



**IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS**  
**ANNUAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION**  
**MAJA VASILJEVIĆ**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013**

**OVERVIEW OF 2013** *(insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year)*

- Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group's (TBCSG) activities in 2013 largely revolved around preparation of the WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation. Apart from extensive pursuit for funds for the project and settling down administrative issues with the donors of the project (MAVA Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and IUCN (as legal entity responsible for execution of the project), TBCSG organized and held an expert "International workshop on defining transboundary conservation principles", 16-18 October 2013 in Thayatal National Park, Austria. The workshop was organized with local support of the Thayatal National Park and Podyjí National Park (for the field trip segment of the event). Several members of the TBCSG's Executive Committee (Kevan Zunckel, Boris Erg, Olivier Chassot, Michael Schoon, Tatjana Rosen) and Matthew McKinney, actively contributed to either preparation of background documents for the "International workshop on defining transboundary conservation principles" in Austria or programme implementation during the workshop (e.g. facilitation, presentations etc.). The outcomes of the workshop will directly feed into the new publication.

The guideline will provide recommendations for transboundary conservation area managers in planning, management and monitoring of relevant sites, while providing a number of important overviews of global practice in management and governance of transboundary areas. Co-authors of the future guideline are: Maja Vasilijević, Matthew McKinney, Michael Schoon, Kevan Zunckel, Boris Erg and Olivier Chassot, with further input from wider TBCSG's network. More details about this project can be read below under the overview of Goal 3 and full report of the expert workshop is available for downloading [here](#).

- I attended the workshop "Enhancing the IUCN World Heritage Programme II – Focus Europe", held on 7-11 November 2013 on the island of Vilm, Germany. The workshop was hosted by the International Academy for Nature Conservation, and organised by BfN, WCPA, the IUCN World Heritage Programme, and the IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe. The key objective of the workshop was to agree on the way forward to strengthening IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention, and specifically IUCN's regional network in Europe, including WCPA. IUCN's role as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee was widely discussed, as well as WCPA Europe's role in supporting IUCN's works on World Heritage. The participants developed an action plan for WCPA Europe in enhancing the support for IUCN's work on World Heritage, including the network's improved internal communication, recruitment of new members, support for World Heritage processes (evaluations, monitoring and reporting, Upstream process, gap analysis, capacity building). The processes for evaluations and reporting on Transboundary World Heritage Sites were also debated. A strategy for presentation of World Heritage in Europe at the upcoming IUCN's World Parks Congress in 2014 was discussed.

- Together with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Tatjana Rosen worked on the development of an international argali action plan due to be adopted in 2014. She also advised the Government of Tajikistan on the development of a new snow leopard action plan and contributed to the development of a multi-year plan, the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Recovery Program, specifically the components on transboundary conservation and illegal trade.
- Kevan Zunckel (TBC SG's Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa) was recruited as a member of the International Connectivity Conservation Network's Executive Team, which will strengthen relations between the two networks.
- TBC SG-facilitated website "Global Transboundary Conservation Network" [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) was successfully upgraded and has been regularly updated with relevant contents. Also, two issues of bi-annual electronic bulletin TB eNEWS, promoting transboundary conservation, were prepared and distributed widely.

**PROGRESS AGAINST GOALS** *(State goals and comment on progress set for the year- add more if needed)*

#### **Goal 1: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network**

- Global Transboundary Conservation Network consists of 250 members whose communication is enabled via electronic listserv facilitated by TBC SG. The listserv continues to be an active platform for information and knowledge sharing as in previous years. During 2013 more than 100 emails were posted through the listserv, informing about various events, research, publications, projects, etc, and at least double that amount of emails was shared between members of TBC SG on a bilateral basis.
- The network and partners have the opportunity to share their transboundary conservation related news through a biannual electronic newsletter TB eNEWS, edited by TBC SG. TB eNEWS is widely communicated to other networks and archived on [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net). In 2013, two issues were prepared (issue No. 7 in June and issue no. 8 in December 2013), each containing more than 20 pages and featuring stories from various parts of the world.
- The website [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) is being regularly updated by TBC SG and serves as a platform for sharing knowledge about transboundary conservation. In 2013, News section was added to the already established structure of the website. Network members are able to present their work on the website and post case studies. During the last year, the website had 7,390 visits, approximately 615 per month. In terms of geographic distribution, about 25% of webpage visits come from USA, and followed by UK, Canada, Germany, Australia, South Africa and India. It is interesting to note that the website was visited by people from as many as 150 countries worldwide, making it truly a global knowledge sharing platform.
- Electronic membership application form was set up to enable easier application process.
- Membership management of the Specialist Group is an ongoing activity coordinated by TBC SG. Membership database is regularly being updated, new members being added to the e-listserv and appropriately welcomed into the Group, and reduced membership database posted on our website.

#### **Goal 2: Web-based database on transboundary conservation complexes developed to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhance networking between managers of TBCAs**

- New database of transboundary conservation complexes is a necessary requirement to enable more efficient functioning of the TBC SG. Some steps have been undertaken during recent years to start this process, such as collecting contact details of managers of protected areas that form the internationally adjoining protected areas (IAPAs) in North, Central and South America,

Oceania, and Indian subcontinent, designing a survey and collecting responses from the protected area managers from the Americas. The results of the survey on ecological benefits of transboundary conservation will be presented in a scientific paper in 2014.

- Considering the amount of work necessary to develop the appropriate database and requirements of potential partners, this goal has to be backed up with relevant funding. TBC SG has been engaged in fundraising to support this goal.

### Goal 3: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas

- One of my key efforts in 2013 was focused on obtaining funding for WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation. Finally, funding was approved by two donors: MAVA Foundation from Switzerland and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), together with the initial support from WCPA. Funds that were raised are allocated for the following activities: expert workshop, research, development and publishing of the guideline, and launch of the publication at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014.

The “International workshop on defining transboundary conservation principles” was the first of its kind in the last six years; i.e. organized by Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group and focused on defining key transboundary conservation principles, having in mind a rapid development of TBC practice at global level and a variety of objectives underpinning the processes. The workshop gathered 24 transboundary specialists from around the world representing practitioners (staff of TBPA), international and national NGOs, academic institutions, governments, and the workshop/project donor. Majority of the participants were members of TBC SG, making it an ideal opportunity to meet colleagues from the network. The workshop was generously hosted by Thayatal National Park in Austria (direct support by Robert Brunner and his colleagues), while the field trip to Thayatal-Podyjí National Parks was also supported by Czech national park.

The workshop was important for outlining a number of issues, such as details of a table of contents of the Best Practice Guideline, contributors to each chapter, timeframe of the guideline’s development, selection criteria for case studies. Further on, the participants discussed extensively definitions of transboundary conservation practice, agreeing on the new definition of Transboundary Protected Area and new typology of TBC practice. Launch and details of the definitions will be presented in the guideline. It was also agreed to dedicate substantive part of the guideline to governance of transboundary conservation areas, providing improved understanding of transboundary governance and typology of transboundary governance practice.

Full report, list of participants, agenda and presentations are all available for downloading [here](#).

Development of the guideline will be a collaborative effort of TBC SG network members. A number of institutions expressed their interest to provide technical input, e.g. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Peace Parks Foundation (PPF).

- Together with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Tatjana Rosen worked on the development of an international argali action plan due to be adopted in 2014. TBC SG advised the Tajik Government on the development of a new snow leopard action plan and contributed to the development of a multi-year plan called the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Recovery Program (GSLEP), specifically the components on transboundary conservation and illegal trade.
- In order to strengthen practical implementation of a “Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners” (developed by TBC SG in 2012 and presented in IUCN’s publication

“Initiating effective transboundary conservation: A practitioner’s guideline based on the experience from the Dinaric Arc” by Boris Erg, Maja Vasiljević and Matthew McKinney), the tool was translated into Thai and Burmese with a view of testing it in the region. It is also considered to be tested in Bothnian Bay’s protected areas (Finland-Sweden).

**ORGANIZATION** *(Comment on implementation of changes to region/theme structure)*

- In the last quadrennium, TBCSG has been coordinated via the same structure consisting of Regional Coordinators, Senior Advisors, Vice Chairs and Chair. Such organizational structure enables more efficient insight into the regional transboundary related activities and also recruitment of new members in different regions.

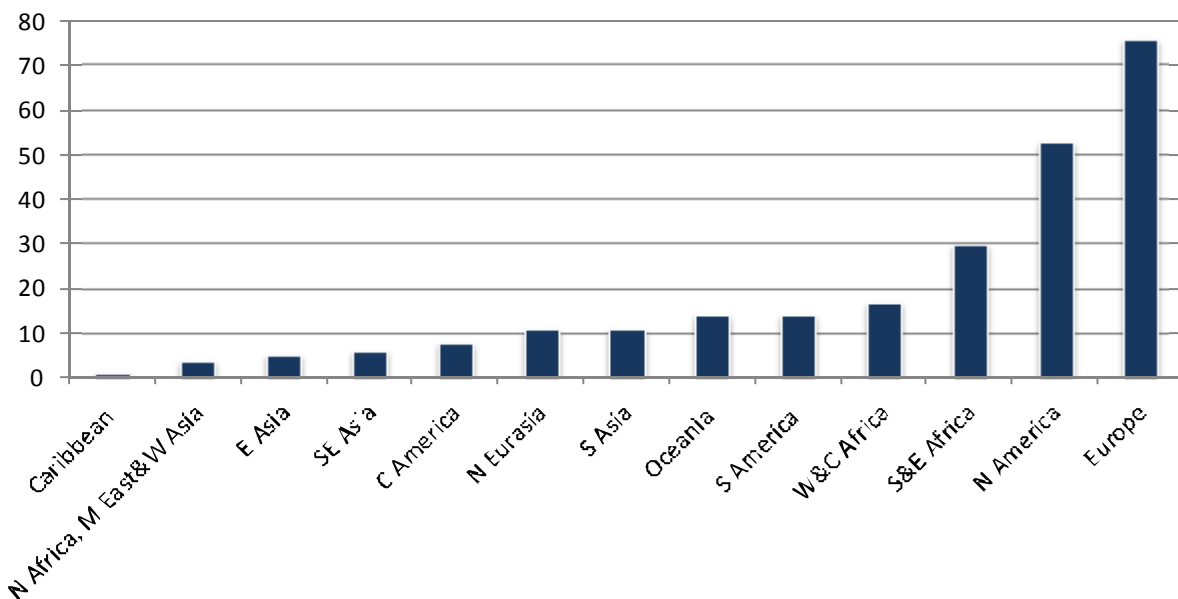
**MEMBERSHIP** *(Comment on recruitment of members in regions and themes, gender and youth)*

TBC SG membership has been increasing on a yearly basis. Currently, the SG has 250 members, including WCPA and non-WCPA members. Approximately half of the members are also WCPA members, and some are also members of other IUCN Commissions. Our membership database is regularly updated and posted on the website, however it contains no information on age of the members, so it is not possible to comment on the number of young professionals.

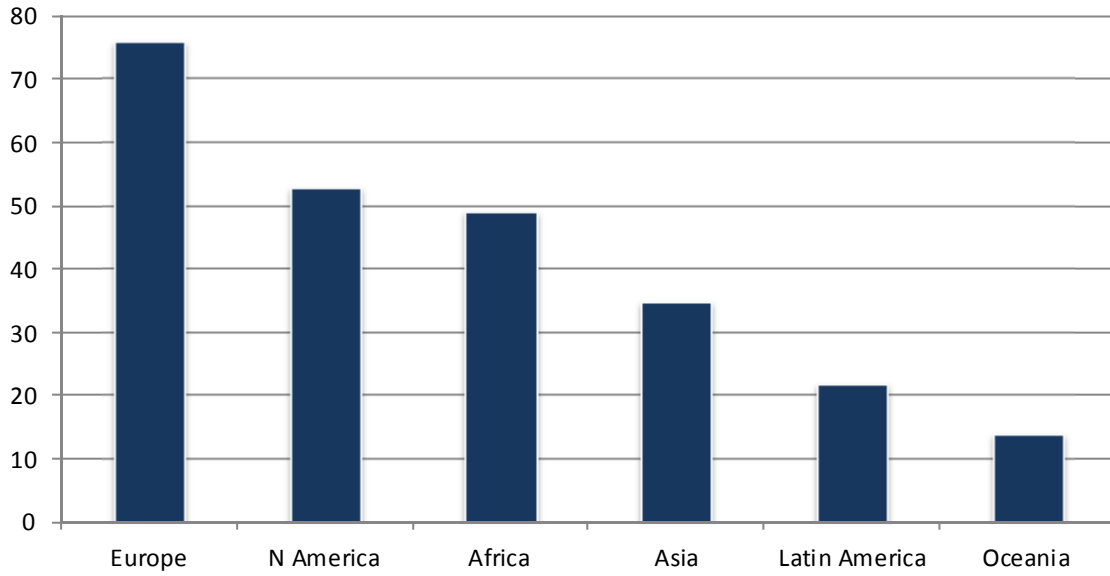
The following three charts contain information on membership of TBCSG by regions. Figure 1 shows that most members come from Europe and North America, followed by South and East Africa and then other regions. The least members (less than 10 per region) come from the Caribbean, North Africa, Middle East and West Asia, East Asia, South-East Asia, and Central America. Figure 1 is based on current WCPA regions. Figure 2 shows the number of members by grouped regions and it can be concluded that majority of members are from Europe, North America and Africa.

Figure 3 compares membership in 2010 and 2013 according to WCPA regions as understood in 2010. Nearly all regions have experienced rise in TBCSG membership, the highest being in North America and West and Central Africa, followed by Europe and South and East Africa. Stagnation in membership growth can be seen in Oceania, while the only region that reduced number of members compared to 2010 is North Africa and West Asia.

**Figure 1: Membership by WCPA regions**



**Figure 2: Consolidated regions**



**Figure 3: Comparative analysis of membership 2010/2013**

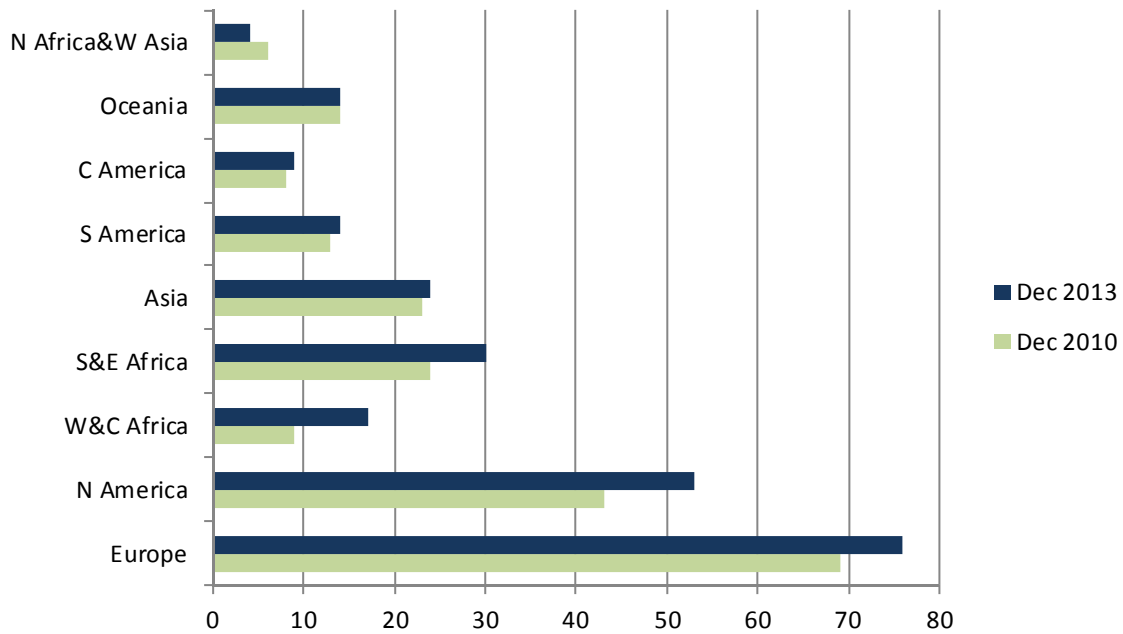


Figure 4 presents membership by sectors. While 4 sectors have nearly equal distribution, a sector of protected area staff is significantly under-represented. Protected areas are TBC SG’s key “client” and this situation needs to be improved in the next years.

**Figure 4: Membership by sectors**

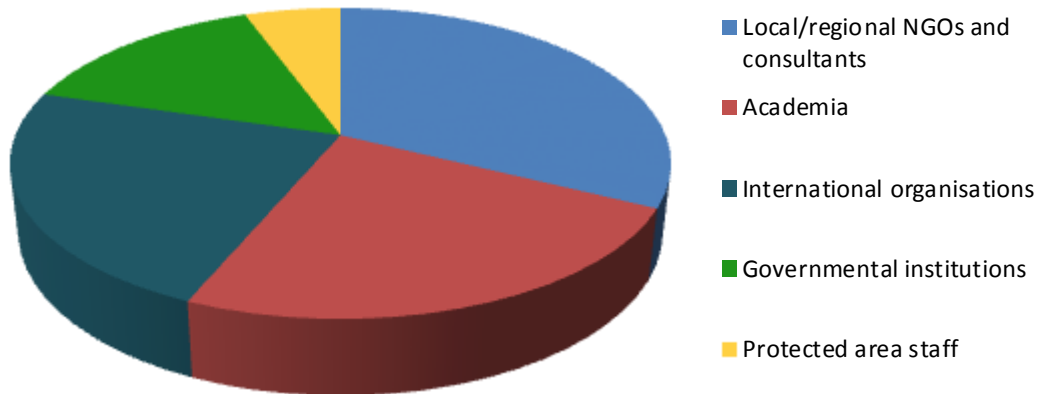
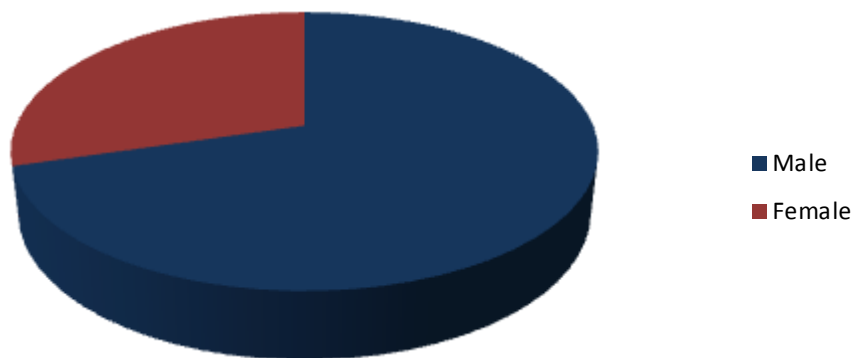


Figure 5 presents membership by gender, showing significant domination of men.

**Figure 5: Membership by gender**



**DELIVERY OF IUCN 2013 – 2016 QUADRENNIAL PROGRAMME** *(Comment on alignment and collaboration with themes and regions)*

- TBC SG mandate primarily reflects IUCN 2013-2016 two programme areas: Valuing and conserving nature and Governing nature’s use and sharing its benefits equitably.

**COMMUNICATION** *(Provide full details of publications released, and note other contributions below)*

**Publications:**

- Schoon, Michael L. 2013. “Governance Structures in Transboundary Conservation: How Institutional Evolution Influences Cross-Border Cooperation”, *Conservation and Society* 11(4).
- Schoon, Michael L. 2013. “A Review of ‘Transforming the Frontier: Peace Parks and the Politics of Neoliberal Conservation in Southern Africa’ by Bram Büscher”. *Global Governance* (forthcoming).
- Maja Vasilijević and Kevan Zunckel, a sub-chapter on transboundary corridor governance the eBook “Protected Area Governance and Management” planned to be launched at the WPC 2014.

**Presentations:**

- Boris Erg: IUCN SEE Members meeting, 6-8 March 2013, Tirana, Albania.
- Maja Vasiljević, Boris Erg: BIOM NGO Members meeting, 9 April 2013, Zagreb, Croatia.
- Maja Vasiljević: WCPA Steering Committee meeting, 21-24 April 2013, Podgorica, Montenegro.
- Tomazs Pezold, Michael Quinn: “2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas”, 23-26 April 2013, High Tatras Region Slovakia. Organised by WWF Danube Carpathian Programme.
- Andrew Dunn: ABORNE workshop on “Bewildering borders: Transnational conservation and resource governance in Africa”, 27-28 September 2013, Vienna, Austria. Organised by University of Vienna.
- “International workshop on defining transboundary conservation principles”, 16-18 October 2013, Thayatal National Park, Austria. Organised by Transboundary Conservation SG and local host Thayatal National Park, and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in the framework of a project “Revision of WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation” (donors: BMU/BfN, MAVA Foundation, WCPA).
- Michael Schoon: “Scaling Up CPR Theory to Large-Scale Social-Ecological Systems”, CSID Lunch Series, 25 November 2013, Tempe, USA; “Complexity and Sustainability: a Dynamical Discussion”, CSDC’s Dynamical Discussion Series, 7 November, 2013 in Tempe, USA; “Viewing the World from a Social-Ecological Systems Perspective” presented at Confronting “socio-ecological systems” and “territoire” as suitable lenses to tackle resilience issues, 21 October, 2013 in Montpellier, France.

**Strategic Stakeholder Communication**

- Preliminary discussions about support to future work of TBC SG were held with Metsähallitus (Natural Heritage Service of Finland), Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, and MAVA Foundation.
- Potential cooperation in preparation for the IUCN World Parks Congress is being discussed with: Metsähallitus, Southern African Development Community (SADC), IUCN SEE, ICIMOD.

**Contributions to media, website, newsletter**

- Preparation of two issues of TBC SG’s electronic bulletin: TB eNEWS (June and December 2013)
- Regular updates of [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) website facilitated by TBC SG
- Interview for the IUCN European Newsletter, March 2013
- Contributions to IUCN SEE e-bulletin, EUROPARC’s eNews, WCPA Europe’s newsletter, World Bank Snow Leopard Forum

**ASSIGNMENTS ON BEHALF OF IUCN** *(Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

- World Heritage Conservation Outlook Assessment
- Review of two papers for PARKS journal

**FUNDS UTILISED IN 2013** *(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)***Commission Operating Funds used** *(Indicate total used in 2013 and use financial report for details)*

Total spent in 2013 or budgeted in a project “Revision of IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation” to be spent in 2014 is 7,510.42 CHF.

Remaining funds, allocated for preparation of TB eNEWS in 2014: 43,27 CHF.

**Funds Raised** *(Indicate the source and amount of funds raised in pursuit of the activities listed above that are raised and managed in the name of IUCN WCPA)*

For the purpose of development of new WCPA Best Practice Guideline on transboundary conservation, including TBC SG workshop organization and launch of the publication at the World Parks Congress, 2014:

MAVA Foundation: 47,025 EUR

BfN/BMU: 38,800 EUR

**In-kind value** *(Indicate the number of days you have worked on WCPA issues without remuneration)*

At least 70 days

**Funding proposals in the pipeline** *(for funds to be used directly for IUCN WCPA activities)*

Transboundary Governance project

**GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2014 INCLUDING THE IUCN WORLD PARKS CONGRESS**

*(Indicate draft goals for 2013 pending approval by Commission Chair)*

**IUCN WCPA has 3 strategic directions in accordance with the IUCN Quadrennial Programme 2013-2016. Please identify your group's goals within this framework to demonstrate alignment with specific parts of the IUCN Programme agreed in Jeju. In addition, IUCN WCPA will be convening the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia in November 2014. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR REGION OR GROUP'S GOALS FOR THE WPC HERE.**

**1. VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE**

**Goal 1: Coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Network**

- Seek to expand membership of TBC SG with TBCA practitioners (protected area staff)
- Promote widely a Global Transboundary Conservation Network in regions that are under-represented in TBCSG membership
- Continue to regularly update and manage the TBC SG website [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) to enable development of capacity and information sharing regarding transboundary conservation
- Prepare two issues of e-bulletin TB eNEWS
- Enable sharing of transboundary related information via an electronic listserv
- Promote the work of TBC SG at national, regional and international events

**Goal 2: Work towards the development of a web-based database on transboundary conservation complexes to enable better sharing of knowledge and experience, enhance networking between managers of TBCAs, and enable research and analyses**

- Continue working towards developing a global interactive database of transboundary conservation complexes, containing all relevant information on TBCAs, by actively fundraising for accomplishment of this long-term goal

**2. GOVERNING NATURE'S USE AND SHARING ITS BENEFITS EQUITABLY**

**Goal 1: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas**

- Develop, publish and widely disseminate IUCN WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guideline on transboundary conservation
- Launch the Best Practice Guideline during the IUCN World Parks Congress, Sydney, 2014
- Prepare and coordinate a transboundary governance workshop within the Governance Stream at the World Parks Congress
- Encourage and advise on cooperative management processes in transboundary conservation areas
- Support the Convention on Migratory Species in fostering regional cooperation on conservation of argali in Central Asia
- Fundraise for the Transboundary Governance project with a view of strengthening transboundary governance
- Support establishment and functioning of regional initiatives and agreements leading to enhanced transboundary cooperation and biodiversity conservation

**3. DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES**

**Goal 1: Transboundary conservation complexes contribute to meeting the global challenges**

- Support research on the importance of transboundary conservation as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation responses



**REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014**

- 

**FEEDBACK BY COMMISSION CHAIR ON REPORT** *(comments will be sent via email)*

**FEEDBACK BY DIRECTOR: GLOBAL PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAMME ON REPORT**  
*(comments will be sent via email)*