi-annual 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

