



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

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015**

**OVERVIEW OF 2015** (*insert 3-4 paragraphs reflecting highlights for the year*)

- In May 2015, we published the IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines, [Transboundary Conservation: A systematic and integrated approach](#). This was a 2-year project 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. Key partner involved in the project was ICIMOD, while about 100 experts contributed to the Guidelines in various ways.

After a pre-launch event during the World Parks Congress in Sydney in 2014, the publication was officially launched at the Little Sydney: Protecting Nature in Europe conference in Hainburg, Austria in May 2015. It was further presented during the World Leaders Conservation Forum in Jeju, Republic of Korea, and a number of other events held in China, France, India and Thailand (please see the section on events below), and widely promoted via different media channels (please see the section on contributions to media below).

Publishing of the Guidelines is the major highlight for 2015. The Guidelines brought forward a revised typology and definitions of Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCA), a systematic advice on the transboundary conservation process through planning, establishing and managing TBCAs, taking into account the complexity of cooperative management and governance arrangements across the international boundary. Experience from global practice has never before been captured with such a variety of transboundary conservation arrangements, models of cooperation and different protected area management categories.

- TBC SG established a partnership with Glacier National Park Conservancy, University of Montana, International Peace Parks Expeditions, U.S. National Park Service, Parks Canada and Rotary International, to work jointly in planning and implementing a [Hands across Borders: a workshop for transboundary conservation practitioners](#), to be held from 13-16 September 2016 in Glacier National Park. The primary objective of this workshop is to build the capacity of participants to catalyze and sustain transboundary conservation initiatives, building on the 2015 IUCN WCPA Guidelines.

Maja Vasiljević (Chair), Kevan Zunckel (Regional Coordinator for E&S Africa) and Michael Schoon (Vice-Chair) are working on the training programme development, coordinated by Maja, and in consultation with Todd Walters and Matthew McKinney. In 2015, we detected potential participants from TBCAs around the world, based on the survey of TBC SG members and friends.

The event is being convened in part to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service and it coincides with the 84<sup>th</sup> Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly which will be held after the TB workshop.

- The partners from the Glacier event (above), together with several more partners, applied for a

workshop at the World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, which was accepted in December 2015. This workshop will be closely linked to the Glacier event.

- We released a statement [Razor wire between European countries endangers wildlife](#), as a response to some countries installing a razor wire fence on the border with their EU neighbours.

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

**Goal 1: Support the development of transboundary conservation knowledge products**

- The Best Practice Guidelines on transboundary conservation published in 2015.
- On-going discussion with UNEP-WCMC about development of a comprehensive TBCA database, as part of the World Database on Protected Areas. WCMC expressed willingness to work on this when funding is secured.

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

- The network members communicated via e-listserv and membership was regularly updated.
- The website [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) was also regularly being updated.
- Knowledge and information sharing enabled by preparation of TB eNEWS.

**Goal 3: Promote and strengthen transboundary conservation governance**

- The Guidelines published in 2015.
- Various presentations at events.
- New partnerships established to promote strengthened TBC governance.

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

- Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group is coordinated by the same structure as earlier. 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)*

- TBC SG currently has 250 members from all WCPA regions.
- In terms of gender, about 70% are male and 30% female.
- The highest number of members come from Europe and North America.

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

- Yes

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

**Publications:**

- Vasilijević, M., Zunckel, K., McKinney, M., Erg, B., Schoon, M., Rosen Michel, T. (2015). [Transboundary Conservation: A systematic and integrated approach](#). Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 23, Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xii + 107 pp.
- Pulsford, I., Lindenmayer, D., Wyborn, C., Lausche, B., Vasilijević, M. and Worboys, G.L. (2015). [Connectivity Conservation Management](#). In: Worboys, G.L., Lockwood, M., Kothari, A., Feary, S. and Pulsford, I. *Protected Area Governance and Management*. Canberra: ANU Press.
- Chettri, N., Bubb, P., Kotru, R., Rawat, G., Ghate, R., Murthy, M.S.R., Wallrapp, C., Pauli, H., Shrestha, A.B., Mool, P.K., Chaudhary, D., Chaudhary, R.P, Mathur, P.K., Peili, S., Ning, W., Sharma, E. (2015). *Long-term environmental and socioecological monitoring in transboundary landscapes: An interdisciplinary implementation framework*. ICIMOD Working Paper 2015/2. Kathmandu: ICIMOD.
- Trisurat, Y. (2015). *Land use change and wildlife distribution modelling in the Emerald Triangle Forest Complex*. Thailand: Kasetsart University, ITTO, RFD.

- Valdez, R., Michel, S., Subbotin, A. Klich, D. (2015). Status and population structure of a hunted population of Marco Polo Argali *Ovis ammon polii* (Cetartiodactyla, Bovidae) in Southeastern Tajikistan. *Mammalia* 2015.
- Kevan Zunckel is working on a chapter 'Social Ecology and Transboundary Conservation (Re-) Connecting Nature and People in Borderlands' for a book edited by Anna Grichting and Michelle Zebich Know, *Social Ecology of Border Landscapes*.
- Maja Vasilijević and Boris Erg are working on a forthcoming publication: Vasilijević, M., Erg, B., Pokrajac, S. (Forthcoming in 2016). *State of Nature Conservation Systems in South-Eastern Europe*. Gland, Switzerland and Belgrade, Serbia: IUCN Programme Office for South-Eastern Europe.
- Kevan Zunckel compiled [Southern African Development Community Transfrontier Conservation Guidelines: The establishment and development of TFCA initiatives between SADC Member States](#), in collaboration with the SADC TFCA Network, which were endorsed by the SADC Technical Committee on Wildlife in May 2015.

#### Presentations:

- **Maja Vasilijević.** Plenary speech: *WCPA Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines on transboundary conservation*. Presentation at UNEP-WCMC's working session 'Inclusion of biodiversity conservation at land- and seascape levels into global database': *Database of Transboundary Conservation Areas*. Little Sydney: Protecting Nature in Europe, Hainburg, Austria, 28-31 May 2015.  
Organized by IUCN and the IUCN WCPA in collaboration with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.
- **Christian Paulus** promoted the new Best Practice Guidelines on transboundary conservation during the workshop *Transboundary Biosphere Reserves in Europe*, Vosges du Nord/Pfälzerwald, France, 3-5 June 2015.  
Organized by UNESCO.
- **Kevan Zunckel.** *Global trends in transboundary conservation and peace-building*. *World Leaders' Conservation Forum*, Jeju, Republic of Korea, 7-9 July 2015.  
Organized by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province and IUCN.
- **Rahimatsah Amat.** *Overview of transboundary conservation*. *International Workshop and Training on The Role of Natural World Heritage Sites in Disaster Risk Reduction*, 24-28 August 2015, Dehradun, India.  
Organized by UNESCO Category 2 Centre at Wildlife Institute of India.
- **Rahimatsah Amat.** *Overview of transboundary conservation*. *Capacity Building Workshop for East Asia and Southeast Asia on Achieving Aichi Target 11*, Yanji City, Jilin Province, China, 15-18 September 2015.  
Hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China. Organized by the CBD Secretariat.
- **Rahimatsah Amat.** Two keynote speeches: *Transboundary conservation-an overview and Governance of transboundary conservation areas: Policy, legal and institutional challenges*. *Biodiversity conservation challenges in the Asia-Pacific: the transboundary and livelihood dimensions*, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 1-13 November 2015.  
Organized by Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), Royal Forestry Department of Thailand, APFNet Kunming Training Center, South West Forestry University.
- **Andrew Dunn.** *Introduction and summary of transboundary conservation efforts*. *Strengthening Transboundary Conservation Collaboration between Nigeria and Cameroon*, Calabar, Nigeria, 1 December 2015.  
Organized by Wildlife Conservation Society and Arcus Foundation.

#### Strategic Stakeholder Communication

- With UNEP-WCMC regarding the database on TBCAs

- With partners from the U.S. and Canada regarding the Glacier workshop (2016)
- With Wildlife Institute of India on preparation of an international workshop in Dehradun, India

#### Contributions to media, website, newsletter

- Regular updating of [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net), especially the News, Events and Documents sections
- Detailed revision and update of sections of [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net) which did not comply to the new IUCN WCPA Guidelines on transboundary conservation (2015)
- Prepared one issue of [TBeNEWS \(issue 9\)](#) under the editorship by Maja Vasilijević
- Contribution to [BfN's website](#) featuring TBC SG's project on the new Best Practice Guidelines as 'project of the month'
- Contribution to [EUROPARC's eNEWS](#), June 2015
- Contribution to [IUCN GPAP's newsletter](#), June 2015 and [website](#)
- Announcement of the Guidelines at [IISD's website](#), [India Environment Portal](#), [CSVPA's website](#), [Zoological Society of London's news](#), [ECOLEX](#), [ENVIS Centre on Wildlife & Protected Areas](#)

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

- Maja Vasilijević: State of nature conservation systems in SEE. Cooperation with IUCN office in Belgrade.

#### FUNDS UTILISED IN 2015 *(Indicate Comment on any assessments, evaluations conducted)*

##### Commission Operating Funds used *(Indicate total used in 2015 and use financial report for details)*

None

##### 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)*

BfN and MAVA Foundation, about 7,500 EUR for the design, layout, printing and distribution of the 2015 Guidelines.

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

This is very difficult, but my estimation is that personally I worked about 80-100 days voluntarily. Executive Committee members, Kevan Zunckel, Tatjana Rosen Michel, Boris Erg, Michael Schoon, Jamie McCallum, Rahimatsah Amat, Andrew Dunn and colleagues Matthew McKinney, Todd Walters and Naomi Doak, all contributed at least 80 days in total.

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

Cooperation with the University of Montana and several other partners in seeking funding for the 2016 TB event to be held in Glacier National Park (see above).

Cooperation with IUCN GPAP on a TB project proposal sent to the Korean government.

#### GOALS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

*(Indicate draft goals for 2015 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 and dissemination of transboundary conservation knowledge products

- Continue disseminating the 2015 Guidelines on transboundary conservation widely
- Support the development of training modules for building the capacity of transboundary conservation practitioners, based on the 2015 Guidelines
- Continue planning the Glacier workshop 2016 to apply the training modules
- Discuss options for upgrading and replicating the training modules to other pilot regions
- Continue cooperation with UNEP-WCMC and other partners in fundraising for the development of a comprehensive database on TBCAs

- Discuss options for development of monitoring and evaluation tool to measure the effectiveness of TBCAs

**Goal 2: Continue strengthening the information flow on transboundary conservation through the Global Transboundary Conservation Network**

- Regular communication via transboundary e-listserv
- Regular updating of TBC SG managed website [www.tbpa.net](http://www.tbpa.net)
- Explore options for funding the continuation of TB eNEWS publishing

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

**Goal 1: Promote and strengthen good transboundary conservation governance**

- Continue disseminating the 2015 Guidelines on transboundary conservation which include a comprehensive chapter on transboundary conservation governance
- Advise various parties in transboundary conservation governance models, as necessary
- Strengthen the capacity for good transboundary conservation governance through training workshop at Glacier NP and other potential workshops

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

**Goal 1: Support research on the importance of TBCAs in the face of climate change**

**REFLECTIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016**

- TBC SG Executive Committee members, Boris Erg, Olivier Chassot and Kevan Zunckel also serve on the ICCN and through this we hope to ensure collaboration between the TBC SG and the ICCN.

**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)*