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# HANDS ACROSS BORDERS

## An International Workshop on Transboundary Conservation

### Common Stages of Transboundary Conservation

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September 13-18, 2016, Glacier Park Lodge - Glacier National Park, Montana, USA

# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Some introductory comments
- An overview of the common stages of a TBC process (Table 15 and Figure 7)
- Some specific inputs on:
  - Assessing feasibility;
  - Understanding the scope and developing a shared vision;
  - Agreeing on shared actions
  - Measuring effectiveness
- Wrap up with some questions and discussion



# INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

- The TBC context is complex and subject to a myriad of dynamics!
- Where does it begin, who starts the process and who takes it forward?
- The process is not linear or cyclic; but must be adaptive, iterative, flexible, multi-dimensional, etc.



# AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMON STAGES OF A TBC PROCESS (Table 15 and Figure 7)

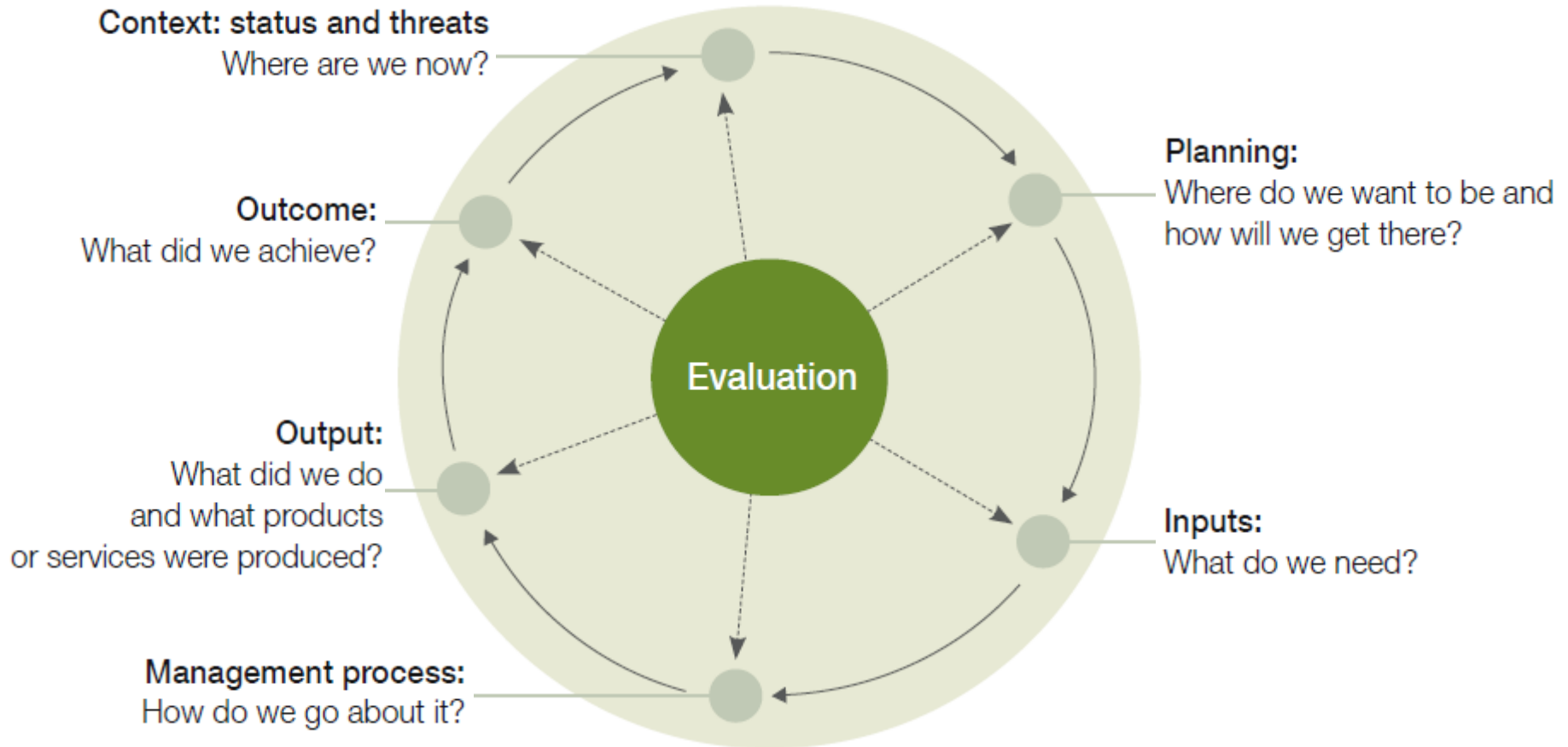
Table 15 Common stages of a transboundary conservation process

WCPA's Framework	CONTEXT AND PLANNING		INPUTS AND PROCESSES	OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES
Stages	DIAGNOSE	DESIGN	TAKE ACTION	EVALUATE
Goals	Determine the need for transboundary conservation	Match the process to the situation	Secure resources and implement actions	Learn and adapt
Step 1	Identify if there is a compelling reason to act	Determine who should lead the effort	Assess the capacity to implement plans	Assess progress and outcomes
Step 2	Determine if there is a constituency for change	Mobilize and engage the right people	Develop an action plan	Determine if there is a need to continue
Step 3	Estimate the scope of the issue	Define the geographic extent	Secure financial sustainability	Adapt the management and action plans
Step 4	Estimate the capacity to work across boundaries	Negotiate a joint vision and develop management objectives	Implement the plans	Communicate progress

Source: Adapted from McKinney and Johnson (2009)

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMON STAGES OF A TBC PROCESS (Table 15 and Figure 7)

Figure 7: The WCPA's management cycle and the framework for assessing management effectiveness of protected areas



Source: Hockings et al. (2006)

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# ASSESSING FEASIBILITY

- The global conservation fraternity can testify to the fact that achieving conservation objectives and targets for a single protected area by a single conservation agency is fraught with difficulties.
- Move this to the TBC realm and the difficulties increase substantially.
- TBC is attractive with the benefits being quite obvious to proponents and practitioners, but the danger lies in this attractiveness over-shadowing the realities of objectively measured feasibility.

## DIAGNOSE

**Determine the need for transboundary conservation**

Identify if there is a compelling reason to act

Determine if there is a constituency for change

Estimate the scope of the issue

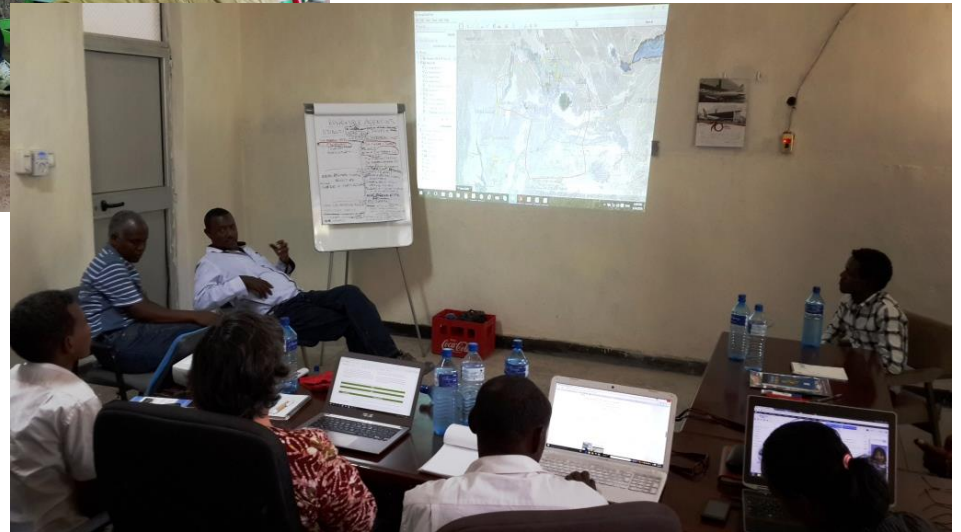
Estimate the capacity to work across boundaries

# ASSESSING FEASIBILITY

Diagnostic Tool for Transboundary Conservation Planners  
(Vasiljević, M., 2012 in Erg et al, 2012)

- Explores the TBC initiative and asks questions that test:
  - If there is a compelling case?
  - Who the stakeholders are and what is their readiness and capacity to engage with the process?
  - If there are opportunities to assist the process or be catalysed by the process?
  - If there are risks that could slow the process down?
- Answering the questions requires the allocation of a score and the provision of information, with the scores being used to provide a measure of the compelling case, and the information to populate a feasibility report.

# UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE AND DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION



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# UNDERSTANDING THE SCOPE AND DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION

- Bring as many of the relevant stakeholders together to share their stories, aspirations, fears, expectations, etc. for a potential TBC initiative.
- Facilitate open and frank discussion that helps to take the blinkers off and begins to generate a sense of shared resources, opportunities, responsibilities, etc.
- Use the process to test the feasibility and to develop a shared vision, if feasible.
- If time and resources allow, unpack the vision into shared management objectives that are necessary to see the initiative succeed, as well as to secure commitments from the stakeholders.

<b>DESIGN</b>
Match the process to the situation
Determine who should lead the effort
Mobilize and engage the right people
Define the geographic extent
Negotiate a joint vision and develop management objectives

# AGREEING ON SHARED ACTIONS – WHAT, WHO, WHERE, WITH WHAT, WHEN, ...

- This is where efficiencies can be achieved and help to justify the expense of transboundary cooperation.
- Shared actions can include:
  - Joint operations carried out together such as resource management, wildlife crime prevention, tourism access and activities and/or;
  - Country-specific activities carried out in the same way such as planning, infrastructure development and monitoring.
- Actions need to be realistic in terms of available resources, but also in terms of the need to meet targets, i.e. the joint action plan can be used to leverage much needed support.

<b>TAKE ACTION</b>
Secure resources and implement actions
Assess the capacity to implement plans
Develop an action plan
Secure financial sustainability
Implement the plans

# MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS

- This is key and central to an adaptive management approach.
- It must be an integral part of the joint management plan and implementation.
- Monitoring must be efficient but scientifically defensible.
- M&E provides the substance for communicating progress.
- How does M&E relate to measuring effectiveness, e.g. METT?

<b>EVALUATE</b>
Learn and adapt
Assess progress and outcomes
Determine if there is a need to continue
Adapt the management and action plans
Communicate progress

Table 18 A template for contents of an action plan

Objective					
Operational Goal					
Action					
What tasks	Who participates	With whom	With what resources	Time frame	Measure of achievement

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



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