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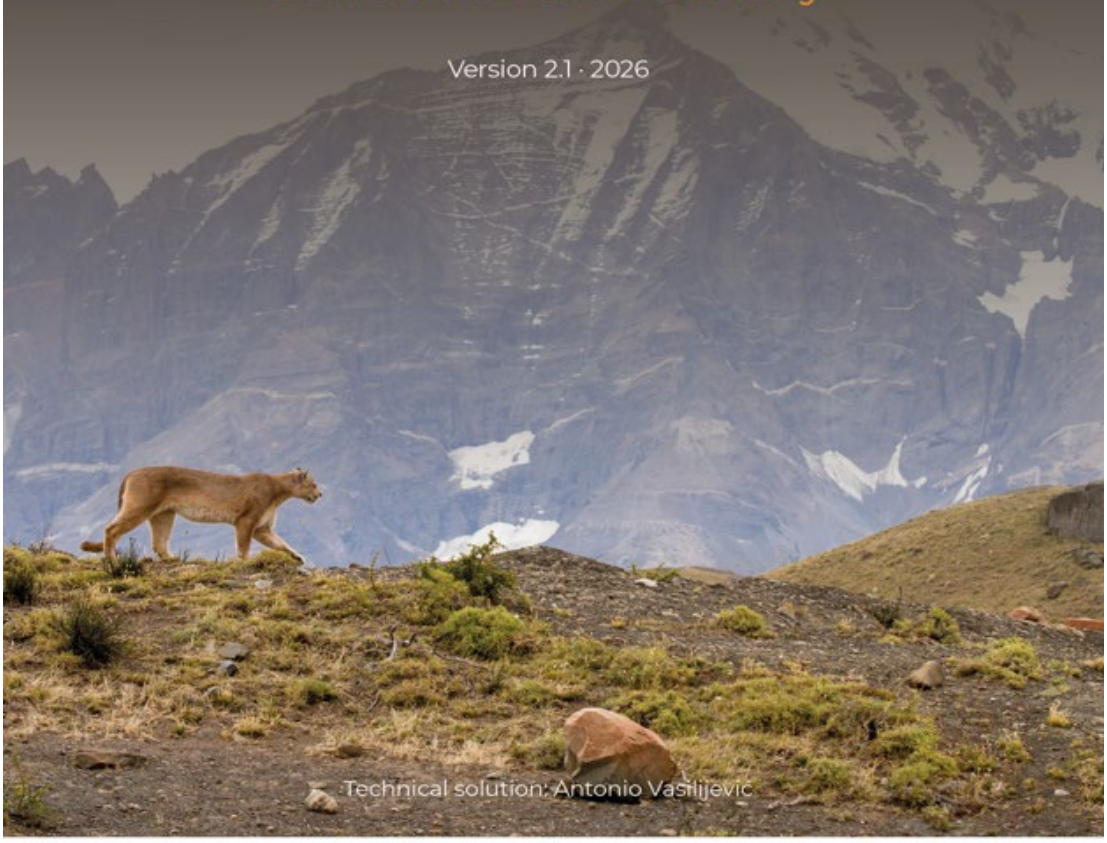
DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

for assessing transboundary conservation feasibility

Version 2.1 · 2026



Technical solution: Antonio Vasilijević

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cknowledgments

The *Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Transboundary Conservation Feasibility (Version 2.1)* builds on extensive feedback from the field gathered over years of implementation, observation, and practical experience by the authors. The authors extend their sincere appreciation to all the practitioners, including government agencies, protected and conserved area managers, civil society organizations, and community representatives, who generously shared their observations and experiences on the various components of the Diagnostic Tool. These insights were all instrumental

Special thanks are due to the peer reviewers, **Sunita Chaudhary, Olivier Chassot, and Jamie McCallum**, whose constructive feedback and careful assessment greatly improved the clarity, coherence, and rigor of the Diagnostic Tool. We also recognize the valuable contribution of **Antonio Vasilijević** for providing improved technical solutions for the Diagnostic Tool.

The authors express their sincere gratitude to **Imre Sebestyén / UNITgraphics.com** for the graphic design of the title page, his professional creativity, and close collaboration throughout the design process. Finally, the authors gratefully acknowledge **Grégoire Dubois** for generously contributing the photograph taken in Torres del Paine National Park (Chile), used on the title page.

Introduction

IUCN defines transboundary conservation as "*a process of cooperation to achieve conservation goals across one or more international boundaries*" (Vasilijević et al., 2015). Ecosystems, requiring protection, and divided by international boundaries often face differing legal and policy, governance, cultural, and socio-economic contexts, that transboundary conservation helps to overcome through collaboration. With over 200 Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCAs) worldwide, this approach has proven to deliver ecological, socio-economic, cultural, and political benefits, while contributing to global targets such as those outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

TBCAs can take three main forms: Transboundary Protected Area, Transboundary Conservation Landscape and/or Seascape, and Transboundary Migration Conservation Area, with a special designation—Park for Peace—applicable to any of these types (Vasilijević et al., 2015). All of the international area-based conservation instruments, including UNESCO World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks, as well as Ramsar sites, make provision for transboundary area designations that conform to the above three types of TBCAs.

All TBCAs are characterised by cooperation across international boundaries and shared nature conservation attributes. Other elements may differ from TBCA type to type, such as whether they include protected areas and their physical proximity, or focus on migratory species. Transboundary conservation is inherently complex, shaped by factors such as communication between partners, community engagement, political relations, and the establishment of good governance.

Developing and implementing transboundary conservation initiatives is almost always time consuming and challenging, thus careful planning ensures effectiveness and minimize risks. IUCN has offered systematic guidance for practitioners through various guidelines and tools, e.g., *Initiating Effective Transboundary Conservation* (Erg et al., 2012) and *Transboundary Conservation: A systematic and integrated approach* (Vasilijević et al., 2015). Building on these, IUCN developed a *Training module on initiating transboundary conservation* (Vasilijević et al., 2019), to further strengthen the capacity of practitioners in planning and institutionalizing transboundary process.

The **Diagnostic tool for assessing transboundary conservation feasibility (Version 2.1)** (in further text: Diagnostic Tool) complements existing guidance by offering a rapid assessment of transboundary conservation feasibility. The Diagnostic Tool is globally applicable and helps practitioners evaluate complex conditions, identify the status of cooperation, reach consensus, and design effective strategies. It is also very useful as a stakeholder engagement tool when applied with inputs from relevant stakeholders.

Historical record of the Diagnostic Tool

2012: First published as the *Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners: Suggested questions to determine feasibility for transboundary conservation* (Vasilijević, 2012) in IUCN's publication *Initiating Effective Transboundary Conservation* (Erg et al., 2012), supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The tool was partly adapted from UNEP (n.d.) *Assessing the Feasibility of Establishing Transboundary Protected Area - Gap and Opportunities Analysis* .

2012: Version 1.0 of the Diagnostic Tool as an e-edition, with technical solutions allowing automated reporting and user-friendly completion. Supported by Eco Horizon and Zunckel Ecological. Authored by Maja Vasilijević, in consultation with Boris Erg and Kevan Zunckel.

2020: Version 2.0, improved e-edition, based on feedback from practitioners and guidance provided in IUCN WCPA's *Transboundary Conservation: A systematic and integrated approach* , with support of WWF's programme Protected Areas for Nature and People II. Same authors as Version 1.0.

2026: Version 2.1, *Diagnostic tool for assessing transboundary conservation feasibility* , an improved e-edition based on extensive feedback from practitioners, developed collaboratively by IUCN WCPA, the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Zunckel Ecological, and Hawkesbury Consulting. Authored by Maja Vasilijević, Kevan Zunckel, Peter Shadie, and Boris Erg, all members of IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group.
Suggested citation: Vasilijević, M., Zunckel, K., Shadie, P., Erg, B. (2026). *Diagnostic tool for assessing transboundary conservation feasibility (Version 2.1)* ., IUCN WCPA.

Aim and objectives

The Diagnostic Tool supports decision-making leading to the formalization of transboundary conservation and the establishment of TBCAs. Its main objectives are to:

1) Systematically evaluate the feasibility of transboundary conservation by identifying shared priorities, differences, and opportunities, fostering stakeholder consensus
2) Guide effective design and implementation of transboundary conservation initiatives
3) Improve ongoing initiatives by updating the status of key issues affecting efficient functioning of the process
4) Strengthen stakeholder awareness and capacity on elements critical to establishing and managing transboundary conservation initiatives
5) Enable rapid participatory assessments at multinational or national levels through dedicated workshops
6) Provide a rapid self-assessment of feasibility for transboundary conservation.

Target audience

This Diagnostic Tool is targeted to individuals and institutions seeking to plan, design, initiate, facilitate and/or support the transboundary conservation processes, as well as to those who might be affected by them. The intended audience includes protected area management authorities, government officials, civil society organizations, policymakers, border police, community representatives, Indigenous Peoples, international organizations, scientists, and other proponents of transboundary conservation.

Structure

The Diagnostic Tool consists of the following parts: Title page, Acknowledgments, Introduction, Instructions for completion, Abbreviations, Glossary, Questionnaire—Parts A to E, Report, Feasibility status, Annex, and References. To successfully complete it, please read the instructions carefully before answering the questions in the questionnaire. The questionnaire contains carefully selected standardized questions that are not tailored to any particular geographical area and is divided into six parts:

Part A Background and context
Part B Site values and threats
Part C Economy
Part D Socio-cultural dynamics
Part E Governance and management framework

The Annex outlines common potential benefits of transboundary conservation and challenges for stakeholders. It is of informative character and can be consulted any time during completion of the questionnaire. Be aware that translations of questions and annex material may be needed to ensure the meaning of the questions is well-understood for audiences whose first language is not English. Once finalized, the assessment results are automatically captured in a concise summary report.

Practical guidance for implementation

Depending on the organizational possibilities, the questionnaire should be completed in one of the following ways:

1) Conduct a transboundary participatory workshop gathering key stakeholders from all concerned countries. During the workshop, participants jointly discuss and complete the questionnaire under the guidance of one or more experienced facilitators. Summary report is automatically generated during the process. This is the most effective approach, ensuring broad participation, resolving uncertainties, and fostering trusting relationships among stakeholders essential for successful collaboration.

2) Conduct national workshops in each concerned country, where key stakeholders complete the questionnaire under the guidance of one or more facilitators. After the workshops, facilitator(s) analyse the results and compile a single report in a transboundary context. While this approach reduces potential conflicts and complex debates, it also limits opportunities for direct cross-border interaction and the possibility for reaching consensus.

3) Complete the questionnaire as an individual self-assessment. This cost-effective approach allows a rapid evaluation without the assistance of facilitator(s) or stakeholder involvement but may be more subjective and less comprehensive as it lacks diverse perspectives.

For the first two approaches, organizers should ideally ensure participation of all stakeholders by conducting a prior stakeholder analysis. Greater participation increases the likelihood of a well-grounded conclusion on if, when, and how to proceed with a transboundary conservation initiative. It also contributes to greater buy-in and ownership of transboundary initiatives. However, a full analysis or complete stakeholder attendance is not always feasible at this stage. Workshops can proceed with as many stakeholders as possible, relying on participants' knowledge of other relevant actors, while allowing broader engagement in subsequent phases of the initiative.

Instructions to complete the questionnaire

When opening the Diagnostic Tool file for the first time, users will normally need to 'Enable Editing' and 'Enable Content' to activate the macros (both usually appear in yellow bar at the upper top of the document). The questionnaire, consisting of Parts A-E, includes a numbered Questions column, which lists all questions, and a Score column, which provides drop-down menus for selecting scores. The questions are divided into two types:

1) Quantitatively scored questions

These questions use scores (e.g., 5, 3, 1), each representing a response listed below the question. To answer, click the appropriate box in the Score column, click the arrow shown on the right side of the box, and select the appropriate option in the drop-down menu. Allocation of scores is such that the option with the highest score reflects a positive or constructive perspective towards the feasibility of the TBCA initiative, while the lowest score reflects a negative perspective; ultimately impacting the overall feasibility score.

For most quantitatively scored questions, you may add a comment specific to that question. Adding a comment is entirely optional. **Please note that comments will only be captured if a quantitative score is provided; any comments entered without a corresponding score will not be recorded in the report.**

2) Qualitatively responded questions (Informative or 'I' questions)
These questions require descriptive answers in the Questions column, in the cell below each question marked with an 'I'. Do not write responses in the Score column. **It is important to avoid repeating parts of the question while answering the 'I' questions. Please write only what is asked.** For example, question B8a) asks about threatened species. The answer to question B8b) should be, e.g., "*Brown bear, wolf*", rather than "*Threatened species are brown bear, wolf*". This ensures the automatically generated report remains concise and free of repetition.

Some questions have multiple parts and may be both quantitatively scored or informative. Please answer each part. If a question does not apply to your area, select N/A—Not applicable from the Score column. While the Diagnostic Tool is designed for global use, some questions may be more relevant in some regions than others.

When responding to qualitative questions care should be taken to provide an appropriate level of detail such that major elements are captured rather than comprehensively detailed information. Bear in mind the tool is not seeking at this stage to draw out fine scale detail in assessing transboundary cooperation feasibility and information provided needs to be indicative of the status quo.

If necessary, additional comments may be provided for each of the overall Parts A-E in the cells labelled Comments related to Part A, Comments related to Part B, and so on. Any comments entered in these cells will be duly recorded in the report. Limited number of characters is applied for these cells.

Automated assessment report

The assessment report is generated automatically as the questionnaire is completed and becomes fully available once all questions are answered. It contains seven parts, with only the last part permitting optional manual entry by the expert facilitator:

1) General background – Notes elements such as location, size, key values, and responsible authorities.
2) Compelling ecological reasons for transboundary conservation – Identifies the ecological basis and conservation goals that justify transboundary approaches.
3) Benefits and challenges beyond the ecological reasons – Highlights key socio-economic, cultural, legal, political, and management factors that may support or hinder collaboration.
4) Stakeholders – Identifies relevant stakeholders, their relationships, and interests.

5) Capacity to work across international boundaries – Evaluates stakeholders' readiness to engage, resources, and technical capacity for cooperation.
6) Comments related to Parts A-E of the questionnaire (auto-filled) – Automatically retrieved from the questionnaire.
7) Comments from the expert facilitator (optional, manual entry) – Where experts facilitate the implementation of the tool, they may add additional comments if necessary. While stakeholder comments are automatically retrieved from the questionnaire, expert facilitators may record their observations in a dedicated 'Comments' cell within the report.

It may be necessary to adjust row heights after completing the questionnaire. This can be achieved by clicking any cell in the Report sheet.

The report summarizes key aspects needed to plan or strengthen transboundary conservation initiatives, including:

1) The main strategic motivations
2) Stakeholders' interests, readiness and willingness to cooperate
3) Opportunities that may enhance the process and/or be generated by it
4) Risks that may hinder the process.

Apart from the narrative report provided in the Report tab, the Feasiblity status tab provides a visual summary of the results using a traffic-light system, making the key takeaways easier to understand at a glance.

Continued development and feedback

The Diagnostic Tool is intended to be dynamic, allowing for updates informed by comments, reviews, case studies and user feedback. Our aim is to continually improve the tool so it better supports transboundary conservation proponents in TBCA establishment processes effectively. If you have any comments or feedback after using the Diagnostic Tool, please contact the corresponding author: Maja Vasilijević at maja.vasilijevic1@gmail.com.

Abbreviations

FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Area
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and local communities
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECMs	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
TBCA	Transboundary Conservation Area
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Glossary

Compelling reason to undertake transboundary conservation: an evidence-based reason or motive that is convincing enough to undertake transboundary conservation and engage in transboundary cooperation

Conserved area: area-based measure that—regardless of recognition and dedication and at times even regardless of explicit and conscious management interventions—achieves conservation (Borrini-Feyerabend, 2015) of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values; in the Diagnostic Tool used in a broad sense that includes ICCAs, OECMs and other areas with conservation attributes

Co-operative management: in the Diagnostic Tool, the term is understood in a transboundary context to refer to actions undertaken jointly by parties from two or more countries that share common conservation interests

Cultural values: in the Diagnostic Tool, 'cultural values' is used in a broad sense to include cultural heritage attributes, traditional knowledge and practices, the physical expression of cultural values (archaeological sites, engravings, historical buildings, etc.), historical importance, community identity, spiritual connections, arts, and other cultural meanings associated with a place

Ecological corridor: a clearly defined geographical space that is governed and managed over the long term to maintain and restore effective ecological connectivity (Hilty et al., 2020) between disconnected protected and conserved areas

Ecological integrity: the wholeness and functioning of an ecosystem, reflecting its composition, structure, and processes, and its capacity to sustain associated biodiversity and ecosystem services over time

Ecosystem services: benefits people obtain from ecosystems; they can include supporting, regulating, provisioning, and cultural ecosystem services (Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, 2003)

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): identified in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a right in multiple contexts, including the right of Indigenous Peoples to grant or withhold FPIC (United Nations, 2007)

Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Area (ICCA): natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values, ecological services, and cultural values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities, through customary laws or other effective means (Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2004)

IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard: a global standard that assesses whether protected and conserved areas are achieving successful conservation outcomes through effective and equitable governance and management (IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), 2017)

IUCN WCPA types of Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCAs)* (Vasilijević et al., 2015)**:**

Type 1: Transboundary Protected Area: a clearly defined geographical space that consists of protected areas that are ecologically connected across one or more international boundaries and involves some form of cooperation

Type 2: Transboundary Conservation Landscape and/or Seascape: an ecologically connected area that sustains ecological processes and crosses one or more international boundaries, and which includes both protected areas and multiple resource use areas, and involves some form of cooperation

Type 3: Transboundary Migration Conservation Area: wildlife habitats in two or more countries that are necessary to sustain populations of migratory species and involve some form of cooperation

Special designation: Park for Peace: a special designation that may be applied to any of the three types of Transboundary Conservation Areas, and is dedicated to the promotion, celebration and/or commemoration of peace and cooperation

Migratory species: the entire population or any geographically separate part of the population of any species or lower taxon of wild animals, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries (CMS, 1979)

Nature-based Solutions (NbS): actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits (IUCN, 2016)

Natural values: biodiversity, geodiversity, ecological processes, scenic features

Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM): a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2018)

Protected area: a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (Dudley, 2008)

Site values: in the Diagnostic Tool we use the term 'site values' to refer to the broad set of values associated with the area addressed by a transboundary conservation initiative, including its natural, aesthetic, spiritual, and cultural features

Transboundary conservation: a process of cooperation to achieve conservation goals across one or more international boundaries (Vasilijević et al., 2015)

Stakeholders: people who possess direct or indirect interests in land, water and natural resources; they do not necessarily have legally or socially recognized entitlements to them but will be impacted, either positively or negatively by the establishment of a TBCA

**Alongside IUCN WCPA typology, several important international and regional designations can support transboundary conservation initiatives. International designations include transboundary and serial World Heritage Sites, transboundary Biosphere Reserves, transboundary Global Geoparks, and transboundary Ramsar Sites. Regional approaches include, for example, Natura 2000 network, the European Greenbelt, the Southern African Development Community's Transfrontier Conservation Area.*

QUESTIONNAIRE

Completed by (*please fill below*):
Date (*please fill below*):

Diagnostic tool for assessing transboundary conservation feasibility

This decision-support tool offers a systematic evaluation of the potential for successful transboundary conservation by identifying shared priorities, differences, and opportunities, while fostering consensus among stakeholders

PART A Background and context

No.	Question	Score
A1.	a) What is the name of the transboundary conservation initiative, if available?	I
	b) Which countries participate in the transboundary conservation initiative?	I
A2.	a) What is the geographical location of the Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA)*?	I
	b) What is the approximate size of the TBCA?	I
	c) Which type of TBCA would your TBCA constitute; a Transboundary Protected Area, a Transboundary Conservation Landscape and/or Seascape, or a Transboundary Migration Conservation Area? For definitions of TBCA types, please see 'IUCN WCPA types of Transboundary Conservation Areas (TBCAs)' in the Glossary section. Note that Park for Peace is a special designation that can be applied to any of the three TBCA types.	I

A3.	a) Please list any protected areas that are envisaged to form part of the TBCA.	I
	b) Please list the authorities responsible for their management, if applicable.	I
A4.	a) Please list any conserved areas, including, e.g., Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), Indigenous Peoples' and Conserved Areas (ICCAs) that are envisaged to form part of the TBCA and briefly describe them.	I
	b) Please list the authorities/stakeholders responsible for their management, if applicable.	I
A5.	What is the current level of cooperation among the managing authorities across international boundaries? 5—High; 3—Moderate; 1—Low/None	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
A6.	Are there plans to ensure active cooperation between all the relevant stakeholders in the TBCA? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
A7.	a) Please list any international designation areas overlapping with the TBCA, such as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, UNESCO Global Geopark and/or a Ramsar site.	I
	b) Could the existing international designations support transboundary cooperation, if applicable? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
A8.	Is there a shared commitment to adopting the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas Standard, if applicable? 3—Yes; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

Additional comments related to Part A *(optional; max. 3000 characters)* :	I

**We have used the term "Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA)" throughout this tool, acknowledging that in some instances a TBCA may not yet be established, while in others it may already be operational. TBCA refers to any type defined in Vasilijević et al., 2015, as explained also in the Glossary.*

PART B Site values and threats		
No.	**Question**	**Score**
B1.	What are the main natural values of the TBCA, including its biodiversity, habitats, geodiversity, and/or ecological process, as applicable? Please focus on major features rather than providing an exhaustive list of species or habitat types.	I
B2.	a) Does the TBCA contain any shared ecosystems, i.e., those that span the area across international boundaries? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, would transboundary cooperation help in protecting, restoring, maintaining and/or sustainably using these shared ecosystems? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
B3.	a) Does the TBCA share any distinctive natural phenomena (e.g., large seasonal migrations) or landscapes (e.g., wetlands, mountain range)? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please list these relevant features.	I
B4.	a) Are there cultural heritage features that are shared across international boundaries? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) Would any elements of the shared cultural heritage be useful for building a common identity in the TBCA? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	Please describe, if applicable.	I
B5.	Would the TBCA include species and/or habitat management as one of its main objectives? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

B6.	a) Do any species of conservation importance have a habitat that spans international boundaries (including migratory species that use the area as their migratory route)? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please list the key species.	I
B7.	a) Would the transboundary conservation initiative aim at securing large-scale migrations, i.e., the survival of migratory species that migrate at a continental scale? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) If yes, please list the key species.	I
B8.	a) Would transboundary cooperation help in improving the conservation status of any threatened species (according to the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species and other recognized global/regional/national species' evaluation systems)? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) If yes, please list these species.	I
B9.	To what extent would the TBCA improve ecological integrity by increasing the area under conservation, reducing fragmentation, and strengthening ecosystem connectivity across the concerned protected and conserved areas? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
B10.	a) How compatible and consistent are the management zones across the TBCA? 5—Fully compatible; 3—Partially compatible; 1—Incompatible	
	b) If incompatible, what are the inconsistencies in terms of prohibited and permitted uses within the TBCA?	I
B11.	Are the protected and conserved area buffer zones included within the area planned for transboundary cooperation? 5—Yes, fully; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

B12.	a) Is the buffer zone regime (permitted developments and land and/or sea use) consistent and harmonized across the protected and conserved areas in the TBCA? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	b) If there are aspects of incompatibility with regards to buffer zones regimes, what are the prospects for a harmonized approach? 5—Significant; 3—To some extent; 1—None	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
B13.	Please list the main land and/or sea uses surrounding the protected and conserved areas (e.g., agriculture, forestry, fishery, aquaculture, energy infrastructure, urban development, mining).	I
B14.	a) To what extent could surrounding land and/or sea uses be aligned or adapted to support transboundary conservation objectives? 5—Fully; 3—Some opportunities; 1—No opportunities	
	b) To what extent are development control and impact assessment policies and practice coherent across the TBCA? 5—Fully coherent; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
B15.	a) Are there any barriers to wildlife movement across international boundaries due to man-made boundary demarcation infrastructure (e.g., road, fence, or similar) that limit ecological connectivity? 5—No; 3—To some extent; 1—Yes, fully	
	b) Would wildlife movement across international boundaries be improved by transboundary cooperation, through, e.g., restored or existing ecological corridors? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
	a) Would transboundary cooperation generate any potential opportunities/benefits related to conservation management?	

B16.	5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please identify these opportunities/benefits (for assistance, please see the Annex and focus on ecological benefits).	I
B17.	a) Please identify internal and/or external threats (e.g., pollution, habitat degradation and loss, over-exploitation, land use change, invasive species, climate change effects) to the ecological values in the TBCA, if applicable. Consider current threats and any potential threats that could arise.	I
	b) What is the severity of the identified threats? 5—No threat at all; 3—Threat to some extent; 1—Significant threat; N/A—Not applicable	
B18.	Would transboundary cooperation help mitigate the threats to the ecological values? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
B19.	Would transboundary cooperation help in reducing the extent of illegal activities across international boundaries (e.g., poaching, illegal logging, movement of illegal immigrants, illegal trade), if such occur? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
B20.	a) Would transboundary conservation enhance the capacity of the ecosystems to deliver provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services in the TBCA, including, e.g., disaster mitigation or Nature-based Solutions (NbS)? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	b) If yes, what are the key ecosystem services that could be enhanced by transboundary approach?	I
B21.	To what extent are Disaster Risk Management policies and practices consistent across the TBCA? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

B22.	Are climate change considerations integrated into conservation planning and management of the TBCA? 5—Yes, fully; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen) :	
B23.	a) Please describe any threats to the cultural values in the TBCA, if applicable.	I
	b) What is the severity of the identified threats? 3—No threat at all; 2—Moderate; 1—Significant; N/A—Not applicable	
	c) Would transboundary cooperation help mitigate the threats to the cultural values? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
B24.	How well integrated is natural and cultural heritage management across the TBCA? 5—Fully integrated; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen) :	
Additional comments related to Part B *(optional; ; max. 3000 characters)* :		I

PART C Economy		
No.	**Question**	**Score**
C1.	To what extent would financial contributions for the transboundary conservation initiative be available from the: a) State budgets? 5—Sufficient; 3—Limited, but enough to start; 1—None	
	b) Local municipal/community budgets? 5—Sufficient; 3—Limited, but enough to start; 1—None	
	c) Private business sector budgets? 5—Sufficient; 3—Limited, but enough to start; 1—None	
	d) External donors? 5—Sufficient; 3—Limited, but enough to start; 1—None	
C2.	Are there existing or potential income streams that could be used to support the transboundary conservation initiative, e.g., eco-tourism concession fees, entry fees? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C3.	Are there potential revenue streams from ecosystem services or NbS in the TBCA, e.g., carbon credits, biodiversity credits, payment for ecosystem services, blue/green bonds, blended finance mechanisms? 5—Yes, clearly identified and feasible; 3—Potential, but needs development; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C4.	Does a policy and legal framework in the concerned countries provide for the securing of sustainable financing and the reinvestment of related income into the management of the transboundary initiative and constituent protected and conserved areas? 5—Yes, fully; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

C5.	To what extent are human resources available to support the coordination of the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Sufficient; 3—Limited, but enough to start; 1—None	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C6.	a) Is there anyone who could assist in identifying and securing sources of funding and/or technical assistance for transboundary conservation initiative, if needed? 3—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please note them.	I
C7.	How developed is the international transport and border crossing infrastructure network in the TBCA? 5—Well developed; 3—Somewhat developed; 1—Not very developed/Non-existent	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C8.	a) Is there a visa regime that regulates the movement of people between the concerned countries? 5—No; 1—Yes	
	b) If yes, please indicate the way it affects the movement of people. 3—No impediment; 2—Obstructive to some extent; 1—Significantly obstructive; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C9.	a) Are there any special provisions in place to facilitate freer movement across international borders in the TBCA (e.g., visa waivers, simplified checkpoints)? 5—Yes; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) Are there possibilities to create favourable conditions for visitor movement within the boundaries of the TBCA, taking into account security requirements and emergency response measures? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	c) If yes, please describe the opportunities for creating favourable conditions to visitor movement in the TBCA.	I

C10.	Is there a common job market in place within the TBCA/across the international boundaries? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
C11.	Are there tourism development strategies in place in the participating countries that are broadly compatible? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
C12.	Do you see potential for mutual cooperation in the joint marketing and promotion of the TBCA (e.g., joint logo, common tourist map)? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
C13.	Are there any possibilities for establishing common tourism infrastructure (e.g., visitor information centre, cross-border hiking trails)? 5—Yes, significant; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
C14.	a) Would the enhancement of transboundary tourism raise the possibility of (further) involving local people in tourism (e.g., guiding, selling local goods, providing accommodation, organizing tours, providing cultural experiences, etc.)? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please describe how local people would be more involved in tourism.	I
C15.	Do prominent cultural features have the potential to contribute to enhancing the feasibility of the area as a tourism destination? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	

C16.	Could transboundary tourism incentivize conservation-friendly land and/or sea uses outside protected and conserved areas? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C17.	To what extent could the TBCA generate direct or indirect economic benefits for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) (e.g., jobs, income, capacity building)? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C18.	Are there existing markets or networks to promote sustainable products from the TBCA (e.g., handicrafts, organic produce, sustainable forestry)? 5—Yes, well established; 3—No, but there are feasible plans for establishment; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
C19.	a) Would any local companies benefit from transboundary conservation? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, which local companies?	I
Additional comments related to Part C *(optional; max. 3000 characters)*:		I

PART D Socio-cultural dynamics		
No.	**Question**	**Score**
D1.	How would you describe the relations between IPLCs across international boundaries? 5—Friendly; 3—Neutral; 1—Conflicting	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D2.	Could any transboundary cultural or social events or practices be used to (further) strengthen social relations among IPLCs from the concerned countries? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D3.	Would transboundary cooperation help in the reunification of communities and/or families across international boundaries? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D4.	a) Would the transboundary conservation initiative generate benefits that might strengthen IPLC's commitment and support for the initiative? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please describe these benefits.	I
D5.	a) Are there any social issues (e.g., disputes on access to natural resources) that could hinder the development of transboundary cooperation? 5—No; 1—Yes	
	b) If yes, please describe briefly.	I

D6.	a) Are there any conflicts between IPLCs in the concerned countries that could be resolved or mitigated through transboundary cooperation? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) If yes, please describe briefly.	I
D7.	a) To what extent would different forms of land and/or water bodies' ownership and/or management rights cause difficulties in efficiently planning the establishment of the TBCA? 5—None; 3—To some extent; 1—Significantly	
	b) If yes, please describe these different forms of land and/or water bodies' ownership and/or management rights.	I
D8.	Are there any unresolved claims to land areas or water bodies on either side of international boundaries? 5—No; 1—Yes	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D9.	a) To what extent are IPLCs dependent on the ecosystem goods and services produced and delivered from the area of the TBCA? 5—Completely; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	b) Please list these ecosystem goods and services produced and delivered from the area of the TBCA, if applicable.	I
	c) Are there any possibilities for transboundary cooperation to enhance the production and delivery of these ecosystem goods and services? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
D10.	a) Are there any existing NbS projects (e.g., ecosystem restoration, reforestation) addressing societal challenges that will be enhanced through the establishment and management of the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please briefly describe these NbS projects.	I
	Do the threats to the ecological values, identified in Part B, negatively impact the social, economic, institutional and/or political dimensions of the TBCA?	

D11.	5—No; 3—To some extent; 1—Yes; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D12.	Are there disparities in the livelihood and welfare situation of IPLCs in the TBCA? 5—No; 3—To some extent; 1—Significant	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D13.	a) To what extent is the resilience of IPLCs dependent on local economic activity? 5—Not at all; 3—To some extent; 1—Completely	
	b) Please list the local economic activities on which IPLCs are dependent, if applicable.	I
D14.	Are Indigenous Peoples and/or ethnic minorities recognized in any of the concerned countries? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D15.	a) Are there special concessions made respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and/or ethnic minorities within the protected and conserved areas and/or their buffer zones? 3—Yes; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) If yes, please describe them.	I
D16.	a) Are there differences in the policy and approaches to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the protected and conserved areas of the TBCA? 3—No; 1—Yes; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) If yes, are there opportunities to better harmonize these approaches through transboundary cooperation? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

D17.	To what extent would the transboundary conservation initiative enhance sustainable traditional land and/or sea use practices? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
D18.	a) Do any specific processes, policies, or actions ensure that gender considerations are integrated into the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	b) If yes, please describe briefly.	I
D19.	a) How well are local women and other marginalised groups, such as Indigenous Peoples and youth, empowered and meaningfully participate in the decision-making and management of protected and conserved areas and the buffer zones? 5—Completely; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all	
	b) Please describe any differences in the concerned countries, if applicable.	I
D20.	How effective is inter-generational collaboration in conservation and management activities in the concerned area? 5—High; 3—Moderate; 1—Limited	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
Additional comments related to Part D *(optional; max. 3000 characters)*:		I

PART E Governance and management framework		
No.	**Question**	**Score**
	Political context	
E1.	How would you describe the political relations between the concerned countries? 5—Friendly; 3—Neutral; 1—Conflicting *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E2.	Is there a history of previous transboundary cooperation? 5—Yes, successful; 3—Yes, with difficulties; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E3.	Is there any positive pressure (e.g., political, public, judicial) to initiate transboundary cooperation between the concerned countries? 3—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E4.	Are there national or local political champions advocating for transboundary cooperation? 3—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E5.	Is the political climate stable enough to support long-term cooperation? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E6.	How supportive are administrative jurisdictions towards the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Very supportive; 3—Supportive to some extent; 1—Not at all	

	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E7.	Are there any political issues that might hold back the process of cooperation? 5—No; 3—Yes, minor; 1—Yes, significant	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E8.	Has there recently been any military and/or ethnic conflict or tension between the concerned countries that could hinder cooperation? 5—No; 1—Yes	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E9.	a) To what extent would transboundary cooperation mitigate any potential damages or adverse impacts of the past, current or potential military and/or ethnic conflict to nature? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) To what extent would transboundary cooperation mitigate any potential damages or adverse impacts of the past, current or potential military and/or ethnic conflict to local population? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all; N/A—Not applicable	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
	Legal and policy framework	
E10.	How similar are national legislations on nature conservation in the concerned countries? 5—Identical; 3—Similar to some extent; 1—Completely different	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E11.	Are there any gaps and/or incompatibilities in legislation that could hinder cooperation? 5—No; 3—To some extent; 1—Yes	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

E12.	Do any formal agreements, e.g., treaties, conventions, memoranda of understanding, exist to support transboundary cooperation? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E13.	Do mechanisms for coordinated planning and management to maintain or restore ecological connectivity across international boundaries exist? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E14.	Do existing policies, legal frameworks and mechanisms in the participating countries allow for coordinated implementation of NbS? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
Stakeholders and partnerships		
E15.	a) Please list the stakeholders (i.e., interested and/or affected groups) that should be involved in the transboundary conservation initiative.	I
	b) Please identify the key roles of these stakeholders.	I
E16.	To what extent do stakeholders have the capacity to contribute effectively to the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—Not at all *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E17.	Do any interests of stakeholders in the transboundary conservation initiative span across international boundaries? 5—Yes; 1—No	

	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E18.	Would the key stakeholders generally benefit from the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E19.	Would any stakeholders be in a disadvantaged position because of the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—No; 1—Yes *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E20.	Please list any international organizations involved or foreseen to be involved in the transboundary conservation initiative and describe their role.	I
Institutional and management setting and capacities		
E21.	How similar are management priorities and objectives of protected and conserved areas in the concerned countries? 5—Equal/Complementary/Significantly similar; 3—Similar to some extent; 1—Completely different *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E22.	Is the TBCA recognized in or aligned with national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) of the concerned countries or with reporting under Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E23.	What is the likelihood of implementing joint conservation planning processes to guide the setting of biodiversity conservation targets and related management strategies during the implementation of the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Significant; 3—To some extent; 1—None *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	

E24.	a) Do any stakeholders apart from the protected and conserved area management authorities participate in the management of protected and conserved areas? 5—Yes; 1—No; N/A—Not applicable	
	b) If yes, please list these stakeholders.	I
E25.	Please describe existing relationships between protected and conserved area managers across international boundaries. 5—Friendly; 3—Neutral; 1—Conflicting	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E26.	a) How do institutional, operational and technical capacities differ between partners on each side of international boundaries? 5—Equal; 3—Similar to some extent; 1—Completely different	
	b) Would these capacities be improved by mutual assistance at transboundary level? 5—Yes, significantly; 3—To some extent; 1—No	
	c) Please list those capacities that could potentially be shared between transboundary partners.	I
E27.	Is there willingness to share resources (e.g., technical knowledge, equipment) between transboundary partners? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E28.	What is the level of relevant knowledge and skills to coordinate and implement the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—High; 3—Limited, but enough to start; 1—Low	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
Knowledge management and monitoring		

E29.	a) Is external support available for increasing the capacity (e.g., technical, coordination, human resources) on transboundary conservation? Please note that this does not relate to financial support already addressed before. 5—Yes; 1—No	
	b) If yes, who could provide it?	I
E30.	Can people in the concerned countries communicate effectively in a common or mutually understood language? 5—Yes, completely; 3—Yes, well enough; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E31.	What is the extent of information (e.g., biodiversity inventories, habitat maps, databases) available for planning the TBCA? 5—Comprehensive information available; 3—Enough to start planning; 1—None	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E32.	To what extent is the state of knowledge on biodiversity and natural resources of the TBCA different in each of the concerned countries? 5—Equal/Similar; 3—Different to some extent; 1—Significantly different	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E33.	Would any common initiatives to improve the state of knowledge on biodiversity and natural resources be jointly undertaken during transboundary cooperation? 5—Yes; 1—No	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	
E34.	How compatible are information sources and data collection methods? 5—Fully compatible; 3—Compatible to some extent; 1—Significantly different	
	Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):	

E35.	Do legal provisions or mechanisms for data exchange exist between transboundary partners (e.g., nature conservation authorities, protected area administrations, local authorities, scientific institutions)? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E36.	Do transboundary partners share relevant data platforms and make use of digital tools, such as Geographic Information System (GIS) and/or remote sensing, to support collaboration? 5—Yes; 3—To some extent; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E37.	Have any common transboundary research activities already been implemented? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
E38.	Are joint biodiversity monitoring programmes planned to track the natural, social, cultural, economic, governance and/or management aspects of the transboundary conservation initiative? 5—Yes; 1—No *Comment (optional; recorded only if a score is chosen):*	
Additional comments related to Part E *(optional; max. 3000 characters)*:		I

REPORT
FEASIBILITY FOR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

Completed by:
Date:
0

(1) GENERAL BACKGROUND

Transboundary conservation initiative:

Countries:

Geographical location:

Approximate size:

Type of Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA):

Protected area(s) envisaged to form part of the potential TBCA:

Authorities responsible for management of protected area(s):

Conserved areas envisaged to form part of the TBCA:

Authorities/stakeholders responsible for management of conserved area(s):

TBCA is overlapping with the following international designations:

Natural values of the TBCA:

(2) COMPELLING ECOLOGICAL REASONS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

There is a strong need for pursuing transboundary conservation, especially as:

There are a number of opportunities that could enhance or be generated by the transboundary conservation process:

There are a number of risks that could hinder the transboundary conservation process:

(3) BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES BEYOND THE ECOLOGICAL REASONS

There are a number of opportunities that could enhance or be generated by the transboundary conservation process:

There are a number of risks that could hinder the transboundary conservation process:

(4) STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders in the transboundary conservation initiative include:
Key roles of the stakeholders in the transboundary conservation initiative:

International organizations involved or foreseen to be involved in the transboundary conservation initiative and their role:

There are a number of opportunities that could enhance or be generated by the transboundary conservation process:

There are a number of risks that could hinder the transboundary conservation process:

(5) CAPACITY TO WORK ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

Readiness and willingness of stakeholders to initiate transboundary conservation is favourable, especially concerning:

Particular attention should be given to improving the following:

There are a number of opportunities that could enhance or be generated by the transboundary conservation process:

There are a number of risks that could hinder the transboundary conservation process:

(6) COMMENTS RELATED TO PARTS A-E OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE (*AUTO-FILLED*)

Comments - Part A:

0

Comments - Part B:

0

Comments - Part C:

0

Comments - Part D:

0

Comments - Part E:

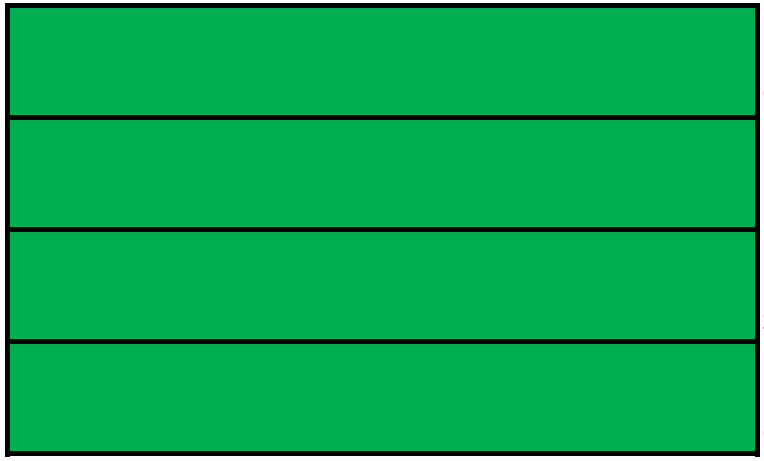
0

(7) COMMENTS FROM THE EXPERT FACILITATOR *(OPTIONAL, MANUAL ENTRY)*

FEASIBILITY STATUS: VISUAL SUMMARY

OVERALL FEASIBILITY FOR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION SCORE

Score with breakdown by Report items (2)-(5)



COMPELLING ECOLOGICAL REASONS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES BEYOND THE ECOLOGICAL REASONS

STAKEHOLDERS

CAPACITY TO WORK ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

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Annex: Benefits and challenges of transboundary conservation

Source: Vasilijević et al. (2015), adapted from the original Diagnostic tool for transboundary conservation planners: suggested questions to determine feasibility for transboundary conservation (Vasilijević, 2012)

Areas of cooperation	Examples of potential benefits	Actions required to realize the benefits	Potential challenges
Legal and policy frameworks	• Achievement of the targets as set out by international conservation conventions and agreements	• Collective review of existing legal and policy instruments	• Limited resources with legal and policy capacity
	• Achievement of conservation aims and objectives common to participating countries	• Identification of commonalities and the development of instruments for cooperation to capitalize on these	• Long protracted processes associated with amendments of legal and policy instruments
	• Enhanced understanding of the legal and policy environment to support implementation	• Identification of conflicting laws and policies and the establishment of processes to bring about relevant amendments	• Different interpretations of and institutional responses to legal and policy implementation requirements
	• Increased potential for ecosystem-based management approach to be accommodated	• Ensure that the delineation of the area is as ecologically inclusive as possible	• Limitations and disparities in ecosystem and species management capacities, as well as in the capacities required to implement systematic
	• Enhanced ecosystem functionality through the improved ability to accommodate ecosystem processes and reduce the requirements for the simulation of these through management actions	• Cooperatively apply systematic conservation planning processes to guide the setting of biodiversity conservation targets and related management strategies	• External social, economic and/or political dynamics, both immediately adjacent to and far removed from the area, which add layers of complexity which can frustrate natural science approaches, unless they are fully understood and integrated into
	• Increased resilience to external threats such as invasive alien species, pollution, animal diseases, etc.	• Review and align ecosystem and species management plans	• External biological dynamics, such as persistent invasive species infestations which compromise ecological integrity, processes and functionality

Ecosystem management and climate change responses	• Enhanced capacity for the survival of threatened and migratory species, more of whose range will be protected • The ability to reintroduce species that may require access to larger areas, such as top predators • Decreased pressures associated with animal population management • Increased capacity to accommodate the consequences of climate change impacts and to allow for ecological adaptation, and habitat and species movements/migrations	• Identify areas that are particularly important for climate change resilience and adaptation • Assess climate change projections and related implications to habitats and species and ensure that these are accommodated in ecosystem and species management strategies and plans • Derive and implement appropriate monitoring and evaluation protocols to track management effectiveness towards the achievement of ecosystem and species management objectives and targets	
Socio-economics	• Enhanced ecosystem functionality increases the capacity to produce and deliver a full suite of ecosystem goods and services that contribute to social well-being and economic resilience within, adjacent to and beyond the boundaries of the Transboundary • Thresholds of sustainable utilization may increase or become more robust as ecosystem functionality and species population dynamics improve	• A full natural capital assessment will reveal the capacity of the area to produce and deliver ecosystem goods and services, as well as the linkages to the beneficiaries • An assessment of the extent to which ecosystem processes have been enhanced and may allow for increased levels of sustainable utilization, i.e., both consumptive and non-consumptive	• Capacity to undertake natural capital assessments is limited and needs to be built • Unrealistic expectations are easily created and all stakeholder engagement processes need to be handled very carefully to guard against this

	• Enhanced movement of people across international boundaries opens up and/or increases trading opportunities	• Stakeholder engagement to ensure meaningful linkages with beneficiaries	• The ability to ensure that benefits are equitably distributed to beneficiaries can be challenging, particularly where the necessary structures and processes are either not in place or are questionable
	• The opening of borders or the relaxing of border control processes allows for increased tourism opportunities	• Engagement with the private sector and relevant agencies of state to ensure that tourism planning and developments are within market needs and broader development strategies	• Conflicting socio-economic demands such as the exploitation of non-renewable resources can be difficult to compete with as traditional perspectives of economic
Cultural linkages	• The reinstatement of both past and living cultural linkages: • may enhance the social acceptance of a transboundary conservation initiative • may enhance social linkages with nature through the cultural significance of natural features	• Undertake an assessment of all cultural features both within and adjacent to the area	• Cultural heritage management capacity is usually lacking within conservation agencies and therefore needs to be built or brought in
	• Work towards reducing socio-political tension through improved social cohesion	• Engage with relevant stakeholders to increase the depth of an assessment as well as ensure their contributions and buy-in to its findings	• Varying degrees of sacredness are attached to cultural heritage features, and sometimes by different groups, which need to be carefully considered in all management decisions
	• Allow for prominent cultural features to contribute to enhancing the feasibility of the area as a tourism destination	• Develop a cultural heritage management plan that ensures that the features are preserved and the social linkages are well managed	• The integration of cultural heritage into a management plan adds a layer of complexity

	• Enhanced ability to develop and promote a regional identity	• Where relevant integrate the cultural heritage management into the management of related ecological and biodiversity features	• Living heritage aspects may conflict with contemporary management practices and perceptions, such as consumptive use of natural resources by a hunter-gatherer culture in an area where this is not permitted
Regional integration	• The promotion and maintenance of peace and harmony	• Ensure all relevant stakeholders are included in all consultation and negotiation processes, particularly other organs of state that have a role to play in transboundary cooperation, e.g., customs and excise,	• Language differences/barriers
	• The establishment of synergies between growth and development strategies, to the extent that transboundary conservation supports such efforts	• Establish and maintain a communication strategy that ensures all relevant stakeholders are kept updated with progress and developments related to the transboundary conservation	• Cultural, historical and political differences
	• The creation of a common brand/identity/logo to enhance the marketing of and trade in related goods and services, such as tourism	• Ensure that all related organs of state secure mandates and resources to support their involvement in the initiative	• Development disparities, particularly as this relates to the access to resources and capacity for implementation
	• Improved viability to attract funding either through direct investments or	• Establish and maintain joint management structure(s)	• Political tensions
	• The development of joint conservation management plans for both the natural and cultural heritage		• A lack of leadership at appropriate levels of governance
	• Synergized interpretation of responsibilities to and the implementation of international conventions		• The complexities of sharing governance responsibilities and/or appointing an objective non-partisan representative to coordinate implementation
			• Significant differences in terms of land uses and plans for adjacent areas

	• Management efficiency may be enhanced through the pooling of resources, i.e., financial, human and equipment	• The joint management planning process must be used to specifically identify the management aspects that will be enhanced through transboundary	• Topographical limitations such as inaccessible terrain and/or remoteness
	• Improved communication linkages may enable more rapid responses to the management of crisis such as vegetation fires, pollution threats, poaching and poaching	• Protocols and processes must be put in place to allow for the pooling/sharing of resources	• Separate/independent communication networks
	• Improved communication and surveillance may allow for more pro-active responses to potential threats which exploit the transboundary situation	• Communication strategies must be derived to capitalize on the transboundary cooperation opportunities	• Language differences
Day-to-day management and law enforcement	• Shared capacity for managing visitor access and activities	• Responsibilities for transboundary cooperation must be delegated as far down as possible to mandate and empower field staff to be able to work together across international borders with the minimum of bureaucratic requirements	• Conflicting resource management policies such as adjacent areas that may or may not allow trophy hunting
	• Joint patrols may contribute to enhanced law enforcement and search and rescue efforts		• Disparate resource availability
	• Joint management actions can lead to improved staff morale and enhanced appreciation for the various differences that exist between the field staff of the participating countries		
	• Increased capacity to procure and deploy expensive equipment such as aircraft		

Research	• Improved access to expertise and enhanced ability to implement applied research and find solutions to common challenges	• Scientific staff to participate actively in the joint management planning processes to provide support and to ensure scientific credibility is provided to the process	• Language differences
	• Ensure that research methods are standardised to ensure comparable results	• The joint management plan must be carefully interrogated to extract all joint research/scientific responsibilities for implementation	• Disparate access to resources and expertise
	• Shared access to expensive research equipment, resource centres, herbariums, etc.	• Shared resource allocations must form an integral part of the above	• The remoteness of Transboundary Conservation Areas may make tertiary institutions and related resource centres difficult to access
	• Joint design and implementation of long-term research projects	• Research staff can take responsibility for deriving and implementing the monitoring and evaluation framework from the joint management plan, as well as determining and facilitating the most appropriate management effectiveness tracking tool to be applied to the	• It is a challenge for many ecologists and biologists to work in an integrated way and it is essential that the need for the integration of social, economic and political aspects is recognized and understood
	• Improved ability to 'package' research to secure financial support		• Ecological processes and species population dynamics require long-term research programmes while management requires answers and
	• Enhanced research efficiency through the avoidance of duplicated effort		• Socio-economic dynamics and/or needs can take precedence over and compromise natural resource research projects
	• Skills/capacity development through the utilization of existing expertise or the joint procurement of training opportunities	• Establish strategies for joint staff training, staff exchange and secondment programmes	• This aspect could be perceived as a luxury item and be lost to other more pressing issues
	• Broadening of perspectives that may have become narrowed through isolation or exposure to one national way of thinking and doing	• Establish protocols for the gathering, storage and sharing of data and information	• Strong visionary leadership is required to ensure that knowledge sharing and skills transfers do take place

Knowledge sharing and skills transfer	• Improved knowledge of all aspects associated with the management of the transboundary area • Improved understanding between the partners • Transboundary agreements may allow for staff exchange programmes	• Establishing a common Geographic Information System database for the entire transboundary area • Ensure that joint management meetings are extended into events specifically aimed at drawing in as much of the staff as possible through focus groups and mini-seminars aimed at addressing pressing issues	• Language differences may impede the flow of knowledge and rate of skills transfer • Resource disparities may cause a perception to develop that the more advanced partners are imposing themselves, their knowledge and skills on those that are less resourced and developed