



IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS
ANNUAL REPORT TO STEERING COMMITTEE
SPECIALIST GROUP: TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION
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REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014

OVERVIEW OF 2014 (*insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year*)

- During 2014, the Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group continued with the implementation of a project on the development of a revised and upgraded WCPA Best Practice Guidelines, titled *Transboundary Conservation: A systematic and integrated approach*. The project is funded by MAVA Foundation, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), and WCPA. The co-authors of the Guidelines are: Maja Vasiljević, Kevan Zunckel, Matthew McKinney, Boris Erg, Michael Schoon and Tatjana Rosen Michel, and the volume was edited by Adrian Phillips. Key partner in the development of the Guidelines was ICIMOD. Nearly 100 people collaborated in various ways in providing input to the volume.

In 2014, we finalised the draft, finished a peer review process and amended the draft based on the reviewers' comments. It is planned to publish the volume by June 2015. The Guidelines will be an important addition to the WCPA Best Practice Series; promoting new definitions of types of Transboundary Conservation Areas, elaborating on a variety of transboundary governance arrangements, providing guidance on initiation and management of transboundary conservation initiatives, and featuring 34 case studies.

- The Specialist Group cooperated with Korea National Parks Service with regards to the International Symposium on Biodiversity Conservation and Peace Building in the Korean DMZ, held at CBD COP 12 in the Republic of Korea. Maja Vasiljević drafted a *Statement on Transboundary Conservation for Biodiversity and Peace*, presented at the event by Todd Walters. The event was hosted by the Korean Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Unification.
- Tatjana Rosen facilitated communication with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and cooperated in preparation of the Resolution on Advancing Ecological Networks to Address the Needs of Migratory Species, adopted at CMD COP 11 in Ecuador. The resolution has strong transboundary wording and also notes the importance of the upcoming WCPA Guidelines on transboundary conservation in that the Parties and relevant organisations are encouraged to apply the Guidelines once it becomes available.
- The Specialist Group organised one workshop, one side event and an informal members' meeting at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney. The workshop, Governance of Transboundary Conservation Areas, was organised jointly with Southern African Development Community (SADC). The side event focused on presentation of the draft WCPA Guidelines on transboundary conservation. The outcomes of the events are documented in the reports, and some of them are featured in the general recommendations of the Governance Stream.

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**

- Coordination of the Global Transboundary Conservation Network has successfully been implemented during 2014. Communication of the network's members has been on-going via e-listserv. The website (www.tbpa.net) has been regularly updated, including additions to the 'News' section of the website. In 2014, the website was visited 7,124 times by users from 160 countries. Membership database has been updated on a regular basis.

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

- In continuation of the work from previous years, the Specialist Group analysed the data collected through a survey of protected area managers in North and Latin Americas and published the data in a scientific paper (listed below as McCallum et al., 2014).
- Efforts have been made to secure funding for the development of the database, and communication with potential donors established. New developments are foreseen for 2015.

Goal 3: Strengthened governance of transboundary conservation areas

- The Specialist Group worked on the promotion of transboundary conservation governance and exchange of regional experiences during the events at the World Parks Congress.
- The upcoming WCPA Guidelines contain a chapter explaining the concept of transboundary conservation governance and providing best practice examples.

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

- Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group is coordinated by the same structure as established in 2010. The Executive Committee consists of Regional Coordinators, Senior Advisors, Vice Chairs and Chair.

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

- The membership of Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group consists of 265 members (see Figure 1). Every year the membership is slowly and steadily growing. Regions with the highest number of members are Europe and North America, while during 2014 the Group expanded its membership in Latin America and Asia.
- In relation to gender, as in previous years, more members of the Specialist Group are men (see Figure 2). However, in 2014 the ratio between men and women has reduced as a result of more women becoming members of the Group.

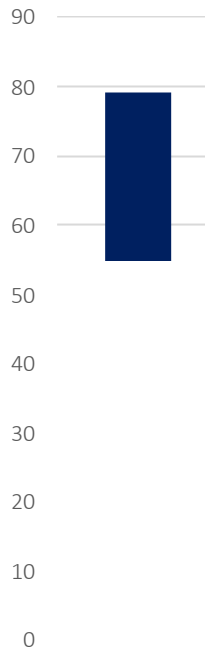


Figure 1: Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group's membership by regions

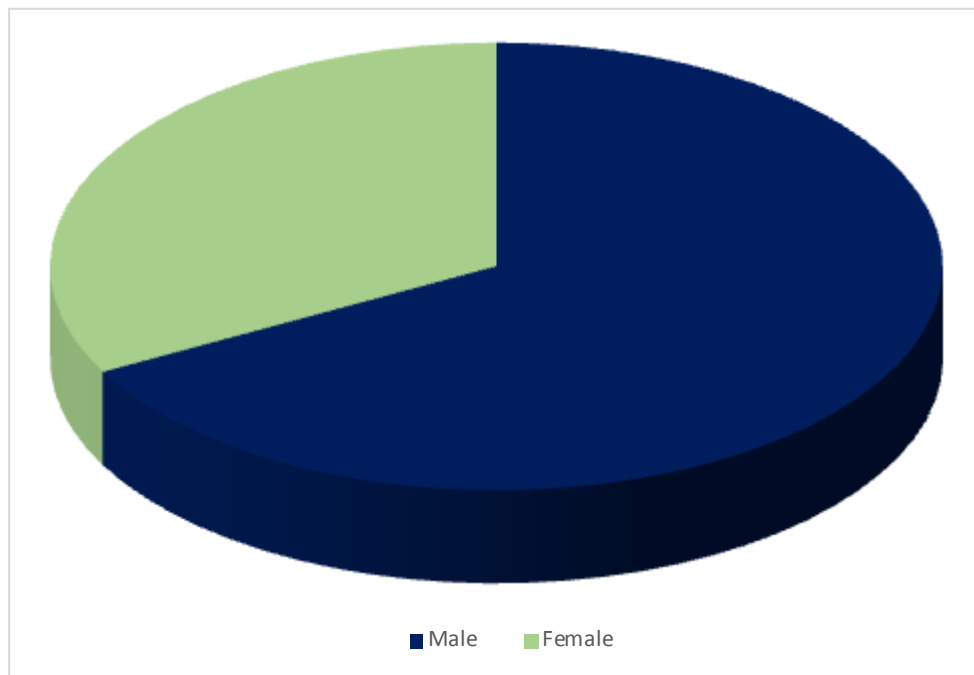


Figure 2: Membership of Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group by gender

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

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

Publications:

- Barquet, K., Lujala, P. and Rød, J.K. (2014). Transboundary Conservation and Militarized Interstate Disputes. *Political Geography* 42: 1–11.

- ICIMOD and MoFSC (2014). *An Integrated Assessment of the Effects of Natural and Human Disturbances on a Wetland Ecosystem: A retrospective from the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal*. Kathmandu: ICIMOD.
- Kotzé, L.K. and Maruhn, T. (eds.). (2014). *Transboundary Governance of Biodiversity*. Brill/Nijhoff.
- McCallum, J., Vasiljević, M. and Cuthill, I. (2014). Assessing the benefits of Transboundary Protected Areas: A questionnaire survey in the Americas and the Caribbean. *Journal of Environmental Management* 149: 245-252.
- Rosen, T. and Roettger, C. (2014). Central Asian Mammals Initiative: Saving the Last Migrations. CMS.

Presentations:

- **Maja Vasiljević**. Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group. Overview and Activities. Meeting with Conservation International. 9 April 2014.
- **Charles Besançon**. Panelist. Regional Consultation on Transboundary Biodiversity Landscapes: Summary of Proceedings and Future Outlook. Asian Development Bank. Bangkok, Thailand, 6-7 May 2014.
- **Olivier Chassot**. Attendance of the Workshop on Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridor to Streamline Support for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Kurupukari, Guyana Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre, 21-23 May 2014.
- **Olivier Chassot**. Keynote address: Transboundary and Connectivity Conservation as a Contribution to Cooperation South-South from WCPA. II National Conference on Protected Areas. Bogota, Colombia, 16-18 July 2014.
- **Yongyut Trisurat**. Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex. Best Practice for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos. Thailand-Myanmar TBCA meeting. Bangkok, Thailand, 25-28 August 2014.
- **Boris Erg**. Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group. Overview and Activities. Follow up meeting with Conservation International. 11 September 2014.
- **Todd Walters**. A Statement on Transboundary Conservation for Biodiversity and Peace. International Symposium on Biodiversity Conservation and Peace Building in the Korean DMZ. CBD COP 12. Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 8 October 2014.

Workshop organised by Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group and SADC: Governance of Transboundary Conservation Areas. IUCN World Parks Congress. Sydney, Australia, 17 November 2014:

- **Maja Vasiljević**. Introduction to the Workshop.
- **Matthew McKinney**. Transboundary Conservation Governance: Key Principles and Concepts.
- **Gary Tabor**. Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent.
- **Nakul Chettri**. Integrated Conservation and Development Transboundary Initiatives in the Hindu Kush Himalayas.
- **Kevan Zunckel**. Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of SADC TFCA's.
- **Kari Lahti, Handrij Härtel, Jakub Kašpar**. TransParcNet European Network of Transboundary Areas.
- **Benjamin Kahn**. Transboundary Marine Conservation in the Coral Triangle.

Side event organised by Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group: Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach. Presenting IUCN WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines on Transboundary Conservation. IUCN World Parks Congress. Sydney, Australia, 18 November 2014:

- **Maja Vasiljević**. WCPA Best Practice Guidelines on Transboundary Conservation: Background.
- **Matthew McKinney, Kevan Zunckel**. WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines on Transboundary Conservation: Key Concepts.

Workshop organised by ICIMOD: Innovative approaches for landscape conservation programmes in the Himalayas: Reconciling development challenges, 16 November 2014.

- **Maja Vasiljević.** Global Perspectives on Transboundary Conservation Approaches.

Strategic Stakeholder Communication

- Cooperation with CBD Secretariat on the implementation of Biodiversity and Peace Initiative in the next 5 years.
- Cooperation with Korea National Parks Service in preparation of the event during CBD COP12.
- Cooperation with Wildlife Institute of India on preparation of an international workshop Disaster and Conflicts – Training for Site Managers of Natural World Heritage Sites in Asia and the Pacific. Time: August 2015.

Contributions to media, website, newsletter

- Continuous updating of www.tbpa.net website
- Contributions to: IUCN SEE newsletter, Global Tiger Initiative website

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

- **Maja Vasiljević:**
 1. World Heritage field evaluation mission to Russia and Mongolia - nomination of Dauria Landscapes for a transboundary World Heritage Site, 2-11 September 2014. IUCN World Heritage Programme.
 2. Report on the state of conservation of protected area systems in south-eastern Europe. IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe.

FUNDS UTILISED IN 2014 *(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

Commission Operating Funds used *(Indicate total used in 2014 and use financial report for details)*

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)*

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

About 90-100 days.

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

Transboundary conservation governance project (discussions ongoing with potential donors).

GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

(Indicate draft goals for 2014 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, based on the outcomes of the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia in November 2014, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR REGION OR GROUP'S GOALS HERE.

1. VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

Goal 1: Support the development of transboundary conservation knowledge products

- Support the development of guidance on monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of transboundary conservation programmes
- Seek to update the Diagnostic tool for assessing the feasibility of transboundary conservation
- Support the development of a comprehensive global database of Transboundary Conservation Areas
- Develop and disseminate promotional material on transboundary conservation, based on the contents of the upcoming WCPA Guidelines

Goal 2: Strengthen the information flow on transboundary conservation through the Global Transboundary Conservation Network

- Regularly update and expand the website managed by the Specialist Group (www.tbpa.net)
- Stimulate enhanced communication between the network's members via e-listserv
- Seek to expand membership of the Specialist Group with transboundary conservation practitioners
- Promote the Global Transboundary Conservation Network, the only global network of transboundary conservation experts, during various events
- Disseminate relevant transboundary conservation-related information through various media networks and channels
- Provide advice on transboundary conservation process to diverse stakeholder groups
- Cooperate with strategic partners (e.g. CBD Secretariat, Wildlife Institute of India, etc.) in the implementation of transboundary conservation related events to promote and advise on relevant aspects of the transboundary process

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

Goal 1: Promote and strengthen transboundary conservation governance

- Launch the WCPA Best Practice Guidelines on transboundary conservation at Little Sydney, 28-31 May, Austria
- Inform the public and widely disseminate the Guidelines on transboundary conservation
- Support the establishment and functioning of regional initiatives and agreements leading to enhanced transboundary cooperation and biodiversity conservation
- Support the implementation of a variety of informal and formal arrangements of transboundary conservation governance

REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015

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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)*