Report on

Workshop on Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors to streamline support for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Kurupukari, Guyana

Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre

21 to 23 May 2014
Participating at the Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors Workshop, Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre, Kurupukari, Guyana.
21-23 May 2014
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
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<td>CI</td>
<td>Conservation International</td>
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<td>COBRA</td>
<td>Community Owned Best Practice for Sustainable Resource Adaptive Management in the GS</td>
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<td>ECAM</td>
<td>A Equipe de Conservação da Amazônia (The Amazon Conservation Team)</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>GS</td>
<td>Guiana Shield</td>
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<td>GSF</td>
<td>Guiana Shield Facility</td>
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<td>GSFBIO</td>
<td>Guiana Shield Foundation for Biodiversity</td>
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<td>IBG</td>
<td>International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield</td>
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<td>IDESAM</td>
<td>Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas</td>
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<td>IFT</td>
<td>O Instituto de Física Teórica</td>
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<td>IIC</td>
<td>Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development</td>
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<td>IMAFLORA</td>
<td>The Instituto de Manejo e Certificação Florestal e Agrícola</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMAZON</td>
<td>Instituto do Homem E Meio Ambiente da Amazônia</td>
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<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for the Conservation of Nature</td>
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<td>NRDB</td>
<td>North Rupununi District Development Board</td>
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<td>PoWPA</td>
<td>Programme of Work on Protected Areas</td>
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<td>REDD+</td>
<td>Deforestation and Degradation and Forest Conservation REDD</td>
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<td>SNUC</td>
<td>National System for the Conservation of Nature</td>
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<td>TB</td>
<td>Transboundary</td>
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<td>TBC</td>
<td>Transboundary Conservation</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>WCPA</td>
<td>World Commission on Protected Areas</td>
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<td>WWF</td>
<td>World Wildlife Fund</td>
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INTRODUCTION

The Workshop on Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridor to Streamline Support for the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets took place at the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre, Guyana from 21 to 23 May, 2014. The objectives of the workshop were to: review existing examples of biodiversity corridors within the Guiana Shield and best practice guidance from around the world; identify and analyse common opportunities, threats and challenges facing the conservation units within these corridors in the Guiana Shield; agree on the area-based Aichi Targets that could be achieved by implementing trans-boundary cooperation actions on biodiversity corridors; and outline the elements of a strategy, work plan and potential funding opportunities including a CBD LifeWeb Expression of Interest for implementing the agreed trans-boundary cooperation actions.

This workshop was initiated recognizing that countries of the Guiana Shield are pursuing policies within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that emphasize the importance of establishing biodiversity corridors to avoid landscape fragmentation and loss of species and habitats for biodiversity. Cooperation among the countries is required to pursue and achieve this worthwhile objective. The Guiana Shield Facility (GSF) which is a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiative, has a strong focus on science cooperation, including data collection and knowledge sharing through the International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield (IBG) and the periodic Biodiversity congresses. It also has a strong focus on priority setting through Science-Policy Consortia, with an eco-regional assessment and planning framework on biodiversity and ecosystem services updated periodically, with emphasis on enabling public polices/decisions based on sound science. The LifeWeb Initiative is an initiative of the UN CBD that facilitates financing for biodiversity conservation and the achievement of the area-based Aichi Biodiversity Targets. LifeWeb develops partnerships between donors and developing recipient countries. In view of their respective mandates, the GSF and CBD LifeWeb Initiative partnered to bring together international experts, Guiana Shield policy makers, and protected areas practitioners for this workshop, in order to garner technical inputs for streamlining support for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Twenty nine (29) participants attended the three-day workshop (see Appendix 2 for list of participants). These included representatives from Guyana, Brazil, Venezuela (IBG Chapter), Suriname, French Guiana, and Colombia. At the end of the three-day period of presentations and discussions, a draft Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors Plan of Action was developed by the participants. The following report captures the proceedings of the three-day workshop.
**WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Raquel Thomas, Director, Resource Management and Training, Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (IIC), welcomed the participants and acknowledged what a pleasure it was to be able to host the workshop in the wonderful setting of the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre. She noted that this was a symbolic occasion given that the International Day of Biological Biodiversity was being observed on the following day. She asked the participants to introduce themselves and wished them a fruitful workshop.

Ms. Vanessa Benn, Projects Coordinator, IIC, added her words of welcome on behalf of the staff, management and international board of trustees of IIC, the government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat. She advised that the IIC is not only about the Centre itself but about the people with whom it collaborates - in particular the surrounding communities at Fairview. The IIC was tasked with managing sustainably one million acres of tropical forest while using it for science and also allowing its use by the locals. This sustainable management was being done bearing in mind the pillars of economic, ecological and social importance. The IIC is implemented by local partners, the Guyana government and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Ms. Benn advised that this workshop is especially symbolic for Guyana given that it will be hosting the next IBG meeting in 2016, to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the IIC and also Guyana’s 50th anniversary of its independence. This workshop will provide a good opportunity for the participants to share experiences and strengthen relations in moving forward. Toshao Albertino Peters, leader of Fair View Village located within the Iwokrama Forest, joined Ms. Benn in welcoming the workshop participants. He gave a brief overview of his community and its relationship with Iwokrama, and wished the delegates fruitful deliberations during the workshop.

Dr. Patrick Chesney, Programme Specialist, UNDP-GSF, welcomed the participants and advised that the workshop was as a result of the vision of Mr. Charles Besançon of the CBD and other colleagues of the biodiversity community. In providing a background to the GSF, Dr. Chesney informed that the idea was born more than twenty (20) years ago in the European parliament when interest was expressed in the Guiana Shield being proportionately represented as part of the wider Amazon area due to its unique ecology and high endemism of intact flora and fauna. This was especially in light of the threat posed by the expanding extractive sector. The three critical elements of the GSF are: national ownership by the participating countries; bringing together partners to share experiences and strengthen relations in moving forward. GSF’s focus is multidimensional with biodiversity being at the centre of its work given its importance within the ecosystems at a time when climate change and the reduction of carbon emissions is receiving much attention. Dr. Chesney applauded the partnership between the CBD and other biodiversity partners at all levels in contributing to the global Aichi targets. He concluded by pledging the support of the GSF in achieving the local and regional objectives with regard to biodiversity.

Dr. Patrick Williams, Country Manager, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Guyana, welcomed the participants and advised that conservation corridors are not new to the WWF which has over the past fifteen (15) years been involved in supporting protected areas across Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. Biodiversity assessments are also being undertaken in new areas. The impetus for this is that the region has a number of endangered species. In Guyana, special attention is being paid to the Kaieteur National Park, Shell Beach and the WaiWai Community-
Owned Conservation Area. WWF’s work focuses on biodiversity assessment, capacity building and community participation. Mr. Williams emphasized that protected areas management is very expensive and challenging due to conflicts between biodiversity conservation and land use, in addition to limited funding for protected areas management. He emphasized the need for broad-based collaboration and urged Guyana and Suriname to step up their efforts towards achieving the Aichi targets since they were currently behind schedule.

Dr Indarjit Ramdass, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CBD Guyana’s Operational Focal Point, welcomed the participants on behalf of the government of Guyana. He commented on how integral the EPA has been in the development of legislation related to biodiversity protection and pledged the Government’s commitment in working towards achieving the Aichi Targets. The EPA is currently preparing its third national biodiversity action plan which will be aligned to the Aichi targets. The Ministry of Natural Resources was also created within recent years and under its umbrella is the Protected Areas Commission.

Dr. Ramdass thanked the CBD for its support at this workshop and also for its ongoing support to Guyana. He outlined the progress Guyana had made in relation to achieving the Aichi Targets and provided a brief overview of the ‘new’ structure of natural resources management in the country through the establishment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Mr. Charles Besançon, Coordinator of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) LifeWeb Initiative, extended greetings on behalf of the CBD. He reminded the audience that the CBD is now twenty two (22) years old with one hundred and ninety three (193) Parties to the Convention. The LifeWeb Initiative is supported financially by the German and Japanese governments. The CBD’s interest in supporting initiatives such as this workshop is linked to the Guiana Shield being a region that champions the ecosystems and ecoregional approach. The Shield also has great potential because of its untouched nature and the growing level of commitment towards biodiversity conservation. It also has a healthy mix of researchers. Mr. Besançon expressed the hope that the workshop would yield decisions that focus on sustainability. He also looked forward to agreement on the way forward and hoped that the participants will be able to build networks among themselves.
Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar provided demographic data on Guyana then traced the development of the Iwokrama International Centre from its launching in 1989 as an international experiment in sustainable development and conservation to the present time. She advised that the IIC is an area protected by an Act of Guyana’s Parliament covering one million acres (approximately 371,000 hectares) of intact tropical rainforest. Its mission is to promote the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of tropical rainforests in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general, by undertaking research, training, and the development and dissemination of technologies.

The IIC also works with sixteen (16) communities mainly of the Macushi tribe of Amerindians with whom it has formed partnerships through the North Rupununi District Development Board. The communities are involved in all of the management planning at the Centre and the IIC especially values indigenous traditional knowledge and expertise. Projects involving the North Rupununi community include chain-saw milling, monitoring reporting and verification, community-owned best practices and the EnCompass project. There is also ongoing capacity building within the communities. IIC business ventures include sustainable tourism, training services, timber harvesting and intellectual property and services. Wildlife clubs are also developed within the communities in the attempt to build conservation leaders. Among the research conducted, three new-to-science species were discovered within recent years. There is ongoing monitoring of biodiversity, water quality, the weather, carbon, traffic, the infrastructure and solid waste. Dr. Thomas noted that while the Georgetown to Brazil road that passes through the Iwokrama Forest presents a number of challenges, it also provides great opportunities.
TECHNICAL SESSION 1: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS IN THE GUIANA SHIELD

Chairperson: Charles Besançon, CBD Secretariat

Presentation: Transboundary Conservation (TBC) and Connectivity Conservation – Best Practice Guidance from IUCN WCPA

Presented by: Mr. Olivier Chassot, Transboundary Conservation Specialist and Group Chair of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Mr. Chassot, informed that the role of the IUCN-WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group was to: promote awareness of the value of TBC; promote effective governance structures to support management of TB areas; encourage and advise on the establishment of new transboundary (TB) areas; develop guidelines and standards; coordinate a Global Transboundary Conservation Learning Network; and strengthen information exchange and dissemination. He elaborated on the purpose and characteristics of connectivity conservation and noted its critical role in responding to climate change. Mr. Chassot outlined the objectives of transboundary conservation and elaborated on the characteristics of transboundary protected areas, Parks for Peace, transboundary conservation and development areas, and transboundary migratory corridors. He also elaborated on how to achieve co-management in transboundary conservation areas. Mr. Chassot listed the global challenges to transboundary conservation and connectivity and identified the governance process required to ensure conservation. He further elaborated on the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, the National Biological Corridor Programme and the San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor in Costa Rica. In concluding, Mr. Chassot provided some recommendations for transboundary and connectivity conservation.

Country Presentations

BRAZIL

Mr. Andre Lima of Ministerio do Meio Ambiente, informed that the protected areas in Brazil were established in 1937 (Itatiaia National Park) and he outlined the objectives for integrated protection and sustainable use. He traced the growth of the National System for the Conservation of Nature (SNUC) over the past eleven (11) years by biomes and advised on the status of achievement of the Aichi targets. Mr. Lima further listed the existing challenges and opportunities. Mr. Paulo Russo of ICMBIO, Brazil continued the presentation in which he spoke about the Mosaic of Protected Areas of the West of Amapa and North of Para. He elaborated on the legal basis of the Mosaic, its formal recognition, the areas covered, and its territorial configuration. He also advised of the need to protect the Mosaic from the threats of mining and hydroelectric projects and listed the existing challenges of representation, communication, and economic sustainability.
FRENCH GUIANA

Mr. Claude Suzanon, Board President of Parc Amazonien / President of Sepanguy, provided demographic data on French Guiana noting that it was a land of contrasts – a mixture of traditional life and advanced technology. He provided a background to the creation of the protected areas in French Guiana and listed the various steps. Mr. Suzanon elaborated on the composition of the technical teams, the political council tasked with managing them and the mechanism for enforcing existing laws. He further advised that illegal gold mining remains a threat for the communities and the environment and emphasized the need for cooperation among the Guianas.

SURINAME

Ms. Gwendolyn Landburg, of Anton de Kom University of Suriname, elaborated on the national and regional frameworks for transboundary conservation and connectivity corridors, the administration of projects on the ground and the justification for these projects. She highlighted the role of partner institutions in collaborating, the process for strengthening national priority projects and the parties responsible for monitoring projects. Threats include political, economic, social, environmental, legal and technological factors. There is also an urgent need for collaboration in the conservation of Suriname’s major rivers. As a result of the annual Marine Turtle Symposium held between Suriname and French Guiana, a need was identified to monitor the population of leatherback sea turtles in the two countries in order to identify similarities.

COLOMBIA

Mr. Hugo Barrera, of Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, provided organograms of the National Environmental System and the Environment Ministry which is responsible for formulating biodiversity policies. Conservation projects include Parque Nacional Natural Serranía de Chiribiquete and RedParques. The Chiribiquete parks are a major hotspot of biodiversity. Mr. Barrera advised that during the period 1990 to 2010, 22,260 km² of forest was lost in the Amazon region due to deforestation and a further 13,000 km² risk being lost by 2030. There is also rapid degradation of the deforested zones. He further advised that during the period 2005 to 2010, 48.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide was emitted.

VENezUELA

Ms. Lucy Perera-Romero of WCS, CIEG-UNEG, informed that the protected areas in Venezuela include natural monuments and National Parks (INPARQUES), wildlife reserves and indigenous territories. A national strategy, 2010 – 2020, for conservation of biodiversity and a national plan of action exist. These include several strategic actions for conservation including the involvement of the communities. Opportunities for cross-border collaboration include research for management and conservation action involving Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana, Instituto de Biodiversidad Ambiente y Sociedad de la Region Guayana, ACOANA, Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Other opportunities include jaguar conservation units as a potential space for conservation action at a regional scale, territorial and wildlife management of indigenous territories, and academic programs for indigenous peoples of the region. Threats include illegal gold mining, corruption, and plans for mega infrastructures. There is urgency for collaboration as
threats continue to advance at an alarming pace and it is critical to keep cultivating capacities for territorial management for future effective conservation.

**GUYANA**

Mr. Damian Fernandes, Commissioner of the Protected Areas Commission advised that the Commission was only established in 2012. The Kaieteur National Park was the first legislated protected area in Guyana (in 1929) which is probably the first in South America, followed by Iwokrama in 1996. Shell Beach and the Kanuku Mountains were added the list of protected areas in 2011. Approximately 90% of Guyana is solid forest while the population of less than a million people is concentrated along a thin strip on the coast. The connectivity discussion with regard to Guyana is relatively new but very important. The areas identified for biodiversity conservation in Guyana include areas of most ecosystems and biodiversity. A map was developed to inform the management of land use. Mr. Fernandes expressed the view that Guyana will first have to strive for a balance between the extractive sector and conservation before it can begin to discuss transboundary collaboration. The current challenge is how to work with indigenous owners of the land who are free to do whatever benefits them most. Mr. Fernandes further advised that the Guyana government has developed the Low Carbon Development Strategy however its implementation is dependent on the international market.

**Discussion**

During the discussion following the country presentations, a question was asked regarding the type of tenure arrangement that exists vis-à-vis land use by indigenous communities in Brazil. The Brazilian representative responded that the country’s legislation determines whether the area can be used for mining or other activities. The governing factor is whether the proposed benefit to the community will be greater than the sacrifice of utilizing the land. A second question was “what is the role of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) in connectivity and landscape management?” Dr. Chesney advised that for countries such as Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil, there are limited funding opportunities through REDD+. Less than 20% of the financial pledges have actually been received to date.
TECHNICAL SESSION 2: TRANSBOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS – LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

Chairperson: Patrick Williams, WWF Guyana

Biodiversity Corridors: French Guiana Case Study

Mr. Arnaud Anselin of the Ministry of Environment in French Guiana advised that with regard to legislation, the “Green and Blue Network” is being established in each French territory. This has led to the modification of the Code of Environment and the planning laws. In terms of policy there is a National Strategy on Biodiversity and a Regional Ecological Coherence Scheme being established in each region. With regard to regulatory institutions, there are state services and local authorities. Mr. Anselin illustrated how the growing need for land causes habitat fragmentation, the effects of this fragmentation and its impact on the various species for which no real scientific data exists. In addition, the savannahs are shrinking. He highlighted the role of protected areas in ecological continuity showing land use data, the protected areas, natural zones with high ecological interest, and landscape analysis. With regard to the administration of projects, there is support for the NGO Kwata project, “Nature in the City”. There is also a database on obstacles to aquatic ecological continuities. The efficiency of forest corridors is evaluated continuously and sports circuits are planned to be developed in the natural zones of Cayenne. Challenges include ineffective land use planning, a demand for agricultural land, illegal gold mining, expanding road networks and hydro-electricity projects. Mr. Anselin opined that collaboration among countries could strengthen cooperation on transboundary protected areas and that countries could also learn from each others’ best best practices.

Biodiversity Corridors: Suriname Case Study

Mr. Mark Wright, Conservation Director, WWF Guianas, using the example of a proposed new biological corridor in south Suriname, highlighted again that the Guiana Shield is a globally important biodiversity hotspot. A rapid biological assessment was done in part of the proposed new area in 2012. This study, of over a period of only three weeks and restricted to four small areas, discovered 50 species new to science. Suriname is one of the most water-rich countries on the planet and the main rationale for protecting this area is to safeguard the headwaters of many of Suriname’s major rivers whilst creating a bridge between existing Protected Areas in French Guyana, Brazil and Suriname. This proposal has the initial support of the government and will be a collaborative venture between the relevant Ministries, Conservation International, Amazon Conservation Team, the local communities, and WWF. It is anticipated that this new Protected Area – the South Suriname Conservation Corridor – will cover approximately 2 million hectares of largely untouched forest. The final boundaries will be determined following full biodiversity, hydrology and community use mapping of the area to ensure that community aspirations and needs are accommodated in the legal designations given to the area. Whilst protecting the county’s freshwater resources this project will also seek to develop a financial mechanism to support the long-term conservation of this area. One exciting potential source of finance to be explored is payments for freshwater exports from Suriname to Caribbean countries that have a significant water deficit.
Biodiversity Corridors: Brazil Amazon Case Study

Mr. Alexandre Brasil, of Conservation International (CI), Brazil provided the history behind the Corridors of Amapa and Para and the creation of the protected areas map. The differences between the Mosaic and these two corridors were that the mosaic is legal/ institutionalized, it focuses on legal requirements and it is based on public mechanisms. The corridors are not formal; they are based on broader concepts and on private mechanisms. The protected areas comprise 81% of Para and 75% of Amapa. Threats include: lack of financial and technical resources; changing motivation; local economics based on land conversion and services; sustainability management; and clusters and value aggregation. Brazil is currently urging neighbouring countries to invest in Brazil. In Calha Norte of Para, partners include CI, IMAZON, IMAFLORA, IFT, and ECAM. Sources of financial support include compensation from large infrastructural projects. CI’s revisited mission matches the Aichi biodiversity targets in that the benefits from the environment must accrue to the population. Challenges include vulnerability to political terms/positions, the political culture, land tenure, and the current culture of public service versus entrepreneurship. Mechanisms for financing include an Amapa fund. Opportunities for collaboration include the formation of partnerships, accredited mechanisms and increasing public and government inclusion and commitment.
Chairperson: Vanessa Benn, IIC

Convention on Biological Diversity and the CBD LifeWeb Initiative

Mr. Charles Besançon, Coordinator of CBD LifeWeb initiative, informed that the entry point for the CBD’s involvement on transboundary protected areas and connectivity conservation have their origin in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). In particular the goals to build effective protected area networks including regional networks and to integrate protected areas into broader land and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function. He highlighted Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11\(^1\) and 15\(^2\) and the commitments that countries had made towards achieving these. He advised that the CBD LifeWeb Initiative is not a fund but a matching mechanism that creates partnerships between donors and developing countries and offers strategic advice. LifeWeb supports developing countries whose projects first have to be endorsed by the CBD and/or PoWPA focal points; the projects must be submitted by government and they must be aligned with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi targets. LifeWeb offers technical assistance in developing projects, promotion and profiling of LifeWeb expressions of interest online and to donors, and financial and logistical support for “Round tables.” LifeWeb expression of interest should be tied to national planning processes; must have clear objectives and funding needs; should reflect other proposals or plans; must contribute to each relevant Aichi target; and must be financially sustainable and have counterpart funding. Expressions of interest expire one year after the published date. Mr. Besançon reflected on LifeWeb’s past successes and listed a number of recent matches. He emphasized that for successful matches, the project idea should clearly reflect national priorities, build on existing initiatives, have co-financing, be well written and the topic should be timely.

\(^1\) http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/ (last accessed 28/05/2014)

Target 11
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.

\(^2\) http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/ (last accessed 28/05/2014)

Target 15
By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
Ms. Gwendolyn Landburg, Vice Chair, International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield (IBG) advised that the goal of the IBG is to foster and develop education and research in all disciplines thus contributing to the knowledge and stewardship of the biodiversity of the Guiana Shield and the conservation, preservation, and sustainable management of its natural, rural and urban ecosystems. She provided the background to the formation of the IBG and the goals of the Guiana Shield Foundation for Biodiversity (GSFBIO) that functions as the working arm of the IBG. She outlined the activities of the GSFBIO for 2014 which included legalizing and promoting the IBG, formalizing the university network among countries, and conducting workshops and training. Ms. Landburg further listed the board of directors of the IBG and the GSFBIO and the member countries of the IBG. In concluding she presented to Dr. Patrick Chesney a Book of Abstracts and Symposium published on the third International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield held in Suriname in 2013.

Dr. Patrick Chesney, Programme Specialist, UNDP-GSF, elaborated on the eco-region concept and identified the areas covered by the Guiana Shield. He advised that the operating premise of the GSF is wedded in the UN philosophy of poverty reduction and sustainable human development. Dr. Chesney quoted a statement made by H.E. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD which highlighted the increasing challenges faced by the Shield in the promotion of economic development while ensuring the conservation of its natural capital to increase the benefits for its people. Dr. Chesney informed that ecosystems could be protected through implementation of valuation methodologies, payment for ecosystem services and the adoption of new technologies. He provided an overview of bio capacity in the Guiana Shield highlighting the opportunities that still exist in countries like Guyana, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela. Projects supported by the GSF are being carried out in Amapá and Amazonas states of Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, and Suriname. The total allocation in grants to country projects was USD1,801,163, with an average of USD450,000 per country. At the eco-regional level, GSF supported the 2013 Congress on Biodiversity held in Suriname. Thematic studies supported by the GSF include small scale gold mining assessment, a conservation priority-setting update, and gender and biodiversity assessments. The GSF Priority Setting Platform which is a functional interdisciplinary database on the Guiana Shield that links information on biodiversity, conservation initiatives, socioeconomics, natural resources, development, etc., is about to be launched.

The GSF has created and sustained a number of effective partnerships both at the national and regional level. Among the lessons learnt by the GSF are: the natural capital of the eco-region is managed by a diversity of frameworks and there is a lack of common vision; national ownership (by governments) is key; when the decision-making apparatus is outside of the Guiana Shield (GS), this delays decision-making; aligning the GSF to a regional treaty builds trust and encourages delivery of support; the GSF working in a multilateral fiduciary environment can be an effective and efficient delivery mechanism for the achievement of targeted results in the field; and local indigenous communities have an important role to play.
Discussion

During the follow-up discussion, there was a call to focus more on the protection of freshwater and this was fully endorsed by the audience. It was suggested that the setting up of a network of water management specialists in each country would be a good start to this process. In addition, existing monitoring protocols, tools for testing water quality, etc., could be shared among countries. It was also felt that integrated river basin management and the assessment of river systems should be focused on since there is the sharing of rivers among some countries. A call was also made for countries to begin estimating how much of their forest cover will disappear over time in allowing space for sustainable development while they attempt to maintain biodiversity. National land use planning and management was also seen to be crucial. A delegate from Brazil noted that while in Brazil it is felt that communities have helped to conserve the forest, this is mainly because some of them are too poor to convert the forest to their own use. A final comment was that the conservation of corridors was a good theme for South-South cooperation and that proposals in this regard should be scaled up.

Remarks by Mr. Mike Williams, North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB)

Dr. Raquel Thomas welcomed the IIC’s key partners from the NRDDB who were present on this very symbolic day – International Day of Biological Biodiversity. She noted that this was a good occasion to recognize all of the IIC’s partners that had supported the programme over the years. She expressed deep regret that the Hon. Robert Persaud, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment who was scheduled to address the participants today, was unable to travel to Iwokrama due to the cancellation of his flight. In addition, Ms. Khadija Musa, UN Resident Coordinator, Professor Jacob Opadeyi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, and Mr. Dane Gobin, Iwokrama’s Chief Executive Officer who were also scheduled to arrive on this flight, would not be present.

Mr. Mike Williams, Chairman of the NRDDB expressed his pleasure at being present for the commemoration of International Day of Biological Biodiversity. He welcomed the visiting delegates and was especially pleased to renew his acquaintance with the delegates from French Guiana whom he had met the previous year. He advised that the NRDDB is a community-based non-governmental organization that represents sixteen (16) communities made up of mostly Macushis. The Board is not affiliated with any political party but collaborates with the government on any project that is felt to be worthwhile. The NRDDB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate with Iwokrama on a number of projects such as the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Project, and the Community Owned Best Practice Project (COBRA). The Board also collaborates with French Guiana, Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil on common issues. In addition, the NRDDB has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CI and it is fortunate to be able to work with both Iwokrama and CI – one in the North and one in the South while the NRDDB is geographically in the middle. The NRDDB has also worked along with WWF and Iwokrama on the radio Paiwomak project. Mr. Williams expressed his extreme gratitude for the benefits derived through collaboration with its various partners and wished the participants a successful workshop. Ms. Landberg took the opportunity to present to Mr. Williams a copy of the publication on the first International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield held in Suriname in 2013.
Mr. Charles Besançon read a statement from H.E. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD on the occasion of International Day of Biological Biodiversity (see Appendix 3 for full text). In his statement Mr. Dias welcomed the delegates to the workshop and expressed the CBD’s pleasure at being able to collaborate with its partners in organizing this workshop. The theme for this year’s International Day of Biological Biodiversity is “Island Biodiversity”. Mr. Dias noted that the ecosystems of the Guiana Shield Eco-region remain understudied and that the region is considered to be one with the highest biodiversity in the world, thus providing unparalleled opportunities for conservation. He congratulated the countries and territories that had pledged to conserve a minimum of 20% of their coastal and marine areas by 2020 and promised the CBD’s support in their conservation efforts.

Mr. Dias especially recognized the importance of linking local, national and regional actions to achieve global targets such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and urged countries to work towards the achievement of these targets for which the formation of strategic partnerships would be crucial. Mr. Dias had the pleasure of meeting Guyana’s President, H.E. Donald Ramotar in 2013 and they had discussed the need to speed up the implementation of the Aichi targets. They had also agreed that the development of a biodiversity corridor in the Shield would serve to accelerate this process in addition to strengthening cooperation between governments. Mr. Dias congratulated the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Guyana for launching the Low Carbon Development Strategy and thanked the various national, regional and global partners who significantly contribute to conservation on the ground.
Chairperson: Oliver Chassot, IUCN

Mr. Chassot reminded the delegates that the required outputs of the workshop were to: design elements of transboundary cooperation on biodiversity corridors; develop instrument(s) for cooperation among protected areas and other conservation management units; and draft a plan of action. He provided some background information to guide the participants in developing these outputs and divided them into two groups by geographic sub-regions.

Upon presenting their plans of action, the groups were requested to prioritise their activities. A working group comprising Mr. Charles Besançon, Mr. Arnaud Anselin, Mr. Olivier Chassot, and Mr. Mark Wright then used the groups’ plans to draft a combined action plan (see Appendix 4) which was later presented to the audience. This draft will be further fine-tuned by the working group then shared with the participants at a later date. The finalized plan will be produced in the five different languages of the Guiana Shield countries with the assistance of the GSF.

Plans for 50th Anniversary of Sepanguy in French Guiana

Mr. Claude Suzanon of Sepanguy advised that this workshop will take place in French Guiana from 10 – 15 October 2014 with the participation of six representatives from each country. A steering committee has been set up to plan the workshop and the programme will commence with field visits. Mr. Suzanon listed the objectives of the workshop and advised that the style of the workshop will be more round-table type discussions rather than presentations.

Reflections

In reflecting on the workshop, the participants agreed that it offered a good opportunity for sharing information and learning about each other’s initiatives within the region. It was clear that the GSF countries have similar challenges in conserving biodiversity, in particular with respect to gold mining. It was agreed that the local communities have a great deal of potential and that their involvement was integral in conserving biodiversity. Strengthening these communities could also assist in their becoming protagonists in achieving the strategies for connectivity.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar, representative of Guyana’s IBG 2016 local organizing committee (LOC) updated the participants on preparations for the IV International Congress on the Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield which is to be held in Guyana in 2016. The LOC is currently fund raising to host the congress and is also in the process of identifying thematic areas. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Guyana will be an active participant and countries are being urged to promote the congress across the Guiana Shield. As part of the congress, a biodiversity champion will be identified. Ms. Thomas closed by urging the countries to develop their chapters of the IBG and thanked them for attending the workshop.
Ms. Vanessa Benn thanked the participants on behalf of the IIC for attending the workshop. She further thanked all of the partners and supporters of the workshop and appealed for their continued support for the IIC. She reminded the delegates of their invitations to the Closing Reception hosted by the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment that evening in Georgetown and encouraged their attendance.

Mr. Charles Besançon thanked the participants for their hard work during the workshop and acknowledged that strong connections were developed over the three-day period. He noted that while the Guyana government supports the IIC, the international community also needs to provide their support. In this regard, the workshop participants had drafted a declaration to garner support which read as follows:

“We the participants of this important workshop acknowledge the importance of the Iwokrama Programme Site and for its outstanding contributions to the sustainable management and conservation of rainforest ecosystems and also recognizing the Government of Guyana’s continued commitment and support for the programme. We encourage the commitment of the international community and the re-commitment of the Commonwealth to the mandate of Iwokrama. We furthermore call on the rest of the world to embrace the Iwokrama site and the opportunity it presents as a natural solution to the many challenges of sustainable development.”
Appendix 1: Workshop Agenda

**Workshop on Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridor to streamline support for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

Kurupukari, Guyana

Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre

21 to 23 May 2014

**Objectives of the Workshop**

(i) To review existing examples of biodiversity corridors within the Guiana Shield and best practice guidance from around the world;

(ii) To identify and analyse common opportunities, threats and challenges facing the conservation units within these corridors in the Guiana Shield;

(iii) To agree on the area-based Aichi Targets that could be achieved by implementing transboundary cooperation actions on biodiversity corridors;

(iv) To outline the elements of a strategy, workplan and potential funding opportunities including a CBD LifeWeb Expression of Interest for implementing the agreed transboundary cooperation actions.

**Day 1, Wednesday, 21 May**

Opening ceremony:

Chairperson: Raquel Thomas, Iwokrama International Centre (IIC)

17:00-17:05 Welcome and introduction – Vanessa Benn, IIC
17:05-17:10 Remarks – Patrick Chesney, UNDP-GSF
17:10-17:15 Remarks – Patrick Williams, WWF Guyana
17:15-17:20 Remarks – Representative of EU Delegation in Guyana
17:20-17:30 Remarks and overview of the workshop – Charles Besançon, CBD Secretariat
17:30-17:35 Introductions (all participants)
17:35-17:45 Presentation on Iwokrama – Raquel Thomas, IIC
Technical session 1: Challenges and opportunities for transboundary conservation and biodiversity corridors in the Guiana Shield
Chairperson: Charles Besançon, CBD Secretariat

17:45-18:30 Transboundary Conservation and Connectivity Conservation – Best Practice Guidance from IUCN WCPA – Olivier Chassot, IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group Co-Chair

18:30-18:40 Break
18:40-18:55 Country Presentation – Brazil
18:55-19:10 Country Presentation – Colombia
19:25-19:40 Country Presentation – Suriname
19:40-20:00 Discussion

Day 2, Thursday, 22 May
Technical session 2: Transboundary biodiversity corridors – lessons from the field
Chairperson: Patrick Williams, WWF Guyana

08:00-08:15 Country Presentation – Venezuela
08:15-08:30 Country Presentation – Guyana
08:30-08:45 Biodiversity corridors: Amapá and Para case study – Alexandre Brasil, CI-Brazil / Amazon Programme
08:45-09:00 Biodiversity corridors: Suriname case study – Mark Wright, WWF Guianas

Technical session 3: Transboundary biodiversity corridors and Aichi Targets – role of countries and ecoregions
Chairperson: Vanessa Benn, IIC

09:00-09:15 Convention on Biological Diversity and the CBD LifeWeb Initiative – Charles Besançon, CBD Secretariat
09:15-09:30 Guiana Shield Foundation for Biodiversity – Gwen Landburg, IBG
09:30-09:45 Guiana Shield Facility and transboundary cooperation - Patrick Chesney, UNDP
09:45-10:30 Coffee Break
10:30-11:00 Discussion
11:00-12:00 Presentation by Hon. Robert Persaud, Minister of NRE, Guyana
12:00-13:30 Lunch

Technical session 4: Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors Plan of Action
Chairperson: Olivier Chassot, IUCN

13:30-15:30 Plenary
- Design elements of transboundary cooperation on biodiversity corridors
- Instrument(s) for cooperation among protected areas and other conservation
• management units
• Drafting of the plan of action

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break
15:45-17:00 Discussions and conclusions

**Day 3, Friday 23 May**

**Closing ceremony**

*Chairperson: Alexandre Brasil, CI-Brazil / Amazon Program, Brazil*

08:00-08:15 Summary of Day 2
08:15-09:00 Report on the draft Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors Plan of Action
09:00-09:30 CBD LifeWeb Expression of Interest
09:30-09:45 Plans for 50th Anniversary of Sepanguy in French Guiana – Claude Suzanon, Sepanguy
09:45-10:00 Next steps
10:00-10:10 Closing remarks – Representative of IBG LOC 2016
10:10-10:20 Closing remarks – UNDP-GSF
10:20-10:30 Closing remarks – CBD Secretariat

**Changes to Agenda**

*Day 2 session: TRANSBOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS – LESSONS FROM THE FIELD*

1. Guyana and Venezuela Country Presentations were made on Day 1 instead.
2. An additional case study was included: Biodiversity corridors, Brazil Amazon
3. Presentation by Hon. Robert Persaud, Minister NRE, Guyana was not made. Instead there were remarks by Mr. Mike Williams, North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)
4. There was also a statement from H.E. Braulio Dias on the Occasion of International Day of Biological Biodiversity
5. Biodiversity corridors: French Guiana case study – Bérengère Blin, Parc Amazonien. Presentation was made by Mr. Arnaud Anselin on behalf of Bérengère Blin

Day 3: Closing ceremony was chaired by Mr. Alexandre Brasil instead of Bérengère Blin, Parc Amazonien, French Guiana
# APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Appendix 3: Message from Executive Secretary of the CBD

Excellency,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to extend a warm welcome to you all to this workshop on Biodiversity Corridors in the Guiana Shield to support the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is especially fitting to be welcoming you today, 22 May, the day in which we celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity. The CBD declared this year’s theme Island Biodiversity, which was chosen to coincide with the designation by the United Nations General Assembly of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States to celebrate the contributions that this group of countries has made to the world. Guyana’s linkage to the Amazon as well as the Caribbean region and its hosting of the Secretariat of CARICOM, make this venue quite appropriate to celebrate the International Day of Biological Biodiversity and of course for this workshop that you are all gathered here for.

It is a true pleasure for the CBD Secretariat to be able to co-organize this workshop with our UNDP and Guyana government partners in this beautiful country, whose biodiversity, for the most part, is considered to be intact. In addition, despite having almost 86% of its total land area covered by forest, Guyana recorded a deforestation rate of less than 0.1% for 2012 - an impressive figure. Moreover, Guyana lies at the center of the Guiana Shield Eco-region which, although it represents a unique and very exceptional part of the planet, its ecosystems remain understudied. Considered one of the regions with the highest biodiversity in the world, it provides unparalleled opportunities for conservation and protected area creation at a scale that is simply no longer possible in tropical Asia or Africa, and increasingly difficult in South America. With only a recorded rate of 8% of its total land in protected areas, Guyana has great potential to increase and strengthen protection and I am hopeful that this workshop will be useful in this regard, thus helping the world to achieve Aichi Target 11 of a minimum of 17% of terrestrial and freshwater areas and a minimum of 10% of coastal and marine areas under protected areas by 2020.

In 2013, the second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative was launched where several Caribbean countries and territories pledged to conserve a minimum of 20% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity congratulates the countries and territories that have made these pledges and we stand ready to assist in achieving them.

You probably know that the Convention on Biological Diversity has always had a strong focus on protected areas. Protected areas are a vital policy mechanism and management tool to protect and preserve the world’s natural, cultural, social and economic assets. The CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) has been instrumental in advancing the protected areas agenda. The CBD through PoWPA and the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity provide a global framework for governments to achieve conservation and sustainable development goals. But the role of eco-regional approaches and initiatives are critical to achieving these goals and helping economically poor countries meet national obligations. In this regard, I would like to give special recognition to an important regional initiative, the Guiana Shield Facility, which is managed by the United Nations Development Programme. This initiative, working within the Guiana Shield Eco-region, adds value to national efforts in the area
of biodiversity conservation, and promotes transboundary cooperation to address overarching environment problems such as transboundary pollution and fragmentation of habitats.

To this extent, we recognize the importance of linking local, national and regional actions to achieve global target such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. At the CBD we encourage these linkages through programs like the LifeWeb Initiative, which facilitates financing through an online clearinghouse and through participation in roundtable meetings, for the implementation of projects of national and regional priority and highlights these needs to donors.

Last fall in New York, I had the pleasure of meeting with His Excellency, Mr. Donald Ramotar, the President of Guyana, and we discussed the need to speed implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in order to meet the 2020 deadline. We agreed that the development of a biodiversity corridor in the Guiana Shield would be a very concrete activity to speed implementation and strengthen cooperation between governments. It is encouraging to know that countries of the Guiana Shield are pursuing policies within the CBD framework that emphasize the importance of establishing biodiversity corridors to avoid landscape fragmentation and loss of species and habitats. For instance, Brazil is keen on setting forth a Jaguar Corridor Initiative that would incorporate the Guiana Shield Eco-region; the CBD reinforces its commitment to support these types of initiatives from countries. It is therefore heartwarming to have here experts from the countries of this region, as well as experts from WWF-Guianas, CI and IUCN. I hope that this mixture of experience fosters a fruitful exchange of views and coordination.

As you know, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. The mission of the Plan is to "Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity..." We know that achieving this mission and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will be challenging but achievable. Parties to the Convention have been translating these Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national targets as part of their updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. At this workshop we will focus on reviewing existing examples of biodiversity corridors within the Guiana Shield, as well as best practice guidance from around the world. Among other things, we will also focus on outlining priority actions for specific biodiversity corridor initiatives, the identification of potential sources of funding and the development of draft LifeWeb Expressions of Interest where applicable.

I would like to thank our partners at UNDP- GFS, Iwokrama International Centre and WWF as co-organizers of this workshop. I would like to give special thanks to the Government of Guyana, through its Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment for actively supporting this workshop as our kind host at the beautiful location of the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre. I am sorry I cannot be there in person to visit this famous place! Furthermore, I would like to congratulate the Ministry for launching the Low Carbon Development Strategy which affirms that Guyana is once again at the forefront of innovative approaches to conservation and sustainable development.

As countries chart their own courses towards achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, through the on-going revision of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans, they will be looking for the most efficient and innovative solutions to meet both their social development needs and biodiversity conservation goals.
Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are approaching the CBD COP 12 in October this year which will be hosted by the Republic of Korea. COP-12 will undertake a mid-term review of progress towards the achievement of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to identify where we are in the implementation of the biodiversity agenda, and make course corrections as necessary. It is time to take real actions towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We cannot spare any time, particularly where the results of actions take time to manifest themselves.

Let me take this moment to extend my wholehearted appreciation to our national, regional and global partners who significantly contribute to conservation on the ground and who further reiterate their support by being with us here today. Thank you for participating and sharing your expertise with us. For gains to be made toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, it will require strategic partnerships between the countries, the Secretariat, and our regional and global partners. We will work together in this spirit of collaboration.

I look forward to open discussions and concrete and practical outcomes from this workshop.

Thank you.
Appendix 4: Draft Plan of Action

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Preamble:

We, the participants of the workshop called, “Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors to streamline support for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, met in Iwokrama, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, from 21-23 May 2014, and achieved consensus on the following action plan regarding the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to biological corridors, connectivity conservation and transboundary conservation within the Guiana Shield Ecoregion.

Background:

Countries of the Guiana Shield are pursuing policies within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity that emphasises the importance of establishing biodiversity corridors to avoid landscape fragmentation and loss of species and habitats for biodiversity. Cooperation among the countries is required to pursue and achieve this worthwhile objective.

The Guiana Shield Facility as a whole has a strong focus on science cooperation, including data collection and knowledge sharing through the International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield and the periodic Biodiversity Congresses, and on priority setting, through Science-Policy Consortia, with an Eco regional assessment and planning framework on biodiversity and ecosystem services updated periodically, and an emphasis on enabling public policies / decisions based on sound science. The Guiana Shield Facility is a UNDP initiative and it is financially supported by the Commission of the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands.

In June 2013, the Guiana Shield Facility Regional Advisory Board at its Second Meeting in Bogotá, pledged to explore the possibility of expanding the scope of the GSF to include a marine protected areas focus for the Guiana Shield, as well as ecologically contiguous areas in the Caribbean Sea.

In March 2013, the participants of the Regional Workshop on Transboundary Management of Marine Mammals under the MaMaCoCoSea Project from several countries of the Guiana Shield, including Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela and Colombia, as well as Aruba and Trinidad and Tobago, recommended that the Guiana Shield Facility and the Guiana Shield Congress include Marine Biodiversity in its scope of work. The recommendation was made in view of the fact that the Amazon and Orinoco Plumes emanating from the Guiana Shield shape the marine ecosystem bordering the countries participating in the Regional Workshop on Transboundary Management of Marine Mammals; the West-Indian Manatee and/or Guiana Dolphin occur in the near shore waters of the participating countries (with the exception of Aruba) and are priority species under the MaMaCoCoSea Project, and other cetaceans occur in the marine ecosystem shaped by the Amazon and Orinoco Plumes.

It is anticipated that once finalized, this Regional Action Plan would be reviewed and updated yearly after the meetings of the GSF Regional Advisory Board.
Actions:

The following set of agreed actions is organized around regional and sub-regional initiatives that foster the implementation of transboundary and connectivity conservation actions.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Create synergies with existing global and regional platforms in order to take advantage of efficiencies of scales, efforts and momentum, such as:

(a) Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

(b) The Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wild Flora (REDPARQUES)

(c) IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group

Responsibility: Guiana Shield Facility and International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield

Timeframe: On-going

2. Develop and strengthen linkages with collaborative connectivity projects (e.g. Panthera, etc.)

Responsibility: Guiana Shield Facility to help with coordination and supporting of ongoing technical cooperation at the national / bilateral levels, including but not limited to the following initiatives:

- Conservation International (Brazil) with local Universities;
- International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield Venezuela Chapter to link with Panthera;
- Iwokrama to develop MoU with Panthera. University of Suriname link with Panthera WWF linking French Guiana and Amapá State, Brazil, on gold mining issues

Timeframe: On-going
3. Organize a technical database with appropriate data sharing protocols that allows identifying and prioritizing transboundary corridors:
   a. Regional gap analysis
   b. Identification of potential areas for biodiversity corridors at the regional level
   c. Delineating ecological networks
   d. Collecting and sharing information about existing transboundary and connectivity initiatives in the region. CI Brazil will promote (1) the debate with research institutions in Amapá and Pará, with the intent of strengthening the agenda and establishment of a common protocol, and (2) will promote the creation of a database.

   **Responsibility:** GSF to link with ACTO Regional Observatory, and the EU Amazon Vision programme.

   **Timeframe:** Immediate, and on-going. Report on progress at October 2014 Sepanguy Protected Areas Symposium in French Guiana.

4. Establish a regional task group (with representatives from each country) that will take leadership in implementing this action plan

   **Responsibility:** Action Plan to be reviewed by Guiana Shield Facility Regional Advisory Board

   **Timeframe:** Next meeting of Guiana Shield Facility Regional Advisory Board in September 2014.

5. Strengthen indigenous and other networks at the regional level to share experiences of territorial management and facilitate platforms to promote idea exchange and best practices, capacity building and natural resource management.

   **Responsibility:** Guiana Shield Facility to identify best framework / partnerships for engaging across the Amazon biome. The following partnerships are a starting point for these efforts:

   - Guiana Shield Facility has MoU with COBRA project (Royal Halloway University of London) working at regional level.
   - Sepanguy works with indigenous groups in French Guiana.
   - Brazil working with Mosaic of Amapá and Para States.
   - Conservation International can facilitate engagement with indigenous umbrella groups.
   - Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization Secretariat has an indigenous peoples engagement function.
   - Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin.

   **Timeframe:** Could have side event at Sepanguy event in October 2014.

6. Strengthen and facilitate academic research (university research cooperation and other research institutions) into connectivity science.

   **Responsibility:** International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield to link with UNAMAZ (Association of Amazonian Universities)

   **Timeframe:** On-going
7. Encouraging the further development of transboundary marine protected areas in the Guiana Shield through ongoing initiatives such as Marine Mammals Cooperation (MAMACOCOSEA)

Responsibility: Guiana Shield Facility to link with the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, UNEP Regional Activity Center for Areas and Species Specially Protected (SPAW RAC), Brazil Mamiraua Institute, and WIDECAST.

Timeframe: Guiana Shield Facility to offer side event at Sepanguy Protected Areas Symposium in October 2014.

8. Support national efforts to better manage and monitor small and medium-scale gold mining, including promoting best practices for biodiversity conservation and water resources management. In addition, facilitate and support intergovernmental cooperation to
a. address issues and minimize negative impacts related to the highly mobile nature of gold miners/mining in the region.
b. examine related laws and regulations across the countries and territories and identify potential opportunities for harmonization.

Responsibility: Guiana Shield Facility with WWF and other partners (tbd). WWF to repeat earlier impact study (deforestation and freshwater).

Timeframe: Guiana Shield Facility Side Event at Sepanguy Protected Areas Symposium in October 2014.

9. Develop a Guiana Shield-wide water basin assessment and management plan to complement the Amazon-wide plan in development and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization’s transboundary water project “Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin. Encourage the use of the WAVINGS network, which was set up by the Guiana Shield Facility and DEAL Guyane, to share experience and build capacity between countries of the Guiana Shield.

Responsibility: Guiana Shield Facility will coordinate with DEAL Guyane and the International Office of Water

Timeframe: Ongoing.

SUB-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES: Access hydrology expertise in French Guiana to give technical support to the development of South Suriname Conservation Corridor.

Responsibility: WWF to communicate via DEAL Guyane

Timeframe: Immediate