



# **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DEFINING TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES: *WHERE DO LOCAL COMMUNITIES FIT IN?***

Thayatal National Park, Austria, 16-18 October 2013

Andrew Dunn

Regional Coordinator for West and Central Africa

IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group

Country Director, Wildlife Conservation Society, Nigeria

Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group

## Parks for People or Parks for Nature?

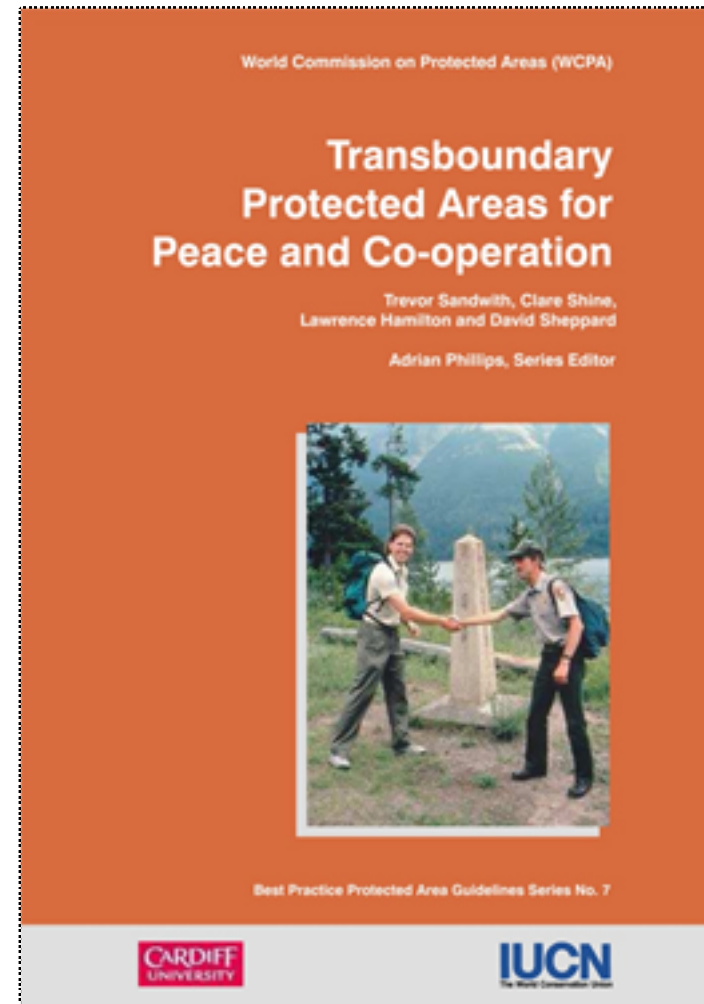
- Half of the world's PAs are inhabited by human communities
- Traditional PA management (national parks) demanded an area free from human interference – fortress conservation
- Growing consensus that this approach is out-dated, costly & impractical
- *"I see no future for parks, unless they address the needs of communities as equal partners in their development"* Nelson Mandela
- But extinction rates are increasing and outside of national parks there is little or no wildlife left



# Involving and Benefiting Local People (2001)



- *“Community involvement in PA planning, policy formulation & management is essential”*
- Community involvement is seen as particularly important in transboundary situations, where communities may be artificially separated due to political divisions or colonial scars.
- Communities in border areas often suffer disproportionately due to poverty and unequal access to resources.
- Can TBPA's reunite communities, rebuild common understanding and values, and establish a basis for constructive cooperation?



# Good Practice Guidelines: 14 Essential Actions

1. Early engagement to discuss concept, process and implications of TBPA establishment and management
2. Identify shared values and interests that can support conservation and form the basis for cooperation between communities and PA institutions
3. Identify cultural values and resources deemed important, which can reinforce and complement conservation
4. Identify any potential disputes and support conflict resolution
5. Identify access rights to natural and cultural resources





6. Strive for support from decision-makers; comply with human rights and environmental standards; recognize rights & needs of minorities and indigenous people in planning and management
7. Ensure that negotiation, planning and implementation processes are transparent
8. Educate and inform local communities about the benefits and functions of a TBPA as well as their rights and responsibilities
9. Support and strengthen local institutions and CBOs
10. Identify opportunities for economic development/benefits for local people
11. Incorporate traditional knowledge into planning, management & monitoring
12. Implement activities to promote understanding and cooperation among communities concerned
13. Where there has been armed conflict support activities to heal relationships between communities
14. Involve local and regional NGOs and CBOs

# Indigenous People



*Community involvement is seen to be particularly important in transboundary situations where indigenous people are present. But who are indigenous people?*

- A distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees:
- (a) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- (b) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories;
- (c) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- (d) an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

# IUCN/WCPA Guidelines on Indigenous & Traditional Peoples and Protected Areas



*The rights of indigenous and other traditional peoples in connection with PAs are often an international responsibility, since many of their lands cross national boundaries and overlap with conservation areas. Where TBPA include traditional lands and resources, governments should adopt instruments to guarantee that PA management respects and supports the integrity of the communities and their resources; and indigenous and other traditional peoples' lands within PAs should be treated as zones of peace and reconciliation.*



Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group

## Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

“... PA managers should incorporate customary and indigenous tenure and resource use and control systems as a means of enhancing biodiversity conservation...” and “knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and other traditional peoples have much to contribute to the management of protected areas.”





## International Labour Organization:

### *Protection of Rights of Indigenous & Tribal Peoples Across Borders*

“The rights and ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the land which they traditional occupy shall be recognized... Particular attention shall be paid to the situation of nomadic peoples and shifting cultivators; governments shall take steps as necessary... to guarantee effective protection of their rights of ownership and possession” and “Governments shall take appropriate measures, including by means of international agreements, to facilitate contacts and co-operation between indigenous and tribal peoples across borders...”



**Thank you**

**Andrew Dunn**

**[www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net)**

**[www.wcsnigeria.org](http://www.wcsnigeria.org)**

**[adunn@wcs.org](mailto:adunn@wcs.org)**