

PEACE AND BIODIVERSITY DIALOGUE INITIATIVE

“In a world beset by conflict and division, peace is one of the cornerstones of the future. Peace parks are a building block in this process, not only in our region, but potentially in the entire world.”

Nelson Mandela



Peace and Biodiversity
Dialogue Initiative



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Background

The Republic of Korea, as President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention Biological Diversity, launched the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative (PBDI) in 2015.

A funding agreement for the PBDI was signed by the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Seong-kyu Yoon and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, Mr. Braulio de Ferreira de Souza Dias.

This initiative promotes transboundary cooperation in protected areas globally.

Through the PBDI, Parties to the CBD can share knowledge and best practices in transboundary cooperation. They may also wish to strengthen existing cooperation mechanisms or develop new ones with the facilitation of the SCBD and many partners with expertise in this regard. The PBDI is being developed to play a catalytic role, promote transboundary cooperation and Peace Parks further.

Peace Parks are transboundary protected areas (TBPAs) that are formally dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources,

and to the promotion of peace and co-operation. TBPAs, transboundary conservation landscapes, and peace parks refer to relatively large areas of land (and other natural systems), crossing international borders between two or more countries.

These protected areas may include some different land uses within their boundaries. The three primary goals of transboundary protected areas are usually the conservation of biodiversity, socio-economic development and the promotion of a culture of peace and cooperation.

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Peace Parks



“Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.”

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1993

The identification and designation of Peace Parks by cooperating jurisdictions should include only those areas where the agreed management objectives explicitly recognize both a protected area and a no conflict zone.

Specific objectives of Peace Parks may include the following aspects:

Supporting long-term cooperative conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and natural and cultural values across boundaries;

Promoting landscape-level

ecosystem management through integrated bio-regional land-use planning and management;

Building trust, understanding, reconciliation and co-operation between and among countries, communities, agencies, and stakeholders;

Preventing and/or resolving tension, including over access to natural resources;

Promoting the resolution of armed conflict and/or reconciliation following armed conflict;

Sharing biodiversity and cultural resource management skills and experience, including cooperative research and information management;

Promoting more efficient and effective co-operative management programmes;

Promoting access to, and equitable and sustainable use of natural resources, consistent with national sovereignty; and

Enhancing the benefits of conservation and promoting benefit-sharing across boundaries.

The Objectives of PBDI are to:

Showcase the value of Peace Parks and their conservation benefits of biodiversity, especially how conservation also helps alleviating conflict;

Update information on transboundary conservation complexes in the world including in areas that could be established as Peace Parks;

Catalyze the creation of new Peace Parks and strengthen existing ones in a number of regions, giving priority to areas declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites;

Organize small workshops with three or four countries to explore opportunities of furthering their transboundary collaboration, and possibilities, including through partners, to step up political hype;

Disseminate Best Practice Guidelines, Code of Conduct on Trans Frontiers Conservation Complexes to facilitate their wider acceptance and application; and

Facilitate the exchange of data and information, provide outside expertise, capacity

building as well as technical assistance for planning and implementing the Peace Park concept.



Peace Parks Worldwide

There are many examples of Peace Parks. The first transboundary protected area was established by the Swedish and the Norwegian Peace Movements in 1914, to celebrate 100 years of peace between Sweden and Norway. In 1959 the area was named Morokulien.

As early as 1932, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was designated to commemorate the long history of peace and friendship between Canada and the United States and to emphasize both natural and cultural links.

The Red Sea Marine Peace Park was created as part of the 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, which specifies joint protection of the coral reefs that border both countries. In 1998, Peru and Ecuador

established the Cordillera del Condor Peace Transborder Reserve.

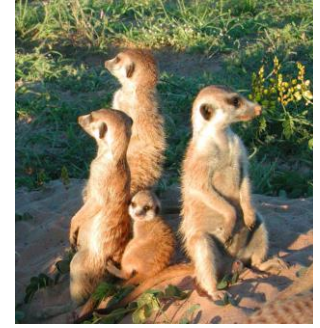
Because the first Peace Parks were so successful, environmentalists and peace experts are proposing more such parks across the globe. Transboundary Peace Parks aim to foster cooperation and peace between countries and to conserve ecosystems which do not recognize national borders. The number of TBPA's, which is more than 169 today, has doubled since 1990.

There are at least 144 Peace Parks around the world. There are classified as tiny, medium-sized and large. Some examples of the large parks: Parque Internacional de La Amistad, Costa Rica/Panama, Big Bend/Maderas del Carmen, US/Mexico, Khunjerab, China/Pakistan,

Balkans PP, and Albania/Kosovo/Montenegro.

Even the most avid supporters of Peace Parks admit that they aren't the solution to all the world's troubles. But they could be a small piece of the bigger solution. Peace Parks are more than expressions of goodwill between nations -- they are actively being used as a tool to resolve conflict and ensure conservation because they require the countries involved to agree to set aside and jointly manage the new reserve.

In the last ten years, about a dozen Peace Parks have been established expressly to resolve conflict, enabling the previously warring nations to cooperate in managing the area jointly.



"There is no time left for anything but to make peacework a dimension of our every waking activity."

Elise Boulding

Modus Operandi

Make use of the ongoing regional workshops on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 to showcase the value and benefits of transboundary conservation and its contribution as potential for promoting peace amid conflict and collect information on ongoing initiatives.

Identify small country groups to promote dialogue through small workshops and further scoping meetings involving partners. Facilitate and support further dialogue.

Target and include the conflicting countries to participate in the dialogue in a neutral country location.





“The effects from damage done to the environment and natural resources during times of war...continue far beyond the period of conflict itself. Such effects are passed on to future generations and may extend beyond the borders of the country impacted.”
UN Environment

Activities to be Undertaken in the PBDI

Compile publicly available information on TBPAs;

Identify among them conflict country TBPAs;

Document the values of biodiversity conservation on improving ecosystem services, including in those of TBPAs and how they benefit neighboring countries;

Showcase the value of conservation to improve peace through some case

studies (from the published information);

Include a session on forthcoming regional workshops (Africa and Central and Eastern Europe) on PBDI and collect information from countries on such ongoing initiatives;

Compile best practice guidelines, case studies and disseminate them;

Foster partnerships and

collaboration with ongoing initiatives;

Identify next steps for organizing small workshops for furthering dialogue among select countries;

Invite countries where there is ongoing conflict to these small workshops to facilitate interaction in a neutral country location; and

Develop next steps based on the positive outcomes from the small workshops.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of five years PBDI, the following would be enable.

Updated information on TBPAs in the world, including how many of them fall under the category of conflict between neighboring countries.

Publicity material including brochures, case studies, and best practices that showcase the value of conservation of biodiversity in TBPAs for wider benefits of augmenting ecosystem services, including

making a case for promoting peace through biodiversity conservation.

Bringing relevant partners in sub-regions to promote dialogue among the countries to further promoting PBDI and exploring opportunities for establishing Peace Parks.

The possibility of establishing or in the process of establishing one Peace Park in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean countries

(GRULAC) and Central and Eastern European regions.

The emergence of the Republic of Korea as a leader to promote Peace Parks in the world.

Partnerships

The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972. To date, 191 States are Parties to the Convention. Articles 6 (paragraph 1) and 7 enjoin the Parties for promoting international cooperation.

The Convention has been used to influence and resolve country and site specific, and transboundary specific conflicts to achieve conservation in conflict zones including peace. Notable examples are Plitvice Lakes

National Park between Croatia and Yugoslavia; Manas Wildlife Sanctuary between Bhutan and India; Virunga National Park in Congo's.

The Peace Parks Foundation is dedicated to creating transnational parks in Southern Africa.

In recent years, due to increasing interest in this concept, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Peace Parks Foundation, and WWF-

International are playing a leading role in promoting and implementing TBPAs and Peace Parks.

However, there is so much to be done on the interpretation, promotion, and application of this concept that it would be difficult for institutions working in isolation to succeed. The PBDI is being developed to play such a catalytic role and promote Peace Parks further.