Transboundary cooperation for conservation of World Heritage – a global view

Expert meeting 3-4 June 2019 Maun, Botswana
1092 World Heritage sites in 167 countries
(as of June 2019)

Of which 37 sites are transboundary or serial transnational sites
19 Cultural, 16 Natural, 2 Mixed in 65 States Parties

(6 in Africa Region)
International cooperation

WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
“Transboundary projects truly enhance the founding principles of the World Heritage Convention, which was designed to build peace through cultural cooperation and foster collective responsibility over shared heritage.”

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General
World Heritage as a tool for transboundary cooperation
134. A nominated property may occur: on the territory of a single State Party, or on the territory of all concerned States Parties having adjacent borders (transboundary property).

135. Wherever possible, transboundary nominations should be prepared and submitted by States Parties jointly in conformity with Article 11.3 of the Convention. It is highly recommended that the States Parties concerned establish a joint management committee or similar body to oversee the management of the whole of a transboundary property.

136. Extensions to an existing World Heritage property located in one State Party may be proposed to become transboundary properties.
Transboundary property: W-Arly-Pendjari Complex

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Expert meeting 3-4 June Maun, Botswana

3 June 2019
Transboundary property
MOSI-OA-TUNYA / VICTORIA FALLS, ZAMBIA / ZIMBABWE
Transnational serial World Heritage properties

137. Serial properties will include two or more component parts related by **clearly defined links**: 
   
a) Component parts should reflect cultural, social or functional links over time that provide, where relevant, landscape, ecological, evolutionary or habitat connectivity.

b) Each component part should contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole in a substantial, scientific, readily defined and discernible way, and may include, *inter alia*, intangible attributes. The resulting Outstanding Universal Value should be easily understood and communicated.

138. A serial nominated property may occur: on the territory of a single State Party (serial national property); or within the territory of different States Parties, which need not be contiguous and is nominated with the consent of all States Parties concerned (serial transnational property).

139. Serial nominations, whether from one State Party or multiple States, may be submitted for evaluation over several nomination cycles.

114. In the case of serial properties, a management system or mechanisms for ensuring the co-ordinated management of the separate components are essential and should be documented in the nomination.
Transnational serial property
WESTERN TIEN-SHAN, KAZAKHSTAN / KYRGYZSTAN / UZBEKISTAN
Transnational serial property: Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests...of Europe

ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE, ALBANIA / AUSTRIA / BELGIUM / BULGARIA / CROATIA / GERMANY / ITALY / ROMANIA / SLOVAKIA / SLOVENIA / SPAIN / UKRAINE

Source: Huber, 2017
Transboundary cooperation

VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK, DRC
Migratory species

ARCHIPIÉLAGO DE REVILLAGIGEDO, MEXICO
Migratory species

BANC D'ARGUIN NATIONAL PARK, MAURITANIA
Transboundary threats

LAKE TURKANA NATIONAL PARKS, KENYA
Benefits of transboundary and transnational sites

WADDEN SEA, DENMARK / GERMANY / NETHERLANDS
Benefits of nominating serial natural sites

• Nominate sites that represent a certain ecosystem in all its aspects and thus shows outstanding universal value in a unit;
• Improve connectivity and ecological integrity of the property as a whole, contributing to e.g. climate change adaptation;
• Integrate the sites better in overall land use planning, local development and tourism destination design;
• Increase the number of sites that benefit from the protection of the World Heritage Convention;
• Limit the number of sites on the World Heritage List, thus increasing the credibility of the list;
• Enhance the chances of long-term sustainability of those sites.

HIGH COAST / KVARKEN ARCHIPELAGO, FINLAND / SWEDEN
Benefits of transboundary and transnational sites

- Better management of shared resources and values, holistic approach and integrated planning ensure greater conservation efficiency;
- Scientific and technical cooperation, e.g. in research, education, capacity building;
- Financial cooperation (establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism);
- Shared social and economic benefits, regional integration;
- Peacebuilding, strengthened political relations and high-level and broad support to conservation;
- World Heritage Convention as an effective means to formalise transboundary cooperation and reach consensus.
Challenges of transboundary and transnational sites

BIAŁOWIEŻA FOREST, BELARUS / POLAND
Challenges of transboundary and transnational sites

- large complex transboundary or transnational properties need more resources and time, greater thought and preparation and extended commitments (both nomination phase and maintenance over time);

Need to overcome differences in:
- national administration systems with varying funding structures and possibilities;
- legal systems and management standards (difficulty in harmonising management systems and overcoming logistical issues of joint management);
- language, cultural and social differences;
- characteristics of the specific communities and the stakeholders involved.

SANGHA TRINATIONAL, CAMEROON / CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC / CONGO
Guiding questions for a serial or transboundary approach on World Heritage

- Is the feasibility of a possible nomination established?
- What is the justification for a serial or transboundary approach? (complementarity, thematic links, geography, values, requirements for boundaries)
- Are the separate elements of the site functionally linked?
- Is there an overall management framework (management plan, joint management body etc.)?
Table 15: Common stages of a transboundary conservation process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WCPA's Framework</th>
<th>CONTEXT AND PLANNING</th>
<th>INPUTS AND PROCESSES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stages</td>
<td>DIAGNOSE</td>
<td>DESIGN</td>
<td>TAKE ACTION</td>
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<td>Goals</td>
<td>Determine the need for transboundary conservation</td>
<td>Match the process to the situation</td>
<td>Secure resources and implement actions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Identify if there is a compelling reason to act</td>
<td>Determine who should lead the effort</td>
<td>Assess the capacity to implement plans</td>
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<td>Step 2</td>
<td>Determine if there is a constituency for change</td>
<td>Mobilize and engage the right people</td>
<td>Develop an action plan</td>
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<td>Step 3</td>
<td>Estimate the scope of the issue</td>
<td>Define the geographic extent</td>
<td>Secure financial sustainability</td>
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<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Estimate the capacity to work across boundaries</td>
<td>Negotiate a joint vision and develop management objectives</td>
<td>Implement the plans</td>
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Source: Adapted from McKinney and Johnson (2009)
Thank you for your attention