

Peace Park Profiles

The Parks, Peace and Partnerships Conference will bring together world experts on the establishment and management of International Peace Parks and other transboundary conservation initiatives. The following profiles offer a snapshot of the importance of this world-wide movement. We have chosen to highlight:

1. **Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park** - the conference host and the world's first International Peace Park;
2. **Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park** – the jewel of the transfrontier parks of southern Africa that will eventually constitute the world's largest protected area;
3. **“Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord“ Biosphere Reserve** – a European model for transboundary management that incorporates both biodiversity protection and the needs of local people;
4. **Peace Parks in Conflict Zones** – highlights from around the globe of the value of peace parks in areas of past and present conflict;
5. **Transboundary Wildlife Protection** – charismatic species with large area requirements care little about human-imposed borders; gorillas, grizzly bears , orangutans and elephants are just a few of the species that will be included in the conference program.

Representatives and spokespersons will be available for these and other conference topics. Please contact Michael Quinn (quinn@ucalgary.ca or (403) 220-7013) for more information.

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (Canada, United States of America)

"The unheralded line that separates Canada and the United States is the longest unfortified border in the world today, and perhaps in all of history. It says to mankind: Let not the cartographers rule, elevate nature and human friendship."

Stewart L. Udall U.S. Secretary of the Interior, 1967

In 1932, international cooperation between the Rotary Club members of Montana and Alberta convinced the United States and Canada to join Waterton Lakes National Park (Alberta, Canada) with Glacier National Park (Montana, USA) as a symbol of their longtime friendship, peace and goodwill that exists along the world's longest undefended border (8,892 km/ 5,525 miles). The parks were designated Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the first such formal designation in the world. In 1995, the Peace Park became the world's first Peace Park World Heritage Site. The designation in the name of peace gave added meaning to these two national parks. Waterton, established in 1895, and Glacier, established in 1910, collectively cover 4 455 sq. km (1,720 square miles), some of the most spectacular terrain on the continent. Today, cooperation between the parks is reflected in wildlife and vegetation management, fire protection, search and rescue programs, and joint interpretive programs, brochures, and exhibits. This year, 2007, marks the 75th anniversary of the Peace Park and Waterton-Glacier now shares the honorific designation with more than 135 International Peace Parks around the world. The parks are as varied as the places they protect, but all share two things – bringing people together to help protect their heritage and providing opportunities for finding peace. They have become a bridge between nations, a common ground where politics can be put aside and agreements can be reached about the importance of shared heritage.

Map:

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/glac/images/bigmap.gif>

http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/images/WLNPtownsite_map_e.pdf

Web sources:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/waterton/index_E.asp

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/>

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/glac/pdf/wgg-web-2007.pdf>

Spokesperson:

Bill Dolan – Manager, Resource Conservation, Waterton Lakes National Park

Brace Hayden – Regional Issues Specialist, Glacier National Park

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe)

'I know of no political movement, no philosophy, and no ideology which does not agree with the peace parks concept as we see it going into fruition today. It is a concept that can be embraced by all. In a world beset by conflict and division, peace is one of the cornerstones of the future. Peace parks are building blocks in this process, not only in our region, but potentially the entire world.'

Nelson Mandela

The bold vision of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is to achieve inter-state collaboration in the conservation of trans-boundary ecosystems and their associated biodiversity, promoting sustainable use of natural resources to improve the quality of life of the peoples of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Political borders very rarely respect ecological systems, and this transfrontier park will strive to re-establish historical animal migration routes and other ecosystem functions disrupted by fences and incompatible legislation. This more natural ecosystem will then also be jointly managed according to harmonized wildlife management policies, promoting the return of a larger and more resilient ecosystem with greater chances of long-term sustainability. Equally important, this park will provide jobs and revenue generating opportunities for many of the thousands of local people affected by decades of civil war. Improving the lives of these rural communities will further contribute to biodiversity conservation by demonstrating the economic and social advantages that can be achieved through wildlife conservation. Although the park is not officially open, multi-lateral agreements have been signed between the participating countries. When complete, the park will encompass a core area of approximately 35,000 km² and a surrounding management zone that will bring the total area to some 100,000 km², making it the largest transboundary protected area complex in the world. Park establishment has achieved direct political support from the highest levels, involving the presidents of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. As the fences come down between the participating countries, the flow of international tourists will help contribute to long-term sustainability to the region. Great Limpopo is one of 14 transfrontier conservation areas being established in southern Africa to link regional conservation with community development.

Map:

<http://www.peaceparks.org/gis.php?mid=251&pid=158>
http://www.greatlimpopopark.com/home/gkg_pol.shtml

Web sources:

<http://www.greatlimpopopark.com/>
http://www.peaceparks.org/story.php?mid=164&pid=147&m=1_5_3
http://www.zoopy.com/video/1942_Peace_Parks_-_a_dream_comes_true.html

Spokespersons:

Dr. David Mabunda - Chief Executive Officer, South African National Parks
Bartolameu Soto - Head, TCFA Unit, Ministry of Tourism, Transfrontier Conservation Areas Unit, Mozambique
Freek Venter - Head of the Department of Conservation Services, Kruger National Park, South Africa

Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord Biosphere Reserve (Germany, France)

“A border is only an imaginary line drawn on a map by man and history.”

In the densely populated region of Western Europe, on the borderlands of Germany and France, lies a landscape rich in cultural and natural history. The Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord Transfrontier Biosphere Reserve covers 3105 km² (1,200 sq. miles) (1,800 km² (695 sq. miles) in Germany and 1305 km² (505 sq. miles) in France). Formally designated in 1998 as the first Transfrontier Biosphere Reserve in the European Union, the region embraces the protection and management of natural, cultural and historical heritage. A relatively low population of approximately 240,000 people shares a forested landscape with such species as the European lynx, the eagle owl and a host of rare plant species. The landscape is rich with human history reflected in hundreds of castles and medieval structures as well as centuries old vineyards. Cooperative management of the region is helping to protect the regional heritage and provide viable, sustainable economic activity. In a region that has been marked by several wars, the transborder cooperation also serves as mechanism to celebrate the peaceful co-management that now exists. The arrangements being developed for sustainability of the region are a model for Europe and beyond.

Map:

http://212.95.67.44/website/PNRVN/viewer_english.htm (interactive)

Web sources:

<http://www.biosphere-vosges-pfaelzerwald.org/>

<http://www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=FRA-GER+01&mode=all>

Spokespersons:

Roland Stein, Transboundary Coordinator, “Pfälzerwald – Vosges du Nord“ Biosphere Reserve, Germany

Chair, European Expert Group on Transboundary Conservation, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

Peace Parks in Conflict Zones

"Environmental concerns and conflicts along borders are a worldwide problem creating a need for cooperation between countries. The establishment of transboundary protected areas or peace parks is one solution."

George B. Schaller, Wildlife Conservation Society

The role of Peace Parks in areas of international boundary conflict is a critical theme of the Parks, Peace and Partnership Conference. Several presenters will highlight findings from such areas as the Korea, Cyprus, and India/Pakistan. In addition, a new international book on peace parks will be launched. *Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution* edited by Saleem H. Ali is volume of contributions by leading practitioners and academics from around the world. The editor and several of the contributors will be on hand. The following excerpt from one of the chapters (Hammill and Charles Besançon - Measuring Peace Park performance: Definitions and Experiences) captures some of the primary themes:

“While the origins of transboundary conservation go back to the early part of the 20th century when Waterton Glacier International Peace Park was established across the borders of Canada and USA in 1932, there has been a relatively recent resurgence and enthusiasm for the transboundary approach. The number and extent of internationally adjoining protected areas are being established at an unprecedented rate. In 1988 there were a total of 59 complexes involving 136 countries. By 2005, the number had jumped to over 188 complexes involving over 818 countries. This recent proliferation of transboundary initiatives have been generally welcomed as a sign of good will and cooperation, particularly in areas with relatively recent histories of conflict. Touted by Nelson Mandela as ‘a concept embraced by all’, peace parks represent the confluence of several mutually reinforcing interests, namely those of biodiversity conservation, economic development, cultural integrity and regional peace and security. The possibilities are impressive and attractive (especially to donors): large, contiguous ecological habitats that simultaneously protect biodiversity, create widespread opportunities for tourism venture investment, alleviate poverty, reunite previously separated ethnic groups, and promote good political relations between neighboring states. ... Peace parks, as symbols of power, hold tremendous significance as arbiters for peacemaking”

Spokesperson:

Saleem Ali - Associate Professor of Environmental Policy and Planning, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont

Editor, *Peace Parks: Conservation and Conflict Resolution*

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=11250>

Transboundary Wildlife Protection

An administrative border is like a glass wall that may not be readily apparent, but because nearly all terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are open systems requiring continual flows or fluxes of energy and matter, differences in management goals and land-use practices on either side of the border inevitably disrupt these flows, causing changes in ecological conditions and processes.

(Landres, Knight, Pickett & Cadenasso, 1998, p. 40)

Ecological processes, such as dispersal and seasonal migration, result in mammals, birds and fish having to negotiate borders and boundaries around the globe. Approximately one third of our planet's biodiversity 'hot spots' straddle national boundaries. The administrative lines and rectilinear grids that we have imposed on the landscape for historical, political and socioeconomic purposes rarely correspond to ecological spatial patterns. When borders include fences, they can have a direct negative effect on wildlife movement. However, even where boundaries are not marked by physical barriers, jurisdictional policy, planning and management discontinuities lead to profound effects on ecological systems. The management and mitigation of border effects on wildlife (and other transboundary ecological processes) absolutely require collaborative and integrated approaches to ensure regional connectivity. Furthermore, considering the area requirements of large and/or highly mobile species reinforces the need for planning and management at large scales.

In the Waterton-Glacier region, grizzly bears are a symbol of wilderness and prime example of the need to collaborate across boundaries. Presentations at the conference will include discussions of the latest research in regional grizzly bear management and population assessment. Other examples from around the world will highlight similar needs for transboundary efforts to protect such species as elephants, gorillas and orangutans.

Spokespersons:

Michael Quinn, Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary
Katherine C. Kendall, USGS, Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project
