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**PEACE AND BIODIVERSITY DIALOGUE: PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN  
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

**INTRODUCTION**

As one of the initiatives undertaken during its presidency of the Conference of the Parties, the Republic of Korea is proposing to launch the “Peace and biodiversity dialogue” focusing on supporting transboundary cooperation in line with the Convention’s programme of work on protected areas.

The present note contains an outline of this initiative and is being circulated for the information of participants at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was submitted to the Secretariat.

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## **PEACE AND BIODIVERSITY DIALOGUE: PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION**

1. Transboundary protected areas<sup>1</sup> are important for biodiversity conservation. They can also provide a focus for facilitating cooperation and peace-building, because the efficient management of transboundary protected areas involves dialogue, cooperation, and transparency. This requires building participatory and multi-stakeholder management processes, including civil society and scientists, and taking into account changing factors and cultural circumstances.

2. Particularly, transboundary conservation (conservation across borders) has sometimes been designed to promote cooperation and peace and this effort can be a powerful force for peace. There is a great deal of knowledge and experience which could be further shared internationally.

3. Work to establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries is a goal of the CBD Decision VII/28, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA). For more details on POWPA see the annex to this document).

4. Some examples of transboundary protected areas are:

- The Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex between Thailand, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods)
- Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor, from Andean peaks to the Amazon Basin (a culture of support for sustainable development)

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park: between Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe (conservation)

5. In support of POWPA Goal 1.3 and related Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, the Republic of Korea is providing support to strengthen work in this area, specifically through the following activities:

- Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Workshop Series. The workshops will bring together countries in a region or sub-region to identify opportunities for collaboration in the identification, designation and co-management of transboundary conservation areas. The workshops will also catalyse greater collaboration in ecosystem management among neighbouring countries. Identification of needs and opportunities through the workshops, could provide the basis for the development of follow-up project proposals. The first workshop will be held in Asia in 2015. Subsequent workshops will be held in the Americas, Africa and Europe.
- Global Peace and Biodiversity Expert workshop. The goal of the workshop to be held in 2016 is to consider ways and means to strengthen support for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and Goal 1.3 of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas through sharing expertise, the development of new partnerships and the consideration of new mechanisms and/or designations through international instruments such as the CBD, UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme UNESCO World Heritage, etc.

6. The workshops would be convened or co-convened by the CBD Secretariat, drawing heavily on existing networks of experts such as the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group and organizations such as UNEP, the Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Program, and others.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN definition: Transboundary Protected Area (TBPA): An area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more boundaries between states, sub-national units such as provinces and regions, autonomous areas and/or areas beyond the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction, whose constituent parts are especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed co-operatively through legal or other effective means.

## Annex

### References to transboundary conservation in the CBD Decision VII/28, the Programme of Work on Protected Areas

#### **CBD PoWPA Goal 1.2 - To integrate protected areas into broader land- and seascapes and sectors so as to maintain ecological structure and function**

##### **Parties:**

1.2.3. Integrate regional, national and sub-national systems of protected areas into broader land- and seascape, inter alia by establishing and managing ecological networks, ecological corridors [71] and/or buffer zones, where appropriate, to maintain ecological processes and also taking into account the needs of migratory species.

1.2.4. Develop tools of ecological connectivity, such as ecological corridors, linking together protected areas where necessary or beneficial as determined by national priorities for the conservation of biodiversity.

1.2.5. Rehabilitate and restore habitats and degraded ecosystems, as appropriate, as a contribution to building ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones.

##### **Executive Secretary:**

1.2.6. Encourage the organization of regional and sub-regional workshops for the exchange of experiences on integration of biodiversity and protected areas into relevant sectoral and spatial plans.

1.2.7. Compile and disseminate, using the CHM and other media, case-studies of best practices and other reports regarding the application of the ecosystem approach in relation to protected areas at the international, regional, national and sub-national levels.

#### **Goal 1.3: To establish and strengthen regional networks, transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) and collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries**

*Target: Establish and strengthen by 2010/2012 [72]/ transboundary protected areas, other forms of collaboration between neighbouring protected areas across national boundaries and regional networks, to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, implementing the ecosystem approach, and improving international cooperation*

##### **Parties:**

1.3.1 Collaborate with other parties and relevant partners to establish effective regional networks of protected areas, particularly in areas identified as common conservation priorities (e.g. barrier reef systems, large scale river basins, mountain systems, large remaining forest areas and critical habitat for endangered species), and establish multi-country coordination mechanisms as appropriate to support the establishment and effective long term management of such networks.

1.3.2 Collaborate with other Parties and relevant partners through the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS) to establish and manage protected areas in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and based on scientific information.

1.3.3 Establish, where appropriate, new TBPAs with adjacent Parties and countries and strengthen effective collaborative management of existing TBPAs.

1.3.4 Promote collaboration between protected areas across national boundaries.

##### **Executive Secretary:**

1.3.5 Collaborate and consult with relevant organizations and bodies for developing guidelines for establishing transboundary protected areas and collaborative management approaches, as appropriate, for dissemination to Parties.

1.3.6 Compile and disseminate information on regional networks of protected areas and transboundary protected areas, including, as far as possible, their geographical distribution, their historical background, their role and the partners involved.

1.3.7 Review the potential for regional cooperation under the Convention on Migratory Species with a view to linking of protected area networks across international boundaries and potentially beyond national jurisdiction through the establishment of migratory corridors for key species.

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