

Convention on Biological Diversity's requirements on transboundary conservation

International workshop on defining transboundary conservation
principles

Thayatal National Park, 16 October 2013

Boris Erg, IUCN

IUCN WCPA TBC SG Strategic Plan

Strategic Direction 1: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Objective 1.1:

To support the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the CBD Secretariat, and partners in delivering the goals and targets of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) related to transboundary conservation (TBC)

Action 4: Develop guidelines for establishing TBPA as a practical toolkit easy to use on the ground level

Action 5: Explore possibilities and set grounds for revision of IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guideline on TBPA

Protected areas and the CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the most important international legal instrument addressing protected areas.

Protected areas form a central element of the work in the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues addressed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Protected areas are dealt with in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (incl. the Aichi Targets) and specific Programmes of Work.

Examples of Programmes of Work: Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Inland Water Ecosystems, Mountain Biodiversity, etc.

Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA)

In February 2004, the CBD Parties adopted the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).

The Programme of Work on Protected Areas includes 16 goals, divided across 4 programme elements.

Element 1: Direct Actions for Planning, Selecting, Establishing, Strengthening, and Managing, Protected Area Systems and Sites

Element 2: Governance, Participation, Equity and Benefit Sharing

Element 3: Enabling Activities

Element 4: Standards, Assessment, and Monitoring

Programme Element 1: Direct actions for planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening, and managing, protected area systems and sites

Goal 1.1: To establish and strengthen national and regional systems of protected areas integrated into a global network as a contribution to globally agreed goals

1.1.3 As a matter of urgency, by 2006 terrestrially and by 2008 in the marine environment, take action to address the under-representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in existing national and regional systems of protected areas, taking into account marine ecosystems beyond areas of national jurisdiction in accordance with applicable international law, and **transboundary** inland water ecosystems.

Goal 1.3: To establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries

Target: Establish and strengthen by 2010/2012 transboundary protected areas, other forms of collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries and regional networks, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, implementing the ecosystem approach, and improving international cooperation.

Suggested activities of the Parties

1.3.1 Collaborate with other parties and relevant partners to establish **effective regional networks of protected areas**, particularly in areas identified as common conservation priorities (e.g. barrier reef systems, large scale river basins, mountain systems, large remaining forest areas and critical habitat for endangered species), and establish multi-country coordination mechanisms.

1.3.2 Collaborate with other Parties and relevant partners through the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) to **establish and manage protected areas in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction**, in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and based on scientific information.

1.3.3 **Establish**, where appropriate, **new TBPA**s with adjacent Parties and countries **and strengthen effective collaborative management of existing TBPA**s.

1.3.4 **Promote collaboration** between protected areas across national boundaries.

Suggested supporting activities of the Executive Secretary

1.3.5 Collaborate and consult with relevant organizations and bodies for developing **guidelines for establishing transboundary protected areas and collaborative management approaches**, as appropriate, for dissemination to Parties.

1.3.6 **Compile and disseminate information on regional networks of protected areas and transboundary protected areas**, including, as far as possible, their geographical distribution, their historical background, their role and the partners involved.

1.3.7 Review the potential for regional cooperation under the Convention on Migratory Species with a view to linking of protected area networks across international boundaries and potentially beyond national jurisdiction through the **establishment of migratory corridors for key species**.

In conclusion

There is a clear notion of transboundary protected areas in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) while there is no specific reference in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets..

Actions indicated in PoWPA:

- Establish and strengthen transboundary protected areas
- Regional networks of protected areas
- Marine areas beyond national jurisdictions
- Collaborative management of TBPA's
- Guidelines on transboundary conservation
- Migratory corridors

A scenic mountain landscape. In the foreground, a rustic stone wall made of dark, irregular stones runs across the frame. To the right of the wall, a dirt path with patches of grass and gravel leads into the distance. The middle ground is filled with lush green vegetation, including bushes and small trees. In the background, majestic mountains rise against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Some mountain peaks are partially shrouded in mist or low-hanging clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Thank you!

www.tbpa.net