



TBCA in Focus  
Saxon-Bohemian  
Switzerland in the  
heart of Europe



A CONSERVATION  
ATLAS FOR  
TRANSBOUNDARY  
CONSERVATION  
AREAS



RESTORATION OF  
THE RIO BRAVO-  
GRANDE

[www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net)  
Transboundary Conservation

# TBeNEWS11

OCTOBER  
2017



© Václav Sojka



BIOPAMA



# Editorial



## Welcome!

In the 11<sup>th</sup> issue we present stories about transboundary conservation related projects, initiatives, innovative ideas and workshops our contributors attended. In the regular section, TBCA in Focus, we are happy to introduce a European Transboundary Protected Area, Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland, shared between the Czech Republic and Germany. The site is famous for its sandstone formations surrounding the Elbe River, and it is also an exemplary case of long-standing transboundary cooperation. We present stories from diverse parts of the globe, including central Asia, south and central Africa, Middle East, Europe, and north, south and central America.

Within the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, recently there have been changes in the leadership and the Executive Committee. After eight years of serving as Chair of the Specialist Group (and in the last period as Co-Chair with Kevan Zunckel), I decided to step down and undertake hopefully a less demanding role in the Specialist Group as Vice Chair. It has been a great pleasure to be part of this inspiring group and I wish Kevan all the success in future leadership.

TB eNEWS is being prepared on a bi-annual basis by the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). It is supported by the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and IUCN BIOPAMA project in East and Southern Africa.

Thank you for your continuous interest to publish your updates in the TB eNEWS. This and all previous issues are available online at [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net).

**Maja Vasiljević**

Vice Chair, Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group  
IUCN WCPA

# Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland in the heart of Europe

**Name:** Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland

**Countries:** Germany and Czech Republic

**Surface:** 705 km<sup>2</sup>

**Year of formal TB agreement:** 1991

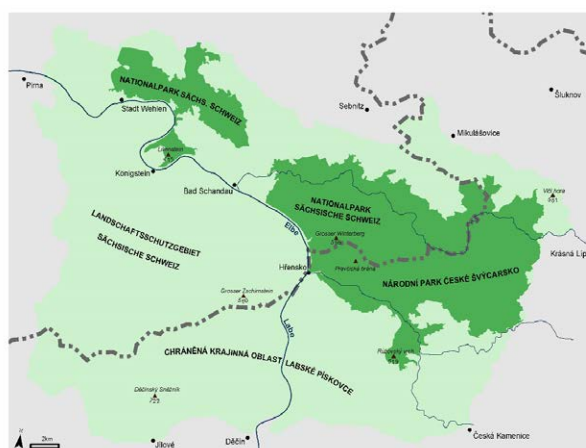
**International designations:** Natura 2000 (SAC, SPA)

Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland is a Central-European Transboundary Conservation Area consisting of four large-scale protected areas located in Czech Republic and Germany; two national parks (IUCN protected area management category II) and two protected landscape areas (IUCN protected area management category V): České Švýcarsko (Bohemian Switzerland) National Park, Sächsische Schweiz (Saxon Switzerland) National Park, Labské pískovce (Elbe Sandstones) Protected Landscape Area, and Sächsische Schweiz Protected Landscape Area.

The area is located in northern Bohemia (Czech Republic) and south-eastern Saxony (Germany), with the deepest point being the Elbe River near Pirna, Germany (110 m), and the highest altitude being the Vysoký Sněžník Mountain, Czech Republic (726 m). Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland, also known under the name of Elbe Sandstones, is an erosion landscape along the Elbe/Labe River valley on both sides of the German–Czech border. The region represents the largest sandstone rock area in Europe, formed by quartzose sandstones of Cretaceous age. A typical manifestation of the phenomenon of the sandstone rock landscape is an inversion of the vegetation levels, leading to the presence of montane species at very low altitudes (e.g. *Viola biflora*, *Lycopodium annotinum*, *Streptopus amplexifolius*) together with the Atlantic species (e.g. *Luronium natans*, *Trichomanes speciosum* and formerly also *Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*). Characteristic animal species are represented by eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), garden dormouse (*Eliomys quercinus*) and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*). Recently, the lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and the wolf (*Canis lupus*) are returning naturally to the area. However, the unique geodiversity represents the main conservation objective of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland. Examples include the Pravčická brána Arch, the largest sandstone rock arch in Europe, on the Czech side, and several sandstone rock table mountains on the German side.



© Václav Sojka



Transboundary cooperation in the region has a long tradition, however, it was stimulated mainly by the 1991 Agreement between the ministries of the environment of Saxony and the Czech Republic. Another important framework for transboundary cooperation is provided by the Joint vision (2017) and Joint Strategy (2012) of both national parks. In 2012 and 2017, both parks received the certification of the Europarc Federation within the “Transboundary parks – following nature’s design” programme. The main benefits and provisions of the transboundary cooperation include joint management map, joint corporate design and successful re-introduction of the Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and salmon (*Salmo salar*).

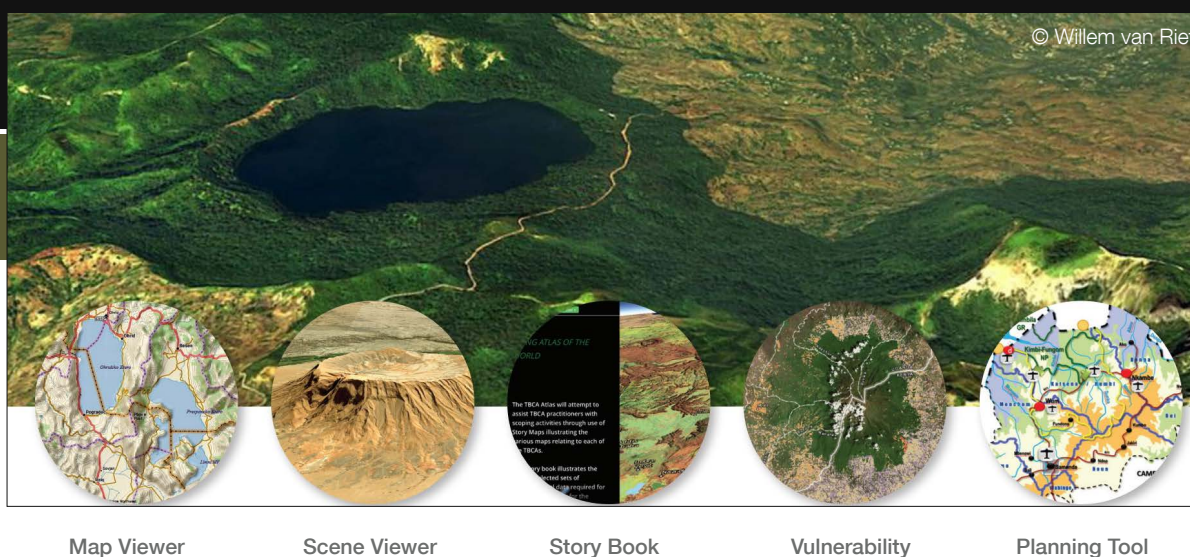
Since the area has been a traditional tourist destination for a long time, sustainable tourism represents the main challenge for nature conservation in Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland.

**Dr Handrij Härtel**

Bohemian Switzerland National Park

[h.hartel@npcs.cz](mailto:h.hartel@npcs.cz)

# A conservation atlas for transboundary conservation areas: Join in and comment!



During the initial stages of Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) planning, the planners often do not have access to appropriate geographical maps. Maps are a living, tri-dimensional source of knowledge—a map represents thousands of words.

Is it possible to develop a Global Atlas with selected data that would allow focus on identified conservation areas in the UNEP-IUCN WCPA's World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) as a functional conservation planning tool during the initial phases of TBCA development? The Transboundary Conservation Foundation undertook an experiment to test the usefulness of such a Global Conservation Atlas. This was accomplished through a conservation grant from ESRI and in cooperation with UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). At the core of the Atlas is the use of bookmarks of any of the selected polygons or conservation areas in the WDPA as a zooming tool to illustrate all of the selected datasets in the database in and surrounding the identified conservation area. Central to the Atlas was the use of a web based GIS technology accessible via ESRI and its Living Atlas of the World.

Currently 16 separate layers in the Atlas are ready for review. The collated information can also be used for identification of the vulnerability of a TBCA and to implement the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group's (TBC SG) Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners. A number of Story Maps have been drafted and placed on a Facebook Group page. The Foundation invites members of the TBC SG to review the process, draft Story Maps and submit comments. For those interested please contact Professor Van Riet for an invitation to the Facebook Group.

**Prof Willem van Riet**

Transboundary Conservation Foundation

[prof@transbcafrica.com](mailto:prof@transbcafrica.com)

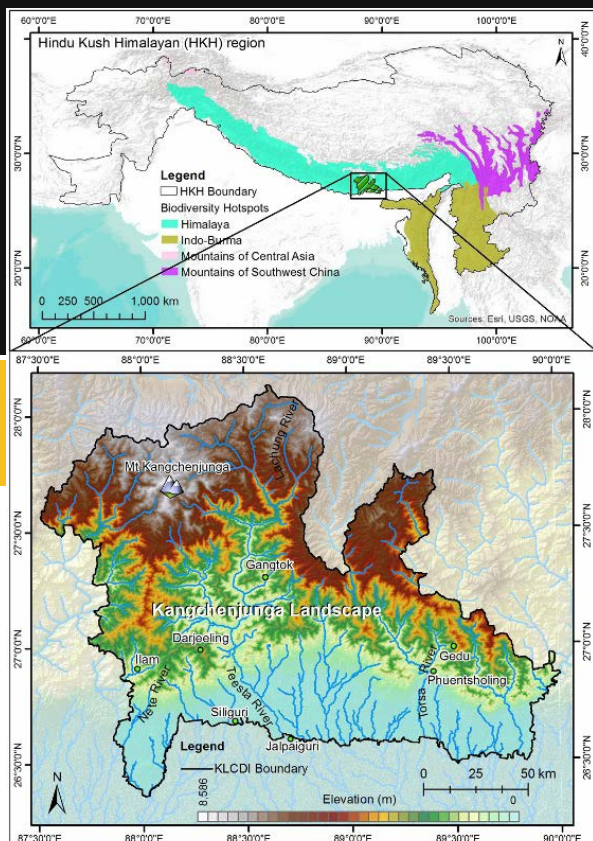
[www.transboundary.se](http://www.transboundary.se)

<https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/mapping-the-worlds-special-places>

<http://www.esri.com/esri-news/arcnews/fall13/articles/implementing-web-gis>



# Kangchenjunga Landscape in the Hindu Kush Himalayas



The Kangchenjunga Landscape, one of six transboundary landscapes identified in the Hindu Kush Himalaya, is situated between 26°21'40.49" and 28°7'51.25" E latitude and 87°30'30.67" and 90°24'31.18" N longitude. With a total area of 25,086 km<sup>2</sup>; 5,834 km<sup>2</sup> in Bhutan, 14,127 km<sup>2</sup> in India, and 5,125 km<sup>2</sup> in Nepal, the landscape ascends from the Terai-Duar lowlands of India and Nepal through the middle hills to the high Himalayan region, with an elevation range from 40 to 8,586 metres above sea level. With 19 protected areas, the majority of which are transboundary in nature, the landscape is exceptionally rich in faunal and floral diversity. The richness of biodiversity is evident with 5,198 flowering plants, 190 mammals, 121 reptiles, 199 fishes, 586 butterflies and 813 birds, many being endemic to the landscape.

Conceptualised in 2003, the landscape went through rigorous systematic planning processes with a preparatory phase (2003-2011), planning phase (2012-2015), and finally to implementation phase (2016-2020) with a vision document of 20 years. With formal inception in August 2012 during a regional meeting in Sikkim, India, the three member countries prepared a Regional Feasibility Report, Conservation and Development Strategy (2016-2036) as part of Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI), supported by a Regional Cooperation Framework. With broad focus on an integrated approach, the landscape initiative advocates an 'ecosystem approach' in strengthening socio-ecological linkages. Interventions on poverty alleviation, ecosystem management, promotion of good governance, long-term science based decision-making and regional cooperation have been identified as working areas among the participating countries. All these documents have been endorsed with commitment for implementation through regional cooperation.

**Dr Nakul Chettri**

ICIMOD

[Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org](mailto:Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org)

<http://www.icimod.org/kl>

# Nigeria-Cameroon Transboundary Working Group gains momentum



© Wildlife Conservation Society

In May 2017, a transboundary working group composed of stakeholders from Cross River National Park in Nigeria and Korup and Takamanda national parks in Cameroon, met in Obudu Plateau in Nigeria to discuss the need for dedicated funding for the UNESCO Transboundary Biosphere Reserve nomination process, as well as the need to fund community sensitization and consultation activities in Nigeria. In Cameroon, these activities have been supported by the KfW Development Bank funded Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the South West of Cameroon, while no similar programme exists on the Nigerian side. Representatives from the German embassies in Abuja and Yaoundé were present at the meeting as well as the KfW Country Director for Cameroon. This was the fourth meeting of the working group facilitated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Country Offices in Nigeria and Cameroon.

The first such meeting took place in Bamenda, Cameroon, in March 2016, resulting in identification of shared management objectives, a proposed transboundary management structure and a tentative zoning plan. The second meeting took place in Calabar, Nigeria, in June 2016 where it was agreed to involve potential donor agencies in the next working group session and to pursue UNESCO World Heritage Site status in parallel with submitting nomination forms for the Biosphere Reserve process. Establishment of a joint coordination structure to

steer the implementation of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve nomination process was recommended, as well as a committee to coordinate management oriented research activities. The third meeting took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November 2016, at which the participants revised the proposed transboundary management structure and the proposed zonation of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

Work is now on-going to develop a transboundary protected area management plan drawing upon the outputs of these working group meetings as part of the UNESCO nomination process. Efforts to secure funds for community consultations and sensitization in Nigeria are also underway.

**Andrew Dunn, Tunde Morakinyo, Inaoyom Imong,  
Julien Dupuy, Andrew Fowler**  
[adunn@wcs.org](mailto:adunn@wcs.org)



# Humboldt-University hosts international workshop on transboundary conservation



Humboldt University in Berlin organised a workshop entitled “Connecting biodiversity and improving human livelihood beyond boundaries - a global perspective” from 11-14 September 2017 at Linde research station (run by the foundation “Zwillenberg-Tietz Stiftung”), Germany. Several members of the WCPA’s Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group were in attendance along with transboundary conservation practitioners with experience in every populated continent. The event was hosted by Professor Dr Ulrich Zeller and his colleagues Dr Thomas Göttert and Dr Nicole Starik.

We heard a detailed overview of transboundary conservation activities from Prof Zeller as well as interesting talks on different conservation concepts, such as Global Geoparks (M.L. Frey) and rewilding (N. Fernandez). P. Leitner from Peace Parks Foundation and C. Miguel discussed the Limpopo National Park, while V. Macandza focused on conservation measures in the Lubombo TFCA and A. Frank on cultural landscapes in the Limpopo region. N. Odendall talked about connectivity plans and tourist development in Namibia, while we also heard about transboundary bird migration (T. Göttert), the ecosystem service value of bats (N. Starik and P. Taylor) and transboundary human-wildlife conflict (T. Rottstock).

Outside Africa, N. Selva gave a talk on the transboundary movement of bears in Europe and efforts to conserve them, while C. Chester talked about twenty-five years of progress in linking the Yellowstone National Park with the Yukon. The global relevance of transboundary conservation was reinforced by B. Coutinho from Conservation International talking about the Amazon biome and O. Goroshko presenting long-term data on bird and mammal migration in the Daursky State Nature Reserve in Russia, which adjoins Mongolia and China.

The participants discussed common opportunities and threats to transboundary conservation areas and the topics addressed during the workshop provided a valuable framework for comparative considerations to identify strategies for overcoming practical difficulties of launching and managing a transboundary conservation network. The transboundary protected area model is becoming more relevant than ever in a world of increasing globalisation but also a world of increasingly fervent national identity and physical manifestations of boundaries.

**Dr Jamie McCallum**

Transfrontier International  
[jamie.mccallum@transfrontier.org](mailto:jamie.mccallum@transfrontier.org)

# Where does your water come from?



© Stephen Legault

No matter where you are on Earth, you are part of a watershed. Our drinking water depends on the health of headwaters and functional watersheds that feed rivers. Humans aren't the only ones who depend on this system, either. It is also the lifeblood for thousands of flora and fauna species.

Rivers also help regulate climate and circulate nutrients for our forests. They are also rich in cultural, recreational and economic importance. Recognizing that appeal of mountain water and the importance of communicating the role these rivers play in our lives, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative released a map illustrating water sources in the transboundary area.

Stretching more than 3,200 kilometres (2,000 miles) the Yellowstone to Yukon region is home to 13 major rivers—six of those among 125 of the world's largest by volume. An estimated 15 million people get their drinking water originating from this region.

Water in the Yellowstone to Yukon area begins up high, fed by snow, rain and glaciers. As it descends, it carves a path through the landscape, flowing east and west from the Continental Divide. Water beginning here eventually empties into the Bering Sea, Arctic Ocean, Hudson Bay, Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California. The map helps visualize the towns and cities along the way that get their water from the Yellowstone to Yukon area.

The nonprofit currently works with partners on eight different water-focused projects: Yukon's Peel watershed; B.C.'s Peace River, Murray River and Columbia headwaters; Alberta's Eastern Slopes, Bighorn backcountry and Castle; as well as Idaho's Salmon River.

**Kelly Zenkevich**

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

[Kelly@y2y.net](mailto:Kelly@y2y.net)



# Consider wildlife when erecting border barriers



*This article is an extract from the article that was originally published by the [San Antonio Express-News](#) on 10 September 2017*

Funding for a massive border wall between the United States and Mexico will be debated again as negotiations over the U.S. administration's budget request for the new fiscal year get under way. As divisive as the border has been for groups concerned with national security and immigrant issues, there is another constituency whose needs should be part of the conversation: wildlife.

The border region is one of the most biodiverse areas in the U.S. and an intersection for many carnivores. For several years, the U.S. and Mexican governments have been working to define critical habitat and reduce threats such as roads and enhance species protection for bears, wolves, other large carnivores, and other species. Together, they have worked to restore populations of species such as the Mexican wolf, the smallest and rarest wolf in North America, on either side of the border. Meanwhile, yet another jaguar tripped a camera trap this winter in Arizona, 60 miles north of Mexico.

The best argument for ensuring that wild carnivores have access to cross-border habitat comes from science. Our research found that bears in the southern U. S. and northern Mexico are closely related and depend upon movements through pathways across the border.

Such corridors for movement are likewise important in maintaining populations of other rare species in the region like bison and Sonoran pronghorn. Decision makers from the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state and federal wildlife and land management agencies, and all the equivalent agencies in Mexico must consider this type of information and incorporate the needs of wildlife into border plans.

Before new negotiations over the federal budget get underway and any decisions are made to construct a border wall, now is the time to ensure an informed conversation about how it would impact wildlife were it to be constructed. Can we maintain important linkages for wildlife in a transboundary region in the context of a border fence without compromising immigration and national security goals? The answer is yes, if we plan using the best available science and factor the needs of transboundary wildlife into the plans.

**Jon P. Beckmann**

Wildlife Conservation Society  
[jbeckmann@wcs.org](mailto:jbeckmann@wcs.org)

# Restoration of the Rio Bravo-Grande: ensuring water provision for future generations



The Maderas del Carmen Wildlife Protection Area, located in northern Mexico, and the Big Bend National Park in southern United States, share a sister park agreement since 2006. At the national border, they are joined by the Rio Bravo (as known in Mexico) or the Rio Grande (as known in the U.S.). The two reserves identified the proliferation of riparian invasive species, such as giant cane (*Arundo donax*) and salt cedar (*Tamarix ramossissima*), as a strong threat for river conservation, given their influence in structure modification and replacement of desirable native species. A set of invasive species' monitoring and control actions has been introduced and coordinated by the two reserves, and in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and citizens who live along the river.

Ten years after the beginning of the first river restoration actions, the frequency of occurrence of giant cane and salt cedar has diminished by about 80% within the initial 50-kilometre long identified geographic range. Further measures are being undertaken in other areas impacted by the same problem, including the stretch of about 100 kilometres under shared management.

The main benefit derived from the control of the invasive species is contribution to recovering part of the natural river dynamic, including improvement of fish habitat, enabling active sediment flow, regulating the river flows, and finally, improving the stream flow dynamics. Additionally, these measures created benefits also for people; e.g., there are more open spaces for recreation, and a higher volume of water is available for communities living along the river and even outside of the direct influence of the reserves. Given the relevance of building smart relationships to help the decision-makers take the best decisions for management of protected areas, both reserves have been working in the identification of common Vital Signs to help measure the state of nature in the shared ecosystem.

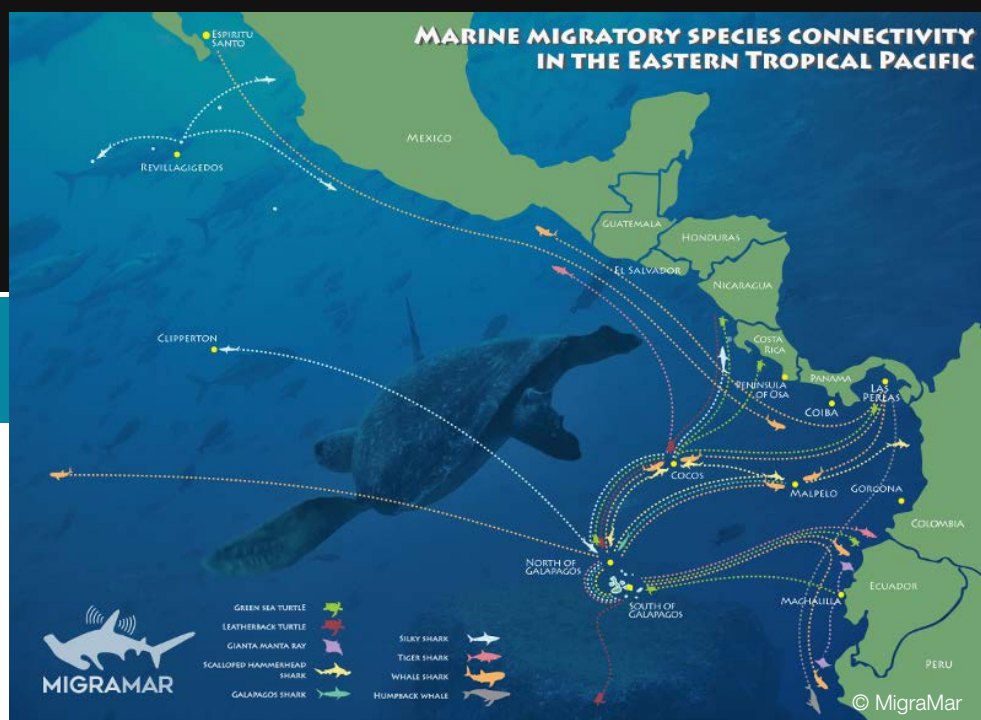
**Julio Carrera-Treviño and Javier Ochoa-Espinoza**

CONANP

[javier.ochoa@conanp.gob.mx](mailto:javier.ochoa@conanp.gob.mx)



# The Galapagos – Cocos Swimway: science for transboundary marine policy and management



The Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) spans from the Gulf of California to Ecuador and is home to some of the last vast aggregations of shark species, including hammerhead, Galápagos, silky and whale sharks. The ETP also has one of the highest rates of mortality for sharks and rays, stemming mainly from domestic and foreign fishing efforts.

While scientific evidence demonstrates the high biological importance of the region and the need to manage its shared conservation objects at a regional scale, conservation in the ETP has nevertheless faced many challenges; primarily in terms of uncoordinated efforts between governments, civil society, academia and policy leaders, inadequate resources and funding. For this reason, two regional platforms, MigraMar and PACIFICO, have joined forces to provide leadership to promote the sustainability of marine conservation efforts in the ETP. These platforms are focusing on the science, funding and policies, by involving key stakeholders and decision-makers, thus identifying pathways from science to management.

At this time, we are proposing the creation of the Galapagos-Cocos Swimway to cover approximately 600x200 km area of ocean following the Cocos Ridge—linking the Galapagos and Cocos Marine Reserves in Ecuador and Costa Rica. MigraMar's network of underwater listening stations (~1000 acoustically tagged individuals) and tracking data from over 200 satellite tag deployments has validated that sharks, turtles, whales and rays species migrate through the waters connecting Galapagos and Cocos.

Currently, MigraMar and PACIFICO are providing the necessary resources to generate a solid scientific, socio-economic and legal proposal for the Galapagos-Cocos Swimway with the scientific data, legal framework, policy agenda, and financial sustainability plan to establish it. The overarching goal of the Swimway is also to develop a global precedent in regional marine collaboration across international boundaries, resulting in specific policies that aim to reduce the main threats to marine species and the protection of their habitats.

**Dr Olivier Chassot**

MigraMar

[olivier.chassot@migramar.org](mailto:olivier.chassot@migramar.org)

[www.migramar.org](http://www.migramar.org)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter-American Congress on Environmental Rule of Law



© Patrick J. Lynch

The Organization of American States held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter-American Congress on the Environmental Rule of Law in Santiago, Chile, from 4-6 September 2017. The Congress, which was held in Santiago Chile, was organized together with UN Environment, the IUCN's World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), the Chilean Judiciary and other national and intergovernmental entities.

Attendees participated from throughout the Americas, including several WCEL members including WCEL Chair Justice Antonio Benjamin (Brazil), Minister Michael Hankte Domas of Chile's Third Environmental Tribunal (Chile), Professor Nicholas Bryner (U.S.), Scott Fulton, President of the Environmental Law Institute (U.S.) and Claudia de Windt from the OAS (Dominican Republic).

Participating from WCPA's Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group was Patrick J. Lynch, South America Regional Chair and WCEL Member. Lynch presented his paper co-authored with Chilean attorney Pía Weber S. on "Models for Instream Management of Freshwater Resources in Chile," as part of a panel discussion on water resources. The paper proposes legal reforms Chile

could implement to incentivize private conservation of instream flows, including flows located in transnational watersheds shared with neighboring Argentina, Bolivia and Peru. This model could then be adapted for other jurisdictions, providing the private sector with a way to complement state efforts to protect freshwater resources.

Another idea concerning transboundary conservation discussed at the Congress was the notion of setting up "watershed tribunals" which would hold jurisdiction based on hydrological rather than political borders. This idea has yet to appear in the literature or be fully developed, however it is likely to be an important topic at future conferences on the environmental rule of law in the Americas.

To view the full agenda click [here](#). Videos from the Congress are available on the [Chilean Judiciary's web channel](#).

**Patrick J. Lynch**  
Futaleufu Riverkeeper  
[lynch.pj@gmail.com](mailto:lynch.pj@gmail.com)



# The SADC TFCA Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



At the end of 2016, the Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Unit of the Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) undertook a consultancy to draft the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the regional TFCA Programme, and a Situation Analysis Report (SAR) on M&E in TFCAs.

The process consisted of a combination of fieldwork, short mail-based surveys and a regional workshop to determine the elements of the M&E framework. The workshop was held in March 2017 with the representatives of the Steering Committee of the SADC TFCA Network, the members of the M&E Community of Practice, including the Chair of the IUCN WCPA's Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group (TBC SG), Kevan Zunckel, the representatives of regional TFCAs, including the Regional Coordinator of the TBC SG, Piet Theron, as well as related regional programmes, donors, and NGOs.

In the preparation of the SAR, the contributions from the TBC SG were important as several colleagues from around the world shared their work and experiences with the consultant. The Report is now being finalised and will be made available by SADC once approved.

In September 2017, the M&E framework was presented to the Member States and the representatives of the regional TFCAs in a validation workshop chaired by the head of the TFCA Unit for the South African Department of Environmental Affairs. During the workshop both the framework and the 8 sets of indicators were discussed and revised. Currently, the M&E Unit of the SADC Secretariat is reviewing the indicators, before the Member States have a final chance to comment. The Framework will then be presented to the SADC Wildlife Technical Committee scheduled for the beginning of October 2017 for final approval.

The SADC TFCA Unit funded this process, through the GIZ Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resource Programme. The consultancy, including the facilitation of the workshop, was conducted by Dr Clara Bocchino, a member of the IUCN WCPA TBC SG.

**Dr Clara Bocchino**

[clara.bocchino@gmail.com](mailto:clara.bocchino@gmail.com)

<http://www.tfcportal.org>

# First-ever Dead Sea Swim calls for action to safeguard the Dead Sea



The Dead Sea is a unique salt-lake, known for its exceptional geographical, biological, and historical value, and is the lowest point on Earth. It is ten times saltier than the ocean—a true wonder of nature. But the Dead Sea is in trouble. It has receded by 25 meters in just 30 years and has lost a third of its surface area, resulting in the development of more than 6,000 sinkholes and endangering the infrastructure around its shores. However, this ecological catastrophe is not a stroke of nature. It is man-made.

The Lower Jordan River, the main body of water that used to feed the Dead Sea, has had 95% of its waters diverted by Israel, Jordan and Syria, and the Israeli and Jordanian mineral industries are outrageously excused from paying for the water they evaporate in order to extract its minerals, thus giving no incentive to develop alternative, water-conserving technologies.

To raise awareness of the ecological collapse of the Dead Sea, and create an international public outcry, EcoPeace Middle East helped organize the first-ever Dead Sea Swim. On 15 November 2016, a group of 25 swimmers from around the world came together to do something unprecedented: to swim from Jordan to Israel. This

was a 16-kilometer, 7-hour, complex, life-threatening undertaking, where swimmers used special full-facial masks to prevent salt from entering their lungs. They were accompanied by a professional medical team, and a final gala event was held on the shores of the Dead Sea to celebrate its successful conclusion.

This event called for concerted action of the relevant governments to deal with the root causes of the Dead Sea's demise.

To view video clips of this historic event, please visit [Dead Sea Swim](#) (by Tsafrir Or) and [Dead Sea Swim](#) (by MadSwimmers).

**Mira Edelstein**

EcoPeace Middle East  
[mira@ecopeaceme.org](mailto:mira@ecopeaceme.org)  
<http://ecopeaceme.org/>



# Agreement on integration of private sector and protected areas in the Amazon



Following a two-day working session held on 21-22 September 2017 in Cobija, Bolivia, institutional delegates from the sustainable production and tourism sectors of Bolivia, Brazil and Peru signed a voluntary agreement that will strengthen integration with protected frontier areas in the Amazon region, for the benefit of conservation and wellbeing of communities.

Recommended actions include developing an ecotourism inventory and biodiversity products within the tri-border landscape, promoting training and exchanges among officials, creating virtual networks for exchanging information, and linking activities to specialists and academia. This agreement represents the first step towards strengthening relations between stakeholders in the territory and integrating protected areas within the landscape. These agreements were developed together with representatives of Amazon protected area systems and institutions related to sustainable production and tourism during the Intersectoral Dialogue of the Landscape South, in Cobija, Bolivia, proposed by the regional project Integrating Protected Areas of the Amazonian Biome - IAPA.

One of the objectives of this meeting was “to have comprehensive regional development so that our protected natural areas contribute to the economy of each country and bring real benefits to the people who live in and

around them,” said Lourdes Ruck, a delegate specialist from the National System of Protected Natural Areas of Peru (Sernanp) and the Parks Network (*Redparques*). For Tiago Juruá, head of the Cazumbá-Iracema Extraction Reserve in Brazil, one of the challenges with the project is “to overcome borders that divide us politically and learn from nature, where we know that there are no such borders; this means learning to think of the landscape as a whole.”

This Dialogue also demonstrated forward-thinking, in an Amazon tourist corridor that involves the three countries with their greatest natural attractions, as a way of generating income and comprehensively preserving protected area resources.

It is expected that with the support of the IAPA project and its strategic partners: WWF, IUCN, UN Environment and Redparques, the proposed actions will be facilitated so that future results are grounded in better planning of the territory and its sustainable use.

Read the original Spanish press release [here](#).

**IUCN SUR/RedParques**

Translated by **Patrick J. Lynch**

Futaleufu Riverkeeper

[lynch.pj@gmail.com](mailto:lynch.pj@gmail.com)

# US National Park Service and BC Parks International Interpretive Program



© Jeanne Roy

The Skagit River meanders through glacially scoured valleys and jagged peaks in the North Cascade Mountains of southwestern British Columbia, on its way to the Salish Sea in northwestern Washington State. In the Upper Skagit Watershed, a north-south corridor amidst breathtaking scenery at the heart of these mountains, the river links Canada's E.C. Manning and Skagit Valley Provincial Parks with North Cascades National Park Service Complex in the United States. This landscape fosters exceptional biodiversity with various habitats in mountainous vertical relief that transition between wet western coastal rainforests and dry eastern slopes. Many species, including ponderosa pine and pacific rhododendron, mingle at the edges of their ranges.

During the first half of the twentieth century, Seattle City Light, a municipal public utility, constructed three dams on the Skagit River in the United States. The largest, Ross Dam, creates Ross Lake which floods approximately 2 km<sup>2</sup> across the international border in Canada. Today, this 39 km long reservoir is surrounded by US and BC parks.

In 2001, the US National Park Service and BC Parks initiated a joint interpretive program for visitors to this unique area. Every summer two rangers, one from each agency, demonstrate the spirit of international cooperation through interpretive programs that highlight the special natural and cultural features of the area.

Emphasizing that nature knows no borders, they strive to promote the importance of transboundary connectivity and international stewardship for a strong and resilient ecosystem. This summer, rangers provided interpretive programs for more than 3000 people.

This partnership is supported by the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC), a Canada-US organization established by the 1984 High Ross Treaty that regulates the extent of Ross Lake's flooding across the international border. SEEC's mission is to ensure the preservation and protection of the upper Skagit Watershed through research, education, and recreational opportunities.

**Eric Vermeers**

NPS Ranger

**AJ Fedoruk**

BC Parks Ranger

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/index.htm>

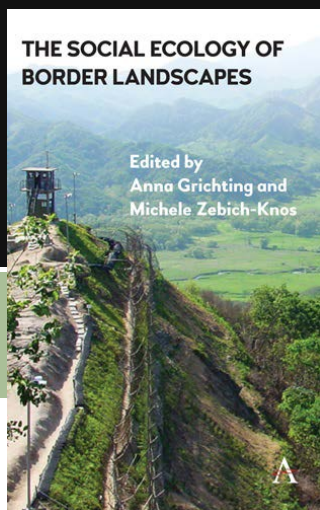
Skagit Valley Provincial Park

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/skagit/>

Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission

<http://skagiteec.org/>





# The Social Ecology of Border Landscapes

A book edited by Anna Grichting and Michele Zebich-Knos, *The Social Ecology of Border Landscapes*, was published in 2017. The volume is a collection of essays from a wide range of disciplines that address social-ecological systems, namely in the marginal spaces, landscapes and territorial interfaces of border zones. The authors are worldwide scholars and practitioners from the fields of politics, ecological and environmental sciences, social sciences, geography, and urban and landscape planning.

The publication explores how social action can activate ecological processes and systems, creating new sustainable landscapes across tangible and intangible territorial rifts. The book includes theoretical and conceptual presentations on social ecology, as well as case studies and concrete projects and initiatives, uncovering contemporary thought and action on the important emerging field of border ecologies within the larger realm of critical border studies. Border landscapes

are loosely defined as interstitial spaces between territories or societies, in conflict or in competition, with fixed or moving boundaries. Scholars involved in Critical Border Studies employ interdisciplinary approaches to the study of borders, often charting new territories (scapes) to analyze and intervene in the complex geography of border zones. Some of the case studies presented in this volume include the Balkan Peace Park Initiative and crane habitat restoration and sustainable agriculture project in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The attention to locally-defined spaces—be it along the Israeli wall, former Berlin wall or the Korean Demilitarized Zone—yields important human-environmental interactions and consequences that form the basis for a social ecological interpretation of environmental adaptation and change.

**Anna Grichting**

Bordermeetings & Desert Bridges  
[bordermeetings@hotmail.com](mailto:bordermeetings@hotmail.com)

# Reconciling human-wildlife interface through policy dialogue in the Kangchenjunga Landscape



© Jeetendra Bajracharya

The Kangchenjunga Landscape is one of six transboundary landscapes in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region (HKH) identified by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), an intergovernmental regional knowledge and enabling centre. It is where Bhutan, India and Nepal have been working together through a Regional Cooperation Framework to ensure the social and economic well-being of local communities while maintaining ecological and cultural integrity. Within this landscape, growing human population that encroaches on contiguous wildlife habitats and has a high incidence of poverty, is contributing to increased negative interactions between humans and wildlife. Human-wildlife conflicts involving both large and small mammals and increasing cases of wildlife crime, including wildlife poaching and illegal trade, have resulted in the member countries joining hands to look for regional solutions.

Recognizing that human-wildlife interactions and trade in flora and fauna are transboundary in nature, a regional policy dialogue with the objectives of discussing common challenges, learning of best practices, and developing a joint action plan to address these issues, is being organized in Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal, India, from 20 to 25 December 2017. The policy dialogue is expected to be held among high level government representatives from Bhutan, India and Nepal, and with participation of key stakeholders including internal and border security agencies. The policy dialogue will be facilitated by ICIMOD, a centre that has been playing a pivotal role in facilitating transboundary cooperation in HKH for the last 33 years. A field trip with visits to three sites experiencing human-elephant conflict has also been designed to support the preparation of a realistic joint action plan.

**Dr Janita Gurung and Dr Nakul Chettri**  
ICIMOD

[Janita.Gurung@icimod.org](mailto:Janita.Gurung@icimod.org)  
[Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org](mailto:Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org)



# Transboundary efforts to protect the Snow Leopard



Although rarely seen by the human eye, its spirit lives in the cultures of the 12 nations of which it is resident. The snow leopard is a magnificent big cat, roaming mountain ranges on altitudes ranging between 540 to more than 5,000 meters above sea level, globally featured as a symbol of high-mountain ecosystems. Despite its remoteness, the species is threatened, with population estimates from 2003 counting between 4,080 - 6,590 cats living in the wild across some of the most spectacular mountains in Central Asia, including the Himalaya, Tian Shan and Karakorum.

All 12 snow leopard Range Countries met at the recent International Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Forum 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, which brought together government ministers and conservationists to outline a strategy to protect the species. “Experience of transboundary concerted action has proven to lead to successful conservation stories”, underlined IUCN Vice President Mr Malik Amin Aslam during his address at the Forum.

IUCN SOS - Save Our Species community-focused conservation programmes in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan Province are examples of such successful conservation efforts. Overall, programme results show reduced killing

of snow leopards, usually for the purpose of selling their fur and body parts. There is also evidence of improved herding and breeding practices for farmed animals, bringing increased economic opportunities for local herders in environmentally sustainable ways.

Threats to the survival of the snow leopard are being addressed by various international conventions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which prohibits international trade of the animal, its parts and products for commercial purposes. The expected actions by Range Countries who endorsed the Bishkek Declaration 2017 will contribute to the international efforts to protect the species.

More information about the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Forum 2017 is available [here](https://www.snowleopard.org/).

**Maša Perović**

IUCN ECARO

[Masa.Perovic@iucn.org](mailto:Masa.Perovic@iucn.org)

# New World Heritage Site declared along Argentina-Chile border: Los Alerces National Park, Argentina



On 7 July 2017 at the meeting in Krakow, Poland, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, comprised of elected States Parties, voted to approve the listing of Argentina's Los Alerces National Park as a World Heritage Site, following recommendations from the IUCN. In describing the integrity of the site, the Committee highlighted possibilities to advance transboundary conservation goals: "The property contains the most intact and least vulnerable Valdivian Temperate Forest stands in Argentina and is of sufficient size to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value. Other areas in Argentina and neighbouring Chile also offer the potential for the future expansion of this property."

Los Alerces National Park is located in the Andes mountains of northern Patagonia. Successive glaciations have moulded the landscape in the region creating spectacular features such as moraines, glacial cirques and clear-water lakes. The vegetation is dominated by dense temperate forests, which give way to alpine meadows higher up under the rocky Andean peaks. The property is vital for protecting some of the last portions of continuous Patagonian Forest in an almost pristine state and is the habitat for a number of endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna.

Los Alerces National Park covers a total area of 188,379 hectares, making it the fourth largest park in Argentina. The park's western boundary coincides with the Chilean border, a portion of which is adjacent to Parque Pumalin. It is also known for being the birthplace of the Futaleufu River, a binational waterway that also flows along Futaleufu National Reserve and was declared a Zone of Touristic Interest by the Chilean government in December 2016, based on work done by Futaleufu Riverkeeper and local partners. Stakeholders on both sides of the Argentinean and Chilean border are excited about the UNESCO World Heritage Site listing, and are optimistic about the possibilities of extending the designation or otherwise using it to establish greater coordination between the countries.

Read more about Los Alerces National Park on the [UNESCO World Heritage Site website](#).

**Patrick J. Lynch**  
Futaleufu Riverkeeper  
[lynch.pj@gmail.com](mailto:lynch.pj@gmail.com)



# Strengthening regional cooperation through tourism in the Kangchenjunga Landscape



A regional policy dialogue, 'Shared Natural and Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Tourism in the Kanchenjunga Transboundary Landscape', among high level delegates from the governments of Bhutan, India and Nepal emphasized the need for regional cooperation on strengthening the potential and benefits of tourism in the Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI), a transboundary initiative facilitated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). The event was co-organized by the Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Royal Government of Bhutan and ICIMOD from 1–4 May 2017 in Bhutan, with financial support from the Austrian Development Cooperation and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In the inaugural remarks, Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Royal Government of Bhutan, highlighted the government's efforts on conservation and development, and the partnerships developed with KLCDI member countries—Bhutan, India, and Nepal. Similarly, Ms Amita Prasad, Additional

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and Mr Bala Ram Kandel, Under Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, highlighted the importance of nature- and culture-based tourism in Nepal and its regional potentials.

The event focused on sharing existing practices and improving the potential and future prospects of tourism as a major conservation and development tool for regional cooperation. The three countries discussed existing challenges and opportunities available for regional tourism. A roadmap with short-, medium-, and long-term action plans was prepared. The delegates committed to work on exploring the tourism potential in the landscape as means for fostering sustainable development, working towards enabling policy, products and markets, and strengthening shared natural and cultural heritage.

**Dr Nakul Chettri and Dr Tashi Dorji**  
ICIMOD

[Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org](mailto:Nakul.Chettri@icimod.org)  
[Tashi.Dorji@icimod.org](mailto:Tashi.Dorji@icimod.org)

# Wolf travels highlight connectivity needs



© Paul Paquet



In June 1991 researchers radiocollared Pluie, a five-year-old female, in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. In December 1995, Pluie and her pups were killed in a legal hunt south of Kootenay National Park.

In 1991, a wolf dubbed Pluie was radiocollared on a rainy day in Alberta's Peter Lougheed Provincial Park. Scientists were amazed as she travelled more than 103,600 square kilometres (40,000 square miles) over the next two years, her movements shared via satellite data. Crossing provincial, state and international borders, she spent time with five packs in total.

Her collar's battery was shot off in 1993 and Pluie herself was found dead after being shot in British Columbia in 1995. But her movements were the defining moment for Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation (Y2Y) Initiative and became the vision behind the organization: to highlight the scale wide-ranging species require to survive and thrive.

This year a two-year-old male wolf in the Bow Valley known as 1502 went on a similar walkabout. Travelling more than 500 linear kilometres (310 miles) over two weeks, his movements were tracked via GPS collar by Parks Canada biologists. Ultimately, 1502 was also killed in British Columbia.

Y2Y's conservation scientist, Dr Aerin Jacob, commented on the situation in the local media, emphasizing the need for large landscape conservation. "To me, it reinforced that we need to be thinking large scale. It really hits home about the importance of connecting and protecting landscapes," she said in an interview with Canmore's Rocky Mountain Outlook on 4 May 2017. "It shows us again that nature thinks big. Animals like this move over large areas, and what we think of as big isn't what they think of as big, and we need to let them show us how they need to move."

**Kelly Zenkevich**

Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

[Kelly@y2y.net](mailto:Kelly@y2y.net)



TB eNEWS

**Editor in Chief**

Maja Vasilijević

**Proofreading**

Kevan Zunckel

**Design**

UNITgraphics.com -

Imre Sebestyén, jr

*TB eNEWS is edited and prepared by  
IUCN WCPA's*

*Transboundary Conservation  
Specialist Group (TBC SG).*

*The views expressed herein are  
those of the author(s)*

*and TBC SG accepts no liability for  
any errors, misprints*

*or omissions. Unless stated*

*otherwise, the opinions in*

*this newsletter should not be*

*interpreted as those of*

*IUCN WCPA.*

*TB eNEWS is prepared on a bi-*

*annual basis. All issues are*

*available at Global Transboundary*

*Conservation Network's*

*website administered by TBC SG:*

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

*TB eNEWS is supported by Peace*

*Parks Foundation and*

*the IUCN BIOPAMA project in East*

*and Southern Africa.*

**Front cover photographs:**

Maja Vasilijević, Willem van Riet,

CONANP/Maderas del Carmen

**Contact**

[maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com](mailto:maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com)

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

# Guidelines for contributions

The TB eNEWS contains information on the activities and projects relevant to the mandate of the WCPA's Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group. You are welcome to send us updates of transboundary conservation-related initiatives you are involved with, review relevant past and announce future events, and provide information on publications or funding opportunities.

We welcome contributions that contain up to 320 words in length. Please also include graphic additions (e.g. photograph, logo, map) in size of minimum 500 kB, and indicating the credits. All articles should contain the name of the author, contact email and website link (if applicable).

This newsletter is prepared by the WCPA's Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, which reserves the right to edit and shorten the texts as appropriate. The authors of the articles are responsible for accuracy of the content of their contributions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Maja Vasilijević*

*Vice Chair, Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group*

*IUCN WCPA*

