



REPORT

THE 2008 MOUNTAIN TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREA AND CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

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A workshop convened by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Mountains Biome and Transboundary Area Task Force in partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Workshop was held at Dhulikhel (near Kathmandu) Nepal, 11-15 November 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

Thirty-six practitioners and experts in mountain transboundary and connectivity conservation management from 14 countries attended a workshop held in Dhulikhel (near Kathmandu), Nepal from the 11th to the 15th November 2008. The Workshop was convened as a partnership by three organisations: 1) IUCN (the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and specifically, the Mountains Biome of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in association with the WCPA Transboundary Taskforce; 2) The International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); and 3) The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The purpose of the Workshop was to review a draft conceptual framework for Connectivity Conservation Management (CCM); to review 10 proposed tools for CCM; and to develop Workshop Action Plans for some specific connectivity corridors. All of these objectives were achieved and the Workshop was considered to be a success by participants. This report provides a record of the Workshop and its achievements and follow-up actions.

2. BACKGROUND

Connectivity conservation corridors (and their associated transboundary protected areas) help conserve habitats; ecosystem processes; the opportunities for species to evolve and adapt; and to move. When established and managed, especially at a large scale, connectivity corridors will provide additional opportunities for some species to survive in a climate change affected world. The workshop aimed to facilitate large scale connectivity conservation initiatives and the context for this work is briefly presented here.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change

The Earth is currently experiencing its sixth great extinction event and climate change, compounded by other human actions, is one of the principal causes. The root cause of climate change needs adequate and urgent international responses and so do mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. This Workshop focused on connectivity conservation mitigation and adaptation actions to help conserve biodiversity as climate change induced biome shifts happen. It concentrated on protected areas and large natural areas in mountains, their effective conservation management, the conservation of their natural interconnections and the strategic role transboundary protected areas play in achieving connectivity conservation at international boundaries.

In a climate change impacted world, large scale conservation corridors in mountains can help conserve species. For mountain chains which run north-south, corridors offer a capacity for both altitudinal and latitudinal biome shifts, with species moving up-mountain or towards the poles (or both) as temperatures increase and conditions become drier or wetter. Mountain connectivity corridors with limited latitudinal variation, but extensive longitudinal interconnections offer both altitudinal opportunities for species movements and potential opportunities to benefit from changed east-west rainfall patterns. They also help maintain ecosystem health at a time when the values of intact catchments become more important. The loss of permanent snow cover and glacial ice for example has already impacted once-perennial streams in equatorial Asia, Africa, South America and other parts of the world and the value of the remaining catchment areas have increased. Connectivity conservation management assisted by transboundary protected area management can help conserve species. They are important conservation initiatives of both IUCN WCPA and ICIMOD.

IUCN WCPA's role in connectivity conservation

The IUCN WCPA, with its world-wide network of protected area professionals and specialists provides international leadership for best practice protected area management. The WCPA Mountains Biome has the specific task of facilitating large scale connectivity conservation, particularly in mountains and this task is identified by the WCPA Strategic Plan (2005-2012). The rationale is clear. Habitat destruction and fragmentation lead to species extinctions while the retention of protected areas within larger, natural landscapes helps to conserve species. The WCPA plan also responds to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) priorities including connectivity conservation and transboundary protected area management. The PoWPA connectivity conservation target (for Goal 1.2) states:

“By 2015, all protected areas and protected area systems are integrated into the wider land – and seascape, and relevant sectors, by applying the ecosystem approach and taking into account ecological connectivity and the concept, where appropriate, of ecological networks” (CBD PoWPA 2005)

and, for transboundary protected areas (for Goal 1.3) it states:

“Establish and strengthen by 2010/2012 transboundary protected areas, other forms of collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries, and regional networks, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, implementing the ecosystem approach, and improving international cooperation”

WCPA has responded strategically to these targets. It has focused on large scale natural areas which offer important connectivity conservation opportunities for species, habitats and ecosystem function. The focus has been on mountainous areas of Earth since many of these areas still retain large expanses of interconnected natural lands. Mountains are also highly vulnerable to climate change; they offer a myriad of refugia for species and they retain critical ecosystems for the health of many peoples on Earth.

The 2008 Dhulikhel Workshop was preceded by WCPA Mountains Biome workshops in South Africa (2003) [Africa]; Banff, Canada (2004) [North America]; the Cantabric Pyrenees, Spain (2005) [Europe] and in Papallacta, Ecuador (2006) [South America]. Each workshop has taken a step forward in the development of WCPA facilitated connectivity conservation. This increasing sophistication and momentum has evolved from inspiring and securing grand visions for mountain connectivity conservation; to sharing lessons learned; to working on capacity building products; and, to working on a clear conceptual framework for CCM given that such theoretical knowledge did not exist. A new IUCN book on “how to manage” these large landscapes is also being finalised. The draft manuscript titled *Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide* has been developed and it is planned to be published in 2009. As part of the book's development, some conceptual framework diagrams needed to be tested and the 2008 Dhulikhel Workshop provided an opportunity to do this.

Asia (2008) was also the next significant international venue for WCPA's connectivity conservation facilitation work, although this need was always understood and the 2008 Kathmandu Workshop was targeted in 2004 in partnership with ICIMOD. For WCPA, organising the Dhulikhel (Kathmandu) Workshop was a natural partnership between WCPA's Mountains Biome and its Transboundary Conservation Taskforce given the scale of these connectivity corridors and the multiple countries and political boundaries involved.

ICIMOD's role

ICIMOD was a critical partner in convening the Dhulikhel Workshop. Based in Kathmandu, Nepal, ICIMOD is an intergovernmental organisation servicing eight member countries of the Hindu Kush - Himalayas region. Its work focuses on mountains, on sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction, adaptation to environmental change and ensuring ecosystem services, and water and hazards management. It is transboundary in its focus and has pioneered biodiversity and connectivity conservation in the Eastern Himalayas, and specifically, the Kangchenjunga Conservation Landscape and the Sacred Himalayan Landscape. The Workshop is consistent with ICIMOD's Strategic Framework (2008-2012) and responds in part or fully to all five of its Strategic Goals. ICIMOD provides an institutional framework to facilitate transboundary protected area management and connectivity conservation across multiple countries as a basis for landscape scale conservation. The workshop also responds directly to ICIMOD's 2007 "adaptation to environmental change and sustaining ecosystem services" strategic programme.

WWF's role

The World Wide Fund for Nature (Nepal), the third partner for the Dhulikhel Workshop, has contributed significantly to connectivity conservation and transboundary conservation work. Staff of WWF have been long term colleagues and friends of the WCPA Mountains Biome and have been very supportive of this Workshop. WWF is focused on-ground delivery, and is a recognised world leader in connectivity conservation for its work in the Terai Arc Landscape connectivity corridor of Nepal and India.

3. THE WORKSHOP

Purpose

The overall purpose of the Workshop was to help with the implementation of the CBD PoWPA 2012 and 2015 targets for transboundary protected areas and connectivity conservation. At a regional scale the purpose was to facilitate connectivity conservation and transboundary conservation corridors in mountains in Asia. For most continents, large scale connectivity conservation involves more than one country and political boundaries that divide such lands are often found in mountain environments such as along catchment divides. This may involve protected areas on both sides of borders and principles and practices which achieve transboundary management also assist these large scale mountain connectivity corridor initiatives.

Connectivity corridors typically include protected areas, some critical transboundary protected areas and many other land tenures in potentially more than one nation. Such initiatives are relatively new globally and there was a need to identify connectivity conservation tools required for conservation work at these large scales. Tools for transboundary protected areas (such as diplomatic agreements and security considerations), and tools for connectivity conservation management (such as stewardship incentives and a process for conservation planning) are often site (and single nation) based and may need to be improved further for them to work effectively at a multi-nation connectivity corridor scale. An effective suite of guidance tools was needed if countries are to help achieve the CBD targets. It was proposed that the Dhulikhel Workshop help advance the identification of these CCM tools. In addition, there was an opportunity, through input from practitioners and experts at the Workshop, to review and improve a draft CCM Conceptual Framework diagram

to be published in the book. This (draft) conceptual Framework could also be used by participants to review the management of their own connectivity corridors. The Dhulikhel programme provided this opportunity and participants from different countries worked together on their corridor Workshop Action Statements. The full Workshop Programme was developed based on these considerations (Attachment One). Thirty-six attendees (Attachment Two) were involved in achieving the objectives of the Workshop.

Overall objectives

The overall objectives of the workshop were:

1. To help facilitate the implementation of the CBD PoWPA for connectivity conservation (ecological linkages) and transboundary protected areas; and, consequently
2. To facilitate effectively managed large scale mountain connectivity conservation areas as a basis for improved species conservation and healthy environments for humans in the face of climate change threats.

The Workshop

The Workshop commenced with presentations on the management of connectivity conservation to provide an introduction and to provide the very latest information on CCM. It was then split into two sessions (Attachment One). Session One reviewed a draft Conceptual Framework for CCM and 10 proposed CCM tools. Session Two involved people working on actual or proposed connectivity corridors to prepare Workshop Action Statements. The specific objectives for these sessions were:

Session One objectives

1. To review and recommend improvements to the draft Connectivity Conservation Management (CCM) Framework
2. To review the 10 key CCM tools presented in order to:
 - identify their relative importance as a CCM tool;
 - help identify other important CCM tools; and to
 - help identify the most important CCM tools needed.

Session Two objectives

1. To review the status of CCM for individual connectivity corridors in the light of the improved CCM Framework
2. To prepare a brief, realistic, Workshop Action Statement for each connectivity corridor with actions identified at national level (for existing corridors and new initiatives)

4. THE WORKSHOP RESULTS

The Dhulikhel Workshop was very successful, and the objectives for the two sessions were achieved. The results are described here.

4.1 SESSION ONE RESULTS

Review of the (draft) CCM Conceptual Framework

All four groups presented ideas for improving the draft CCM Conceptual Framework. There was general support for all elements of the draft Framework. They supported the “Conceptual Model” which identified the situational context of CCM including its dynamic and interacting “People”, “Nature” and “Management” settings. The Groups supported the central importance of the “Vision”, and agreed that the four key management functions identified, “Leadership”; “Strategic Management Planning”; “Action” and “Evaluation” were all important for CCM. One Group identified “Finance” and “Governance” as additional Management Functions. The

Groups supported the concept of CCM being dynamic and situational. They also supported that CCM was undertaken at different geographic levels including local, landscape, national and international geographic settings, and that leadership at each of these levels was important.

The Groups challenged aspects of the draft Framework and sought improvement. Clarification of some of the terms used was sought. Groups did not support the draft three-dimensional Framework Model presented. It was too complex. The Groups agreed that the two dimensional version of the diagram of the draft Framework also needed improvement and three slightly different versions of the diagram were brought forward. Due to time availability at the Workshop, no attempt was made to resolve these differences at the Workshop. A commitment was made to carefully analyse each version after the Workshop with an analysis report to be prepared and circulated. The analysis report (“Improving the (Draft) Connectivity Conservation Management Framework”) was subsequently prepared and an improved Framework developed. It has been circulated to Workshop participants, and is posted on the WCPA Mountains Biome Website (www.mountains-wcpa.org). The improved Conceptual Framework diagram will be published in 2009.

Review of ten CCM tools

All four Groups supported the ten CCM tools presented in principle, with one Group organising the “tools” as a series of management steps. It was agreed that the terms used needed to be improved and there was advice that each of the ten tools was more like a thematic area of CCM than a tool and more specific tools needed to be identified to help achieve each of these “thematic” areas. One Group presented an additional tool. Based on this feedback, the ten tools will be improved further, more specific information included and published in the new IUCN book.

4.2 SESSION TWO RESULTS

One new connectivity corridor, two geographically enhanced corridors, and three corridors with improved management were described by six groups working on individual areas. This was an outstanding result and the work by the Groups is further described here. Based on the information generated, a “background statement” and the “Workshop Action Statements” are presented for each connectivity corridor. In addition, each Group nominated a Facilitator for their connectivity conservation work. The Facilitator’s future role will be to maintain communication with the Group, to encourage and co-ordinate the implementation of the Workshop Action Statement, and to work as part of a larger network towards achieving global connectivity conservation outcomes.

(i) The Altai-Sayan Connectivity Corridor (China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia)

Background

A new, outstanding vision for an Altai-Sayan Connectivity Corridor was described by the Altai-Sayan Group. The proposed co-operative management involves Russia, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan, and its purpose is “to ensure the natural and cultural heritage of the Altai-Sayan (*The Heart of Asia*) always stays intact and interconnected and nurtures its traditional people and their cultural legacies”.

The Altai-Sayan Connectivity Corridor Workshop Action Plan

The Group identified the following specific actions:

- Establishing an Interim International Committee for the Altai-Sayan Connectivity Conservation Initiative (ASCCI) which will guide and co-ordinate planning, operating principles and actions;
- Facilitating an IUCN-WCPA (Mountains Biome) mission in July 2009 to meet key ASCCI country representatives to discuss the potential for a trans-boundary connectivity corridor. If it is agreed for a corridor to proceed, the meeting will then discuss and formalize the concept of an “Altai-Sayan World Connectivity Conservation Congress” for July 2010.
- Facilitating the presence of ASCCI representatives at the connectivity conservation forum to be held at the Wild 9 Conference in Mexico in November 2009
- Undertaking a number of specific actions including:
 - Providing connectivity conservation educational material (in four languages) including developing a web-based information hub
 - Co-operatively producing an Atlas of the Altai-Sayan Region
 - Establishing research and monitoring
 - Establishing a link between the Altai-Sayan Initiative and the HKKH partnership for an exchange of information and lessons learned
 - Requesting IUCN WCPA to officially inform the Governments of the ASCCI four countries including the next steps
 - Briefing Kazakhstan representatives of the ASCCI

The Altai-Sayan Group Members

Tatjana Yashina [Facilitator]; Yuri Badenkov (Russia)

Galbadrakh Davaa (Mongolia)

Yuanming Zhang, Zhang Yili (China)

Marie-Eve Marchand, Harvey Locke (Canada)

(ii) The Karokoram-Pamir Region Transboundary and Connectivity Conservation Area (China and Pakistan)

Background

The Karokoram-Pamir Group described a proposed connectivity conservation area of 35,000 km² that included a population of about 200,000 people on the mountainous border area between China and Pakistan. The connectivity area expanded an existing Transboundary Protected Area along the China-Pakistan border. The Group identified that this outstanding natural area formed the catchment headwaters of the Indus and Xinjiang; that it provided habitat for rare fauna species such as the Marco Polo Sheep, Blue Sheep, Snow leopard, Brown Bear, Ladakh Urial and Himalayan Ibex; that over 400 plant species were found there; and, that it contained outstanding mountain scenery including the peaks of K2, Rakaposhi and Naga Parbat and mountain glaciers, lakes and streams. The area suffers from human threats including fragmentation of habitats. The vision of the Group is to enhance the management of the core protected areas of the corridor; to restore the corridor’s ecological characteristics; and to promote sustainable development.

Some connectivity conservation management progress has already been made including:

- A Memorandum Of Understanding between China’s Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (CAS) and WWF Pakistan (2006)
- Support pledged by Xinjiang Wildlife Conservation Society and UNDP Pakistan (2007)
- Conducting a workshop in Kashgar in 2008, which included key resolutions:

- The recognition of a “Sino-Pak Conservation and Development Area” for the transboundary Khunjerab National Park and Taxkorgan Nature Reserve
- Recognition of management protocols for the area
- The development of a joint management strategy for the area
- The promotion of tourism for the area
- Joint research and the exchange of researchers, managers and students
- The establishment of a Steering Committee to take the transboundary cooperative initiative forward

The Karokoram-Pamir Region Workshop Action Plan

The Workshop Action Plan recommended that the Kashgar Workshop cooperative work be expanded and expedited in three phases:

Phase One

- Conduct a Steering Committee meeting
- Develop a strategic framework for implementing the decisions of the Steering Committee and implement

Phase Two

- Conduct a stakeholder workshop to discuss and agree upon connectivity conservation which would link protected areas of the Karakoram and Himalayas to the transboundary conservation area
- Initiate linking the Wakhan corridor in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan to the proposed connectivity conservation areas
- Assess the feasibility of a trans-Pamir-Hindukush connectivity conservation area between Afghanistan and Pakistan
- Identify conservation areas of the Kullong Mountains for linking them to the protected areas of the Pamirs

Phase Three

- Develop a collaborative management plan involving partners from China and Pakistan
- Achieve approval of the plan from Governments of the northern areas of Pakistan and the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China
- Implement

Karokoram-Pamir Region Group Members

Ashiq Ahmad [Facilitator] (Pakistan)

Yang Weikang (China)

Latif Ahmad (Afghanistan)

Krishna Prasad Oli, Farooq Ahmad (Nepal)

(iii) The Brahmaputra-Salween Transboundary Complex (China, India and Myanmar)

Background

The vision for the Brahmaputra-Salween Transboundary Complex (BSTC) is:

“Biodiversity conservation and maintenance of ecological services in the BSTC for sustainable development in the region” The project involves ICIMOD working as a facilitator; in a close working relationship with China, Myanmar and India representatives and three big NGO’s; Conservation International, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Each nation has a significant role to play, including facilitating a national consultation of experts and stakeholders; reviewing of research information and the development of a data base; developing a CCM Framework; and, developing a Strategic plan. Specific tasks have been recognised in the Workshop Action Statement.

The Brahmaputra-Salween Transboundary Complex Workshop Action Statement

The Workshop Action Plan identified specific tasks for each nation, and the development of a Connectivity Conservation Strategy.

Myanmar actions

- Training of a professional at ICIMOD for connectivity corridor mapping
- Exposure of one professional each from the Forestry University and NGO to Kangchenjunga landscape sites and ICIMOD. Review of the existing literature
- Identification, delineation, and mapping of corridors; assessing biodiversity in corridors; and, identifying transboundary management issues
- Awareness about landscape conservation, livelihoods and conservation corridors
- Exchange of personnel between Myanmar and Yunnan
- National Strategy formulation and Action Plan Development

China actions

- Identify potential stakeholders and initiate dialogue
- Organise a meeting with stakeholders
- Review the literature on biodiversity and conservation issues
- Undertake a policy review on conservation in Yunnan, China
- Triangulate the information with field verification
- Organise a technical workshop (late November 2008)
- Prepare a draft status report
- Help organise an ICIMOD sponsored International Workshop which helps define the future course of action
- Organise field visits
- Prepare a final technical report

India actions

- Identification of partners
- Review existing information
- Undertake consultation about the connectivity conservation concept
- Initiate a workshop of biodiversity conservation stakeholders to establish a gap analysis and identify future activities

Strategy plan

A connectivity conservation strategy plan will be developed which includes

- Capacity building
- Joint research/participatory planning
- Policy analysis
- An implementation statement

Brahmaputra-Salween Transboundary Complex Group Members

Xuefei Yang [Facilitator], Linshan Liu (China)

Nakul Chettri (India)

Karma Jigme (Bhutan)

Naw May Thant, Win Naing Thaw (Myanmar)

Shiv Raj Bhatta, Mingma N. Sherpa (Nepal)

(iv) The Terai Arc Landscape Connectivity Corridor (India and Nepal)

Background

In 2008, the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) is a well established connectivity corridor, and CCM is actively being undertaken under the leadership of WWF (Nepal). Located along the Nepal-India border, the TAL vision is “A globally unique landscape where biodiversity is conserved, ecological integrity is safeguarded, and sustainable livelihoods of its people are secured”. In 1999, the biodiversity Vision for Nepal recommended linking protected areas through corridors. The TAL connectivity corridor, which conserves a globally significant ecosystem, was initiated by WWF in 2000 and endorsed by the Government of Nepal in 2001. It includes 11 protected areas four of which are in Nepal and seven in India. A TAL Strategy was developed and implementation commenced in 2001.

The Terai Arc Landscape Connectivity Corridor Workshop Action Plan

The Terai Arc Landscape Connectivity Corridor Workshop Action Plan is the current (2004-2014) TAL Connectivity Strategic Plan. This Plan was approved by the Nepal Government and it identified key threats and their root causes including direct causes (such as forest conversion, excessive extraction of fuel wood, poaching, human and wildlife conflict and overgrazing); biological threats (such as invasive species, imbalance in predator-prey populations and use of agrochemicals); and cross-cutting issues such as population growth, low agricultural productivity and lack of off-farm livelihood opportunities). Governance for TAL involves six levels, which are a policy level Steering Committee; a project execution Executive Committee; a Program Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee; project team Project Managers; District or protected area level committees and grass roots level groups to facilitate action with user groups. Clear lines of communication and accountability were established. TAL priorities for action were identified including managing “bottleneck” locations and other key issues.

The actions identified included:

- Undertaking trans-border, national and field-level cooperative management meetings
- Wildlife monitoring
- Habitat management
- Human-animal conflict mitigation
- Anti-poaching
- Community forestry
- Capacity building and education
- Providing alternate energy
- Achieving income generation

The Terai Arc Landscape Group Members

Ghanashyam Gurung [Facilitator], Siddhartha Bajra, Hem Baral, and Shiv Bhatta, (Nepal)

(v) The Greater Virunga Landscape Transboundary Area (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda)

Background

The Greater Virunga Landscape Transboundary Area (GVL) is part of the Albertine Rift Valley of Africa and includes parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. The area includes the highest species richness and number of endemic vertebrate animals in Africa, including the Mountain Gorilla. It has the largest mammal biomass ever recorded, but is threatened by landscape fragmentation caused by increasing population numbers, poverty and conflict. Other threats include poaching, clearing of the forest for charcoal production, oil exploration and human-wildlife conflicts. Transboundary

conservation was initiated in January 2004, with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and in 2006 a Transfrontier Strategic Plan was prepared and a Secretariat established. Governance of the Transboundary Area recognises a policy level MOU involving National Ministries; an Executive Level Committee; a Transboundary Secretariat; and Technical Advisory Groups (research, tourism, community and private sector, and law enforcement). The Secretariat's role included coordinating fund raising efforts for the Transboundary site; coordinating the implementation of the strategic plan; undertaking monitoring and evaluation and facilitating capacity building.

The Greater Virunga Transboundary Area Workshop Action Statement

The following CCM actions were recognised for the Transboundary Area.

- Enhance the Vision for the GVL. Add new goals including broadening the connectivity conservation scope to lands beyond the protected areas, and broaden the values of connectivity corridors and community conservation such as for ecotourism and other ecosystem services
- Ensure that the Strategic goals are revisited and assessed annually
- Undertake Leadership and position the Secretariat to push innovation, to evaluate the effectiveness of coordination mechanisms, to transition itself to sustainably funded arrangements
- Review the existing Connectivity Strategic Plan in relation to 1) climate change and the potential for the connectivity conservation area to support adaptation; 2) trends in carbon storage; 3) marketing the benefits of the corridor initiative; 4) recognition of the corridor by cross-sectoral interests and 5) specific improvement actions in areas such as communication, policy, funding, expansion of corridors, social-economic impact assessments and others.
- The Greater Virunga Trans-boundary Secretariat will co-ordinate a process of country-based corridor assessments by the protected area management authorities including:
 - Identifying the priority connectivity corridors
 - Identifying threats
 - Establishing alliances and opportunities for leveraging resources
 - Assessing climate change adaptation
 - Defining conservation activities and implementing mechanisms
- Undertake monitoring and evaluation of connectivity conservation targets as well as other evaluation. Use the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for protected areas within the corridors

The Greater Virunga Transboundary Area Group Members

Tom Sengalama [Facilitator] (Rwanda)

Bruce Jefferies (New Zealand)

Kathy MacKinnon (United Kingdom – currently Washington DC, USA)

Trevor Sandwith (South Africa – currently Washington DC, USA)

(vi) The Great Eastern Ranges Connectivity Conservation Initiative (Australian Alps to Atherton, [A2A]) (Australia)

Background

A Vision for an Alps to Atherton (A2A) connectivity corridor was described in the early 1990's, documented as a concept in 1996 and 2004 and was officially announced by Australian governments in February 2007. The connectivity corridor extends for more than 2800 kilometres along the east coast of Australia which is one of its wetter areas and contains rich assemblages of fauna and flora. Most of Australia's mainland rainforests and tall Eucalypt forests with their associated tree dwelling fauna are found there. The connectivity

corridor protects the catchments of impoundments which supply water for more than 52% of Australians. The Vision for A2A prepared by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change states “Our vision is for the ecosystems of Australia’s great eastern ranges to be healthy and connected from the Australian Alps to Atherton (and beyond), which will contribute to the long term economic, social, cultural and spiritual well being of the community, and of native plants and animals”. Connectivity Conservation Management for the NSW section of A2A (which the NSW Government describes as the great eastern ranges) is currently being implemented. A three year Business Plan guides this implementation.

The Great Eastern Ranges Connectivity Conservation Initiative (A2A) Workshop Action Plan

These following proposed actions are focused on the NSW section of A2A and include:

- Achieving a process for generating a community “owned” Vision for NSW for the great eastern ranges (A2A)
- Achieving national support for the Vision
- Achieving natural, cultural, social and economic context analysis statements for NSW and for the Hunter Valley for various audiences
- Developing a national level Memorandum of Understanding for A2A stakeholder governments
- Developing a discussion paper on potential governance models for A2A
- Developing a discussion paper on potential models for an A2A Secretariat and its method of funding
- Seeking advice from NSW “priority area” facilitators on how to fund longer term connectivity conservation
- Seeking funding mechanisms for land stewardship incentives
- Expanding the support base for A2A connectivity conservation
- Producing a connectivity conservation action plan for the Hunter Valley strategic area
- Developing and applying a Connectivity Conservation Management evaluation framework (plan) and indicators and produce evaluation information for use by a range of audiences
- Adaptively developing an improved Action Plan based on the evaluations

The Great Eastern Ranges Connectivity Conservation Initiative (A2A) Group Members
Ian Pulsford [Facilitator], Lesley Pulsford, Michael Lockwood, Rod Atkins (Australia)
Linda McMillan (USA)

5. WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Positive Workshop outcomes were achieved. The conceptual Framework for Connectivity Conservation Management (CCM) was improved and ten proposed CCM tools were verified as being important. These (now) well grounded advances in theoretical knowledge for CCM will provide certainty (and a degree of comfort) for current and future connectivity conservation investors and practitioners. It will help create order and a process for potential significant international investment in large scale conservation initiatives and consequently, will contribute to meeting the CBD 2015 PoWPA targets. This theoretical work will be published in 2009 in the new book by IUCN and Earthscan titled *Connectivity Conservation Management: A Global Guide*.

The achievement of a new, very large connectivity corridor in the heart of Asia, the “Altai-Sayam Connectivity Conservation Corridor” was an outstanding outcome for the workshop. In addition, achieving major corridor enhancements for the Karokoram-Pamir Transboundary Area of China and Pakistan and a focused connectivity conservation improvement for the Brahmaputra-Salween Transboundary Area for India, China and Myanmar were also

important outcomes. All of these large mountainous areas contain very important ecosystems and species. Important consolidation and improvement advances were also recognised for the Greater Virunga Landscape, the Terai Arc Landscape and the A2A Connectivity Conservation Corridor.

6. WORKSHOP EVALUATION

The Workshop was very successful according to respondents of the Workshop Evaluation Questionnaire. A very high number (88%) identified that their overall level of satisfaction was either High or Very High relative to their expectations. [The Questionnaire used a rating scheme with five choices from Very Low to Very High.] The lowest rating identified was Moderate for 12% of respondents. All respondents advised that they would like the IUCN WCPA to conduct similar workshops in the future.

General comments

Many brief comments were received from attendees including: Well done, exceptional opportunity; Extremely useful plus future useful guidelines; Thank you!; Excellent overall! and excellent wrap-up presentation summarizing outcomes; Great experience: thanks to all those that shared knowledge; Excellent arrangements; Well done; Job well done; New ideas are in great scarcity; It has been good to hear stakeholders such as business and youth considered as very important at this workshop.....crucial!; This was extremely useful and provided useful guidelines for the future work on connectivity corridors; Everything was well prepared and now even Australian English is understandable;

Improvement (needed) comments

Some people wanted further improvements, and comments included: IUCN field trips should spend less time in the bus and more on the ground; Improvement of the facilitators in the working groups – organise facilitation in a way that it enables everyone's participation; Field trip gets into the biodiversity more if possible; Provide at least one evening of free time and opportunities to exercise

Follow-up recommendations

Some attendees sought additional actions including: A web-based forum on communication; a clearer follow-up plan [is needed]; the networking established should continue some how

Future Workshop recommendations

Attendees provided comments about future workshops including:

Workshop Topics: Focused protected area activities to promote connectivity conservation areas and transboundary protected areas; Inform and advance [connectivity conservation]; An Altai-Sayan Workshop.

Workshop Organisation: These should assign tasks to participants before they arrive and set a clearer agenda; Create a regional core group to draft and finalise the workshop agenda.

Workshop venue: World Wilderness Congress, Wild 9, Mexico the next venue for connectivity conservation.

7. FOLLOW-UP PLAN

The Workshop Evaluation survey was very helpful, including the request for a better follow-up plan. Such a follow-up plan is provided here as a series of actions as well identifying accountabilities for this work.

Action One: Circulate the Workshop Report to participants, partners, sponsors, the IUCN WCPA and PPA, the Secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention and the GEF (Vice Chair Mountains Biome)

Action Two: Circulate the completed analysis report of the different Conceptual Framework improvement options (Vice Chair Mountains Biome)

Action Three: Circulate an invitation for all participants to become members of the IUCN WCPA (Mountains Biome) team (Vice Chair Mountains Biome)

Action Four: Correspond with IUCN WCPA Vice Chair for Russia as a basis for following up the Altai-Sayan Group's action request of IUCN WCPA (Vice Chair Mountains Biome)

Action Five: Subject to final organisational arrangements during early 2009, for the IUCN WCPA (Mountains Biome) to participate in a preliminary meeting with representatives of the Governments of China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russian in the Altai Mountains in July 2009. The purpose of the meeting would be to facilitate a potential Altai-Sayan Connectivity Conservation International Congress for July 2010. (Facilitator Altai-Sayan Group, Vice Chair Mountains Biome)

Action Six: Correspond with the six "Connectivity Conservation Facilitators" in May 2009 and November 2009 to identify progress against their respective Workshop Action Statements. Publicise the results on the Mountains Biome Web Site. (Vice Chair Mountains Biome, Deputy Vice Chair Mountains Biome)

Action Seven: Consistent with a request by Dhulikhel Workshop attendees for continuing networking opportunities, a proposal to establish a new voluntary network of international large scale connectivity conservation initiatives will be developed. This proposal for an "umbrella network" of connectivity corridors will be a part of IUCN WCPA's Mountain Biome network. The proposal will be developed during 2009 and circulated for comment. Our Dhulikhel Facilitators are anticipated to have a key role with this work. (Vice Chair Mountains Biome; Deputy Vice Chair Mountains Biome; Rod Atkins)

Action Eight: To advise participants of the next major Mountains Biome Connectivity Conservation initiative, to be held at the Wild 9 Congress in Mexico, November 2009. (Harvey Locke)

8. CONCLUSION

The 2008 Mountain Transboundary Protected Area and Connectivity Conservation Workshop held in Dhulikhel (near Kathmandu) Nepal from the 11-15 November was very successful. It met its objectives and the outcomes will help connectivity conservation and contribute to the PoWPA 2015 targets for ecological networks. A proposed new voluntary network of global connectivity conservation initiatives arising from the Workshop and facilitated by IUCN WCPA is also anticipated with assisting the PoWPA 2015 targets.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IUCN WCPA (Mountains Biome) would like to warmly express its thanks for the outstanding support of its partners ICIMOD and WWF. In particular, the support of former ICIMOD CEO Dr Gabriel Campbell in 2004 and current CEO Dr Andreas Schild and his staff, especially Dr Eklabya Sharma and Dr Nakul Chettri was appreciated. The support of Dr Ghana Gurung, WWF Nepal for the Workshop was especially helpful.

Direct financial contributions from our sponsors permitted the workshop to proceed and I would like to recognise their special contribution. My thanks are extended to (in alphabetical order) to the Australian Alps Liaison Committee; ICIMOD; IUCN WCPA; IUCN Nepal; The

Nature Conservancy; UNESCO – MAB; The World Bank and WWF. In particular, I would especially thank Kathy Mackinnon (The World Bank); Ian Dutton (formerly of The Nature Conservancy); Jon Miceler and Ghana Gurung (WWF); Thomas Schaaf of (UNESCO-MAB); Peter Jacobs (The Australian Alps Liaison Committee); and Eklabya Sharma and Nakul Chettri (ICIMOD) for their outstanding support.

A great many people worked behind the scenes, but special recognition needs to be extended to Rod Atkins and Nakul Chettri for their organisation work, and to Trevor Sandwith, Peter Shadie, Jamie Ervin, Wendy Francis, Linda McMillan, Bruce Jeffries, Michael Lockwood and Ashiq Khan who contributed in many different ways to the running of the workshop. Thanks also go to our outstanding speakers, our workshop facilitators and presenters and our special presenters Tom Sengalama and Farooq Ahmad and our hosts at the Dhulikhel Lodge Resort.



Dr Graeme L. Worboys
IUCN WCPA
Vice Chair (Mountains Biome)
12th December 2008

ATTACHMENT ONE

WORKSHOP PROGRAM AND PRE- AND POST-WORKSHOP ARRANGMENTS

IUCN WCPA (Mountains Biome) and ICIMOD Workshop November 2008

Sunday 9 th	November 2008
	Various times – All delegates arriving at Kathmandu Airport will be picked up by ICIMOD and transferred to the Hotel Himalaya Patan. On arrival at the Hotel Himalaya, delegates will receive a detailed programme for the workshop. (Delegates' own arrangements for the evening and next morning)
5.30 pm	Introductions, welcoming and workshop and organisation meeting involving Dr Nakul Chettri, Dr Eklabya Sharma, Dr Graeme Worboys; Rod Atkins and Linda McMillan. Venue: Lobby, Hotel Himalaya
Monday 10 th	
	Delegates: Free time to 11.00 am
10.00 am	Dr Graeme Worboys and Rod Atkins travel to ICIMOD HQ to assist Dr Nakul Chettri with final preparations for the meeting Deputy Vice Chair Linda McMillan: Key WCPA contact person at the Hotel Himalaya for any assistance/guidance needed by workshop participants Delegates need to check out by 1115 hours
11.15 am	Buses arrive and collect luggage
11.30 am	Buses with delegates and luggage transferred from Hotel Himalaya Patan to ICIMOD Headquarters
12.00 Noon	Orientation of Workshop participants at ICIMOD by Dr Nakul Chettri
12.30 pm – 2.00 pm	Lunch and welcoming reception – ICIMOD Headquarters – Khumaltar
2.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Welcoming addresses at ICIMOD HQ Dr Madhav Karki, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD Dr Graeme Worboys, IUCN WCPA Vice Chair for Mountains Biome Mr Trevor Sandwith, Deputy Chair, IUCN WCPA Dr Uday Raj Sharma Secretary of the Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation, IUCN WCPA Vice Chair for South Asia Mr Anil Manandhar, Country Representative, WWF
3.30 pm – 3.45 pm	Refreshments at ICIMOD
4.00 pm	Depart ICIMOD headquarters – coach transfer to workshop venue – Dhulikhel Lodge Resort, Dhulikhel
5.30 pm	Arrive Dhulikhel Lodge Resort, Dhulikhel and check-in
7.00 pm	Welcome dinner - Dhulikhel Lodge Resort [Graeme Worboys] Delegate introductions [Rod Atkins and Nakul Chettri] Orientation background information [Graeme Worboys] Background to IUCN WCPA's Connectivity Conservation Work; workshop objectives; an introduction to the workshop program

Tuesday 11th	WORKSHOP PART ONE: REVIEW OF THE (draft) CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND KEY TOOLS Dhulikhel Lodge Resort
? – 8.45 am	BREAKFAST
8.45 am – 8.50 am	[Graeme Worboys] Introduction and objectives for the day
	CCM: SETTING THE SCENE
8.50 am – 9.00 am	[Trevor Sandwith] Establishing a context: Connectivity conservation as a critical part of a IUCN's strategic response to global change
9.00 am – 9.15 am	[Jamie Ervin] Developing The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity's new technical guide concerning " <i>Integrating protected areas into the wider landscapes, seascapes and natural resource sectors</i> " The very latest
9.15 am – 9.35 am	[Harvey Locke] The Yellowstone to Yukon Connectivity Conservation Initiative
	5 minute BREAK
9.40 am – 9.55 am	[Nakul Chettri] Work in progress: HKKH Transboundary protected area and connectivity conservation management. Guidelines, key tools and key lessons
9.55 am – 10.10am	[Dr Gurung] Work in progress. The Terai Arc Landscape connectivity conservation. Guidelines, key tools and key lessons
10.10 am – 10.25 am	[Bruce Jefferies] Work in progress: ASEAN Transboundary protected area management. Guidelines, key tools and key lessons
10.25 am – 10.50 am	MORNING TEA
	A (DRAFT) FRAMEWORK FOR CCM AND KEY TOOLS
10.50 am – 11.40 am	[Graeme Worboys] A (draft) management framework for connectivity conservation, and key tools which support this
11.40 am – 12.30 pm	Commence workshop groups: Review of the (draft) CCM Framework and selected tools and improvements suggested
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm	Workshop groups continue: Review of the (draft) CCM Framework and selected tools and improvements suggested
3.30 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
6.00 pm	
6.00 pm – 7.00 pm	End of day free time 14 minute film on A2A Connectivity Conservation. Film Premiered at the IUCN WCC Barcelona
7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	DINNER
8.00 pm – 10.00 pm	(Optional) Workshop groups continue: Review of the (draft) CCM Framework and selected tools and improvements suggested

Wednesday 12th	WORKSHOP PART ONE: REVIEW OF THE (draft) CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND KEY TOOLS (Continued) Dhulikhel Lodge Resort
? – 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8.30 am – 10.30am	Workshop groups continue: Review of the (draft) CCM Framework and selected tools and improvements suggested
10.30am – 11.30am	MORNING TEA
11.30 am – 12.30 pm	Review of the (draft) Connectivity Conservation Management Framework and key tools: Workshop presentations from 4 Groups (Use of overheads or Power-points) 10.00 minutes per group, with 5 minutes Question and Answer session
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	LUNCH
	WORKSHOP PART TWO: REVIEWING CONNECTIVITY CORRIDORS AND DEVELOPING AGREED ACTION STATEMENTS
1.30 pm – 1.50 pm	[Graeme Worboys] Using the (improved draft) CCM Framework as a guide: 1) Break into working groups linked to specific connectivity corridors 2) Review the current CCM action status for individual connectivity corridors 3) Identify the agreed priority areas for CCM action for a connectivity corridor 4) If appropriate, prepare a brief statement of CCM action needed for each nation, and the process, within government, to help achieve this 5) Identify any further improvements to the (draft) CCM Framework and key tools as a consequence of the local review Potential working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albertine Rift Valley • Altai Mountains • HKKH • Terai Arc • A2A • Y2Y
1.50 pm – 3.30 pm	Connectivity corridor working groups AFTERNOON TEA
6.00 pm	[Nakul Chettri and Rod Atkins] briefing on requirements for the Thursday protected area field trip
6.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Free time
7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	DINNER
8.00 pm – 10.00 pm	Optional. Connectivity corridor working groups

Thursday 13th	FIELD TRIP
?- 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8.30 am	<p>Bus departs for a full day field trip to Shivapuri National Park</p> <p>(Extract from the web site) Shivapuri National Park lies on the north side of Kathmandu Valley, about 12km from Kathmandu City. It covers an area of 14,487ha, of which 11,200ha falls within the wildlife reserve and is demarcated by 114km-long boundary wall. This watershed area is a true representation of the Middle Hills in the protected area system, and it also provides over 40% of the drinking water to Kathmandu Valley. It has a high diversity of forest types (sal, Terai hardwood, lowerslopes mixed hardwood, chir pine, oak and upper slope mixed hardwood) which occupy 39% of the land where 16 endemic plants occur. A total of 129 species of mushroom, 150 species of butterflies with many endemic and rare, 151 species of birds, and 19 species of mammals have been recorded. This National Park is popular with tourists, many of whom camp overnight in order to see the Himalaya at sunrise.</p> <p>LUNCH PROVIDED</p> <p>Return to Dhulikhel Lodge Resort</p>
7.00 pm – 8.00 pm	DINNER
Friday 14th	WORKSHOP PART TWO: REVIEWING CONNECTIVITY CORRIDORS AND DEVELOPING AGREED ACTION STATEMENTS (Continued)
? – 8.30 am	BREAKFAST
8.30 am – 1030 am	Connectivity corridor working groups continue to prepare their agreed action statements
10.30 am – 11.00 am	MORNING TEA
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	Connectivity corridor working groups finalise their agreed action statements
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	<p>Connectivity corridor working groups presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albertine Rift Valley • Altai Mountains • HKKH • Terai Arc • A2A • Y2Y
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	AFTERNOON TEA
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	<p>[Graeme Worboys] Review of the workshop findings for the draft CCM Framework and Key Tools</p> <p>[Jamie Ervin] Overview of the Connectivity Corridor Action Statement presentations</p> <p>[Open Panel Discussion: Connectivity Conservation opportunities and possible initiatives]</p> <p>[Nakul Chettri and Rod Atkins] Logistics for dinner and Saturday's departure for Kathmandu</p>

	[Dr Andreas Schild and Dr Graeme Worboys] Concluding words]
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm	Free time Preparation for Saturday's departure
6.00 pm - ?	Celebratory Mountains Connectivity Conservation Dinner, Dhulikhel Lodge Resort
Saturday 15th	DEPARTURE FROM DHULIKHEL LODGE RESORT
? – 8.30 am	BREAKFAST and Checkout
9.00 am	Depart Dhulikhel Lodge Resort – coach transfer to Kathmandu Valley travel terminals (airport, bus station etc)

ICIMOD-WCPA-WWF Workshop Dhulikhel near Kathmandu, Nepal, 10-15 November 2008

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