



SALZBURG
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SESSION REPORT

571

The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace



PARKS FOR THE PLANET FORUM

Salzburg Global Seminar is grateful to the following organizations for their generous support of Session 571 *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*

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Salzburg Global Seminar is also grateful for the *additional session support* from:

The **Huffington Foundation**, **Capital Group Companies**, **The Nippon Foundation**, the **Robert Bosch Stiftung**, and **Whitney and Elizabeth MacMillan**.

Salzburg Global Seminar would like to thank all participants for donating their time and expertise to Session 571.

Session 571

Salzburg, November 9 to 13, 2016

The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace

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Table of Contents

05 Foreword

08 Session Report

08 Day 1: Framing the Challenge

13 Day 2: Scoping Priorities

13 Connectivity and Resource Management Across Borders

16 INTERVIEW

Elaine Hsiao: “I see the future as a catalyst for cooperation”

18 Cross-Border Collaboration for Peace and Human Security

23 INTERVIEW

Todd Walters: “Create a population of citizens on both sides of the border that are actively working for peace”

25 Transboundary Conservation and Regional Economic Development

30 Day 3: Digging In

30 Species Protection and Transboundary Trade

32 INTERVIEW

Helga Rainer: “One of our goals is reconciling economic development with the conservation of apes”

34 Anticipating Climate Change, Water and Development Imperatives

37 INTERVIEW

Rajan Kotru: “If the Himalayan ecosystem remains intact, there will be people rushing there to pursue their spiritual ideals”

39 Group Work Challenge: What are the catalysts that would accelerate this idea to political prominence and international investment?

40 Day 4: Leading Change

40 Levers and Leadership for Transformational Change

**43 Salzburg Statement for
Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace**

47 Conclusion

49 Next Steps for the Parks for the Planet Forum

APPENDIX

52 List of participants

Foreword

In an age where connecting with those around the world has never been so easy, the political and socio-cultural borders that define many countries, territories and regions are becoming more of a hindrance than ever before. As new countries emerge and political divisions become further entrenched, the fate of transboundary conservation areas continues to be a major focus in the international pursuit of sustainability and the preservation of the natural habitats unique to these areas.

Transboundary conservation areas are often defining elements of an ecosystem where there are high levels of biodiversity, natural resources, and historic cultural treasures. Given the precarious legislative governance structures around transboundary areas and the complex administrative arrangements coming from the various constitutional entities that share (or dispute) jurisdiction over the area, a delicate approach is needed towards ensuring their survival.

In 2014, the IUCN World Parks Congress took place in Sydney, Australia, bringing in over 6000 participants from over 160 countries. The emerging convention, aptly named the *Promise of Sydney*, came about as a commitment to “transforming perspective, policy and practice to enhancing protected areas” whereby these areas are seen as an investment, a form of endowment, for both the future of the planet and the future of its inhabitants.

The *Parks for the Planet Forum* was launched by Salzburg Global Seminar and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a ten-year collaborative platform to transform and catalyze leadership and action to deliver the *Promise of Sydney*.

Fellows of the 2016 *Parks for the Planet* session *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*



Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation

The inaugural session, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation* took place in November 2015, where participants discussed the effect of increasing urbanization on population health, the ways in which nature could influence or alleviate some of these issues, and the roles that parks play. The first installation of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* focused on the interrelations between nature, health and urbanization. Building from the discussions that took place, the networks that were created and picking from the knowledge base in the room, the *Salzburg Challenge* was issued whereby participants jointly came together and co-wrote the following statement:

“We will catalyze and nurture new ways of working together to secure the right for all people to experience and be excited by nature and gain lifelong benefits for health and wellbeing from outdoor activities in varied and stimulating environments. We will seek to foster new leadership to conserve nature as the foundation for sustainability in an era of rapid global change.”

The statement goes on to describe the reasons for which action needs to be taken, and why said actions need to be commenced upon immediately. Participants were confident that there was sufficient evidence detailing the benefits of nature, and were firm on the need for an acceleration in the implementation of measures that feed the co-written statement to “flourish and advance health and dignity for all people.” The call to action also provides a list of what needs to be done, and who is needed to act in order for these nature-based solutions to take hold in the societies and become rooted in legislation and culture.

You can read the Salzburg Challenge in its entirety here:

www.salzburgglobal.org/go/parkschallenge





The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace

The second installment in this series in November 2016, *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*, looked towards transboundary conservation areas and what can be done to not just ensure their continued survival, but also enhance and augment their value in a variety of means – whether it be economic, socio-cultural, environmental or political. The Forum brought together 38 activists, leaders, directors, managers, students, professors from 26 countries representing almost every continent.

These professionals journeyed from both far and near to share best practices, discuss the issues they face in their respective workplaces in searching for solutions, learn from one another, catalyze collaborations, develop pilot projects and join forces to create action plans to ensure change moving forward. All this with the aim of delivering practical tools that provide benefits for inclusive, sustainable development; regional economic growth; cross-frontier cohesion; and, strengthen peacekeeping efforts. In bearing fruit, these outcomes will further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goals 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), which commit all countries and stakeholders to collaborate on nature conservation, climate change, peace-building and sustainable societies.

As with the first session, the goal was to finish with a call to action that could be taken forth by the participants to their respective corners of the world and aid in the change-making process. Exemplary conservation initiatives are able to restore ecosystem function and integrity, boost economic opportunities, bring about tolerance – if not peace – to divided political entities and build bridges between neighboring nations and peoples. The *Parks for the Planet Forum* is held in partnership with IUCN. The MAVA Foundation, Arcus Foundation, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the Aga Khan Development Network joined IUCN as partners for the 2016 session.

“Conflict transformation underpins our history and vision for the future here at Salzburg Global Seminar. We see innovation in transboundary cooperation as a critical opportunity for cross-sectoral progress in the ultimate pursuit of peace and reconciliation in an uncertain time.”

Clare Shine

Kathy MacKinnon opens the session

Session Report

Day 1: Framing the Challenge

The first day of the session, *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace* was spent “framing the challenge.” In this context, the purpose was to build an understanding on how collaboration on transboundary conservation can deliver cross-sectoral benefits to establish and enhance inclusive development, regional cohesion, and peacebuilding. In essence, the day was used to welcome and introduce the various participants to both the theme and to one another, and then setting out the groundwork and planting the seeds that the participants would cultivate with their experience and ideas for the next three days.

SPEAKERS:

Clare Shine

Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Salzburg Global Seminar

Kathy MacKinnon

Session Chair; Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

Trevor Sandwith

Director, IUCN Global Protected Areas Program

Clare Shine welcomed the participants to the session, giving a history of both the venue, Schloss Leopoldskron, and Salzburg Global Seminar, discussing how in 1947 its founders did sought to create a way to rebuild trust and the bonds between people following decades of European conflict. Today, Salzburg Global Seminar provides a neutral space for change-makers from countries and sectors that often do not know how to talk to one another, to discuss the critical challenges that lie ahead and the lives/livelihoods involved. Questions that were present during World War Two, when Salzburg Global Seminar was founded, are still valid in 2016 as this session took



place. Transboundary conservation is a subject that is very strongly linked to this history: it requires people from opposite sides, potential enemies, to come together and discuss a shared area for the benefit of both the local communities and the world.

Trevor Sandwith started the session off by giving context and history to both the reason behind the partnership between the IUCN and Salzburg Global Seminar in hosting the Parks for the Planet series, and why the theme of transboundary conservation cooperation was necessary. The *Promise of Sydney*, while it generated recommendations and an agenda, also highlighted some continuing challenges, pathways that were not clear, and questions that were not as easily addressed and needed further discussion – this is where the *Parks for the Planet Forum* can help move the agenda and actions forward.

He went on to further discuss the intersection of the different sectors which make up the complexity of the transboundary conservation and the importance of this session in what it hopes to accomplish. These can be summarized as thus:

- **The Scope:** the relevant situations and outcomes
- **The Processes:** the already-existing means and the insights that cut across issues
- **The Outcomes:** finding multipurpose synergistic solutions
- **The Next Steps:** a statement of intent demonstrating clear goals and indicating the responsible parties for each step

It was determined that although the session had a set schedule, to achieve these goals as outlined by Sandwith, the participants would co-create and essentially steer the four-day program as they saw fit.

Kathy MacKinnon linked this session to other international efforts. The *Promise of Sydney* established the need to find new ways to interact across sectors for mutual gains and maximum impact, laying special focus to the need to look at ways that other sectors can be integrated into development plans. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, laid out at the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity, were also relevant to the week's discussions, especially Target 11 and its relation to transboundary conservation:

“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”



Clare Shine



Trevor Sandwith

“We need to be much cleverer in linking conservation to economic development and values.”

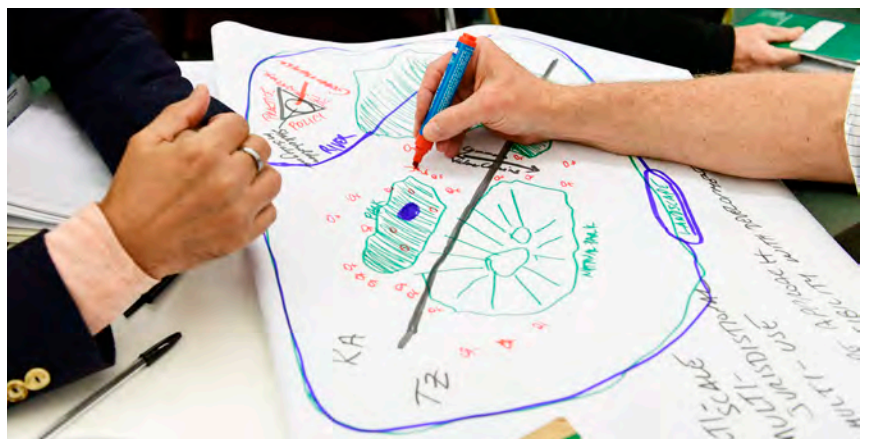
Kathy MacKinnon

MacKinnon further went on to stress the relevance of transboundary protected areas and transboundary cooperation to national and local security. She challenged the participants to find ways to bring solutions to policymakers for them to use transboundary conservation in their security efforts. Forging ahead with linking this session to other international commitments, she spoke of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, choosing to highlight four in particular that she believed were especially relevant to transboundary conservation:

- **Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- **Goal 6:** Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- **Goal 11:** Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

She asked participants to consider how transboundary conservation areas can help in sustainable food production, maintaining ecosystems, and strengthening an area's capacity to deal with climate change and other eco-disasters. As MacKinnon highlighted, water is one of the great issues of the coming decade, making it important to link conservation to economic values and development. There remains, of course, the overarching presence of climate change and an urgency to mitigate its impact. How climate change will increase water shortages, poverty, migration, food security – and what is the role of transboundary conservation areas in this?





In order to frame the challenge in a co-creative sense, the participants were asked to split up into groups and given the preliminary task of mapping the challenges and opportunities in transboundary cooperation. Their work was encouraged to take visual form, but this was at the discretion of the group members and their imagination.

The resulting “art works” were unique but had several common threads, at which the participants had independently arrived:

- Administrative landscapes can divide both the people and the natural landscape.
- People local to the transboundary conservation area must be recognized and encouraged to act as stakeholders. If this is not done, there is the risk they will not engage nor will they care about the transboundary area.
- International incidents bring about international communication which in turn can bring about some great partnerships.



Aida Alami

- Transboundary partnerships are often asymmetrical; the ideal of having two perfectly matching nations across a border is almost non-existent in real life.
- If one country is in tune with its wildlife and the country it borders is not, yet animals migrate between the two, the countries are forced to have a conservation agreement regarding their shared natural heritage that does not recognize the political border.
- The effectiveness of management and politics can define the living conditions and the priorities of border communities. This influences transboundary relations as well.
- We need to be mindful of the messages used to help those who do not yet understand the nuances and importance of environmental protection:
- Conservation efforts should offer economic opportunities and incentives; the economic gain must be greater than which one could get doing illegal work such as poaching.
- People should realize that access to nature is their fundamental right.
- Sustainable change should be designed for both the individual and mutual community benefits.
- Refugees and displaced peoples should not be seen as a problem, but as an opportunity and offered work in the national park systems – jobs that benefit the host community, benefit the individuals economically, and connect them with their new land.
- The narrative needs to change from resolving old disputes and focusing instead on the future, from being about yesterday and pushing it towards being about tomorrow to prevent constantly going in circles.
- We need to take the best approach possible when implementing or creating new policies, i.e. bottom-up rather than top-down.

A definition of transboundary cooperation was not provided ahead of the exercise to prevent the inhibition of the thought process. In response, the participants talked about getting the science right, improving the communication between stakeholders in different industries, and what could be done to provoke change. The first day finished with the issue securely framed.

“We need Salzburg Global Seminar to facilitate discussions where we’re not bound by our own boundaries.”

Day 2: Scoping Priorities

Connectivity and Resource Management Across Borders

MODERATOR:

Gill Shepherd	<i>Senior Visiting Fellow, International Development Department, London School of Economics; Ecosystems and Landscapes Special Advisor, IUCN, UK</i>
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PANELISTS:

Seth Maphalala	<i>Administrator, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Trans Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) Network, Swaziland</i>
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Heidi Rubio Torgler	<i>Conservation Areas Senior Specialist, Amazonia Resilient, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Peru</i>
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Gary Tabor	<i>Executive Director, Centre for Large Landscape Conservation, USA</i>
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Gary Tabor focused on connectivity. He theorized that people think in connectivity, asking the participants to hold hands, representing the concept of holding hands across jurisdictions. He extrapolated further, claiming that connectivity can be considered the circulatory system of the planet, thus when discussing conservation, one should think along the lines of connective conservation.

Connectivity is a vertical as well as a horizontal concept. It can be divided into two genres:

- **Functional connectivity:** Connection by purpose
- **Structural connectivity:** Re-establishing the structure, e.g. constructing bio-bridges and forest corridors. In this context, the structure is used as a method of having connectivity

Transboundary conservation is one aspect of connectivity conservation, and given the spectrum of disciplines it crosses and the sectors needed to successfully run a transboundary area, connectivity conservation effectively embodies all that it tries to accomplish – yet, it is rarely in the wording used or written in official policies. Connectivity conservation is an opportunity to protect and confirm; in the anthropological dimension, social connectivity is an expression of how humans approach one another and make possible out of the impossible.

Heidi Rubio Torgler brought the spotlight to indigenous connectivity. She emphasized the need to work with indigenous lands, indigenous peoples, indigenous areas, and in the South American context specifically, recognize

“There could be a country upstream where people cut down trees in the forest. But that particular forest could be important for the river and their actions decrease the water flow, which in turn affects another country somewhere far down the river. But the community who lives upstream does not know about this. So it’s very important to raise awareness to let people know that what they are doing is not good for the environment, and it also has an impact downstream. But again, if you want them to not cut the trees, you need to find an alternative – using fuel efficient stoves, or gas instead of firewood – so that the forest is protected and the entire eco-system benefits.”



Deborah Kahatano



Elizabeth Brabec

the territory of uncontacted indigenous peoples in the Amazon Rainforest. One of the major regional issues is biological corridors as these need inter-agreement between countries to ensure their creation, maintenance and existence. Current transboundary disagreements surrounding land-use taking place in South America include building dams in the Amazon by Brazil, small alluvial gold mining in the Peruvian forests, and planning the management of the shared Amazon basin between the neighboring countries.

Seth Maphalala offered a Southern African perspective, shining a light on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region specifically. He challenged the scientists in the room, and scientists in general to extend themselves beyond their science and into the politics to become more effective in their goals as ecologists. It is no longer enough to focus on the science, but scientists need to get engaged with the political leaders to ensure that the science is being implemented in a manner that pushes forward positive change. Given the transboundary aspect and the harmonization of policies, engagement with other sectors brings about a greater working power.

Transboundary actions in the SADC region comes with linguistic and cultural difficulties. That being said though, the creation of eco-corridors is also a priority for the region, as are the people who have their livelihoods at the intersection of the boundaries.

The panel moderator, **Gill Shepherd**, reminded the group of the importance of not only the nature but also the people who are living in these transboundary zones. She highlighted the need to know more about the humans that call the area their home and the livelihood activities that take place so that conservation efforts can be molded to fit the region's specific circumstances.

Panelists Gary Tabor, Seth Maphalala, Gill Shepherd and Heidi Rubio Torgler





The panel sparked a series of questions and discussions amongst the participants, including:

- There is a frequently a dysfunctional relationship and poor communication between the planning, national parks, and conservation sectors.
- Land use planning laws tend to be some of the most archaic regulations.
- Conservation work needs to move away from the metric of static conservation (measuring acres saved and dollars obtained), in order to deal with the fact that transboundary conservation is always a learning and active process.
- There remain questions on whether it is better to try and establish a binding agreement before or after getting the appropriate governmental bodies involved. In practice, it is found to be more effective if one starts with a smaller set of stakeholders who are affected the most by the issue; focus on those with direct interests and then expand the invitees as their interests reach the negotiating table.
- In regards to working with transboundary indigenous issues, the first step is working with the Ministry of Culture. They employ anthropologists and it is of value to work with them to take into consideration the human aspect.
- There is movement on the private sector to become involved in conservation.
- We need to establish who signs transboundary agreements in a situation where there are international, regional and indigenous governments.

“We know more about the animals in the Congo basin than we do the people living in the Congo basin.”



Gill Shepherd

INTERVIEW

Elaine Hsiao:

“I see the future as a catalyst for cooperation”

Fellow discusses the need to focus on community involvement during peace and conflict management issues

Salzburg Global Seminar prides itself on its interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach. Elaine Hsiao is one of many Salzburg Global Fellows who embodies that interdisciplinary spirit in her work.

As an interdisciplinary legal scholar, specializing in transboundary conservation areas, conflict, and environmental peace building, her research integrates critical legal geography and political ecology with security, peace, and conflict studies in the context of cross-border conservation. Work like this explains why Hsiao was selected to attend the session *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*.

During the session, Hsiao shared her work in Central America, where she developed a service-learning expedition in Parque Internacional La Amistad – La Amistad International Park. The strategy followed by Panama and Costa Rica regarding the supervision of this transboundary protected area has been a strong inspiration for her; she sees this as an example of “the ideal situation,” as both countries have managed to work together to control the area with no need to use the army, considering their ongoing cross-border collaboration as an “imperative.” For Hsiao, the role of communities is integral when looking at peace and conflict management issues as in many cases the



Elaine Hsiao



effective conservation of the spaces depends on them. Therefore, it is fundamental to ensure that community members feel included as they can be those agents able to protect the land or pose a threat to its safety at the same time. Park rangers are a strong contributor to positive community relations as they act as intermediaries between institutions and local people. Hsiao insists on emphasizing the work of park rangers in many other issues, such as defending the community members' interests and fostering engagement with tourists and researchers like her.

Hsiao believes different aspects of peace have to be included in transboundary agreements, addressing different perspectives. To begin with, she advocates for the defense of *international peace*, linked to the cordial cooperation between countries. Next, she calls for the need to promote the successful collaboration amongst the members of a society, taking into consideration *social peace*-related issues. Finally, she stands in the defense of ecological peace or working toward the protection of living in harmony with nature. According to Hsiao, the biggest challenge to overcome when implementing transboundary agreements concerns putting all of these factors into practice, and being able to successfully integrate them.

In addition to her work in Central America and as representative for Small Island Developing States and the Union of Comoros at the United Nations on climate change and environmental issues, Hsiao has also studied water conservation issues, a field where she thinks it easier to achieve greater collaborations between diverse stakeholders.

"Everyone feels connected to water and is conscious about how much we need it, so they are willing to cooperate and protect it as a resource," she says.

Hsiao expects that we will continue to develop similar positive attitudes towards other environmental resources and issues too. The future of transboundary areas relies on the understanding the purpose and relevance of mutual aid.

"I believe that we will reach a certain point that will make us understand that the only way to success is to cooperate. I see the future as a catalyst for cooperation," Hsiao concludes.

More interviews are available on the session page:
www.salzburgglobal.org/go/571

Cross-Border Collaboration for Peace and Human Security

MODERATOR:

Boris Erg

Director, Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature, Serbia

PANELISTS INCLUDED:

Marina Djernaes

Director, Center for Water Security, EcoPeace, USA

Viktoria Hasler

Deputy Head of National Parks, Nature Conservation and Species Protection, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria

Isa Kabenge

Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Makerere University, Uganda

Saya Kiba

Assistant Professor of Policy Studies, Doshisha University, Japan

The international panel presented several diverse case studies from across the globe of how different programs had successfully – or not – collaborated to secure peace across borders.

Water Management on the Jordan River

Drawing on her experiences EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East, **Marina Djernaes** explained that while Jordan has a one of the highest population of refugees in the world, it is also one of the most water-poor countries in the world. The demand of water has increased 21% and the aquifers on which the country is so dependent are dropping by an estimated one meter per year.

In addition to the water shortages, the country has issues with unemployment and waste management, both of which are being exacerbated by the refugee intake. As only an estimated 150,000 refugees live in camps, the vast majority are spread out around the country, a large chunk of which are living in the north. Even with the support of the international community covering one third of the costs associated with the refugees, the majority of the costs fall upon Jordan, which thus causes conflicts with the local people who are already marginalized or impoverished. As a direct consequence of this, 94% of the water from the River Jordan has already been taken as a result of the mindset that has people grabbing as much water as they can before others get access to it.

“If we can focus on environmental issues that touch across communities, then you can get true peacebuilding.”



Marina Djernaes

EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East tries to engage the community and works with politicians and decision-makers through education initiatives. The goal is to enable people to believe that they are not victims, but problem-solvers; that they can find solutions to the problems they are facing through their interconnectivity, talk to people who share the river that they share with other communities, and put the right pressure on their politicians to get what all the communities need. It is the advocacy of what can be, and the facilitation of solutions that can come from a common understanding of one another, and eventually lead to peacebuilding.

National Parks in Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC

Isa Kabenge presented from a Ugandan perspective. He discussed how Uganda shares a lot of resources with neighboring countries in the form of national parks and protected areas with South Sudan, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Lake Victoria with Kenya and Tanzania. In regards to the River Nile, Uganda signed an accord that gives all the rights of the river to Egypt, so that any action Uganda wants to take regarding the Nile has to be approved by Egypt.

Kabenge shared a case study of a successful transboundary agreement and how it came about. The joint patrols between the shared national parks in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo used to work together (starting in the 1960s), where they shared information, supported



Viktoria Hasler



Isa Kabenge



Boris Erg, standing, introduces his international panelists



Saya Kiba

one another, and functioned as an informal transboundary agreement. When conflicts broke out in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1990s, the Ugandan rangers hosted the park workers, and during the period of instability, the Congolese park workers worked on the Ugandan side, only crossing when it was safe. As the situation became more peaceful, the park rangers decided to involve their respective governmental agencies and eventually a treaty was signed in the early 2000s.

This functions as an example of initiating official transboundary cooperation by the stakeholders involved on the ground, living and working in the area in question, and later engaging other, higher-level players.

Refugees in Austria

In Austria, there are links to be found between the Middle East-European refugee crisis and nature/natural areas, explained **Viktoria Hasler**. Over one million people, mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, came to the European Union, where effectively five member states took them in: Germany, Sweden, Italy, France and Austria. Austria took in more refugees per capita than seventeen other member states of the European Union combined, giving it the second highest number of refugees per capita in Europe (after Sweden). Austria made the conscious decision to avoid having refugee camps, and instead spread the asylum seekers across the country, with many residing in the countryside. The typical refugee in Austria is a young single male, and as they wait for the decision on whether they will be granted asylum, they are not permitted to work, which leaves them idle.

Given the quantity of these refugees close to the national parks in Austria, a project evolved organically, which was not centrally planned but happened through a bottom-up approach; the refugees started spending time in the national parks and then volunteering with the national parks. Integration involves all societal sectors and can only be successful if all levels of civil society engages. Although this was noticed in Austria, Hasler made enquiries and found that similar programs were taking place all over Europe, but they were not well advertised.

As a result of this initially informal program, many of the refugees have started to feel attached to their new home, their new land. The program allows them to work together with the local residents of the villages they now inhabit, thus enabling them to get to know each other, share their cultures, pick up the language and effectively, set up a new home.

Another presenter added to Hasler's points, focusing on a specific project with Nationalpark Hohe Tauern (a national park that is shared by the Austrian states of Tirol, Salzburg and Carinthia), which they had developed to work

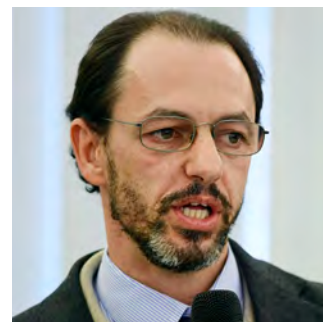
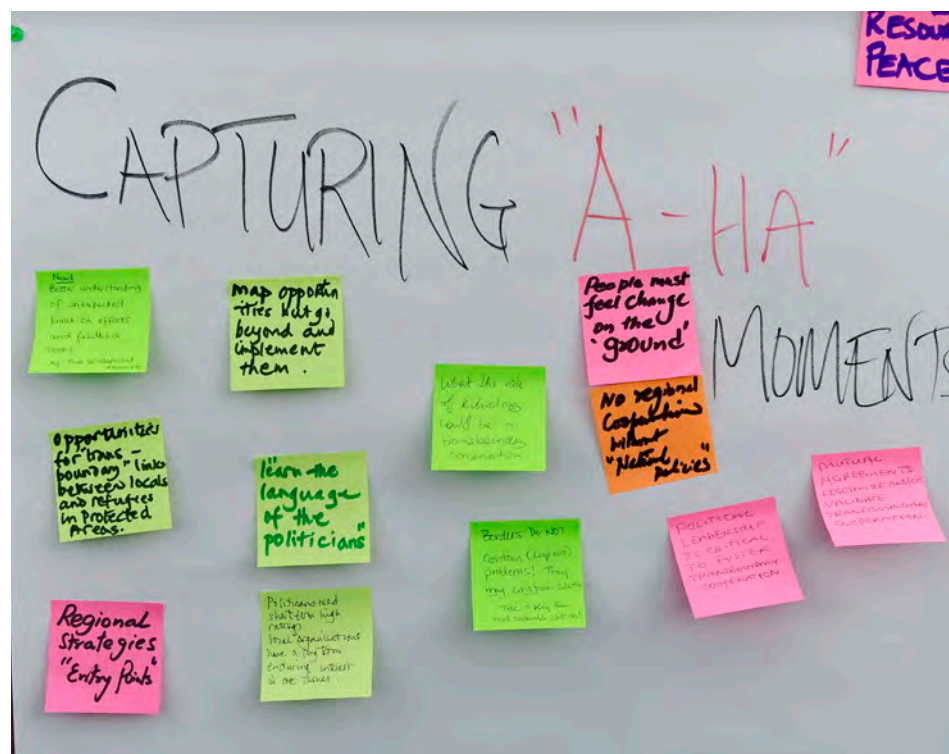
with the refugees in the park as a method of integration and learning. The participant mentioned how it is not just important to educate the refugees on the local culture, but also educate the local population about the refugees – stopping the fear and panic. There now needs to be greater funding to implement these kinds of programs at other parks across the country and use conservation as a tool to connect refugees to their new land.

Maritime Borders in Asia

In Asia, maritime borders are a growing concern, explained **Saya Kiba**. As a result of the ambiguity on what constitutes the boundaries, coupled with the mutual distrust amongst the “neighboring” countries, security issues are taken very seriously in the region, with biodiversity thus taking a backseat. Since the different countries cannot agree upon where their maritime border begins and who has jurisdiction over what area, it makes it very difficult to create a transboundary conservation agreement, or even have a country individually try and take action for the benefit of the marine life simply because of the political perception it would create and the tension in the area.

While her case study did not present a successful ending, it did raise awareness of a type of transboundary conservation not often considered and solicits the experience of others as to options on how to move forward to enable cooperation in this region.

“We work with people, not monsters.”



Alessandro Fodella



Boris Erg led the discussion by acknowledging the importance of conservation in community building, but questioned how the transboundary element plays into the complex socio-cultural-economic-environmental-political ties that already exist with “simple” conservation.

Some points from the ensuing conversation are summarized below:

- How do nations balance conservation with the potential for increased revenue, especially in poorer countries?
- Bottom-up approaches and a top-down strategies need to be implemented simultaneously, while comprehending the economic benefits/losses and ensuring all parties are fully informed.
- Media can be used as a tool to educate the public and put pressure on the politicians to make the right decisions
- It is important to share positive outcomes of the work; this shows people that where there is a will, there is a way, and thus to not give up.
- The Ugandan government has required oil companies to pay the wages of park rangers, to ensure mutual benefits.
- Anticipating the viewpoint of the other nation can be a pragmatic approach to dealing with transboundary issues where there is hostility.
- What role does gender play in conservation?
- Who is the peace being created for? There is a need to establish who and for what reasons the peace efforts are being directed to prevent non-strategic and overstretched approaches.

Todd Walters:

“Create a population of citizens on both sides of the border that are actively working for peace”

Founder and director of International Peace Park Expeditions discusses how transboundary conservation can be a force for peace

Todd Walters, who attended the Salzburg Global session *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*, part of the 10-year *Parks for the Planet Forum*, is the founder of International Peace Park Expeditions (IPPE). Through partnerships with universities, IPPE run expeditions and trips that provide students with experiential learning in the field of environmental peace building. These expeditions take place in transboundary conservation areas – areas that straddle international boundaries and are managed cooperatively for conservation purposes.

While in Salzburg, Walters took some time to discuss the importance of transboundary cooperation and, in keeping with the theme

of the session, to argue that transboundary cooperation can be an important factor in spreading peace across borders. This is known as “environmental peace building,” which Walters defines as “using the environment as a framework to build cooperation platforms across multiple disciplines and borders.”

Having completed multiple expeditions in the Balkans on the Albania-Kosovo-Montenegro border area and in a peace park on the border between Panama and Costa Rica, Walters’ next expedition will be in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea, a seemingly unlikely area to prioritize conservation.



Todd Walters speaks at the closing session

However, as Walters explains: “The Korean War created a 4km wide strip that spans the Korean peninsula, where almost no human has set foot for over 60 years.... This has allowed the ecosystem to restore itself and for endangered species to return.” The deep political divide and lack of human interaction has allowed biodiversity to flourish – making it an important area for conservation.

In environments as politicized and precarious as the DMZ, environmental peace building “provides an opportunity for states to cooperate over ‘soft diplomatic issues’ – not economic, military and political,” says Walters. This cooperation can be held up as “an example of what can be done if the two countries actually cooperate.” For example, in the DMZ, this cooperation takes the form of communities engaging in studying the land, sharing research data or indeed, IPPE running an expedition to conduct research within the DMZ, and sharing the results.

This cooperation contributes to peace building by creating livelihoods and encouraging the local populations to invest in these areas. People on both sides of the borders begin to appreciate and rely on these areas and each other. “What you’re doing is creating a critical mass of people on both sides of the border that are opposed to a return to conflict,” says Walters.

By engaging the local communities either side of the border, this can mitigate against the common challenge of peace-building initiatives lasting longer than most politicians’ tenure in office.

“These people have more to lose from a resurgence in hostility – you create a population of citizens on both sides of the

border that are actively working for peace in the two communities.”

This grassroots, “bottom-up” approach also complements the “top-down” approach taken by the international community.

“It’s a combination of both approaches that’s the most effective,” says Walters.

“You need people pushing from the bottom up, but also to bring in the international community through [organizations] like the UN... When the government is hearing it on both sides [that] is the point in time when they actually listen.”

The opportunities presented by environmental peace building are not exclusive to the DMZ. Environmental peace building is “one of the few tools we have that can help us protect the most important places on the planet... [because] very few things on the planet have the potential to involve the full spectrum of stakeholders in the discussion.” As Walters explains, environmental peace building “incentivizes governments, international institutions, local communities and indigenous populations” and this intersection is where its potential lies.

When all these actors can agree to work toward a common goal it “begins the process of building trust” between the groups, and from a position of trust and interdependence, peace looks like an increasingly attractive option.

More interviews are available on the session page: www.salzburgglobal.org/go/571

Transboundary Conservation and Regional Economic Development

MODERATOR:

Reinhard Woytek *Program Director, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources Program, Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Botswana*

PANELISTS:

Andrea Athanas *Program Design Manager; Agriculture and Every Senior Program Design Officer for Eastern Africa, African Wildlife Foundation, Switzerland*

Talantbek Aldashov *Executive Director, Public Foundation Mountain Societies Development Program, The Aga Khan Foundation, Kyrgyzstan*

Aleksandar Ivanovski *Environmental & Rural Infrastructure Expert, GFA Consulting Group, Hamburg, Germany*

Southern African Development Community

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) comprises 15 countries in Southern Africa and has a thirty year record of peace on the sub-continent, explained panel moderator, **Reinhard Woytek**. The SADC countries have developed processes and procedures to manage relationships and disputes. The SADC region also contains eighteen transboundary conservation areas (TFCA) and the processes and procedures developed assist these TFCAs to sustainably manage natural resources straddling national boundaries.

Yet there are still challenges: About 75% of people in sub-Saharan Africa are under 25-years-old, and soon (if not already) they will be attempting to enter the workforce. What role could transboundary conservation areas play in providing employment for this large growing segment of the population that is prime to take over? If they cannot find jobs, conservation efforts could be in vain if the land cannot provide sustainable incomes for the inhabitants of the transboundary regions.

Tarangire National Park, Kenya and Tanzania

Tarangire National Park traverses the Tanzanian and Kenyan borders where the two countries administer land and resources differently. The original transboundary cooperation evolved as a result of a bottom-up approach where the employees on the ground between the two countries started working together to minimize trafficking and the poaching of animals. Joint patrols take place, there are protocols for sharing data, and regular meetings are organized, as are jointly-held surveys with follow-up reports. As **Andrea Athanas** explained, the cooperation involves the communities living in the area, as they are included in the jointly-manned tasks thus equating to a shared-management of the resource base.



Reinhard Woytek

Andrea Athanas



As the major economic driver, wildlife tourism is one of the largest contributors to the GDP of both nations. To prevent an asymmetric power play, Kenya and Tanzania signed an agreement in 1985 whereby the Kenyan park rangers and tour guides would stay on the Kenyan side to prevent direct economic competition with Tanzanian rangers and tour guides, but this agreement expired in 2015, prompting Kenyan tour guides to cross into Tanzania to augment their revenue. This led to Tanzania halting all flights from Kenya and required diplomatic intervention by the East African Community. This miniature economic “war” emphasizes the dynamics that can take place with a shared resource even with an existing transboundary cooperation in play.

Lake Natron, in Tanzania, is a source of soda ash, as well as a breeding site for the lesser flamingo, who then migrate to Kenya and are a significant economic resource because tourists come from far and wide to see them. To boost their economy, Tanzania wanted to mine the soda ash, which would impact the flamingo breeding and thus the wildlife tourism economy in Kenya. This is an ongoing issue that has bred animosity between the two countries, however given the global reduction in soda ash prices, the talks are currently off the table. Nonetheless, given the economic tendencies of commodities, possible price increases in the future will mean talks will have to resume the future.

Managerial cooperation can go a long way in managing a resource jointly and minimizing some of the intertwined threats, but larger economic integration issues and threats highlight the limits to politics as a method of dealing with transboundary affairs.



Elizabeth Fuchs

Lake Prespa, Albania, Greece, and the Republic of Macedonia

In his presentation, **Aleksandar Ivanovski** set the scene: three peoples, three countries, but one shared lake, and one shared future. Lake Prespa in the Balkans functions as a transboundary area between Albania, Greece, and the Republic of Macedonia. The standing of each country in the European community is different, whereby Greece is a part of the European Union, but Albania and Macedonia are currently still being considered, creating an unequal relationship.

The lake was used to dump agricultural waste, where fertilizers and pesticides are bio-accumulating in the ecosystem and affecting the health and resilience of the lake. Wastewater management, a lake monitoring system, and other protective methods are being implemented by non-governmental organizations to try and clean up the water. Achieving a better quality of water in the Prespa basin will revitalize the tourism industry and potentially create a source of revenue for the three nations.

Around Lake Prespa, forestry, agriculture, and fishery are all prominent industries. Until recently, most of these industries were on the decline because they were not being conducted in a sustainable fashion. To revitalize these industries in a manner that can really encourage economic growth without environmental degradation, local scientists were brought in. The emphasis was on local engagement to help boost the inhabitants' collective ownership of the region by using their people to regain a functioning revenue source. Scientific documents came out of this, but there was a lack of political backing, thus this became the next aim.

“There are no problems, only challenges”

Aleksandar Ivanovski



Aleksander Ivanovski and Boris Erg

Talantbek Aldashov in group work with Ousainou Touray and Klemens Riha



Different government departments had to get involved – the Ministries for the Environment and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in particular. Ivanovski and his team were able to establish a good relationship with the Ministries of the Environment but failed with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Given the tricky political situation, where the governments of the three nations “do not like each other very much,” a tri-national taskforce was created to push for legally binding paperwork to implement the scientists findings’ into industry practice in the region.

As things currently stand, Albania and the Republic of Macedonia have signed a cooperation agreement regarding Lake Prespa, but due to the country’s economic crisis, Greece has abstained until further notice.

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Transboundary areas can be created as a result of one country splitting into multiple countries, such as between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which used to both be part of the USSR. As **Talantbek Aldashov** explained, prior to the USSR splitting up, there were institutions that were constantly working in the now-separate countries without a problem, dealing with the conservation and management of watersheds and other natural bodies. Once the nations became independent, problems arose due to new competition over ownership in certain spaces.

The Aga Khan Foundation focuses in the region on bringing existing organizations together across borders using existing but abandoned infrastructure. They try and figure out the best way to engage the local people, but also work with government bodies, which can be complex given the municipal and state-level funding sources and varying application and approval processes to get things done. They aim to show people across both

sides of the border that they can both benefit, stifling the all too common thought “this is mine and I have more right to it than them.”

Over 90% of land in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is mountainous with not much viable pasture land. When they were a part of the USSR, the people would use and share the limited farming land, but since independence, these limited lands have been used in a political game of chess. The local people and communities need to claim ownership and demand access to their shared spaces as their right so that they are no longer dependent on waiting for international donors to “come and save them” e.g. by investing in better irrigation infrastructure, both sides will get more access to clean water.

In practice, the local people want to cooperate (and at times they do even when it is illegal) but the land and natural resources are used in political opposition between the nations, which enhances the transboundary nature of the land and reinforces the “us versus them” mentality. Given the state of affairs, raising a concern becomes an attack on one state or another, which makes the region a diplomatic landmine.

A short discussion took place afterwards, with a few of the key questions and points brought up summarized below:

- Infrastructure built upstream impacts usage downstream; upstream communities tend to waste water, whereas downstream communities have less water, resulting in conflicts. Upstream users, including policymakers and local communities, need to better take into consideration those who live downstream, and try to establish and improve contact between the communities.
- How does one explain and extrapolate the importance of conservation areas when the economic benefit is not that high, especially in comparison with industries such as oil and gas and minerals extraction?
- While highlighting the economic value of transboundary areas is important, this should not be the only measure of the value of the land. More effort need to be made to share the other positive outcomes and needs of conservation areas.
- Government departments are not always fully aware of the positive cross sectoral collaborations being carried out by their peers, and thus greater awareness needs to be raised about the benefits and positive outcomes of these partnerships to encourage further collaborations.
- Different stakeholders respond better to different types of evidence. Know your audience: politicians will often better listen to economists than scientists.

“Local civil society has an important role in long-term sustainable development. Civil society institutions like Water Users Association are created by local people and therefore represent the people. If they are properly supported and actively involved in discussing problems, such as the use of natural resources and conflict prevention, they can bring voices from the grassroots and can be the owner of the solutions.”

Talantbek Aldashov

“Transboundary conservation, relations and expertise can bring about conversation between people who have nothing in common otherwise.”

Helga Rainer

Helga Rainer, Klemens Riha and Quang Tung Do

Day 3: Digging In

Species Protection and Transboundary Trade

PANELISTS INCLUDED:

Quang Tung Do

Manager, Yok Don National Parks, Viet Nam

Helga Rainer

Conservation Program Director, Arcus Foundation, UK

Klemens Riha

Project Coordinator, GIZ, Germany

Illegal trade in animals and animal parts, be they live apes or ivory, has an impact on conservation, livelihoods, governance, economic development, security and stability. As panelists **Helga Rainer**, **Quang Tung Do** and **Klemens Riha** explained through their various examples, in many cases, such trade is no longer transboundary, but transcontinental. Until the Ebola crisis, China was the number one destination for illegally trafficked African chimpanzees. As the country now has enough chimpanzees to begin its own illegal breeding programs, it has been overtaken by the Middle East. Asia is a common destination owing to the use of animals in traditional medicine. The trade is not simply directly from Africa to Asia; a typical route of rhino horn and ivory sees the material move out of Africa, transit through Eastern Europe, then be processed in Singapore or Hong Kong, before finally arriving in Vietnam and Laos.

Trafficked animals are either declared using the wrong documents, or simply not declared at all, thus there is little reliable data on illegal trade, however, experts believe that there has been an increase. Stopping the trade faces great hurdles, from language barriers to differing judiciaries and law enforcement agencies that do not coordinate or share information. There are often delays in dealing with the long procedures in obtaining critical evidence and sharing



intelligence; this is especially an issue given the quick displacement of stolen goods and the ambiguous jurisdiction of various law enforcement agencies. Corruption of border officials and the militarization of police forces are other issues that have been encountered.

To overcome these hurdles, many different approaches must be taken. Park rangers, local police, customs officers, and the judiciary in all countries involved need to be engaged, with each aware of each other's mandates, responsibilities and powers. Different incentives and supports are needed for these different actors, especially to overcome corruption. Local communities can also play a pivotal role, becoming a first line of defense, playing the part of the law enforcement's "eyes and ears."

The ASEAN Response

Countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are becoming one of the key places for the transfer, transit and illegal trade of endangered species both from within the region and outside. Illegal wildlife trade is well connected, well equipped, and able to respond to challenges quickly, making crackdowns difficult. The ASEAN Wildlife Law Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) was launched in December 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand, and performs the following duties:

- Establishing and strengthening national task forces/wildlife law enforcement networks and inter-agency cooperation
- Awareness-raising programs and training
- Collaboration, cooperation and information sharing between nations

A number of bilateral memorandums of understanding have been signed and implemented, and the role of the region as a hub for information exchange and repository of expertise has been augmented. National focus points have been identified and are uniformly being followed to attempt to stem the flow of illegal wildlife trade in the area.

As a result of these collaborations, ASEAN-WEN has:

- Linked globally with relevant countries and networks;
- Strengthened cooperation between more than 30 agencies in the 10 countries to fight wildlife crime, through established task forces and inter-agency cooperation;
- Reported an increase in law enforcement actions;
- Established high-level political commitment at the national and regional levels; and
- Increased visibility and awareness in the region.



Jasmin Jahanshahi

INTERVIEW

Helga Rainer:

“One of our goals is reconciling economic development with the conservation of apes”

Expert on the protection of great apes and Program Director for the Arcus Foundation discusses her role in disseminating information and bridging gaps between stakeholders

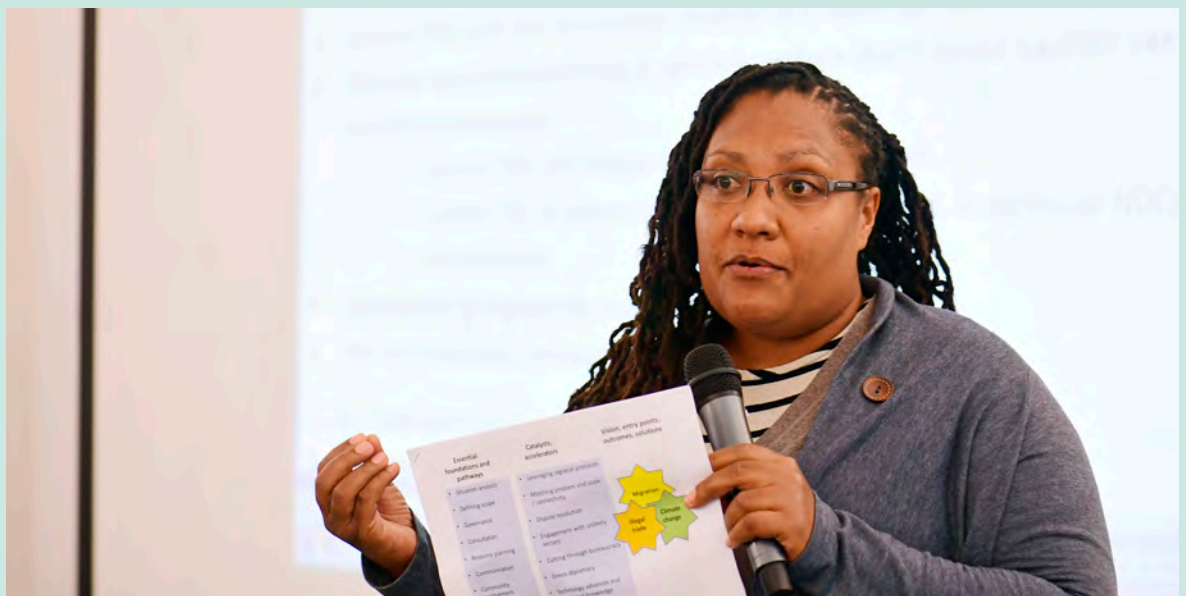
The second session of the Salzburg Global Seminar *Parks for the Planet Forum – The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace* sought to bring together a diverse range of experts for an interdisciplinary and wide-ranging discussion on the interconnected issues of biodiversity preservation, economic development, migration and displacement, and peace and security.

One such expert in attendance was Helga Rainer, an expert in great apes conservation and now works as Program Director for the Arcus Foundation. While in Salzburg, she took some time to discuss how managing

information and bringing stakeholders together is an important aspect in preserving biodiversity.

One of Rainer’s focuses is on information management and working with the wider conservation community to pool their resources and knowledge. In her work, she engages with emerging issues that threaten ape conservation through a variety of avenues, and considers the publication series *The State of the Apes* as one of her successes in pursuing these goals.

As Rainer explains, the series, which has covered issues such as how the extractive



Helga Rainer

industries and industrial agriculture impact great ape populations, is “the sum of the contributions of a diverse range of stakeholders.” The publications highlight how best to protect ape populations, but also “acknowledge the importance of economic development and how it’s critical for human wellbeing,” while aiming to “reconcile economic development with the conservation of apes.”

“That’s why we initiated The State of the Apes publication series,” explains Rainer. “To speak about interface, and see where there are opportunities for reconciling these seemingly disparate issues.”

The aim of the publication is to provide a format in which information from across disciplines and expertise can be disseminated. The topics are addressed through a broad lens, encompassing a variety of viewpoints in order to best address these emerging issues.

This broad lens approach was also seen in Salzburg at the *Parks for the Planet Forum*. With experts from across disciplines and geographic locations convening, the discussions often move past simply asking how to conserve biodiversity to encompass issues such as the environmental impacts and opportunities of mass migration, and how conservation and biodiversity can be used as a path towards peace between states. The Arcus Foundation provided funding to the session, recognizing that they share with Salzburg Global a similar emphasis on reconciling human development with biodiversity and conservation, and opening up the discussion to include stakeholders that may have been excluded from the debate in traditional conservation efforts.

For Rainer and Arcus, alongside the publication series, there’s also work to be done on the ground; the publications inform and engage stakeholders, but the research and recommendations still need to be applied to the real world. This doesn’t come without challenges, especially in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DCR), which is home to “incredibly important” populations of gorillas and chimpanzees, but after decades of civil war is still incredibly politically dynamic, lacking in both security and sufficient financial resources.

“In these conditions it may appear that progress or impacts are slow to come – but from our perspective, it’s important to stay engaged... regardless of the fact that meaningful impacts may be a long time coming,” explains Rainer. “This is a philosophy that really underpins our work – not only do we want to engage in these landscapes in the long term, but we really feel that collaboration and partnerships is a fundamental way to be effective and efficient.”

This long-term, multi-stakeholder approach is shared by Salzburg Global as it rolls out the leadership and action platform of the *Parks for the Planet Forum* over the next ten years.

More interviews are available on the session page: www.salzburgglobal.org/go/571



Enni Kallio

Anticipating Climate Change, Water and Development Imperatives

MODERATOR:

Andrej Sovinc

European Vice Chair, World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN, Slovenia

PANELISTS INCLUDED:

Analiz Vergara Herdoiza

Policy Officer, Amazon Vision Project, WWF, Ecuador

Andrew Zaloumis

Founder and CEO, iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, South Africa

Rajan Kotru

Program Manager, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal

The Amazon is incredibly important for food security, water security and other needs for the communities in South America; there are multiple indigenous groups that call the Amazon their home and an estimated four hundred protected areas in the forest. The nations encompassing the Amazon came together to create the Amazon Vision, whose goal is to conserve the Amazon for the numerous uses it provides to its communities. The development of the vision started prior to 2008 and was consolidated in 2010. The Amazon Vision came about from the perspective that since the Amazon provides so many ecosystem services, it needs to be preserved in order for it to continue to provide these ecosystem services to the communities that need them. Conservation of the biome needs not just a country but a regional perspective. This process provided numerous learning opportunities including the important nexus between science-based evidence and the ability to implement such evidence on the ground; the need for dialogue to be open to including other sectors; the importance of working in scales to prevent being overwhelmed by the tasks ahead; and the implementation of capacity building and regional programs.

In the Himalayas, shared cultural and natural sacred sites can bring about common ground for long-term transboundary cooperation, and approaches used here can be a starting point for other world heritage sites that span multiple nations. The Himalayas are spread across five countries: Bhutan, India, Nepal, China, and Pakistan. Given the lack of data on this hard-to-access region, collaboration between the different nation's scientists is vital. Given the need to keep all nations involved, conservationists need to devise their own risk-minimization strategies to find a way to work around the constant changing political climate. Approvals and sanctions are often difficult to obtain, so adding multinational members to one's team to gain approvals where one nationality would fail has been found to be very

“In a hundred ages of the Gods I could not tell you of all the glories of the Himalaya.”

Old Sanskrit Poem



Andrej Sovinc, Analiz Vergara,
Rajan Kotru and Andrew Zaloumis

helpful. Other key necessities include equity, transparency, and mutuality. Organizations that work in transboundary areas often have to have respect for the differing political systems, cultures and governance structures in the area, while being as transparent as possible with their actions to build trust. Common benefits and commonalities in being can be used as focal points to get an early consensus. In the Kailash landscape, India, China and Nepal came together and created a common vegetation map. The goal now is to set up common branding for the Kailash landscape to build a transboundary economy for the future. [See feature on page 35.]

Climate change is certainly an issue that will necessitate transboundary, multi-country, regional approaches. In integrating climate change measures into national strategies and policies, one can look to transboundary and ecosystem-based approaches to strengthen resilience and the adaptive capacity of a region to climate-related hazards. Local and grassroots management can reduce vulnerability, which can build the capacity to build wealth which creates a greater ability to influence change. Climate change poses different threats and impacts to different stakeholders. Participants were urged to think about the challenge for them in their work and consider a big idea where the results can be grand.

The discussion that took place after the panel was multifaceted with many participants offering their thoughts, asking questions and finding ways to integrate what they were sharing with one another in their individual workplaces.

*“We are made wise
not by the recollection
of our past, but by the
responsibility for our
future.”*

George Bernard Shaw

“One of the most disempowering failures is to plan for the future without including the future.”

Group work in the state rooms of
Schloss Leopoldskron

Youth engagement was raised as a key issue. In some countries such as South Africa, require organizations to hire youths under 35. Elsewhere, more concerted efforts need to be made. One suggestion was to engage local universities, creating specialist programs through which young, local champions can be nurtured and offered opportunities to networks with peers across borders. Local communities need to be engaged to adapt to climate change on their own, with non-governmental organizations having a significant role in providing adequate education.

As the threat of climate change has grown, biodiversity research has decreased while climate research has increased; protected areas need to find ways to integrate that research into the work they do. As one participant remarked, as a protected area manager, your protected area must be mainstreamed or it will not be around much longer. The implementation of ideas is often driven by budgetary constraints; protected areas specialists need to prove they are worthy of investment and funding.



Rajan Kotru:

“If the Himalayan ecosystem remains intact, there will be people rushing there to pursue their spiritual ideals”

Pioneer of the transboundary Kailash Sacred Landscape Initiative discusses cultural conservation in the Himalayan region

Rajan Kotru, head of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) program on Transboundary Landscapes, attended the Salzburg Global Seminar session *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Conservation for Biodiversity and Peace*. His project “Kailash Sacred Landscape” is a transboundary conservation initiative covering an area in the Himalayas where China, India, and Nepal all have territory.

The project focuses on the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, but with an additional emphasis on cultural conservation – conservation aimed at maintaining the culturally and spiritually significant parts of the landscape.

While in Salzburg, Kotru took some time to discuss the importance of integrating spiritual and cultural conservation with more traditional conservation.

Despite a range of conservation efforts in the region beginning in 2005, issues of cultural conservation have remained largely ignored. The majority of efforts focused on tangible or measurable issues,

such as ensuring the preservation of natural resources. Rajan Kotru wants to change this. Kotru believes “the cultural legacy of the Indian sub-continent is linked to the ecosystems and the geographic assets that we have,” with the most important “sacred asset” being the Himalayas. The degradation of geographic assets can have a similar effect on the area’s cultural history and significance. These assets are valuable to the local populations, and they are a large source of income for the region: “people are rushing to the Himalayas to meet Buddhists and to meditate.”

Kotru claims many of the services coming from the Kailash Sacred Landscape are quickly degrading. Nevertheless, there is cause to remain optimistic. Kotru says, “Despite all this degradation that has been happening in the recent years, people are still coming to the Himalayas for spiritual reasons.”

The Himalayas clearly still have great value to many individuals from a spiritual perspective, but, because of this rapid degradation of the ecosystems and environment, it’s becoming increasingly difficult



Rajan Kotru (green sweater) presents on Kailash in Parker Hall



Rajan Kotru (left) with fellow panelist Andrew Zaloumis

to preserve this cultural heritage. The narrow lens of protecting physical resources, like wood and water, is leaving valuable but less tangible assets, like sacred landscapes and important religious sites, to be eroded away. Kotru believes that to change the way we preserve these precious areas, we need to “change the way we think.”

The example of the Bhutanese model, which measures the happiness of the nation as an important factor in assessing the effectiveness of government, is one example that Kotru studied when looking at the value of cultural preservation. “Culture and spirituality are pillars of happiness,” he says, and so this model is one that is worth studying.

In Bhutan, the preservation of cultural heritage is important to the people and the state, because they measure the nation’s happiness. He concedes,

“It would be difficult to emulate Bhutan’s model in other countries,” but the emphasis on “respect for culture and for nature” is a lesson that can be almost universally applied.

Kotru makes it clear that “if the Himalayan ecosystem remains intact, there will be people rushing there to pursue their spiritual ideals.”

If we change our way of thinking, as Bhutan has, by emphasizing the protection of cultural and spiritual landscapes this will have benefits for biodiversity conservation, for the economic well-being of the areas and its inhabitants, and for the ancient cultures and traditions that are so important in these regions.

More interviews are available on the session page: www.salzburgglobal.org/go/571

Group Work Challenge: **What are the catalysts that would accelerate this idea to political prominence and international investment?**

Informed and inspired by the panel discussions, the participants were asked to split into groups where they were issued a challenge: What are the catalysts that would accelerate this idea to political prominence and international investment? Each group took a different focal point as they came up with their responses.

Human Migration to Europe

The group discussing human migration to Europe and how transboundary areas can be used to alleviate the crisis found that using transboundary areas to generate income, with the right investments, could offer people jobs which could lessen the number of people who leave their home countries and/or provide employment to new arrivals to a country. Efforts should be made to strengthen ecosystems and the services that they provide, in order to increase and highlight the benefits the ecosystem can provide to people as well as nature; whether it be more water and food, earlier warning signs, fewer natural disasters etc.

The group also discussed the potential to take ecological aspects, add a value to them, and use them to form a business case, thus creating an ecological plan based on financial benefits, which allows conservation to become a primary objective for the community. A well-functioning transboundary landscape can prevent or be used to encourage migration.

Climate Change in the Pacific

The second group discussed climate change in the Pacific and the ways in which transboundary conservation areas could be helpful in reducing its negative impacts. Transboundary areas can help illustrate the effects of climate change on a smaller scale that can then be extrapolated to larger landscapes. This brought up the point that justifying the need for transboundary cooperation for climate change is easy with a large landscape like the Amazon but how does one demonstrate that need when the landscape is not as obvious?

Taking things to a business perspective, the concept of “insured resilience” was mentioned: the use of insuring land as a way to deal with large scale impacts from natural disasters, climate change, and other related events.

The group concluded that the communication gap between scientists, the general public and politicians will not be resolved with logical rationales, it will be spread through a “heart story” – a story that tugs at the heart strings.

Wildlife Trade to China

The third group examined the illegal wildlife trade to China and what can be done to mitigate this through transboundary cooperation. They started by stating their ideal: they would like to see zero poaching in Africa in the next ten years and believe transboundary conservation is essential in hitting this goal. It starts with setting national targets and linking them to regional targets. From there, poverty needs to be addressed, since increased economic hardship has been shown to be linked to poaching.

They believe laws need to be re-adapted to deal with the ways in which modern poaching takes place. A punishment-compensation system should be put in place where the punishment for poachers is more serious and there is compensation provided to encourage people to report poachers. Awareness has to be packaged and distributed to the source community, the community(ies) used for transit and the destination community.



Djana Bejko



Ernest Mokganedi

Day 4: Leading Change

Levers and Leadership for Transformational Change

SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

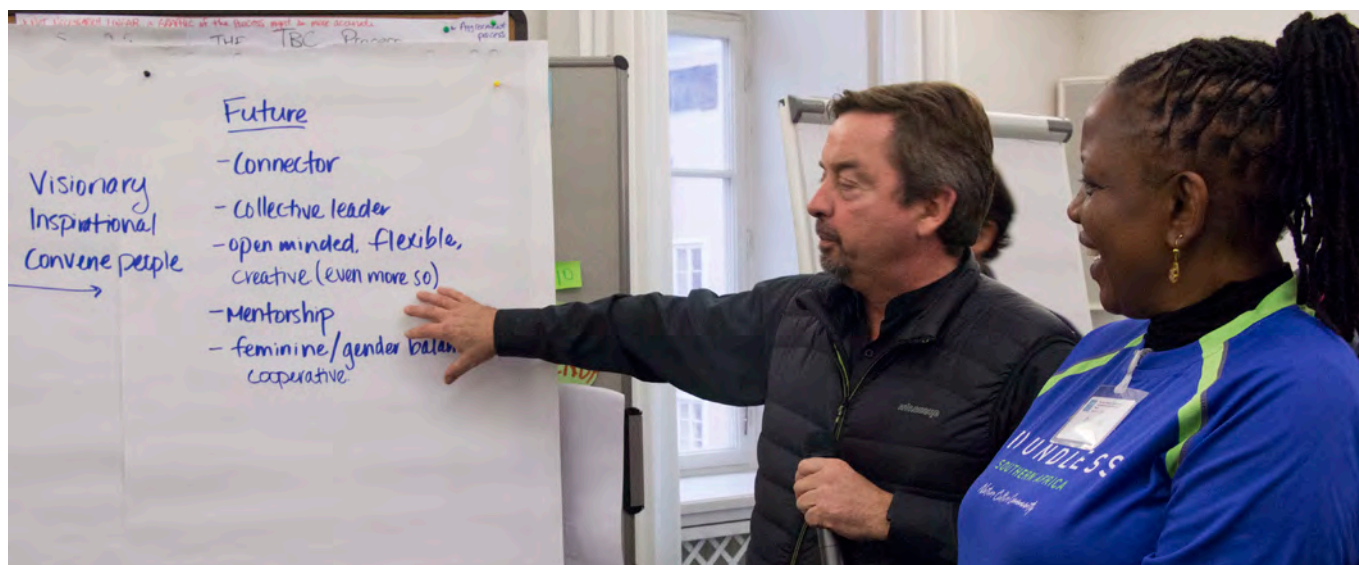
Djana Bejko	<i>Founder and Director, Transboundary FORUM of Shkodra/Skadar Lake, Albania</i>
Kathleen Fitzgerald	<i>Vice President of Land Protection, African Wildlife Foundation, Kenya</i>
Ernest Mokganedi	<i>Director, Trans Frontier Conservation Area, South Africa</i>
Jan Schollaert	<i>CEO, Aga Khan Foundation, Afghanistan</i>

Ernest Mokganedi launched the final plenary session by highlighting the successes of transboundary cooperation in South Africa and the SADC region. The need for transboundary conservation came about to ensure political connectivity between neighboring areas and to determine landscape approaches to the management of wildlife and local communities. The video described the importance of giving the local communities the ability to use the available resources to benefit themselves while remaining in harmony with nature. Tourism has the potential to drive the protection of transboundary areas, and the better the cooperation between nations, the more difficult it would be for criminals to squander the available resources.

Jan Schollaert asked participants what they think the leader of today is like, versus what the leader of tomorrow needs to be like. Three sectors where leadership is grossly needed were identified: the generalized leader, private sector leaders, and government/political leaders. Leaders of today were considered to be egotistical, competitive, exploitative, and corrupt. Whereas the leaders of tomorrow need to be equitable, compassionate, and socially responsible.

Lake Shkodra/Skadar Lake, Albania and Montenegro

Leadership has helped the Lake Shkodra/Skadar Lake ecosystem, which is shared between Albania and Montenegro and encompasses an estimated 450,000 inhabitants, become a successful example of transboundary cooperation. In 1990, while Montenegro was still a part of Yugoslavia, the region was classified as protected on their side of the border, but remained unprotected in Albania. When Albania came out of communism, there was no communication between the two states on the Lake Shkodra/Skadar Lake ecosystem. Ten years later, after multiple discussions, there is finally protection on both sides of the border for this ecosystem.



As **Djana Bejko** explained, the program put in place aims to establish cooperation in management and biodiversity conservation of key transboundary sites in South Eastern Europe by establishing permanent transboundary bodies to engage stakeholders in the joint planning and maintaining cross-border dialogue and cooperation. The program's main focuses are to develop dialogue and partnership, joint capacities development, joint small scale investments, and joint education and leadership.

To achieve this outcome Bejko and her team engaged with and involved the organizations and people who were able to both participate and be active and to take ownership in this cooperation. Each of the government ministries involved were assigned a focal point to allow for a smoother cooperation at the project level. The process had to be as flexible as possible in order to enable as wide a range of players as possible to participate. Some of the program achievements are summarized as follows:

- A memorandum of understanding has been signed between two countries;
- Like the Montenegrin side, the Albanian side of the lake has now also been proclaimed a protected area;
- A statement of cooperation has been signed between municipalities on both sides, and government ministries on both sides;
- A joint Albanian-Montenegrin commission for the joint management of the freshwater basin between the two countries has been established; and
- Both sides were able to find donors to provide financial support for the forum between the two nations.

Jan Schollaert and
Deborah Kahatano

Transboundary cooperation can create equal access of information and equal involvement of communities in the decision-making process, Bejko concluded, and bottom-up processes can be used to create a sense of internal value to the actors involved, which makes transboundary cooperation sustainable for generations.

Vision into reality

Kathleen Fitzgerald asked the room how a vision can be translated into reality. Her presentation focused on responding to this question and the best practices involved in the extrapolation of a big idea into actual practice.

The first thing to think about when thinking about change is scale. At what scale is the desired change to be initiated? Who are the leaders in that landscape and who can they connect with to help catalyze this desired change? Should the approach be top-down, or bottom-up or combination of the two?

In achieving transboundary conservation, one must engage. One needs to find who, when, and what will spark that motivation to get others onboard. A shared vision must be created where a win-win situation is established and stakeholders can take ownership of the project. The spheres of influence must be activated – community, women, youth, district, non-governmental organizations, county, ministry, etc. The barriers must be acknowledged – corruption, lack of empowerment, disabling environment, wrong messenger, lack of the right information, etc. The end goal is to create the right social outrage that forces leaders to create that desired change.

Kathleen Fitzgerald (center) with
Rajan Kotru and Gary Tabor





Salzburg Statement for Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace

At the beginning of the session, participants were assigned into one of three groups. After a series of comprehensive meetings, the groups presented their thoughts at various points during the seminar and gave their concluding statements on the final day, serving as the foundation for the creation of the Salzburg Statement.

When presenting their final thoughts, groups were asked to start off with why this issue matters and follow it up with some catalytic actions they believe would be beneficial in improving transboundary cooperation around the world. They were also asked to suggest ways to engage leadership to ensure that the catalytic actions are taken.

Through these valuable inputs from the participants, a comprehensive **Salzburg Statement for Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace** was drafted by Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN in the days following the session. This was then circulated for all participants to share with their networks, starting with Trevor Sandwith at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Cancun, Mexico in December 2016.

See overleaf for the full text of the Statement.

Clare Shine and Trevor Sandwith (center) take the participants' suggestions for the Salzburg Statement for Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace



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The Salzburg Statement for Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace

A CALL TO ACTION

Our planet's natural environment is free of borders. For millennia people benefited from free access to nature and its seemingly unlimited resources. Today, such resources are divided by lines on a map and increasingly scarce.

Threats to natural systems also know no borders.

Failure to tackle degradation and plan for risks – including biodiversity loss, climate change, water-food-energy insecurity, droughts, floods, and epidemics – puts strain on communities, the environment, and economies. Ultimately this leads aggravates poverty, conflict, displacement, and migration.

Transboundary cooperation is essential to forge new solutions.

Evidence indicates that joint democracy over a shared resource facilitates cooperation and peace, particularly when underpinned by economic and political linkages. Countries, institutions and citizens need to work more closely across borders to enhance human security and safeguard our environment. Multilateral agreements point the way but more needs to be done on the ground.

The **Parks for the Planet Forum**, inspired by *The Promise of Sydney* and the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, is a collaborative platform for transformative leadership and action, launched by Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN in 2015. Its second session addressed *Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace* (November 9 to 13, 2016) and was supported by the MAVA Foundation, Arcus Foundation, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Aga Khan Development Network and the Huffington Foundation.

Many transboundary areas around the world share major ecosystems, high levels of biodiversity, and a rich cultural, spiritual and historical heritage. Well-designed conservation initiatives have unique value as a mechanism to restore ecosystem function and integrity, increase economic opportunities, unite divided communities, and rebuild trust between nations and peoples.

In November 2016, leading experts from different sectors and regions gathered in Salzburg to assess the evidence and identify ways to expand strategic cross-border cooperation for transformative results. This is our challenge – to ourselves and to all who value the future of life on this planet.

Our vision is of a world where transboundary cooperation fosters trust among sovereign nations to overcome ideological, political, cultural and historical barriers, tackle conflict over natural resources, reduce migration pressures, and promote human wellbeing. We seek to build a global network of outstanding transboundary initiatives that demonstrate the power of shared approaches to advance conservation and development, strengthen resilience and combat climate change.

As participants and partners of the *Parks for the Planet Forum*, we commit to sustain momentum for transboundary cooperation for biodiversity, peace and sustainable livelihoods.

We have identified **15 Catalytic Actions** to elevate the role and impact of transboundary conservation at greater scale. We now seek to engage change-makers across society to take leadership on these Catalytic Actions, to build awareness of problems, solutions and actions, and to foster transparency and collaboration.

We believe that imaginative leadership and collaborative action across borders can make a powerful contribution to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A full list of recommendations follows.

Catalytic Actions

Transboundary conservation areas are incubators for regional economic integration and political cooperation. The following practices and policies, consistent with the rule of law, can positively influence regional contexts and expand collaboration.

SHARE AND COMMUNICATE

- Compile and disseminate evidence demonstrating the multiple benefits of transboundary conservation and governance: to conserve biodiversity; promote sustainable livelihoods; transform conflict and mitigate crime; combat environmental degradation and climate change; and reduce negative impacts of human displacement.
- Communicate these benefits across sectors to decision-makers and the general public, using diverse communication channels and innovative educational approaches.
- Enhance learning networks to better understand when, how and why transboundary conservation works best; capture solutions accessible to decision makers and practitioners e.g. through www.panorama.solutions and other communities of practice.

TRANSCEND BARRIERS, FEARS AND DOUBTS

- Address fears and mistrust linked to asymmetries in power and other factors of division, using transboundary landscape approaches to build social justice, broad-based economic development, and ecological stewardship and to incubate an ethic of engagement across sovereign borders.
- Listen and learn from communities to understand shared cultural values and address problems in mutually beneficial ways.
- Confront and help solve hard issues of cross-border illegal trade and insecurity: constructive engagement can achieve more than building fences.
- Streamline and harmonize regulations and bureaucratic processes that block cooperation.
- Link transboundary initiatives on a regional and global level to enhance spatial and sectoral connectivity.

SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE AT SCALE

- Recognize that transboundary linkages need to go hand-in-hand with better collaboration between ministries within countries.
- Incorporate transboundary conservation into existing regional economic integration and development programs.
- Promote private sector investments and social enterprise in transboundary conservation areas to create jobs in the green economy and tourism.
- Create new and expand existing transboundary conservation areas in accordance with global environment and development priorities.
- Expand incentives up- and downstream to sustain landscape/ecosystem services and support species conservation and ecological restoration.
- Engage humanitarian and security stakeholders in transboundary conservation strategies to prevent or resolve conflict, control crimes related to biological resource degradation, and alleviate migration pressures.
- Connect transboundary conservation initiatives to the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 as viable mechanisms to achieve key targets.

Taking The Lead For Catalytic Action

Leadership can come from across society and at different scales. We call on the following groups to help accelerate the Catalytic Actions:

CHAMPIONS

- Identify “superconnectors” as champions to make a compelling case to decision-makers and the public for transboundary conservation that addresses deep issues across borders.
- Support champions to link transboundary conservation to organizations and regional networks that promote peace and conflict resolution, combat illegal trade, reduce human displacement and enhance sustainable livelihoods.

WOMEN & YOUTH

- Unleash the power of women to become transboundary champions, in recognition of their leadership skills, convening power, and stewardship of cultural legacies that respect nature.
- Encourage youth leaders to harness their energy and enthusiasm to engage new audiences in transboundary conservation.
- Enable women and young people in border areas to take their own steps towards full participation in public discourse, research and civic action, and to mobilize support and involvement of the communities in which they live.
- Open up socio-economic choices to make it possible for young people to remain in their home landscapes and contribute to regional conservation, development and innovation.

GOVERNMENTS

- Urge far-sighted government leaders to link transboundary conservation to political priorities such as economic development, job creation, and human security.
- Call for regional and global trade instruments and negotiations to create enabling policy frameworks for transboundary economic cooperation and sustainable value chains.

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Help regional institutions to embed transboundary conservation in their development priorities, implement and develop regional action plans, and catalyze investment in key activity areas.
- Promote the adoption and implementation of transboundary cooperation protocols to regional agreements to encourage bilateral and multilateral programs in preference to unilateral efforts.
- Work with national and local government representatives to achieve transboundary cooperation objectives.
- Link regional and global resources for data collection and analysis, learning, and knowledge sharing.

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Create and expand projects to stimulate socially and ecologically sustainable investment and entrepreneurship in transboundary conservation areas.
- Promote fair and equitable partnerships between the public sector, private sector and communities to develop and implement transboundary conservation and development programs.

As the session came to a close, Salzburg Global Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Clare Shine, shared some final thoughts with the group. She discussed how there are many ways one can think more imaginatively to enable that flow to reach others and trigger inspiration and further action. So much of the communication relating to environmental issues is quite “doom and gloom” – that needs to be changed and rendered positive for people to believe change can happen.

Speaking to transboundary issues specifically, given the way that the equation for risk functions (i.e. risk is the combination of danger and exposition), it is effectively stacked against true innovation and can be seen as one of the reasons why it is so hard for humans to intuitively think outside their unit (tribe, village, country, company, etc.). As transboundary activists, it is imperative to improve upon the arguments surrounding long-term goals and win-win situations. Transboundary should be made to be cool, exciting, fresh – something that attracts the attention of others and gets them involved.



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead, co-chair of the first Salzburg Global Seminar session, 1947

Shine rounded up her thoughts commenting on reverse innovation: the ways in which the discourse is beginning to change as even countries traditionally considered as developed are realizing they need to change their way of thinking. This is the first generation of young people that have grown up with planetary consciousness – growing up seeing images of the world and knowing the issues that are out there. For many, they have become altruistic as a result, and for just as many, it is overwhelming.

Transboundary conservation is a unique tool in its ability to not just preserve biodiversity, but retain the culture of the peoples that live on the land, amplify peace between involved nations and communities, and present something shared. Given the exemplary ability human beings have to find differences, it presents a commonality that if fostered appropriately, can not only harmonize and unionize those implicated, but ensure positive ripple effects through its influence on the local economies and cultural heritage.

This session served as the second part of the *Parks for the Planet Forum*. In keeping with the *Promise of Sydney* and by using Salzburg Global Seminar’s ability to create an environment that enhances thoughts, provokes ideas and douses participants with an inexplicable desire to share and communicate, *The Next Frontier: Transboundary Cooperation for Biodiversity and Peace*, looked towards transboundary conservation areas and what can be done to not just ensure their continued survival, but also enhance and augment their value.

Participants were able to learn from one another, discuss and debate issues, share experiences, get some questions answered and shed light on new questions not previously considered. There was a fervor amongst the groups, a passion that while probably existed before the session, was drenched in oil and the flames of desire – the desire for change – created an inferno of ideas, commitments and challenges. In the four days that the participants existed for this forum, the Salzburg Statement was issued.

“We seek to build a global network of outstanding transboundary initiatives that demonstrate the power of shared approaches to advance conservation and development, strengthen resilience and combat climate change.”

Salzburg Statement for
Transboundary Cooperation
for Biodiversity and Peace

Next Steps for the Parks for the Planet Forum

For the next session in the *Parks of the Planet Forum*, Salzburg Global Seminar and IUCN chose to return to expand upon themes explored at the 2015 session, *Nature, Health and a New Urban Generation*. The session *The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play* will be held in March 2017.

The Child in the City: Health, Parks and Play

The world is becoming increasingly, rapidly, urbanized, with nearly 70% of the world's population expected to live in urban centers by 2050. Over 1 billion children already live in cities, where new births are increasingly concentrated. While cities are exciting centers of innovation and learning, cultural stimulation and diversity, too many children are exposed to the downside – pollution and obesogenic conditions, poor housing, danger on the streets, and lack of access to nature and safe public places to play. These challenges impact most on vulnerable, marginalized and underserved populations, and have long-term costs for families, communities and sustainable societies.

However, the huge resources, talent and momentum associated with modern urbanization could unlock critical opportunities. Reimagining cities through the eyes – and needs – of the young child makes sense not only for health, education and early childhood specialists but also for planners, developers, financial stakeholders and governments. Smart investments and nature-based solutions could put human-centered design at the heart of urban transformation around the world, with significant cross-sector, environmental and fiscal benefits.

Urban parks and public green spaces have practical and symbolic value for healthy and inclusive cities. Parks function as "agora" or open spaces with an equalizing function, where individuals from different backgrounds can have fun and build bonds across generations and cultures. Nature promotes physical, mental and spiritual health and wellbeing, not just through better air quality but by encouraging movement, discovery, and calm amidst urban chaos. Children can play freely, whatever their home situations, strengthening self-confidence and curiosity for success in later life. A growing body of evidence suggests that personal experience of nature in childhood is essential to generate a lifelong sense of connectivity and stewardship for the world's environment and resources. Urban parks and green spaces also play a critical role in promoting climate resilience – a role that will be increasingly important as cities continue to expand.

Healthy place-making is a powerful lever for healthy and creative communities. Child-friendly design, infrastructure and investments will not



Chúk Odenigbo

only help young children thrive in cities but also benefit families, carers and business. Access and safety are fundamental to this end. People need viable walking and public transportation options to reach nature, urban parks and other green spaces. Holistic strategies can revitalize cities, children, and health by prioritizing, designing, planning and investing in natural and cultural public spaces as the building blocks for cohesive communities.

The Salzburg program will convene approximately 50 leading experts and game-changers from different generations and sectors. These will come from a range of intersecting disciplines and perspectives that touch the core issue of children in cities and associated planning, policy and investment decisions. Participants will take an imaginative approach, looking through the eyes of young children, to develop new collaborations that can benefit individuals, families and long-term social, economic and environmental resilience. Together, participants will share experience and case studies to distill successful approaches that could be scaled up and scaled out, translated to diverse contexts and settings.

2017 Program Goals

- Set a new change agenda to promote access to nature, health and development for vulnerable children and communities in growing urban centers and cities.
- Agree on strategic recommendations to be shared at the 15th World Congress on Public Health (Melbourne, Australia, April 2017) and other leading international forums.
- Craft a set of impact-oriented actions to be shared with and used by decision-makers and policy influencers; city designers and urban planners; public and child health advocates; early childhood educators and specialists; nature and environmental practitioners; social justice and community organizers; and, donors and investors.
- Create innovative partnerships and imaginative projects to increase social, environmental, and human resilience, working through the eyes and needs of the child in the city.
- Share evidence and case studies, identifying successful approaches to increasing access to nature that can be promoted, applied, and scaled in diverse contexts and settings.
- Expand the network of leading experts and change-makers that are part of the Salzburg Global/IUCN *Parks for the Planet Forum*.



APPENDIX

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Salzburg Global Seminar

Salzburg Global Seminar is an international non-profit organization founded in 1947 with a mission to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. More than 30,000 people from nearly 170 countries have participated in our programs over seven decades.

Our vision is to shape a better world by forging breakthrough collaborations to bridge divides. Salzburg Global designs multi-year programs to accelerate human, urban and conflict transformation and help organizations and change-makers achieve results at scale. We convene outstanding people across generations and sectors, aiming to catalyze transformative impact and long-term engagement through alliances, networks and projects on the ground. Our work is sustained through strategic partnerships, earned income and philanthropic support.

Our secluded and inspiring home at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria – built in 1736 by the Archbishop of Salzburg, restored by the Salzburg Festival’s co-founder Max Reinhardt, used by Hollywood for sets in *The Sound of Music*, and now an award-winning hotel – allows us to welcome all participants in conditions of trust, openness and creativity.

FOR MORE *info*. PLEASE VISIT:
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Parks for the Planet Forum

The Parks for the Planet Forum is a collaborative platform convened by Salzburg Global Seminar to position nature at the heart of human health and wellbeing, security and prosperity. Embedded in the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme, the Forum advances action, investment and leadership to implement The Promise of Sydney and the Sustainable Development Goals. It combines high-level meetings on selected topics with an evolving multi-year work program that connects pioneering approaches across sectors and scales.

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