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Transboundary Protected Areas Cooperation in the East Carpathian and Carpathian Biosphere Reserves



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transboundary co-operation for the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity has a long history in the Carpathian region of Eastern and Central Europe. Transboundary protected areas (TBPA) cooperation in the northeastern Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine has a mixed record of modest improvements in cooperation as well as missed opportunities. This document presents research and recommendations intended to facilitate more effective TBPA cooperation in this region. The report was commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund's Danube Carpathian Program Office (WWF-DCPO), under its program entitled "Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Ukrainian Carpathians." This program promotes TBPA cooperation on two existing UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme reserves in Transcarpathia: the Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (ECBR) and the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR).

The recommendations presented in this report are based on synthesis and analysis of information gathered over a six-month period beginning in mid-January, 2008. In addition to literature review, we analyzed data collected through interviews with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, site visits, and seminar-workshops held in 2008 at the ECBR and CBR. Research for this study was based primarily on a qualitative methodology, but these preliminary data also set the stage for a larger follow-up study employing more rigorous assessment methods.

Although parts of the CBR border Romania, there has been relatively little official transboundary cooperation since Ukrainian independence due to the historical precedents of isolationism, a long period of economic transition, and resistance to change within the CBR administration. Based on the available data, it is difficult to ascertain if the CBR has been functioning according to the MaB Programme Seville criteria or is prepared for bilateral cooperation. Lack of proper zoning, inadequate geographic information systems capability, and unreliable field data render large scale and transboundary planning difficult. A Soviet-style management plan for the CBR was completed after independence with little or no community input and establishes strictly designated protection areas that have not been fully implemented.

An area of transboundary cooperation with which the CBR has been involved is the designation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site for the largest remaining contiguous stand of primeval (old-growth) European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), located within core protected areas of the CBR. In order to meet the size threshold for inclusion in the World Heritage Programme, the CBR worked with Ukrainian and Slovak partners to incorporate old-growth forests in the Uzhansky National Nature Park (UNNP) in western Transcarpathia and in adjoining mountain areas in Slovakia. According to the CBR administration there has been longstanding and ongoing cooperation with Romania, particularly since the creation of the recently formed (2006) Maramures Mountains Nature Park (MMNP). The CBR administration limits access to the reserve's institutional history of transboundary cooperation. Past proceedings and activities are not transparent or well documented. Discussion is in place for the CBR and MMNP to work together to create a new bilateral Maramures Biosphere Reserve.

Transfrontier cooperation was inherent in the design and creation of the ECBR, the first tri-lateral biosphere reserve in the world. In May 1990, a proposal to establish a trilateral biosphere reserve in the eastern Carpathians on the border of Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine was presented at UNESCO's MaB Programme meeting in Kiev, Ukraine. It was not until December 1998, that the MaB Programme designated the ECBR. As of 2008, the governments of Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine have not signed an official letter of agreement on the ECBR. There is no management plan for the UNNP or neighboring protected areas and no joint management plan for the ECBR as an integral, multi-national unit.

On the ground, ECBR appears to exist largely in name only and has had little impact on actual cooperation across borders. There is neither a shared management plan nor coordination of activities in research, protection, management, or recreation. Coordination of management across three international boundaries has been challenging, as evidenced by inconsistent biosphere reserve zoning schemes in each of the three countries. Research and management activities are set up exclusively on a national level. The other component of the ECBR in Ukraine, the Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park (NRLP), is apparently only a park on paper. In actuality it is administered as a forest district by the State Committee of Forests of Ukraine (SFCU) in the Transcarpathian region. The creation of the Foundation for the Eastern Carpathian Biodiversity Conservation (ECBC) in 1994 as a framework for non-governmental cooperation was an early milestone in transboundary reserve (TBR) cooperation in Europe. As initially conceived, the ECBC Foundation was intended to be an effective mechanism for promoting cooperation, communication and, to a lesser degree, fund development and grants administration. In practice, the ECBC does not have good tri-lateral representation and is now less effective at making changes than fostering dialogue and understanding. Current problems with the Foundation are threatening the viability of collaborative transboundary cooperation.

A meeting entitled “Strategic Planning for Protection of the International Man and Biosphere Reserve Eastern Carpathians 1996-2100” was held in June, 1996 in Snina, Slovakia. The resulting document, however, was not a strategic plan but rather an extensive list of goals and objectives. We distributed a self-evaluation form to participants attending the 2008 ECBR and CBR workshops. The survey was organized around objectives adopted from the IUCN document entitled “*Basic Standards for Transfrontier Cooperation Between European Protected Areas.*” Survey results suggest that 90% of the indicators for the basic standards in TBPA cooperation are not being met.

Conservation of biodiversity is sometimes perceived as leading to unproductive land use where constraints are imposed on extractive natural resources use or development. However, recognizing the economic and cultural values provided by ecosystem services at both local and landscape scales, such as flood control, carbon storage, and regulation of climate, can help generate broader support for transboundary protected areas cooperation. There are emerging opportunities to link ecosystem services to sustainable community development in the Carpathians. Managing for ecosystem services and biodiversity across borders will prove challenging, due to the fact that neighboring countries might differ in regulatory mechanisms, institutional capacity, and political will and might lack incentives for cooperation, or hold different environmental perceptions. Yet coordinated protected areas management for biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by landscapes and watersheds that transcend geopolitical borders can be a central mechanism for conservation and general transboundary cooperation.

In practice, transboundary cooperation in Ukrainian protected areas is informal, fragmentary, and largely unplanned. There are few examples of systematic, multi or bi-lateral attempts to work together. Most park personnel are well informed and have the capability to foster the protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage. However, disinformation and misunderstandings (e.g. lack of protection for radio collared wolves) persist both within and among the respective agencies and protected areas in different countries. Cultural differences remain a barrier (e.g. differing attitudes towards predators). Nonetheless, Ukrainian protected areas staff consistently show a commitment to conservation, landscape protection, maintenance of traditional ways of life, land-use forms, non-intensive agriculture, and limited industrial influence.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Improving Transboundary Cooperation in the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

Рекомендації щодо оптимізації транскордонної співпраці між заповідними територіями Міжнародного біосферного заповідника «Східні Карпати»

Основні рекомендації	Key Recommendations
	Follow the resolutions and priorities set forth at the May 12, 2008 meeting on TBPA Cooperation in the ECBR meeting at the UNNP in Velykyj Bereznyj.
Підписати Міжурядову Угоду про співпрацю країн в управлінні МБЗ «Східні Карпати»	Restart the process of formalizing a trilateral agreement to be signed by the countries Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland. The treaty would formally recognize and provide joint management of the ECBR MaB. This needs to be jointly coordinated at the ministerial level in all three countries and should be initiated at subsequent meetings.
Відновити склад та роботу Міжнародної координаційної ради, яка б здійснювала координацію спільних заходів (транскордонної співпраці)	Revitalize the ECBC Foundation or create a new organization to coordinate transboundary cooperation. A final analysis of the status of ECBC will include interviews with current managers, WWF board members, and Swiss parties.
Розробити спільний менеджмент-план розвитку МБЗ «Східні Карпати»	Initiate the process of creating a joint landscape level management plan for the ECBR. Creating the plan will take considerable coordination and community input for a three-five year period.
Розробити стратегію залучення коштів на розвиток МБЗ «Східні Карпати»	Create a strategic plan for fund development, including public and private financial support through grants, gifts, loans, and fundraising.
Сприяти вирішенню питання організації службового перетину кордону або спрощеної процедури перетину кордону для працівників УжНПП	Promote the further development of border crossings in ECBR for transboundary hiking and biking trails as well as scientific research at UNNP.
	Revisit the status of the NRLP in terms of its functionality as a protected area and integrate zonation and monitoring in cooperation with UNNP as a component of the ECBR.
	Provide sufficient interim funding to support the first steps made in 2008 for transboundary protected area cooperation. Maintain communication for the interim working group on transboundary cooperation in the ECBR.
	Set up protection measures for the southern face of the Transcarpathian Mountains -- <i>the Vyhorlat-Hutytsky Range (Volkanychnyj)</i> Range, which has relict populations of unique, poorly protected botanical species.

Improving Transboundary Cooperation in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

Рекомендації щодо оптимізації транскордонної співпраці між заповідними територіями Міжнародного біосферного заповідника «КБЗ»

Основні рекомендації	Key Recommendations
	<p>Follow the resolutions and priorities set forth at the May 16, 2008 TBPA meeting at the CBR in Rakhiv. This includes the creation of a position at CBR for a Coordinator of Transboundary Protected Area Cooperation. This position will have support to work freely with transboundary counterparts and will report directly to the Director of the CBR.</p>
Створити Міжнародну координаційну раду, яка б здійснювала координацію спільних заходів (транскордонної співпраці)	<p>Create an international transboundary coordinating council that will coordinate joint activities. This can be an interim group until the final analysis of the role of ECBC.</p> <p>Promote bilateral field visits to MMNP and CBR for UA and RO counterparts.</p> <p>Identify priority ecosystem services for which to develop shared management goals or programs and compare regulatory and policy mechanisms that are currently in place to protect priority ecosystem services in the neighboring park areas.</p> <p>Promote knowledge across neighboring protected areas on priority ecosystem services and identify beneficiaries of priority ecosystem services across neighboring parks. Establish the potential for payments for ecosystem services. Payment schemes for certain ecosystem services can benefit from providing the service over a larger area and in a coordinated way, such as in the case of carbon sequestration.</p>
Розробити спільний менеджмент-план розвитку МБЗ «Східні Карпати»	<p>Create a joint management plan for the sustainable development of the CBC and MMNP.</p> <p>Allocate funding and nominate candidates for international training in <i>PA and TBPA management</i>.</p>
Розробити стратегію залучення коштів на розвиток транскордонної співпраці	<p>Create a strategic plan for the financial needs for development of transboundary cooperation.</p>
Сприяти вирішенню питання організації службового перетину кордону або спрощеної процедури перетину кордону для працівників КБЗ <i>Наступні кроки по КБЗ</i>	<p>Promote discussion of a transboundary crossing at the Romanian-Ukrainian border of the CBR for forestry, tourism, and scientific research activities.</p>

Основні рекомендації	Key Recommendations (Continued)
Розпочати процес стратегічного планування транскордонної співпраці на обох територіях	Begin the process of strategic planning at both biosphere reserves.
<p>Створити спільні робочі групи:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. З питань спільного дотримання законодавства України та Румунії 2. З питань спільних пошуково-рятувальних заходів та взаємопоінформування 3. Туризму та рекреації 4. Просвіти та реклами 5. Науки 6. Культурної спадщини 7. Інституційної спроможності персоналу та команди в цілому 	<p>Create thematic working groups for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laws and regulations 2. Search and rescue 3. Trail development and maintenance 4. Tourism and recreation 5. Public outreach and promotion 6. Research and science 7. Protection of traditional lifestyles and cultural resources 8. Institutional development and participation for biosphere staff
Розробити спільні заходи, як результат роботи робочих груп, за тими пріоритетами, які були визначені на семінарі 16 травня 2008.	Based on the results of the prioritization, develop a workplan for implementing the priorities identified at the workshop on May 16th, 2008
Розпочати реалізацію цих заходів	Begin implementation of the process

FULL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Transfrontier cooperation for the purpose of natural resources conservation and biodiversity protection has a long history in the Carpathian region of Central and Eastern Europe. Transboundary cooperation can be traced to 1924, when conservationists proposed a bilateral Nature Park in the Pieniny Mountains between Poland and Czechoslovakia. The park was ultimately created in 1932, thereby establishing the first European transboundary protected area. In 1966, Slovak scientists proposed the first trilateral transboundary protected area *at Kremenets*, located between Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine within what is now the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (ECBR). This idea was expanded upon in 1974 with the joint proposal of establishing a trilateral transboundary park in Beszczady.

The history of transboundary protected areas cooperation in the Ukrainian Eastern Carpathian Mountains has a mixed record of success (Fall 1999). Throughout the 20th century, cooperation between neighbors has been challenging. More often there have been research or international cooperation activities conducted by non-Carpathian countries, such as Switzerland, Sweden, and the Netherlands (e.g. in Transcarpathia), rather than transboundary cooperation among adjoining countries within the region.

The World Wildlife Fund's Danube Carpathian Programme Office (WWF-DCPO) focuses on the "protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the Ukrainian Carpathians." This project component stresses transboundary cooperation between existing UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme reserves in the Eastern Carpathians of Ukraine. Our report evaluates past effectiveness and presents recommendations intended to improve the effectiveness of transboundary protected areas management in this region.

BACKGROUND

Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (CBR). Although parts of the CBR border Romania (Fig. 1), there has been relatively little official transboundary cooperation since the reserve's establishment after Ukrainian independence. This reflects historical precedents of isolationism, a long period of economic transition, and the current status quo at the CBR administration (Table 1).

Table 1. Description of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

Date of creation:	1968
Status as a MaB Reserve:	1993
Area:	53630 ha
Composition:	Eight (8) units or “massifs” on the
Location:	the southern macroslope of the main watershed of the Eastern Carpathian Mountains of Transcarpathia, Ukraine
Zonation:	
Core zone	21330 ha
Buffer zone	15800 ha
Zone of Anthropogenic Landscape	15200 ha
Regulated Protected Zone	1300 ha
European diploma:	1996, 2002, 2007

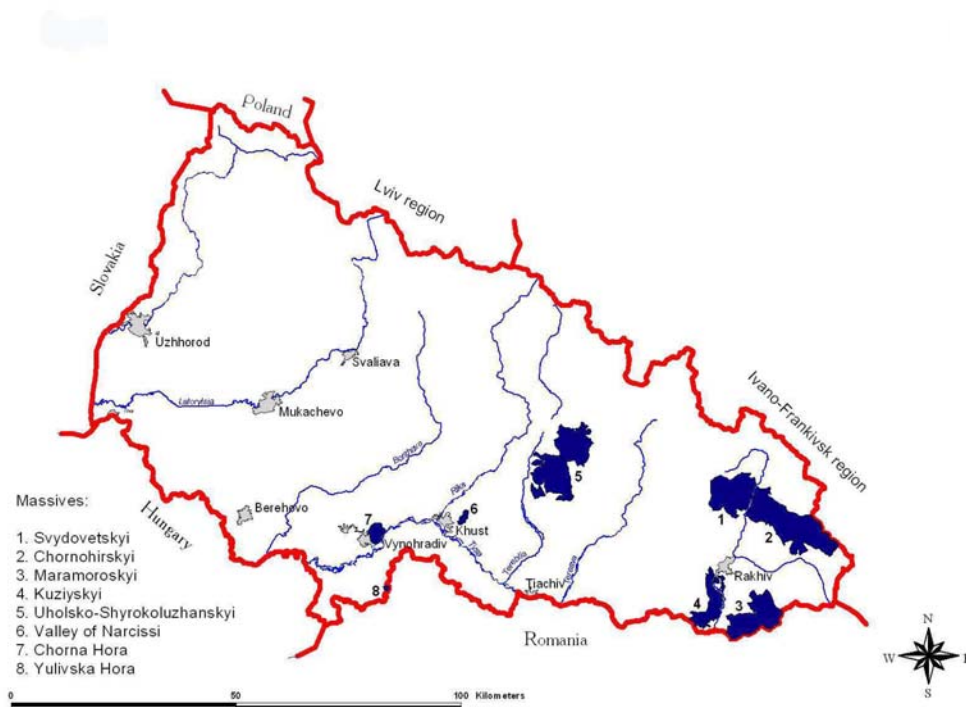


Figure 1. Distribution of protected area units in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (ECBR). Protection of biodiversity on a landscape level, irrespective of borders was a primary objective underlying the initial design and creation of ECBR, the first tri-lateral biosphere reserve in the world (Fig. 2). In May 1990, a proposal to establish a trilateral biosphere reserve in the Eastern Carpathians on the border of Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine was presented at UNESCO's MaB Programme meeting in Kiev, Ukraine.



Figure 2. Map of the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. Source: UNESCO

It was not until December 1998 that the UNESCO MaB Programme, based in Paris, officially designated the ECBR. As of 2008, the governments of Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine have not signed an official letter of agreement on the ECBR. However, there are existing bilateral agreements among the individual protected areas. These include agreements between the Uzhansky National Nature Park (UNNP) in Ukraine and the Bieszczady NP (BNP) in Poland; the UNNP and National Park "Polonyny" (NPP) in Slovakia; and the NPP and BNP.

Another constraint is that there currently is no management plan for the UNNP or the Nadsyanky Regional Landscape Park, which comprises the other protected area on the Ukrainian side of the ECBR. The Polish and Slovak sides have updated management plans for their individual parks and protected areas but there is no joint management plan for the ECBR as an integral unit.

Table 2. Area (in hectares) of management units within the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve.

	Poland	Slovakia	Ukraine	Totals
Core Areas	18425	2643	3602	24130
Buffer Zones	10776	14373	8161	33310
Transition Zones	155771	23672	47364	155771
Totals	184967	40688	59127	213211

METHODOLOGY

This report presents an evaluation of transboundary effectiveness and opportunities based on the synthesis and analysis of information gathered over a six-month period beginning in mid-January, 2008. We surveyed the literature and history of the East Carpathian and Carpathian Biosphere Reserves and collected data through interviews with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, site visits, and seminars/workshops. These were reviewed to determine stakeholder perspectives and to identify perceived priorities for improvements, based on discussions of past successes and failures and current constraints.

The lead author made two field visits to western Ukraine in the first half of 2008. These included an inception visit (February 18-22, 2008) followed by a visit to conduct a seminar/stakeholder workshop (May 5-18, 2008). During the second visit, Mr. Bihun observed and participated in zoning workshops presented by Dr. Hanns Kirchmeir (President, E.C.O, Klagenfurt, Austria) to the staff of UNNP and CBR. The seminar visit also included a field trip to Maramures National Nature Park (MMNP) in Vişeu de Sus, Maramures, Romania with Andrei Blumer (President, Association of Ecotourism in Romania). This trip proved very useful for getting a balanced picture of the situation in the Romanian border region. It also provided an opportunity to meet directly with Mr. Costel Bucur (Park Director, MMNP) and hear about the history and status of transboundary cooperation between MMNP and the CBR from the Romanian perspective.

During the seminars held on May 12, 2008 at the UNNP in Velykyj Bereznyj (Appendix D) and May 16, 2008 at the CBR in Rakhiv (Appendix E), we conducted group exercises to evaluate the extent of current transboundary cooperation. Participants completed surveys in which they were asked to identify problem areas and prioritize future transboundary cooperation activities. Seminar participants agreed to a set of resolutions based on meeting minutes; these represent recommendations for continued transboundary cooperation. Polish representatives were unable to attend the UNNP seminar meeting because of logistical problems, but were able to submit priority rankings electronically. These ratings were not incorporated in average ratings but were considered when making recommendations for further collaboration.

During the February inception visit, we collected information on protected areas management based on field visits and interviews with CBR and ECBR administrators and park personnel. Additional direct and anecdotal data were collected during subsequent visits by Dr. Oxana Stankiewicz (President, Ekosphere) in March and April 2008.

Review of available literature and web-based materials also provided a wealth of information. Relevant materials and first-hand accounts of transboundary PA cooperation were provided by Dr. Lawrence Hamilton (former Vice-Chair [Mountains] CNPPA/IUCN) and Ms. Erika Stanciu (Forest, Protected Areas, and Carpathian Leader, WWF-DCPO). The IUCN publication "*Transborder Protected Area Cooperation*" (Hamilton, *et al*, 1996) served as the basis for rating priorities for transborder protected areas activities. In order to evaluate current levels of transboundary cooperation, we utilized the principles, criteria, and standards from the Europarc Federation (2001) publication "*Basic Standards for Transfrontier Cooperation Between European Protected Areas.*" Also useful was Fall's (1998) thesis "*Beyond Political Boundaries - Transboundary Cooperation in Protected Areas: The Eastern Carpathians International Biosphere Reserve.*" Now a decade old, the thesis helped underscore how very little has changed over ten years in terms of real cooperation in this region.

Research conducted for this study was primarily qualitative. The tables present the report's core assessment, findings, and recommendations. In some cases qualitative information was

transformed into categorical data and is therefore presented numerically. We recognize inherent study limitations since not all data (with the exception of seminar surveys) were collected using a systematic field methodology (e.g. standardized surveys). This is not necessarily a shortcoming for a preliminary assessment of this nature. However, it should be recognized explicitly as a limitation to drawing wide-ranging conclusions. These preliminary data set the stage for a larger follow-up study employing more rigorous assessment methods.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE EVALUATIONS

Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: Based on the available data, it is difficult to ascertain if the CBR has been functioning according to the MaB Programme Seville criteria, let alone whether it is prepared for bilateral cooperation. Effective planning is severely constrained by lack of proper zoning, inadequate geographic information systems (GIS) capability, and unreliable field data and cartography. A management plan for the CBR was completed after independence but is essentially a Soviet style document. It was developed with no public or community input. Strict protection areas are designated on paper only, with little correspondence to the “on the ground” reality of resource management or lack thereof. According to CBR staff, a new management plan developed with community input and newer technology will be forthcoming within in the next several years. The ongoing Swiss-Ukrainian Forest Development Project in Transcarpathia – FORZA (www.forza.org.ua) project has made great inroads in terms of developing community-based sustainable forest management (SFM) in targeted areas of Transcarpathia. However, this project does not include a transboundary component.

An example of transboundary cooperation that the CBR has been involved with is the creation of a UNESCO World Heritage Site at Uholka. This contains the world’s largest remaining contiguous stand of primeval (old-growth) European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and is located within one of the CBR’s core protected areas in Transcarpathia (Parpan et al. 2005). In order to meet criteria for inclusion in the World Heritage Programme, the CBR worked with Ukrainian and Slovak partners to include old-growth forest in the Uzhansky National Nature Park (UNNP) in western Transcarpathia and areas in adjoining mountain areas in Slovakia.

Table 3. Recent history leading to designation of the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- 2003 - International Conference on “Natural Forests of the Temperate Zone of Europe: Values and Utilization” (Mukachevo, Ukraine)
- Initiation and preparation of the Ukrainian-Slovakian nomination for the “Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians”
- 2004 - International seminar under the aegis of UNESCO devoted to potential objects of the World Heritage Programme (Mukachevo, Ukraine)
- Visit of Dave Mihalek, evaluator for IUCN.
- May 12, 2007 – Receipt of IUCN evaluation
- June 22, 2007 – Inclusion of the nomination “Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians” to the list of UNESCO World Nature Heritage Programme

The inclusion of Carpathian old-growth forests on the World Heritage List has generated worldwide interest in this region. It has also fostered opportunities for research promoted by the European community, such as ongoing collaboration on mapping old-growth forests sponsored by the Royal Dutch Society for Nature Conservation (KNNV).

According to the CBR Director, Dr. Fedir Hamor, there is longstanding and ongoing cooperation with Romania, particularly since the creation of the recently formed (2006) Maramures National Nature Park (MMNP). Based on comments made at the inception visit in Rakhiv in February 2007, and a subsequent phone interview in April 2007, Dr. Hamor has interacted with Romanian officials on park and protection issues and was instrumental in creation of the MMNP. Most of these have been individual exchanges between Dr. Hamor and park officials in the MMNP. Access is limited to the CBR's institutional history of transboundary cooperation and past proceedings are not transparent or well documented. Unfortunately, the Director was not present for most of the period of the inception visit and on subsequent visits was available for only short periods to discuss this cooperation.

Furthermore, according to Dr. Vasyl Pokynechereda (CBR Director of Science and Research) there have been no attempts at joint activity because the MMNP is a new park and has no research staff or programs dedicated to cooperation on biodiversity or scientific problems. There was some discussion in Rakhiv regarding the encouragement and facilitation of cultural expression through festivals, dance, and cultural exchange. However, these were municipal efforts and did not originate from the CBR.

Table 4. Timeline of transboundary cooperation between the CBR and the MMNP.

<p><u>2000</u> - Establishment of the initial working group with the purpose of creating a National Park in the Maramures Mountains (NGO)</p> <p><u>2001-2002</u> - Realization of the project PHARE/CREDO in order to prepare for the creation of the MMNP</p> <p><u>2004</u> - Creation of the MMNP</p> <p><u>2005</u> - Establishment of the administration of MMNP</p> <p><u>2007</u> - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve (Ukraine) and the MMNP (Romania); MOU created the bilateral Ukrainian-Romanian biosphere reserve "Maramures Mountains"</p> <p><u>2008</u> - Release of the World Wildlife Fund Danube Carpathian Office evaluation of the current status of transboundary cooperation in the Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains and presentation of roadmap for improved transboundary protected area cooperation</p>

East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: The Foundation for the Eastern Carpathian Biodiversity Conservation (ECBC) was created in 1994 as a framework for non-governmental cooperation and was an early milestone in transboundary reserve cooperation in Europe. The ECBC was established specifically to facilitate transboundary cooperation. Therefore, any analysis of transboundary cooperation in the ECBC is, in large part, an analysis of the ECBC. Since 2006, funding reductions and legal issues have diminished the effectiveness of the Foundation and viability of the

collaborative transboundary cooperation. As initially conceived the ECBC was intended to promote cooperation, communication and, to lesser degree, fund development and grants administration. In addition to its 1999 Small Grants Programme, the ECBC launched a Transborder Cooperation Grants Programme in 2004. In practice, however, the ECBC was less effective in making changes in terms of fostering real dialogue and collaboration. (See Appendix G).

On the ground, ECBR mostly exists in name only and has had little impact on actual cooperation across borders. Dr. Vasyl Kopach (Director, UNNP) periodically attends meetings with Polish and Slovak counterparts and there are archives in the central office documenting these limited activities. He is also on the board of the ECBC Foundation. However, aside from the Director's personal communications, there are no other transboundary activities or communications involving other ECBR personnel. There is neither a shared management plan nor coordination of activities in research, protection, management, or recreation. Coordinating uniform, consistent zoning based on ecological principles for all protected areas in the ECBR is a difficult challenge. This is made worse because individual protected areas within the three member countries do not have proper zoning in place.

Research and management activities within biosphere reserves currently are set up exclusively on a national level. Projects tend to focus on activities in respective protected areas but not landscape or transboundary context. There are no records of individual initiatives for transboundary cooperation from UNNP. The other component of the ECBR in Ukraine, the Nadsyansky Regional Landscape Park (NRLP), is apparently a park on paper only. In actuality it is administered as a forest district under the entirely separate aegis of the State Committee of Forests of Ukraine (SFCU) for the Transcarpathian region. UNNP personnel are often only vaguely aware of ECBC activities. Rather, if they are informed, their awareness pertains only to those grants and projects that have been implemented in their respective areas.

Two key documents are highly informative regarding transboundary protected areas cooperation in the ECBR. The first document is a list of goals and objectives from the *Strategic Planning for Protection of the International Man and Biosphere Reserve Eastern Carpathians 1996-2100* meeting held on the 19-24 of June, 1996 in Snina, Slovakia. This is not a strategic plan but an extensive list of goals and objectives. As a strategic planning exercise it does present a long-term management vision (e.g. desired future condition), mission statement, SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, or basic prioritization of goals. It contains no monitoring plan, implementation strategy, or analysis of standards for transboundary cooperation. The primary result of this meeting was identification of operational goals (only one element of strategic planning) in the framework of cooperation on protection of biodiversity in the territory of the ECBR.

Among the goals outline in the first document were:

- develop a political agreement on trilateral cooperation (i.e. signed protocol or agreement by the countries of Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine);
- improve cooperation on activities within the framework of ECBR;
- agree to a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the Foundation for the Eastern Carpathians Biodiversity Conservation (ECBC);
- create electronic communication channels among the administrative units of the ECBR;
- create official border crossing point among the three countries;
- create a single GIS-based information system for the entire ECBR network;

- promote and propagate traditional land uses, including sustainable forest management, organic farming, grazing, etc. on the territory of the ECBR;
- create and promote tourism primarily eco-tourism and agro-tourism;
- prohibit industrial development where deleterious environmental effects are likely;
- evaluate the condition of the ecosystem (in terms of the components of existing flora and fauna);
- cooperate on zoning of the territories of the ECBR;
- jointly implement programs to limit the spread of introduced, non-native and genetically-modified species into the territory of the ECBR;
- create programs for the protection of genetic diversity on the territory of the ECBR;
- agree on the technical language for common terminology and classification on the territory of the ECBR;
- develop the concept of landscape and watershed level planning on the territory of the ECBR;
- create a single monitoring system for the ECBR;
- create a single system for the protection of historical cultural sites for the historical and cultural landmarks of the three member countries;
- elevate the environmental awareness of the local inhabitants about nature conservation and protection of natural resources;
- develop a marketing plan for promotion of the ECBR;
- develop a strategic plan for the economic development of the rural inhabitants and villages within the borders of the ECBR; and
- complete a fund development strategy for financial support of ECBR cooperation and programs.

The second document examined was the minutes of the *Strategic Planning for Protection of the International Man and Biosphere Reserve Eastern Carpathians 1996-2100*. This presents goals and objectives that were the result of eight (8) thematic working groups on various questions. The working groups included:

1. biodiversity;
2. sustainable forest management;
3. tourism agriculture;
4. history;
5. culture;
6. management and coordination;
7. environmental education; and
8. non-biotic ecosystem factors

Little progress has been made towards achieving the goals and objectives; their status remains essentially unchanged since 1996. Although there have been many changes in the economic situation of CEE countries, cooperation and genuine progress on transboundary protected area management has been sporadic. Due to the financial problems with the ECBC, it is currently at a standstill in the ECBR. Furthermore, no single management plan for the trilateral ECBR has been agreed upon or written. In addition, the ECBC, which was responsible for coordinating transboundary cooperation, is in the process of being re-formulated and is currently not a functional NGO. The rejuvenation of the program for transboundary cooperation is critical. Its success will depend on developing a realistic program with achievable goals and objectives based on a systematic process. This must include clear thresholds and benchmarks for measuring success towards achieving transboundary cooperation. The WWF/DCPO sponsored seminar in Velykyj

Bereznyj on May 12, 2008 was the first step in this process of restarting coordinated transborder cooperation.

RESULTS

East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve: The seminar on Transboundary Protected Area Management Cooperation in the ECBR took place on May 12, 2008 at the office of the UNNP, Velykyj Bereznyj, Zakarpattja. During the workshop, a self-evaluation form using the Europarc Federation *Basic Standards for Transfrontier Cooperation Between European Protected Areas* was completed by the participants. The evaluation showed that 90% of the indicators for the basic standards in TBPA cooperation were not being met.

Table 5. Basic standards for transboundary cooperation (from Hamilton et al. 1996).

1. Primary Criteria	
1.1	Vision
1.2	Official agreement
1.3	Central fields of works
1.4	Staff
2. Secondary Criteria	
2.1	Guiding rules for cooperation
2.2	Projects
2.3	Exchange of data
2.4	Foreign language communication
2.5	International conventions
2.6	International understanding and securing peace
2.7	Ecological monitoring
2.8	Basis of financing

As part of the seminar, the Ukrainian and Slovakian teams completed forms designed to prioritize areas of transboundary cooperation. After further discussion and harmonization of ideas, participants agree to a set of priorities. These are presented in Appendix D.

During discussion it was agreed that a top priority should be establishing an organizational body that will coordinate transboundary cooperation. Since the early 1990s, the ECBC has served this function. However, ECBC is currently going through a transition period that includes registration and incorporation in Poland. There are unanswered questions on the status of the core endowment and funding. An alternative is thus the creation of a new organizational structure that would function as the liaison and coordinating body.

The discussions at the seminar resulted in the following resolutions and task assignments:

- Determine the current status of the ECBC Foundation and its ability to continue to act as a medium for cooperation. This will include interviews with the following ECBC country board members (assigned interviewers in parentheses):
 - Ukraine: Dr. Oksana Maruskevych (Oxana Stankiewicz),
Dr. Vasyl Kopach (Valentin Voloshyn)
 - Slovakia: To be determined
 - Poland: To be determined
Mr. Zbigniew Niewidomski, ECBC Foundation
(Yurij Bihun)
 - Austria: Mr. Andreas Beckmann, Deputy Director, WWF
DCPO, (Yurij Bihun)
- Research and develop a methodology for zonation that can be applied in the ECCR. This will use *Institut für Ecologie* (E.C.O.) models from the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Austria) and other examples in Europe and North America.
- In the near future, work on the development of a joint management plan for transboundary cooperation between CBR and MMNP (e.g. a CBR-MMNP joint proposal).
- Continue to cooperate on existing programmes, such as informal research exchanges, joint summer camps, and other projects, including the Internal Cycling Path “Green Bicycle.”
- Document and record all meetings and communication between cooperators that would be transparent and publicly available at central area. Develop a methodology for record keeping in English and the native language of each of the three participant countries: Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine.
- Designate an individual at each protected area within ECCR who will be responsible for transboundary cooperation. These duties should be clearly outlined in the individual’s job description
- Send the prioritization forms for transboundary cooperation completed at the workshop to the ECCR Polish counterparts
- Analyze the aggregated information and set priorities for transboundary cooperation

Carpathian Biosphere Reserve. The seminar on transboundary protected areas management and cooperation in the CBR was held on May 16, 2008 at the office of the CBR office in Rakhiv, Zakarpattja. During the workshop participants completed the self-evaluation form using the Europarc Federation standards (see Table 5). As in the ECCR, the evaluation clearly showed that 90% of the indicators for the basic standards in transboundary protected area cooperation were not being met.

The Ukrainian and Romanian protected area representatives agreed to the following resolutions:

- Translate the declaration for cooperation between the CBR and MMNP into Romanian, English, and Ukrainian and familiarize the CBR staff with the declaration. [Mr. Costel Bucur was assigned completion of this task.]
- Designate an individual at the CBR who will be responsible for transboundary cooperation. Transboundary duties should be clearly outlined in the individual's job description [CBR].
- Research and learn the European methodology for transboundary protected areas management plan development that was used for the MMNP. The management plan was based on the English-version toolkit for management plans for protected areas authored by Mr. Michael R. Appelon. [Costel Bucur will forward] and during the working group tour to the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (Austria) [CBR]
- In the near future, work on the development of a joint management-plan for transboundary cooperation between CBR and MMNP [CBR-MMNP joint proposal].

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for improving transboundary cooperation are presented in tabular fashion below. The highest mean rankings are highlighted in green and indicate relative priorities for short-term activities (2008-2010). A rudimentary timeframe is presented that reflects the rankings. Targeted stakeholders were identified as important participants necessary for effective development of strategic plans and implementation strategies.

Table 6. - Priorities, timeframe, and target stakeholders for crossborder activities.

Crossborder activities	MaB		Timeframe	Targeted Stakeholders ¹
	ECBR	CBR		
1. Law Enforcement				
Law enforcement of park laws and regulations	5.0	5.0	2008	BP, PA, R&D, GOV(G)
Joint field operations and patrols for vandalism	3.5	3.0	2009	BP,PA
Sharing intelligence in contraband trafficking	1.0	1.5	2010	BP, GOV(G)
Joint search and rescue activities	2.0	5.0	2009	BP,PA,NGOS
Cooperative education	4.5	3.5	2009	BP,PA CO(P)
Prevention programs for organizations, staff, local communities	4.5	3.5	2000	BP,PA CO(P), GOV(L)
Border crossings	5.0	5.0	2008	BP,PA CO(P), GOV(L)
2. Recreation and Visitor Use				
Coordination of planning cross-border tourist Activities	5.0	5.0	2008	BP, ENGOs, PA, GOV(L) BU(TOUR)
Eco-tourism or agro-tourism guesthouses and lodging network	4.0	5.0	2008	BP, ENGOs, PA, GOV(L) BU(TOUR))
Infrastructure improvement through road construction	3.0	2.5	2012	BP, ENGOs, PA, GOV(L) BU(OT & TOUR)
Facility development (accommodations, Visitor centers, lean-tos, cabins)	5.0	2.0	2010	BP, ENGOs, PA, GOV(L) BU(TOUR)
Trail layout, marking, and maintenance	4.5	5.0	2008	BP, ENGOs, PA, GOV(L) BU(TOUR)
3. Interpretation and Communication				
Brochure and promotional material	5.0	5.0	2008	PA, GOV (R &L)
English language capacity building	4.0	5.0	2008	PA, UNIV
Strategic planning (awareness building)	4.5	5.0	2008	PA, CO(P), CO(L), GOV (G), ENGOS
Multi-media information program w/ interpretative material	4.5	3.5	2008	PA, UNIV, BU(OT & TOUR)
Cooperative education	4.5	3.5	2009	PA, CO(P), CO(L), GOV (G), ENGOS
Signage	5.0	4.5	2008	PA, CO(P), CO(L), GOV (G), ENGOS

4. Forest Resources, Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Protection				
Cooperatively organized research priorities and methodology	5.0	5.0	2008	PA, R&D, UNIV,
Identification and control of threats to biodiversity	4.5	5.0	2008	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV(G),DON
Control and management of exotic species	4.5	4.5	2009	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV (G)
Promotion of sustainable forest management (e.g. certification)	3.0	4.5	2009	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV (G), BU(FP),DON
Integrated landscape level zoning and planning	4.0	3.0	2009	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV (G),
Protection of wetlands and water resources	5.0	5.0	2008	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV (G),
Assistance to encourage migratory species movement	3.0	4.5	2009	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV(G),DON
Cooperative conservation area management	4.5	4.5	2008	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV (G), BU (FP),DON
Using observer networks to assist in single species management	4.5	4.0	2009	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS ENGOS
Improved consistency of transfrontier management	4.5	5.0	2008	PA, R&D, UNIV, NGOS GOV (G),
5. Cultural Resources				
Protection of architectural monuments	4.5	3.5	2009	PA,GOV(G) DON,NGO (INTL), CO(P&I)
Retention of traditional land uses & culture	5.0	4.5	2008	PA,GOV(G) DON,NGO (INTL), CO(P&I)
Promoting shared understanding of religious and cultural values	4.5	3.5	2009	PA,GOV(G) DON,NGO (INTL),CO (P&I), GOV(G)

Festivals celebrating joint cultures, education and regional pride	5.0	4.5	2008	PA,GOV(G) DON,NGO (INTL),CO(I)
6. Professional Development and Staff Morale				
Exchange of ideas	5.0	3.5	2009	PA, CO(P)
Joint newsletters	4.0	2.0	2010	PA, ENGOs,
Public speaking training	4.0	4.0	2009	PA
Joint staff teams to work on management issues and problems	5.0	4.5	2008	PA, NGOS, CO(P)
Consensus building and team development	4.5	4.5	2008	PA
Cultural exchange	4.5	2.5	2010	PA

¹Targeted Stakeholders: _____ Abbreviation in Tables 6 and 7

Border Patrol	BP
Protected Areas	PA
Research	R&D
Universities and Institutes	UNIV
Local Environmental Groups	ENGOs
International NGOs	NGOs (INTL)
Communities of Place	CO(P)
Communities of Interest	CO(L)
Private Sector (Tourism/Ecotourism)	BU (TOUR)
Private Sector (Other)	BU (OT)
Private Sector (Forest Products)	BU(FP)
Governmental Agencies (General)	GOV(G)
National Government	GOV(N)
Regional Government	GOV(R)
Local Government	GOV(L)
International Donor Organizations	DON

Table 6 presents the general needs and priorities that must be addressed in the short term. Recommendations for specific projects that will be part of larger implementation strategies are also presented in tabular form in Table 7. This does not reflect a complete list but does suggest areas of strong interest identified by stakeholders. It outlines progressive projects that demonstrate sustainable development in conjunction with the Carpathian Convention and objectives of TBPA management.

Local and traditional cultural uses historically played vital roles in the sustainable management Carpathian landscapes (Elbakidze and Angelstam 2007). Seminar participants also stressed the need for involvement by broader “communities of interest.” These are communities interested in protection of nature and biodiversity and historical or cultural protection, but not restricted to local communities immediately adjacent to a particular protected area. They may include communities of interest from urban areas of Ukraine and Europe as well as members of the Ukrainian diaspora, not just the more local “community of place.”

Table 7. Second stage activities for promoting transboundary cooperation.

Types of Transboundary Cooperation	Priority/ Timeframe	Targeted stakeholders ¹
1. Law enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate border crossings for “through hikers” that need to cross international boundaries as part of the TranCarpathian Trail (TCT) 	2009-2010	ENGOS; BP; PA; GOV(G); BU (TOUR)
2. Recreation and visitor use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Swiss-based FORZA project on the TCT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand the project goal to complete the TCT ○ Promote the trail as a symbol of integration of natural areas, forest stewardship, and recreational management for education and fundraising. ○ Develop cooperation between FORZA and other NGOs, such as the U.S. based Green Mountain Club (GMC) and Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) • Renovate or construct information and visitor centers using green building principles (e.g. energy efficiency, recycling, certified wood products, etc.) that highlight the use of traditional and locally available building methods and materials. 	2008-2009	ENGOS; BP; PA; GOV(G); BU (TOUR); DON;NGOs
	2009-2015	ENGOS; BP; PA; GOV(G); BU (TOUR)
3. Interpretation and communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate funding and nominate two candidates from each biosphere reserve to attend the <i>International Seminar on Protected Area Management</i>. This will be hosted by the University of Montana, in collaboration with Colorado State University and the University of Idaho. (Dates: August, 20089) 	2009-2010	PA; GOV(G); DON;NGOS
4. Forest resources, wildlife habitat and biodiversity protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve active management within buffer and transition zones in terms of sustainable forest management (SFM), eco-tourism, and value-added activities (e.g. small-scale manufacturing and harvesting of non-timber forest products). • Integrate forest health monitoring into biosphere research and monitoring programs • Use and/or improve recently completed inventories of old-growth stands and High Conservation Value (HCV) forests within areas encompassed by transboundary biosphere reserves. Propose new zonations (e.g. core areas or special protection designations) or modifications based on these data. 	2009-2012	ENGO; NGO; PA; DON; GOV(G); BU (FP)
	2010-2020	ENGO; NGO; PA; DON; GOV(G); BU (FP); R&D; UNIV
	2008	ENGO; NGO; PA; DON; GOV(G); BU (FP); R&D; UNIV

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote third-party SFM certification based on the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for forested areas within biosphere reserve buffer areas. Explore the feasibility of an East Carpathian Forest Products Council to promote chain of Chain of Custody (CoC) certification and the marketing and utilization of products and wood products from the region for domestic and export markets. Create an ecological network of small and transboundary protected areas along the border of Transcarpathia in both the Transcarpathian Mountains and basin areas. This archipelago of protected areas should be integrated into the larger Natura 2000 network, particularly the existing protected areas on the boundaries of Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The southern face of the Transcarpathian Mountains -- <i>the Vyhorlat-Hutynskyy (Volkanychnyj) Range</i> -- has relictual populations of unique botanical species that have not had sufficient recognition, research, and protection. Identify priority ecosystem services for which to develop shared management goals and programs. Compare regulatory and policy mechanisms that are currently in place to protect priority ecosystem services in transfrontier protected areas. Identify beneficiaries of priority ecosystem services across transborder protected areas and establish the potential for payments for ecosystem services. 	<p>2008</p> <p>2010-2012</p> <p>2009</p> <p>2009-2010</p> <p>2009-2010</p>	<p>PA; ENGOS; NGOS; BU (FP);R&D, CO(P);UNIV</p> <p>PA; UNIV; R&D</p> <p>PA, UNIV, R&D, ENGOS, NGOs, GOV(G)</p> <p>PA, UNIV, R&D, ENGOS, NGOs, GOV(G)</p>
<p>5. Cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of historical sites, traditional lifestyles, and cultural resources 	<p>2008-2012</p>	<p>CO(I), CO(P), PA, R&D, BU(OT),</p>
<p>6. Professional development and staff morale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on management for “ecosystem services” based on the established principles and methodology of ecological economic analysis, including payment for ecosystem services (such as carbon markets, water quality and quantity, etc.). 	<p>2008</p>	<p>PA, GOV(L)</p>

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

Local communities sometimes have concerns regarding biodiversity conservation programmes where these are perceived to reduce or limit productive use of the land. This is especially the case when communities have to face restrictions in their use of the protected resources, which can reduce support for protected areas. What often is not fully appreciated, though, is that protection of rare or threatened species and landscapes also brings protection of ecosystem functions that are important for the well being of local, regional, and global communities. These have considerable economic value, although values are not always derived directly from trade within the marketplace (Costanza *et al.* 1997). Benefits typically outweigh the costs of conservation when assessed in monetary terms, although the types of benefits and mix of recipients will differ and are experienced differently at different scales. Balmford *et al.* (2002), for example, show that benefits from land managed for the provisioning of ecosystem services consistently exceed the benefits of habitat conversion in tropical forests of Cameroon and Malaysia, and in wetlands in Canada.

Managing for ecosystem services and biodiversity across borders will prove challenging in the Carpathian region. A major constraint is that neighboring countries differ in regulatory mechanisms, institutional capacity, and political will. They might lack incentives for cooperation and hold different environmental perceptions. Yet coordinated management for biodiversity and ecosystem services in protected areas sharing common borders can be a central mechanism for transboundary conservation. The following recommendations serve the purposes of identifying opportunities for the ECBR and CBR to benefit from applying the notion of ecosystem services in a transboundary context:

1. *Identify priority ecosystem services for which to develop shared management goals or programs.* Given the region's vulnerability to floods, flood mitigation should receive priority attention.
2. *Identify and compare regulatory and policy mechanisms that are currently in place to protect priority ecosystem services in neighboring park areas.* This process would help mapping of existing constraints and opportunities for transboundary cooperation and managing priority ecosystem services.
3. *Promote knowledge across neighboring protected areas on priority ecosystem services.* This could include assessing the economic benefits of protecting such services. For example, an assessment conducted in 2007 in MMNP showed that the economic values of ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, soil erosion control, and cultural and recreation amenities, contributed twice as much to the local economy compared to timber harvests (the main economic activity in the region).
4. *Identify beneficiaries of priority ecosystem services across neighboring parks and establish the potential for payments for ecosystem services.* Payment schemes for certain ecosystem services can benefit from providing the service over a larger area and through coordination at large scales and across multiple ownerships, as in the case of carbon market participation facilitated by private sector carbon aggregator companies.

CONCLUSIONS

In practice transboundary cooperation in the management of Ukraine's protected areas is informal, fragmentary, and poorly planned. There have been few formalized or systematic attempts among Polish, Slovak, Romanian, and Ukrainian protected areas personnel to work together. There appears to have been virtually no change in this regard over the last ten years, as evidenced by the similarity between the status quo perceived by stakeholders and issues outlined in Fall (1998 and 1999). An exception to this is the increasing capacity for park personnel to communicate via phone and internet. There are other important caveats. For example, challenges such as a joint management planning and zonation still exist, but some steps forward are evident. In UNNP, for instance, a new assistant director brings much needed energy to the management of the park and transboundary protected areas cooperation. There have been capital investments in a new office, construction of recreational facilities, new zoning maps, and initiation of community projects. The region has also seen development of publications and proposals for an expansion of biosphere reserves to include other protected areas. In the CBR there has been a high level of international interest in the reserve's old-growth forests. There has also been cooperation and training with Swiss and Dutch international aid organizations on SFM, sustainable community development, trailwork, signage and interpretative materials, and development of a natural history museum. English language capabilities are still lagging and travel, particularly border crossings, are restrictive and time consuming. Recently this has become perhaps even worse because the Ukrainian border is now the border with the EU.

Implying that there is little or no transboundary cooperation in the ECBR and CBR would be short of the mark. Ukrainian reserve personnel are sometimes viewed as insular, resistant to cooperation (Fall 1999) and, because of the transitional economy, plagued by corruption and under funded. Some of this criticism is external but Ukrainians often voice the same concerns. However, progress has been made towards rectifying this situation. Most park staff members are well informed and have the capability to foster the protection of biodiversity and protection of cultural heritage. But misunderstandings among agencies within and among Carpathian nations persist. In some cases, there are cultural differences that remain hard to overcome. For example, Ukrainian and Slovak hunting clubs are frequently accused of shooting wolves that have been collared for radio-telemetry by Polish wildlife researchers. These reports have been verified by scientists at UNNP and by the Polish environmental NGO Prokarpatia, but other examples of sabotaging efforts to monitor large, charismatic megafauna need to be verified. In casual conversation and interviews, Ukrainian protected areas staff consistently showed a commitment to nature preservation, the protection of landscapes, maintenance of traditional ways of life and land-use forms, non-intensive agriculture, and maintaining limited industrial influence. Thus, the desire and opportunities for transboundary cooperation are clearly available, but it will take substantial capacity building to translate these into meaningful initiatives, mechanisms, and activities.

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APPENDIX A

Transboundary Protected Area Cooperation in the
 East Carpathian and Carpathian Biosphere Reserves:
 Analysis of Management Activities

The methodology for the analysis of management activities was adopted from the IUCN manual *Transborder Protected Area Cooperation* (Hamilton, L. *et al*, 1996). The extent of cooperation was analyzed based on six areas of potential collaboration:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Law Enforcement | 4. Species and biodiversity protection |
| 2. Visitor Use (Recreation) | 5. Cultural Resources |
| 3. Interpretation and Communication | 6. Professional Development |

The cross-border activities were scored on a numerical bases from “0” to “5” with “0” = “no mention or record” to “5” = “frequent mention or record.” The scores are subjective but reflect the frequency of mention of these activities in park records, interviews or literature reviewed.

1. Law Enforcement

<i>Cross-border Activities</i>	<i>CBR</i>	<i>ECBR</i>
Law enforcement of park laws and regulations	N/A*	0
Joint field operations and patrols for vandalism	N/A	0
Sharing intelligence resources in trafficking of contraband	N/A	0
Joint search and rescue activities	N/A	0
Cooperative education	N/A	0
Prevention programs for organizations, staff, local communities	N/A	0
Border crossings	2	4 ¹

* N/A - Not applicable because there re no official transboundary activities or cooperation with Romania

Notes:

¹ Since the early 1990s, there has been a long history of discussions about streamlining customs and border crossings for research and park visitors at ECBR. This is a sensitive international border crossing and customs issue that remains unresolved. Since 2006, it has been compounded by the accession of Slovakia and Poland into the EU. Unfortunately, no progress beyond the discussion stage has been made and it is still a contentious issue. Access to Mt. Kynchyk Bykovyy on a “polonina” on the Polish-Ukrainian border is also controversial with access from the Polish side being very restrictive. For the CBR, official border crossings into Romania are limited and there are several propositions for a pedestrian bridge over the Tysa River, rebuilding a vehicle bridge crossing over the Tysa River, and building a crossing upriver that would obviate the need for a river crossing between countries.

2. Recreation and Visitor Use

<i>Cross-border Activities</i>	<i>CBR</i>	<i>ECBR</i>
Coordination of planning cross-border tourist activities	0	3
Eco-tourism or agro-tourism guesthouses and lodging networks	0	0
Infrastructure improvement through road construction	0	0
Facility development (accommodations, visitor centers)	0	2
Trail development	2 ¹	3 ²

Notes:

¹ There has been development of transboundary hiking trails and the “Greenway” bicycle touring project in ECBR region. Links between Poland and Slovakia are established but the Ukrainian component remains undeveloped. The ECBC Foundation has supported NGO *Uzhanska Dolyna* with mini grants for projects for “cleaning up the environment” (*Chysty Hory* – Clean Mountains), studies of improving the trail network and overall capabilities to promote.

² In the CBR, the Swiss-based FORZA-initiative called “Transcarpathian Trail” is a nascent programme creating a 240 km trail throughout the southern slopes of the Transcarpathian Mountains. This promising programme has hit some roadblocks due to a lack of stewardship, promotion, and trail maintenance. Linking tourism promotion that would include visits to all three-country regions of the ECBR or CBR w/ Romania or Hungary has not been supported in a systematic manner.

3. Interpretation and Communication

<i>Cross-border Activities</i>	<i>CBR</i>	<i>ECBR</i>
Brochure and promotional material	0	4 ¹
English language capacity building	2 ²	2 ²
Strategic planning (awareness building)	0	2 ²
Multi-media information program with interpretative material	0	1 ⁴
Cooperative education	0	2 ⁴
Signage	3 ³	2 ⁴

Notes:

¹ Multilingual brochures about the ECBR in the three languages and English were available and widely distributed to interested parties until ECBC financial problems. Individual PAs have their own bilingual and multilingual brochures and promotional material.

² English language capacity at both parks is improving. English lessons are being offered to staff at ECBR and CBR. Some business cards printed in English or are bilingual. The Deputy Director of transboundary relations at ECBR has a good command of English. Due to the similarities of the Slavic language group and highlander dialects, communication in the ECBR is less challenging than in the CBR region between Ukrainian and Romanian. There are several large UA Diaspora communities in the vicinity of MMNP.

³ Refers to FORZA Transcarpathian Trail and other Polish-Ukrainian initiatives in maintaining trails in Transcarpathian and Carpathian region.

⁴ Promoting awareness and appreciation of the cultural and natural values are on an individual park basis within individual countries. There was some activity promoting the ECBR in BNP but there are no records of advertising and promotion of events and activities in the CBR that would be across the border.

4. Forest Resources, Wildlife Habitat, and Biodiversity Protection

<i>Cross-border Activities</i>	<i>CBR</i>	<i>ECBR</i>
Cooperatively organized research priorities and methodology	0	2 ¹
Identification and control of threats to biodiversity	0	2 ²
Control introduction and management of exotic species	0	0
Promotion of sustainable forest management (certification)	0	2
Protection of wetlands and water resources	0	1 ³
Assistance to encourage migratory species movement	0	1 ⁴
Cooperative conservation area management	0	2 ⁴
Using networks of observers to assist in single species management	0	0
Improved consistency of management of transfrontier ecosystems	0	2

Notes:

¹ Transboundary scientific exchange has been the most notable exception to cooperation across borders in the countries. Since the early 1990s, the ECBC Foundation has tried to encourage joint science and research on a variety of wildlife and biodiversity issues (see Appendix A). Unfortunately, establishment of a common GIS database, zonation and continuing works on common maps -- one of the early focuses of cooperation -- has not gone beyond the discussion phase.

² FSC third-party certification in Poland by SGS and other certifying organizations was about ten years ahead of Ukraine's activity in the Lviv and Transcarpathian regions. All of Poland's state forests are certified and may have had some influence on Ukraine's current certification drive.

³ The NGO *Uzhanka Dolyna* (The River Uz Valley) implemented several ECBC Foundation grants through Ms. Olha Kopach, President of Ushanska Dolyna and also Director of Tourism and Recreation at UNNP. According to the interviews in April 2008 with two key contacts at the UNNP, Dr. Ivan Ivanega, Director of Scientific Research and Dr. Inna Kvakoska, Researcher, there is little or no ongoing or recent cooperation research or management projects.

⁴ Records at UNNP office had a limited record of correspondence on projects and meetings: 1) a priority area for cooperation adopted at the ECBC Workshop in September 2003 in Czarna, Poland on protection of endemic and keystone species and communities including wetlands and *poloniny*; and 2) working group meeting Eastern Carpathian Wildlife in July of 2003.⁴

There is also an annual field expedition for graduate students from Mendelyev University, Brno in the Czech Republic to remonitor permanent plots established by Czechoslovakian researchers (Zlatnik *et al*) in the 1930s in the Stuzhitsa natural area in UNNP.

In 2002 there was a joint Polish-Ukrainian scientific expedition to Mt. Stynka to study understory vegetation; primarily mosses and club mosses. The Polish team submitted a short report on their findings to the research division of the UNNP. There was a follow-up field expedition to study the species *Cortuza primulace L.* The resultant research produced a joint article in *Roczniki Beszczadske* which is published annually by the BNP. In 2003, there was a joint field trip to Mt. Stynka to become familiar with their Slovak colleagues but this was less research oriented and did not result in any publication or reports. During 2003-2004, Dr. Ivan Ivanega, Director of Scientific Research, UNNP attended meetings and conferences at BNP. The ECBC Foundation also funded several "research" grants for study of the Ukrainian portion of the ECBR. *Uzhanska Dolyna* completed a study on biodiversity of the UNNP parts of which may have been used in the Dr. Stepan Stoyko's 2007 publication *Uzhansky NNP: Multifunctional Significance in Ukraine*. Studies in the functional zoning of the Regional Landscape Park Stuzhitsa and an inventory of vegetation of the UNNP were completed by the Lviv Regional Agency of Sustainable

Development. Neither the exact dates of completion of this work and reports were made available. The sharing of field experience, knowledge, and resources is poorly developed or non-existent.

5. Cultural Resources

<i>Cross-border Activities</i>	<i>CBR</i>	<i>ECBR</i>
Protection of architectural monuments	0	3 ¹
Retention of traditional land uses & culture	0	2 ¹
Promoting shared understanding of religious, cultural values	0	1 ²
Festivals celebrating joint cultures, education and regional pride	0	1 ³

Notes:

¹ The ECBC programme provided funding for protection of architectural and religious monuments, and maintaining traditional lifestyles in the individual national areas (none in Ukraine) but there were no attempts to promoting shared understanding of religious, cultural values.

² Cultural awareness of post-war Lemko depopulation and resettlement issues have historical precedents in Polish-Ukrainian relations.

³ The Rakhiv area showed the inclusion of local communities in the concept of broader cultural landscape. Dance, craft, music, spiritual celebrations, and festivals are part of the effort to promote tourism in the MNNP region. There are small, organized Diaspora groups, such the Federation of Ukrainians (*Soyuz Ukrainsiv Maramurschyny*), in the Maramures region of Romania.

6. Professional Development and Staff Morale

<i>Cross-border Activities</i>	<i>CBR</i>	<i>ECBR</i>
Exchange of ideas	1 ¹	2 ¹
Joint newsletters	N/A	0
Public speaking training	N/A	0
Joint staff teams to work on management issue and problems	N/A	3 ¹
Consensus and team development	N/A	0
Cultural Exchange	0	0
Technical training	N/A	0
Combined training opportunities (regional, national & international)	0	0

Notes:

¹ This aspect of transboundary cooperation is virtually restricted to ECBC Foundation activities in the ECBR and directors of the PA. Except for the biosphere reserve and park directors; there is little or no official contact or professional development outside the individual protected areas for their staff. Although there is some exchange between neighboring countries these exchange are limited.

APPENDIX B

**Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
Transboundary Cooperation of Protected Areas**

Seminar Participants
May 12, 2008
Velykyj Berexnyj, Zakarpattja, Ukraine

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Poland*		
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* Polish delegates *en absentia* due to travel issues but completed the prioritization exercise

APPENDIX C

**Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
Transboundary Cooperation of Protected Areas**

Seminar Participants
May 16, 2008

Name	Position	Contact Information
Ukraine		
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Romania		
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United States		
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APPENDIX D

Evaluating Priorities in Transboundary Cooperation in the Eastern Carpathian Biosphere Reserve

Methodology: The methodology for the analysis of management activities was adopted from the IUCN manual *Transborder Protected Area Cooperation* (Hamilton, L. *et al*, 1996). The extent of cooperation can be prioritized based on six areas of potential collaboration:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 7. Law Enforcement | 10. Species and biodiversity protection |
| 8. Visitor Use (Recreation) | 11. Cultural Resources |
| 9. Interpretation and Communication | 12. Professional Development |

The cross-border activities are scored on a numerical bases from “1” to “5” with “1” = “not important” to “5” = “very important.” The rating was based on desired and future conditions and not present levels of cooperation. UA = rating by Ukrainian participants; SK = rating by Slovak participants.

GREEN HIGHLIGHT: PRIORITY [5]; **YELLOW HIGHLIGHT:** RANK CHANGED AFTER DISCUSSION

1. Law Enforcement	1	2	3	4	5
Law enforcement of park laws and regulations					SK/UA
Joint field operations and patrols for vandalism			SK	UA	
Sharing intelligence resources in trafficking of contraband	SK/UA				
Joint search and rescue activities		SK/UA			
Cooperative education				SK	UA
Prevention programs for organizations, staff, local communities				SK	UA
Border crossings				UA	SK
2. Recreation and Visitor Use	1	2	3	4	5
Coordination of planning cross-border tourist activities					SK/UA
Eco-tourism or agro-tourism guesthouse, pensions network					SK/UA
Infrastructure improvement through road Construction TRANSPORT			SK/UA		
Facility development (accommodations, visitor centers, lean-tos, cabins)					SK/UA
Trail layout, marking and maintenance				SK	UA
3. Interpretation and Communication	1	2	3	4	5
Brochure and promotional material					SK/UA
English language capacity building			SK		UA
Strategic planning (awareness building)				SK	UA
Multi-media information program with interpretative material				UA	SK

Cooperative education				SK	UA
Signage (Trail signs, maintenance, etc.)					SK/UA
4. Forest Resources, Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Protection					
	1	2	3	4	5
Cooperatively organized research priorities and methodology					SK/UA
Identification and control of threats to biodiversity				SK	UA
Integrated landscape level zoning and planning					SK/UA
Control introduction and management of exotic species		SK		UA	
Promotion of sustainable forest management (certification)			UA		SK/UA
Protection of wetlands and water resources			UA		SK/UA
Assistance to encourage migratory species movement				SK	UA
Cooperative conservation area management				UA	SK
Using networks of observers to assist in single species management				UA	SK
Improved consistency of management of transfrontier ecosystems					SK/UA
5. Cultural Resources					
Protection of architectural monuments				SK	UA
Retention of traditional land uses & culture					SK/UA
Promoting shared understanding of religious and cultural values				SK	UA
Festivals celebrating joint cultures, education and regional pride					SK/UA
6. Professional Development and Staff Morale					
Exchange of ideas					SK/UA
Joint newsletters				SK/UA/	
Public speaking training				SK	UA
Joint staff teams to work on management issue and problems					SK/UA
Consensus and team development				UA	SK
Cultural Exchange				SK	UA

APPENDIX E

Evaluating Priorities in Transboundary Cooperation in the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and the Maramures Mountains Nature Park

Methodology: The methodology for the analysis of management activities was adopted from the IUCN manual *Transborder Protected Area Cooperation* (Hamilton, L. *et al*, 1996). The extent of cooperation can be prioritized based on six areas of potential collaboration:

1. Law Enforcement
2. Visitor Use (Recreation)
3. Interpretation and Communication
4. Species and biodiversity protection
5. Cultural Resources
6. Professional Development

The cross-border activities are scored on a numerical bases from “1” to “5” with “1” = “not important” to “5” = “very important.” The rating was based on desired and future conditions and not present levels of cooperation. UA = rating by Ukrainian participants; RO = rating by Romanian participants.

GREEN HIGHLIGHT: PRIORITY [5]; **YELLOW HIGHLIGHT:** RANK CHANGED AFTER DISCUSSION

1. Law Enforcement	1	2	3	4	5
Law enforcement of park laws and regulations					RO/ UA
Joint field operations and patrols for vandalism			RO/ UA		
Sharing intelligence resources in trafficking of contraband	UA	RO			
Joint search and rescue activities					RO/ UA
Cooperative education			RO	UA	
Prevention programs for organizations, staff, local communities			UA	RO	
Border crossings					RO/ UA
2. Recreation and Visitor Use	1	2	3	4	5
Coordination of planning cross-border tourist activities					RO/ UA
Eco-tourism or agro-tourism guesthouse, pensions network				RO/ UA	
Infrastructure improvement through road Construction		RO	UA		
Facility development (accommodations, visitor centers, lean-tos, cabins)				RO/ UA	
Trail layout, marking and maintenance					RO/ UA
	1	2	3	4	5

Brochure and promotional material					RO/ UA
English Language capacity building					RO/ UA
Strategic planning (awareness building)					RO/ UA
Multi-media information program with interpretative material			UA	RO	
Cooperative education			UA	RO	
Signage				RO	UA
4. Forest Resources, Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Protection					
	1	2	3	4	5
Cooperatively organized research priorities and methodology					RO/ UA
Identification and control of threats to biodiversity					RO/ UA
Control introduction and management of exotic species				UA	RO
Promotion of sustainable forest management (certification)			RO/ UA		
Integrated landscape level zoning and planning					RO/ UA
Protection of wetlands and water resources				UA	RO
Assistance to encourage migratory species movement			UA/RO		
Cooperative conservation area management				UA	RO
Using networks of observers to assist in single species management				UA/ RO	
Improved consistency of management of transfrontier ecosystems				UA	RO
5. Cultural Resources					
Protection of architectural monuments			RO	UA	
Retention of traditional land uses & culture				RO	UA
Promoting shared understanding of religious and cultural values			UA	RO	
Festivals celebrating joint cultures, education and regional pride				RO	UA
6. Professional Development and Staff Morale					
Exchange of ideas			RO	UA	
Joint newsletters		RO/ UA			
Public speaking training				RO/ UA	
Joint staff teams to work on management issue and problems				UA	RO
Consensus and team development				UA	RO
Cultural Exchange		RO	UA		

APPENDIX F

Letter of Intent

Vişeu de Sus
30th of June, 2007

At the meeting organised in the framework of local celebration of “Vişeu Days”, at Maramureş Mountains Nature Park register’s office have been developed the preliminary discussions for setting up the Transboundary Ukrainian-Romanian Biosphere Reserve of Maramureş Mountains.

At the meeting took part:

From Ukrainian side:

- The director of Biosphere Reserve from Carpathians – professor, academician Hamor Fedir
- The mayor of Rahiv City – economist Dumyn Yaroslav

From Romanian side:

- The president of Nature Monuments Commission from Romanian Academy – academician Munteanu Dan;
- The president of Ukrainian Teachers Association in Romania – teacher Vasile Cureleac, PhD.;
- The director of Maramureş Mountains Nature Parc – dipl. Eng. Costel Bucur,
- The mayor of Vişeu de Sus town – dipl. Eng. Vasile Ciolpan;
- The responsible whit local communities relations – dipl. Eng. Cristian Cornea.

Within the discussion it issue the idea of setting up the Transboundary Ukrainian-Romanian Biosphere Reserve of Maramureş Mountains, in the purpose of strengthening the relationships and common actions Romanian and Ukrainian for preserving the nature and the sustainable development. The initiative is according to Carpathians Convention programs and principles.

The premises of this objective are:

- The existence since 1993 of Biosphere Reserve from Carpathians which’s south border is the same with Romanian-Ukrainian state border and in the same time with the northern border of Maramureş Mountains Nature Parc;
- The existence of Maramureş Mountains Nature Parc whom IUCN structure and framing fits to the biosphere reserve criteria;
- The existence of national and international legal framework for concrete this objective;
- The unitary character of physical and geographical framework, of ecosystems and also ethnic – cultural and demographic elements;
- The existence of Romanian and Ukrainian communities in both protected areas and of good relations between them;

Setting up the reserve will assure the following benefits:

- unitary management for natural and cultural heritage;
- realisation of common and scientific research;
- development of common action plans for protecting the ecosystems and biological diversity;
- setting up a common database;
- permanent exchange of scientific information and know-how between the two parts;
- promotion and development of traditional, economical and ethnic and cultural activities;

- engagement of local and foreign investments for creating the tourism infrastructure.

We consider that for putting into act this objective is necessary to follow the next steps:

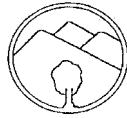
- to organise a meeting between the representatives of MAB committees, of academies, of governmental structures and of local administrations involved in this process, from both countries, in order to start the legal actions for setting up the trans boundary biosphere reserve;
- designing a common application to the MAB UNESCO international committee in order to establish the designation procedures;
- identifying the financial support for the designation process.

The subscribers to this letter sustain this initiative and they will forward it to the institutions and authorities involved in the process of setting up the Transboundary Ukrainian-Romanian Biosphere Reserve of Maramureş Mountains.

professor, academician Hamor Fedir
economist. Dumyn Yaroslav
academician. Munteanu Dan
teacher Cureleac Vasile, PhD.
dipl. Eng Bucur Costel
dipl. Eng Ciolpan Vasile
dipl. Eng Cornea Cristian

APPENDIX G

Current Status of the Foundation for the Eastern Carpathian Biodiversity Conservation



The Foundation for the Eastern Carpathian Biodiversity Conservation (ECBC). When the East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve was designated in the early 1990s, the economies of Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine were undergoing a transition from a centralized, planned economy towards a market economy. At this time protected areas were threatened by natural resource extraction and conservation issues were receiving less attention than competing, more urgent needs. In May 1990, the question of financial support was raised when the initial proposal to establish a trilateral biosphere reserve in the Eastern Carpathians was presented at UNESCO MaB meeting in Kiev,. In addition to geopolitical concerns and historical antecedents, funding has been a significant obstacle to effective conservation activities and protected areas management in this region. To address this problem, the idea of establishing a permanent financial mechanism in a form of foundation was proposed. The US-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and World Bank Global Environment Facility (GEF) agreed to provide funding for the establishment and permanent capitalization (in the form of an endowment) of ECBC. WWF provided assistance in the design and legal establishment of the reserve. The ECBC was incorporated in December 1994 and entered into the Register of Commerce in Geneva, Switzerland as “a neutral fourth country” in January 1995. This included statutory objectives “to encourage, organize, conduct and promote activities serving to protect the overall biodiversity of the Eastern Carpathian Mountains zone.”

ECBC Operations: The Foundation’s governing authorities are composed of a Board (approximately 14 members) and five-member Executive Committee (EC). The Foundation ECBC Representative Office (RO) was registered in Poland 2001. In December 2002 the Foundation appointed its Country Coordinators (CC) for the Slovak Republic and Ukraine. During the period of 2002-2004, financial concerns caused by declining support from the original donor organization began to limit the ECBC Foundation’s effectiveness. Due to the withdrawal of WWF-Switzerland from its previous commitments and activities in the Carpathians and high operating costs in Switzerland, the continuity of the WWF-Switzerland support for handling matters of the Foundation in Switzerland did not provide for a long-term solution. In 2006, The ECBC Executive Committee (EC) undertook the necessary legal steps in Switzerland to transfer ECBC assets to the new ECBC Foundation and to de-register the current Swiss-based ECBC Foundation. Pursuant to the Board decision in October 2006 a new ECBC Foundation was established by a notary act signed in February 2007 in Sanok, Poland.

The status of the transfer of funds and changes of the investment strategy of the ECBC Foundation is unclear. However, it appears that the transfer still has not been completed and does not provide for the significant improvement of the Foundation’s financial situation in terms of pursuing the same mission as the Swiss-based ECBC Foundation and making it eligible to apply for European funding sources. However, this new Foundation can not become officially registered in Polish Registry Court as long as its basic capital has not been provided by its founders (the Swiss-based ECBC Foundation). Registration is further restricted until a decision has been made by Swiss authorities concerning the transfer of Foundation’s assets to the new organization. Therefore, the new ECBC Foundation could not be officially registered before the FY 2008, when the financial situation of the Swiss-based ECBC Foundation was expected to improve due to possible re-investment of assets. Taking into account the current financial situation and the uncertainty about the future financial standing of the Foundation, the compilation of a

reasonable and feasible business plan is not realistic until the new investment strategy is successfully implemented and monitored.

The current status of ECBC transition is incomplete. The last available information about the ECBC Foundation is an internal report dated May 2007 from former ECBC President and General Manager, Mr. Zbigniew Niewiadomski. The report describes the FY 2006-07 activities of the Foundation since the last the Board meeting in Kostrino, Ukraine in June 2006. The Foundation entered the FY 2007 with a small surplus of \$+/-25,000 (USD) on the permanent endowment of \$600,000 (USD) which does not allow for implementation of the full work program. Fundraising efforts for implementation of the Foundation's programs, projects and initiatives, and increasing its basic capital of the newly established ECBC Foundation in Poland have not been successful. In 2006, due to declining funds, the Foundation decided to drastically reduce its expenditures by:

- suspending meetings of the Board and EC of the Foundation until the FY 2008.
- “temporarily” suspending the implementation of the ECBC Programme “Common Working Groups in the East Carpathians Biosphere Reserve”;
- limiting the amount of FY 2006 grants to co-financing of the publication *Uzhansky NNP: Multifunctional Significance* in Ukraine, ECBC support of \$2,938 (USD); printed 2007.
- reducing staff at RO office to part-time and reducing personnel salaries to the minimum level
- reduced the RO operational costs dismissing CCs in Slovakia and Ukraine in June 2006;
- closing and de-registering the RO, dismissing its personnel in December 2006, and closing Foundation's banking accounts.

Beginning with the FY 2007, the Foundation employed only one contracted accountant and auditors (KPMG-Zurich) in Switzerland.

Program Activities. Since its inception, the ECBC Foundation has been involved in activities on international level like: UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme advisory work in the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves, negotiations on the proposed Carpathian Convention facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE), cooperation on biodiversity conservation and protected areas in the Balkans under the Environment and Security Initiative and preparation of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas concept, WWF Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CEI), IUCN - World Commission on Protected Areas, EUROPARC Transboundary Task Force. No cooperation with the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CERI) has been initiated to date, mostly due to unknown objectives of the different CERI working groups and ECBC's current financial limitations has made participation in such groups difficult. According to the literature review, many of these ECBC programs fostered international cooperation and networking rather than transboundary or transfrontier cooperation through bilateral or trilateral exchange or ideas and resources.

On a regional scale, ECBC Foundation activities and programs focused on the ECBR “with the overall goal to facilitate cooperation on biodiversity conservation between the seven protected areas involved; this unique transboundary reserve should be approached as one unit, coherent both in terms of nature and management.” In 1996 ECBC launched a “Small Grants Program” with the purpose to support activities of NGOs and local communities that pursue the objectives of the Foundation in the ECBR. □Under the program, 21 projects were supported with \$74,324; the award of \$8,000 of the Carpathian Foundation additionally supported one of the projects. In 1999, under the WWF Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative (CEI), the ECBC Foundation entered a partnership with the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe - Poland and jointly launched a grant scheme called “Time for the Carpathians.” The grants provided

financing for local governments and NGOs to support sustainable development of the local communities. Under this program four projects were supported with \$15,000. In June 2003, a new grant scheme (Transborder Cooperation Grant Program) was approved by the Foundation's Board.

Projects were broken down into three functional areas: logistical, conservation and developmental. Early activities were aimed at preparing first maps of the whole ECBR area with common GIS database to facilitate joint management planning and research.

According to the ECBC website [www.unesco.org/mab/ecbr/foundation/], the following projects were supported by ECBC Foundation in Ukraine:

Logistical:

- Floristic inventory in Uzhansky National Nature Park (UA)
- Functional zoning of the Stuzhitsa Regional Landscape Park (UA)
- Park mapping and biodiversity study support system (UA)
- International workshop on tourist/educational infrastructure development (UA)

Conservation:

- Trout conservation measures in the Kamyanytsky stream (UA)
- Stuzhichanka river ecological conditions improvement (UA)

Developmental

- Support for ecotourism development in Uzhansky National Nature Park (UA)
- Restoration of ecotourism attractiveness of Uzhansky National Nature Park (UA)

- а) Покращення екологічних умов річки Стужичанка (2001). Виконавцем цього проекту був благодійний фонд «Ужанська долина», створений при НПП «Ужанський». Президент благодійного фонду – Копач Ольга, керівник відділу розвитку туризму і рекреації парку.
- б) Охорона форелі у потоці Кам'янистий (2001). Виконавцем цього проекту був благодійний фонд «Ужанська долина» у партнерстві з лісництвом.
- в) Відновлення привабливості Ужанського національного природного парку для екотуризму (2001). Виконавцем проекту був БФ «Ужанська долина».
- г) Підтримка розвитку екотуризму в Ужанському національному парку. Хто і коли здійснював це проект на території парку з'ясувати не вдалося.
- д) Міжнародні тренінги щодо розвитку інфраструктури маршрутів. Єдиний транскордонний польсько-український проект на території Ужанського парку. Хто і коли його здійснював з'ясувати не вдалось.
- е) Картування парку і системи підтримки вивчення біорізноманіття (1999). Виконавцем проекту був БФ «Ужанська долина».
- є) Інвентаризація рослинності в Ужанському національному природному парку. Проект виконувала Агенція стійкого регіонального розвитку (Львів)
- ж) Функціональне зонування Регіонального ландшафтного парку «Стужиця». Проект виконувала Агенція стійкого регіонального розвитку (Львів).

These were primarily implemented by the NGO “Uzhanka Dolyna” which is affiliated with UNNP. The President, Olha Kopach, wife of the Director, UNNP, Dr. Vasyl Kopach is also the Director of Recreation and Communication, UNNP. Some of the grants were implemented by the Agency of Regional Sustainable Development in Lviv. Grant reports, financial records or general evaluation of the results of projects could not be located at the UNNP office. If implemented correctly, these projects would be testimony of a successful initiative to promote development and to a lesser degree transboundary cooperation through the ECBC Foundation. Recent interviews (March-April 2008) with researchers and

staff at UNNP -- the largest portion of the Ukrainian component of ECBR in Velykyj Bereznyj -- did not uncover a lot of institutional history on these projects and grants administration. With the exception of floristic inventory of UNNP and the subsequent 2007 publication *Uzhansky NNP: Multifunctional Significance*, there were no records or reports at UNNP documenting their implementation or completion. Without these records, which are possibly housed in the ECBC archives, there is very little information available to judge their impact on transboundary cooperation or value to the protection of the ECBR and sustainable development of the region.

The implementation of the Foundation work program has been on hold until financial and legal matters are resolved. As a result there has been little cooperation, promotion and public relations, distribution of printed materials and updating of the website. A limited number of ECBC brochures have been distributed since 2006 and the contact information on the previously printed materials became outdated. According to Mr. Niewiadomski, continuous cooperation and involvement in international initiatives fostering TBPA management on biodiversity conservation issues has continued. This has not been documented and is likely that only through Mr. Niewiadomski's personal commitment and initiatives will this carry on.

APPENDIX H

WWF/DCPO TBPA COOPERATION PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE

Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30)	2008				2009				2010				2011			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Quarterly Activities																
Phase I (Follow-up):																
• Forward Meeting Notes and Resolutions																
• Distribute Survey Results																
• ECBC Interviews																
• ECBC Final Evaluation																
• ECBR Quarterly Meetings																
• CBR Quarterly Meetings																
Phase II:																
Program Development [Tentative]:																
• TBPA Management Plan Development																
• TBPA High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)																
• TBPA Forest Certification of Buffer Zone Areas																
• TBPA Landscape Level Zoning Model																
• TransCarpathian Trail (TCT) Development																
• Pilot Ecotourism Development Program																
Meetings and Conferences:																
• ECBR Quarterly Meetings																
• CBR Quarterly Meetings																
• ECBR Trialateral Nations Conference																
• Maramures Mountains MAB Development																
• MMNP-CBR Ecosystems Services Project ¹																
Training:																
• Program Training Seminars and Worksops																
• Protected Area Management Seminar ² (US)																
Publications: [TBD]																

¹ In collaboration with a Trust for Mutual Understanding funded project proposed by the University of Vermont

² USDA Forest Service, International Programs, 2009 Protected Area Management Seminar [www.fs.fed.us/global/is/ispam/welcome.htm]