

Life in a Working Landscape: Towards a Conservation Strategy for the World's Temperate Grasslands



Photo by Chris Harris

A Record of The World Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Workshop Hohhot, China - June 28 & 29, 2008

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Temperate grasslands occupy ~8% of the earth's terrestrial surface and are now considered the most altered and beleaguered ecosystem on the planet, with only 5.5% protected. Temperate grasslands used to be home to some of the greatest assemblages of wildlife on earth.

In 2005, the J.M. Kaplan Fund invited expressions of interest designed to enhance international communication and cooperation for the protection and conservation of the world's temperate grasslands. The Grasslands Protected Area Task Force of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) submitted a proposal and was awarded a grant - as a result the Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative (TGCI) was born.

The TGCI scheduled a workshop on June 28-29, 2008 in Hohhot, China, in conjunction with the joint International Grasslands Congress and the International Rangelands Congress, and invited 35 grassland specialists to attend, to develop an action plan with the following purpose and outcomes.

Purpose: To reverse the trend of biodiversity loss and degradation of the temperate grassland biome by promoting both the designation and sustainable management of representative protected areas, and the widespread use of sustainable management practices beyond protected area boundaries, with the goal of at least doubling the current level of protection by 2014.

Outcomes: To establish a global strategy and to inspire the value of regional-specific action plans world wide throughout 2008-2009, by:

- Producing a communications document that describes the global role, values and purpose of the temperate grasslands initiative.
- Facilitating the establishment of regional action plans for East Asia and South America.
- Promoting sustainable use and management that preserves the many valuable ecological services delivered by indigenous temperate grasslands
- Developing a mechanism for improving international communications and cooperation related to temperate grasslands.
- Promoting the benefits of transboundary protected area networks.

To provide information on the status of temperate grasslands, 15 participants completed a regional template document that was brought together into a Compendium. This compendium provides a 'world perspective' and will be helpful in both a global strategy and regional approaches in East Asia and South America. It was determined that the greatest potential for grasslands conservation on a landscape scale is in eastern Mongolia, the Kazakh steppe, the Patagonian steppe and the mixed and short grass prairie of North America.

There was much discussion at the workshop about the threats to the temperate grasslands biome with the focus on the low level of actual legal protection that protected areas offer and the many existing management challenges, such as: widespread livestock grazing, the introduction of exotic species, fire management and the loss of grasslands through urban and forest encroachment. Of these management challenges the most pervasive seems to be livestock grazing - with an overarching, yet not well understood, concern for global climate change. The importance of how 'grazing' is characterized was stressed, since when properly managed on a sustainable basis, grazing can be an effective practice for maintaining the biodiversity of most indigenous grasslands. However, the message is clear that temperate grasslands must be better managed if the trend toward habitat loss, fragmentation, loss of diversity and integrity, degradation and desertification is to be reversed.

There was a strong suggestion to build socio-economic instruments into our analysis as a stronger socio-economic perspective strengthens the connection between temperate grasslands, human health, the economy and water security.

The workshop was deemed a success and a series of recommendations and action steps were approved. A transition from a Project Team-led initiative to a more directed funding model and minimal staff is required. The focus needs to be on internal and external communication/awareness, building a case statement, completing a socio-economic analysis, bioregion conservation and clarifying our partnership with both the WCPA and IUCN Protected Areas Programme. There was an agreement to meet again in 2-3 years.

The Hohhot Declaration: Building on the experience of a number of participants, we thought it strategically important to have a Declaration that outlines the value of the world's temperate grasslands, why they are endangered and how important it is for citizens of the world to work together to protect them. The Hohhot Declaration was therefore developed with the intention that it be widely distributed and translated into a number of languages so that it is available and broadly used as a key statement advocating for the improved conservation of temperate grasslands.

The Hohhot Declaration

**XXI International Grasslands Congress/VIII International Rangeland Congress
July 2008 - Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China**

We, the participants of the World Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative, recognize that:

Considering that temperate indigenous grasslands provide critical ecological goods and services essential for life on earth as a source of food, fibre, human livelihoods and well being, cultural and biological diversity, the recharge of aquifers and the sequestration of carbon, particularly in the face of global climate change;

Agreeing that temperate indigenous grasslands are terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous and shrub vegetation, maintained by grazing, soils, fire, drought and/or low temperatures and that all of these processes are dynamic and display great variability in terms of time, extent, intensity and place;

Recognizing the opportunities that temperate indigenous grasslands provide in feeding people, it is imperative to maintain the genetic diversity of grassland systems;

Realizing the importance of temperate indigenous grasslands to the life and cultural survival of mobile indigenous peoples and to the maintenance of valuable indigenous knowledge as well as the accumulated experience of traditional indigenous temperate grasslands users;

Acknowledging that temperate indigenous grasslands are currently considered among the most imperiled ecosystems on the planet, having been modified by human activity to such a degree that most grasslands have been transformed and very few remain in a natural state;

Recognizing that the remaining areas of natural grassland continue to be threatened by inappropriate policies that lead to loss of grassland, as well as unsustainable land uses and management practices;

Acknowledging that success will require participatory management approaches and partnerships among all sectors to ensure the integration of production and biodiversity conservation outcomes for the continued provision of grassland ecological goods and services;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening indigenous territories, community conserved areas and protected areas;

Recognizing the important opportunities for collaboration to ensure worldwide societal recognition of the enduring value of natural grasslands; and that,

Developing and implementing incentives for good land stewardship, restoration and the sustainable management of indigenous temperate grasslands is essential to guarantee their sustainable use as healthy working environments.

Therefore, we the participants of the Hohhot World Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Workshop from five continents and 14 countries, declare that temperate indigenous grasslands are critically endangered and urgent action is required to protect and maintain the many valuable ecological services they provide to sustain human life. We call upon all sectors of society to collaborate towards this goal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Temperate Grassland Conservation Initiative and any progress that we have made to date would not be possible without the generous funding support of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

Life in a Working Landscape¹: Towards a Conservation Strategy for the World's Temperate Grasslands

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Status of Temperate Grasslands

Temperate grasslands are one of the world's great biomes - or at least they used to be. Temperate grasslands are now considered the most altered and beleaguered ecosystem on the planet. The temperate grasslands biome occupies about 9 million sq. km., or ~ 8% of the earth's terrestrial surface. These grasslands occur on every continent except for Antarctica and are now the most endangered ecosystem on most of them, especially the prairies of North America, the pampas of South America, the lowland grasslands of southeast Australia and the steppes of Eastern Europe. Temperate grasslands used to be home to some of the greatest assemblages of wildlife the earth has ever known.

Temperate grasslands have been modified by human activity to such a degree that little remains today in a natural state, and even less in some form of long-term protection. Globally over 40% of temperate grasslands have been converted from their indigenous state. An alarm was sounded when the United Nations' 1993 List of Protected Areas estimated that only 0.69% of the temperate grassland biome was protected.

It was with this knowledge of the high rate of conversion and low level of protection for temperate grasslands that in 1996 the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)² created the Grasslands Protected Areas Task Force with Bill Henwood approved as the Lead. The general purpose of the Task Force was to work toward raising the level of protection for grassland ecosystems generally - with a clear and immediate priority on temperate grasslands. The Task Force was established as the primary vehicle for facilitating international cooperation and communication on the conservation and protection of grasslands.

The mission of the Task Force is:

To promote and facilitate the establishment of new grassland protected areas throughout the grasslands biome, with a priority on temperate grasslands, toward a goal of protecting 10% of the biome by the year 2014, and to provide for the protection, restoration and wise use of grassland protected areas through the development of best management practices and guidelines.

¹ The report title is a modification of the slogan 'Living in a Working Landscape' developed by stakeholders to the South African Grasslands Programme, and it is used with their permission.

² The WCPA (World Commission on Protected Areas) is one of 6 official Commissions of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and is administered by the IUCN's Programme on Protected Areas.

1.2 The Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative (TGCI)

In 2005, the J.M. Kaplan Fund invited expressions of interest designed to enhance international communication and cooperation for the protection and conservation of the world's temperate grasslands. The IUCN/WCPA Task Force, led by Bill Henwood, submitted a proposal and was awarded a grant in 2006 - as a result the Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative (TGCI) was born. Subsequently a Project Team was established with the following members, and the administrative support of IUCN staff in Washington, USA, Thailand (Asia Regional Office) and Ecuador (South America Regional Office):

Bill Henwood, WCPA (Canada)	Project Director
Dr. Alan Mark, New Zealand	Deputy Project Director
Robert Hofstede, IUCN (Ecuador)	Project Administrator
Peter Shadie, IUCN (Thailand)	Project Administrator
Bob Peart, Canada	Project Coordinator

The TGCI has been established to address the plight of temperate grasslands – to foster a regime of communications and cooperation at the global level, both within the recognized “conservation community”, but also outside this community among the many interest groups and research organizations involved in the sustainable use and conservation of temperate grasslands. The goal is that this project will enable temperate grasslands to gain their rightful place in the world’s protected areas system, while also fostering a renewed interest in and commitment to the conservation of large scale grassland ecosystems, aimed at stemming the declines in habitat loss, conserving biodiversity, restoring lost or damaged ecosystems, reintroducing extirpated species and promoting the ecologically sustainable use of indigenous grasslands by improving grassland management practices.

The TGCI is also conscious of the many benefits to be derived from the improved conservation and protection of temperate grasslands to the lives and cultures of mobile indigenous peoples, and to the securement of more reliable food supplies and sources of safe drinking water for rural communities throughout the biome. In this way, the TGCI can assist in achieving the UN’s Millennium Development goals, as well as the objectives of several international conventions and IUCN commissions (see 1.4 below).

1.3 A Global Assessment: The Protection of the Temperate Grasslands³

When the Task Force was established in 1996 the level of protection for temperate grasslands stood at 0.69%; a revised analysis altered this figure to 0.98% in 1997. The 2003 United Nations’ List of Protected Areas, released at the 5th World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa, revised this level of protection for temperate grasslands to 4.59%. The most recent analysis conducted by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in 2007 places the level of protection for this biome at 5.5%.

There is considerable potential for even further improvement toward the 10% goal. Over the past decade, there has been a significant rise in the level of interest in the conservation and protection of temperate grasslands. Numerous initiatives are evident throughout the biome aimed at stemming the declines in habitat loss, conserving biodiversity, restoring lost or damaged ecosystems, reintroducing extirpated species and improving grassland management practices. While notable efforts to increase the level of protection have occurred in such places as Mongolia, China, Australia, New Zealand, North America and South Africa, it is believed that at least some of this $\pm 500\%$ percentage increase between 1993 and 2007 is also due to improved reporting and analysis by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

³ The data in this section, and in various places throughout this report, is available from WCPA reports and articles written by Bill Henwood.

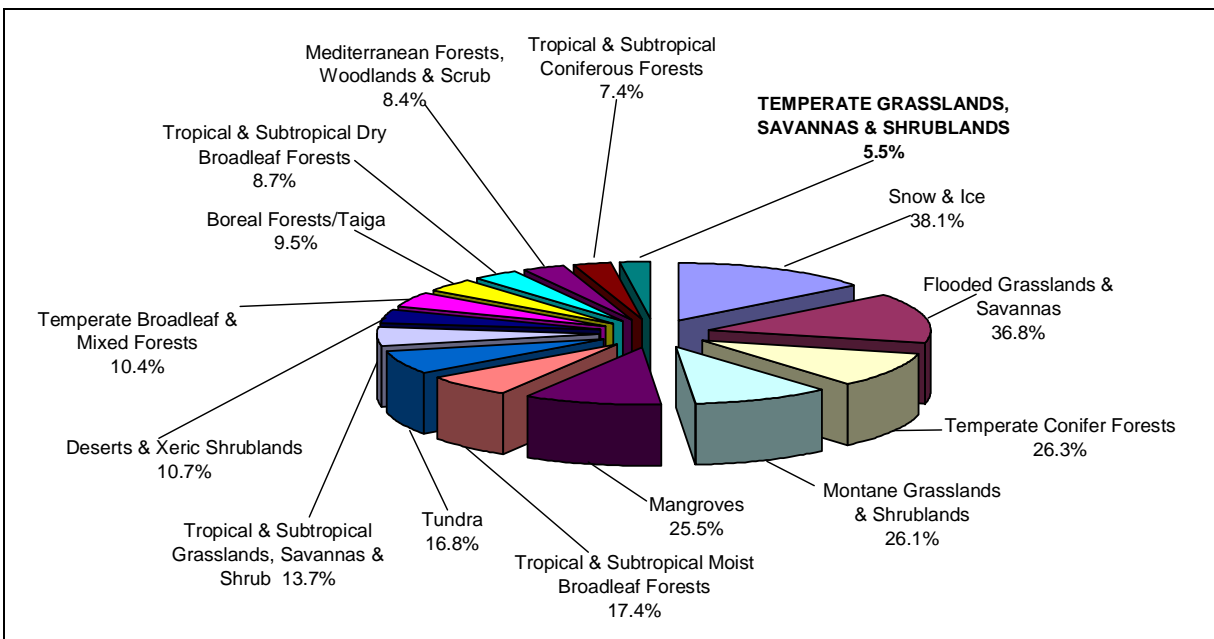


Figure One: Relative Levels of Protection Among the World's 14 Biomes (2007)

Figure One illustrates that temperate grasslands have the lowest level of protection of all the world's terrestrial biomes. With a protection level of 5.5% it is clear that temperate grasslands require a concerted conservation focus if the desired level of protection is to be achieved.

The global assessment also identified three general categories of temperate grassland landscapes according to current levels of protection and of disturbance; the remaining area in a relatively natural state and the potential for connectivity; their current ecological condition and potential for restoration; the numbers of extirpations or extinctions and the potential for reintroductions; and the prospects for ultimate levels of protection.

These three categories are:

- Highly modified and fragmented landscapes;
- Moderately modified and fragmented landscapes; and
- Large, relatively intact landscapes.

In the Highly Modified and Fragmented Landscapes category that typifies areas like the steppes of Eastern Europe, the tall grass prairie of North America or the pampas in Argentina, it is unlikely to expect to be able to achieve ultimate levels of protection greater than 5%. In the Moderately Modified and Fragmented Landscapes, it may be possible to achieve up to 10%, as the fragments are larger with greater potential for connectivity. Examples of these landscapes can still be found in the veldt of South Africa, the steppes of northern China and western and central Mongolia.

The greatest potential for grasslands conservation on a landscape scale can be found in the Large, Relatively Intact Landscapes of eastern Mongolia, the Kazakh steppe, the Patagonian steppe and the mixed and short grass prairie of North America. It is in these four grassland landscapes where the potential still exists to protect or restore large, ecologically viable grasslands, and with the required restoration and reintroduction efforts. Moreover, with this habitat protected, it may still be possible to re-establish a semblance of their natural wildlife populations and predator-prey relationships.

1.4 Related International Programmes

As this initiative moves forward it is important to recognize the connection to other international programmes, such as those below, to ensure that we complement and build on their energy and expertise.

- **United Nations:**
 - Convention on Biodiversity (CBD): 2010 Biodiversity Target and Programme of Work for Protected Areas (PoWPA).
 - 2015 Millennium Development Goals: Related to environmental sustainability and eradicating extreme hunger and poverty.
 - Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) focus on food production and access.
- **IUCN:**
 - Commission on Environment, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).
 - Species Survival Commission: Red List of Threatened Species and Countdown 2010.
 - World Commission on Protected Areas: Transboundary Conservation Task Force.
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF):** Climate change and desertification.
- **International NGO's:**
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Protected Areas Programme.
 - The Ford Foundation

Although each of the above is worthy of attention, four are particularly relevant to the TGCI purpose and achieving our goals⁴:

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

This convention and the work programme are the primary international instruments guiding work on the conservation of biodiversity, and it recognizes protected areas as “cornerstones of biodiversity conservation and critical to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target and the Millennium Development Goals”. The 2010 target includes protecting 10% of all the world’s biomes, and is the origin of the TGCI’s target to protect 10% of the world’s temperate grasslands (although by 2014). The work of the TGCI could be positioned as the primary mechanism for achieving the CBD’s goals in the temperate grasslands biome.

Protected areas are the foundation for safeguarding ecosystems, species and genes in all their abundance and diversity. Protected areas are the backbone for the stability and functioning of ecosystem processes and the provision of ecosystem services such as natural carbon storage, water cycles, pollination, control of diseases and flood control. Properly designed and managed protected areas support livelihoods of local communities and strengthen local and national economies. Protected area networks are our “Safety-Nets for Life on Earth”. Thus the establishment and long-term maintenance of protected areas is in the interest of humanity and requires a common effort of the global community. (CBD - Programme of Work on Protected Areas)

2. The Commission on Environment, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). This interdisciplinary body of expertise provides advice on the environmental, economic, social and cultural factors affecting the use and conservation of biodiversity. There is also an important connection to WAMIP (World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous People) and WISP (World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism). As we proceed we need to recognize and appreciate mobility as a strategy for both sustainable livelihoods and the conservation of biological diversity. It is important that the TGCI work closely with CEESP to assist and empower mobile indigenous people to maintain their mobile lifestyles while in pursuit of livelihoods

⁴ At the Hohhot workshop there was representation from CEESP and WAMIP. SSC and the TCTF were contacted and encouraged to attend; however neither sent a participant.

and cultural identity. These organizations are pursuing the concept of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas, which are a promising avenue for the conservation of temperate grasslands.

3. The Species Survival Commission (SSC). There is a strong tie among food security, economic development and conservation. As the world is under increasing pressure to serve the needs of the increasing population the concern for the future of specific plants, animals and habitats is well documented in temperate grasslands. As we move forward with our strategy it is essential that we develop a strong link with the various conservation strategies being developed for species. An examination of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species points out that many identified species find their home in temperate grasslands.

4. WCPA: Transboundary Conservation Task Force (TCTF). There are an ever increasing number of transboundary protected areas throughout the world: Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park on the Canada-United States border set aside in 1932 being the first. The rationale for transboundary conservation is broad ranging and includes efforts at both the large-scale ecosystem-wide approaches, and much smaller-scale focused interventions. This 'transfrontier' approach seeks to address the fundamental cause of loss of biodiversity, namely habitat destruction and fragmentation at the landscape scale. Transboundary temperate grasslands conservation would focus on the migration patterns of the wide-ranging fauna, common water resources and shared ecosystems.

As we move forward it is essential that we try to balance governance, equity, rights, conservation and protection, and we will need the support and advice of these programmes to do so.

2. THE HOHHOT WORKSHOP: BACKGROUND



Figure Two: Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Banner from Hohhot Workshop

2.1 Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Purpose, Strategy and Goals

The Project Team developed a preliminary purpose statement for discussion at the TGCI workshop in Hohhot (Figure Three). A purpose statement is important to ensure that when strategic priorities emerge and action plans develop they are considered within an agreed-to context.

**PRELIMINARY PURPOSE STATEMENT -
TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

PURPOSE:
To promote and facilitate the establishment of new or expanded protected grassland areas throughout the temperate grassland biome, with the goal of protecting a minimum of 10% of the biome by 2014.

GOAL:
This purpose will be achieved by developing a global strategy and two regional-specific action plans.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

1. Inventory - Locate and describe the world's temperate grasslands by region.
2. Status - Outline the impact of human settlement, percent of indigenous grassland remaining and protected, and the current major challenges and opportunities for further conservation in these regions.
3. Action Plan - Agree to the next steps and activities to achieve described goals.

Figure Three: Preliminary Purpose Statement - Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative

2.2 Participants

To confirm direction and purpose a 'face to face' meeting was essential during the initial stages of the initiative. Since many grassland experts from around the world were planning to attend the joint XXI International Grassland Congress and VIII International Rangeland Congress in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia China (June 29-July 5, 2008) it was decided to take advantage of this opportunity and hold the TGCI Workshop immediately prior to the Congress.

It seemed appropriate to have participation from each of the following priority grasslands regions:

- Prairie, intermontane and desert steppe grasslands of North America.
- Pampas and campos grasslands, high elevation Central and Northern Andean paramo grasslands and the Patagonia steppe in South America.
- Steppes of Eastern Europe.
- Steppes of the Black Sea -Kazakh.
- Daurian Steppes of East Asia (Mongolia, China, Russia).
- Veldt of southern Africa and high elevation grasslands of tropical eastern Africa.
- Lowland grasslands of southeastern Australia.
- Tussock grasslands of New Zealand.
- High Elevation grasslands on the Tibetan Plateau.

In an effort to ensure such representation the Project Team invited about 50 individuals from 15-18 countries. In the end 35 individuals attended from 14 countries. (Appendix One: Participants Invited and in Attendance). It was also encouraging that close to 30 people, who were attending the larger Congress, observed and participated in our workshop. As a result there is a broad audience interested in the results of our gathering, and we agreed to circulate our workshop results to them.



Photo by B. Peart

Participants during a working session at the Hohhot workshop.

2.3 Regional Template Summaries

The Project Team felt it was important to provide initial inventory and status information on the priority temperate grassland regions to the workshop participants. A participant from each region was therefore contacted and requested to complete a description and background template document on their particular grassland region. The various descriptions of the grassland templates vary from the continental level, to country to the regional level, depending on the ecosystem configuration. The 17 templates have been brought together as A Compendium of Regional Templates on the Status of Temperate Grasslands Conservation and Protection (Appendix Two). They have been grouped together by continent⁵:

Africa	Australasia
Equatorial Africa (High Altitude)	Southeastern Australia
Southern Africa	New Guinea
	New Zealand
Asia	Europe
China	Bulgaria/Romania
Daurian Steppe	
Iran	North America
Kazakhstan	Canada, Mexico, United States
Mongolia	
Russia: Amur River Basin	South America
Russian Steppes	Northern Andes
Ukraine	Central Andean Grasslands
Uzbekistan	Río de la Plata Grasslands
	Patagonian Steppes

During the workshop the individuals who prepared the templates were provided ten minutes each to present an outline of their grassland region. This discussion format allowed for questions and clarifications, and provided a useful background context for future conversations about threats, challenges and next steps.

2.4 Definitions and Terminology

To ensure consistency it is important that each participant both uses and understands key terms in a consistent manner. Two particular terms were critical for these discussions, and for the purposes of this workshop the following working definitions applied:

Indigenous Temperate Grasslands: Grass and graminoid-dominated indigenous ecosystems, where seasonal climates and soils favour the dominance of perennial grasses and other graminoids; these ecosystems occur mainly in the middle latitudes and also in areas of tropical and temperate high mountains above the regional tree line where generally similar environments and temperate biogeographic affinities occur.

Protected Areas: A specifically delineated area that is both designated and managed to achieve the conservation of the indigenous state and the maintenance of associated ecosystems services and cultural values, through legal or other effective means⁶.

⁵ Two templates are missing, New Guinea and the Ukraine as no information was received for inclusion in this report.

⁶ The definition of protected area is being discussed at the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain October 2008. If the definition changes substantially as a result of these discussions the Project Team will revisit this working definition.

3. THE HOHHOT WORKSHOP: SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Workshop Goals and Agenda

The workshop agenda is attached as Appendix Three. The first agenda item was to clarify the purpose of the workshop - all present agreed to the following specific workshop goals:

1. To establish a global strategy and two regional-specific action plans for increased protection by 2014.
2. To develop a mechanism for improving international communications and cooperation for the continued conservation, protection and management of the world's temperate grasslands.
3. To establish a Steering Committee to help guide the Project Team and implement the global strategy and region-specific action plans.
4. To confirm South America and East Asia as the two priority pilot regions for the project.
5. To discuss the potential for and benefits of transboundary protected areas.

3.2 Governance

During the workshop there was much discussion of what was termed as 'who is we?', whenever there was reference to the Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative. The participants agreed to an initial approach to project governance (Figure Four).

This structure illustrates the necessity for the TGCI to clarify and strengthen its official connections with the IUCN and WCPA, for both financial and program reasons. There is a strong social and political element to what the TGCI is undertaking and the IUCN/WCPA need to thoroughly understand and appreciate these overtones.

Figure Four: Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Project Governance

TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE PROJECT GOVERNANCE

Project Title Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative

Official Sponsor WCPA - World Commission on Protected Areas
(As a voluntary commission of the IUCN)

Project Team

The project team was confirmed as follows, with the administrative support of IUCN staff in Thailand and Ecuador:

Bill Henwood, WCPA (Canada)	Project Director
Dr. Alan Mark, New Zealand	Deputy Project Director
Robert Hofstede, IUCN (Ecuador)	Project Administrator
Peter Shadie, IUCN (Thailand)	Project Administrator
Bob Peart, Canada	Project Coordinator

Steering Committee

The following individuals expressed interest in providing regular guidance to the Project Team, on an as and when required basis. Over time, the membership of this committee will change as some current members leave and others are invited to or may request to become members.

- Susan Antenen (Mongolia)
- Andrew Cowell (Australia)
- Taghi Farvar (Iran)
- Louise Gilfedder (Australia)
- Jeff Hardesty (United States)
- Jurgen Hoth (Mexico)
- Ian Lunt (Australia)
- John MacKinnon (China)
- Cliff Wallis (Canada)
- Ed Wiken (North America)

Task Force Members

It was agreed that the workshop participants, plus another ~40 individuals who were invited but unable to attend the workshop and/or have expressed strong interest in being involved would be task force members, for a total of ~ 75 people from some 20 countries.

Temperate Grasslands Network

All of the above, plus any other individuals who express interest in being kept informed about the progress of the project.

3.3 Common Threats

There was much discussion during the workshop about the past and current threats to the temperate grassland biome. The focus was on the low level of actual legal protection and the existing management challenges, such as: widespread livestock grazing and agricultural intensification (or crop production), the introduction of exotic species, fire management and in a number of cases, the continued loss of grasslands through urban and forest encroachment.

Upon analyzing the descriptions in the various regional templates a clear pattern of the common threats emerged (Figure Five). The primary overarching threat was global climate change. The impact of climate change on the interactions amongst native and exotic species under different disturbance and grazing regimes is largely unknown, particularly at the local level where temperature and precipitation will be less stable. Climate change also leads to habitat reduction, especially in high elevation areas.

Unsustainable grazing and land conversion for forest plantations, crop production (fodder/fibre, dairy, vineyards, bio fuels) and energy development/mining were identified as fundamental threats in every template. In turn, nearly every template identified urban encroachment, inappropriate fire regimes, poor water management and weak protected area enforcement as the next level of threat. A fewer number of the templates also outlined a concern about overharvesting for fuel and medicinal plants and illegal hunting.

In summary, these threats result in habitat loss, fragmentation, loss of diversity, degradation and - in some cases -ultimately desertification. If the landscape doesn't stay intact the scientific literature is clear that it is difficult to maintain a healthy ecosystem and biodiversity will suffer. Some effort is being made to restore harmed landscapes, and that is difficult on the large scale necessary to achieve our goals.

It is important to be cautious about how 'grazing' is characterized. When properly managed on a sustainable basis grazing can be an effective practice for maintaining the biodiversity of most indigenous grasslands. In many cases unsustainable grazing and the removal of moribund biomass by domestic livestock is inappropriately undertaken, whereas if managed sustainably grazing can be an effective practice, in particular if used with an appropriate fire regime. We need to be careful 'not to judge' grazing practices and any decision-making needs to be based on sound conservation biology principles, and getting the right balance among conservation, traditional cultural values and development.

COMMONLY IDENTIFIED THREATS TO TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS

1. Unsustainable and inappropriate **grazing**.
2. Conversion/clearing of the landscape for **forest plantations** and **crop production**.
3. Landscape change for **mining** and **energy production** (coal, oil/gas, electricity).
4. **Urban encroachment** with the associated infrastructure, especially roads.
5. Inappropriate **fire** regimes.
6. Excessive **water** extraction/aquifer depletion, inadequate irrigation management, existing/potential water basin transfers.
7. **Current protected areas** too small, too few, poorly managed and lacking balanced ecosystem representation.
8. Other - over collection for **fuel** and **medicinal plants**, illegal **hunting/poaching**

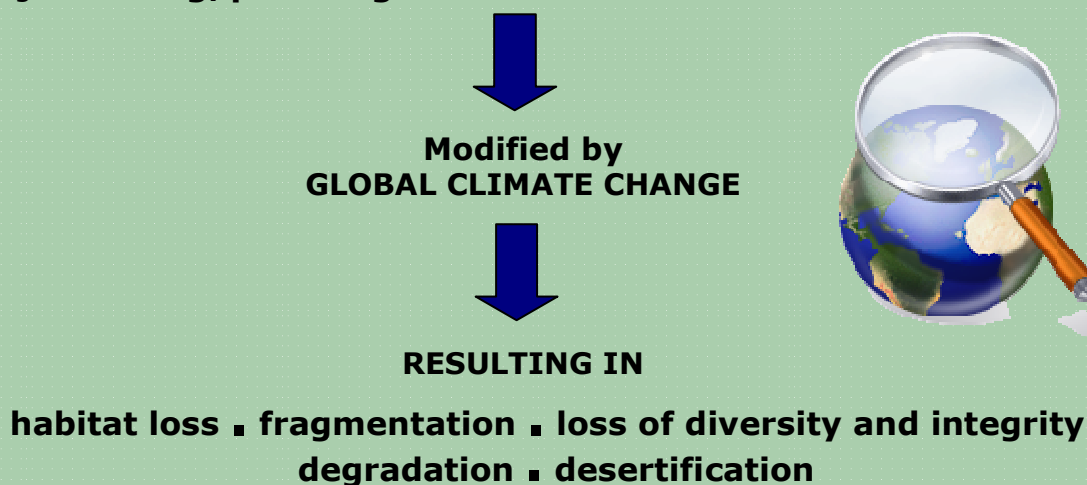


Figure Five: Commonly Identified Threats to Temperate Grasslands

3.4 Financing and Fundraising

For the current TGCI project the J.M. Kaplan Fund has approved \$US320,000 over two years. To date, \$US160,000 has been received and negotiations are underway for the release of the remainder. There is a need to raise additional funding as the Kaplan Fund expects the TGCI to raise a minimum of 50% of the funds provided - beyond any in-kind contributions. A number of points were raised during the workshop about the potential funding for projects such as the TGCI:

- Grasslands are a challenge for raising money as they have little conservation profile and traditionally aren't part of the global conservation agenda. Although only a few foundations support grasslands conservation, there are many foundations that support species and habitat projects within grasslands.
- To assist with fundraising, the TGCI needs tangible goals and outcomes, perhaps based on 5-6 high profile 'hot spot' locations.
- The need to build the "sales" case well; perhaps we need to hire a marketing specialist.
- The purpose statement may need to be 'tweaked' depending on the specific funding source.
- There needs to be a way to use the existing J. M. Kaplan support to leverage additional monies from foundations and donors.
- Can't the IUCN and United Nations help us mobilize funds by leveraging the TGCI at the world level? It is therefore essential that we link with and highlight our relationship with such projects as the UN 2015 Millennium Development Goals.
- Rather than raise money for specific projects, would it be more appropriate if the TGCI established an Indigenous Grassland Research Trust Fund to which large donors could contribute?
- Broaden the perspective and think of major donors/agencies rather than the traditional sources, as many wealthy people/businesses have a strong affinity to indigenous grassland environments.

Regarding the specific use by TGCI of any funds raised, it was suggested that the TGCI focus be one of 'mediator-facilitator' between conservation-research and key government agencies and private sectors - with funding targeted for communications, additional research, 'on the ground action in key hot-spots' and TGCI capacity.

4. THE HOHHOT WORKSHOP: CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Purpose Statement

It is important that the TGCI be realistic about its capacity and purpose. There was consensus that we focus on our global purpose and the selected priority regions of East Asia and South America - that we play a 'neutral high-level convening, clearing house role' not a 'micro role'. It is our role to build the global vision, 'raise the noise level around temperate grasslands at the world level to tell the temperate grassland story' - with the long-term effect of building regional capacity. This approach will support the many conservation efforts being presently undertaken worldwide, as outlined in the templates.

There was also concern expressed about the preliminary purpose statement and the focus on protecting a minimum of 10% of the biome by 2014. It wasn't that participants didn't appreciate the role and importance of protected areas; the concern was that too strong an emphasis might distract from the project's intent - the value of temperate grasslands to biodiversity, a wide range of ecosystem services and the culture of people. As well there are other mechanisms for protecting grasslands both within and outside protected areas, and these mechanisms - whether a legal instrument or not - must not be neglected (for example: covenants/easements, financial incentives and market rewards, best management practices, trust funds, pastoral properties and perpetual reserves). It was therefore agreed to restate the purpose statement (Figure Six).

TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE PURPOSE STATEMENT

PREAMBLE:

- Temperate grasslands cover about 8% of the world's land surface and provide environmental services essential for life on earth, which are particularly important in the face of global climate change,
- Temperate grassland landscapes are crucial for providing people food,
- The genetic diversity of temperate grassland systems is important to maintain,
- Temperate grasslands are important to the life and cultural survival of mobile indigenous peoples,
- Temperate grasslands are considered among the most imperiled ecosystems on the planet,
- Temperate grassland ecosystems are, in many cases, important sources for fresh water and drinking watersheds.
- Remaining areas of temperate grasslands continue to be threatened by unsustainable land use and management practices, and
- Collaboration is essential to ensure the worldwide societal recognition of the enduring value of natural grasslands.

PURPOSE:

To reverse the trend of biodiversity loss and degradation of the temperate grassland biome by promoting both the designation and sustainable management of representative protected areas, and the widespread use of sustainable management practices beyond protected area boundaries, with the goal of at least doubling the current protection of ~ 5% by 2014.

OUTCOMES:

- To establish a global strategy and to inspire the value of regional-specific action plans world wide throughout 2008-2009, by:
 - Producing a communications document that describes the global role, values and purpose of the temperate grasslands initiative.
 - Facilitating the establishment of regional action plans for East Asia and South America.
 - Promoting sustainable use and management that preserves the many valuable ecological services delivered by indigenous temperate grasslands
 - Developing a mechanism for improving international communications and cooperation related to temperate grasslands.
 - Promoting the benefits of transboundary protected area networks.

Figure Six: Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Purpose Statement

4.2 Common Interests

It is important that we identify common interests and not focus on differences among our many challenges to conserve temperate grasslands. Conservation efforts need to consciously work toward better integration and understanding of the working, cultural landscape to strengthen the social basis of grassland conservation. As the TGCI proceeds, we need to avoid the artificial split of 'range management, grassland management and conservation' and focus instead on interest-based outcomes that all sectors can work toward. The concept that grasslands are both eco-systems and social-systems was strongly supported.

There was a strong suggestion that building socio-economic instruments into our analysis would be helpful. Incorporating economic instruments and ecosystem service elements stronger in our analysis (especially related to water yield balance, human health and carbon management) would assist in addressing common interests, raising public awareness and identifying driving forces. A stronger socio-economic analysis would strengthen the connection between temperate grasslands, human health, the economy, food security and water conservation - i.e. the wider services that temperate grasslands provide humans than simply nature values (Figure Seven). There was a sense that such an analysis would highlight the real economic values of these ecosystems and hence the economic value of protecting them - and the conjecture was that the resultant monetary figure would be quite large.

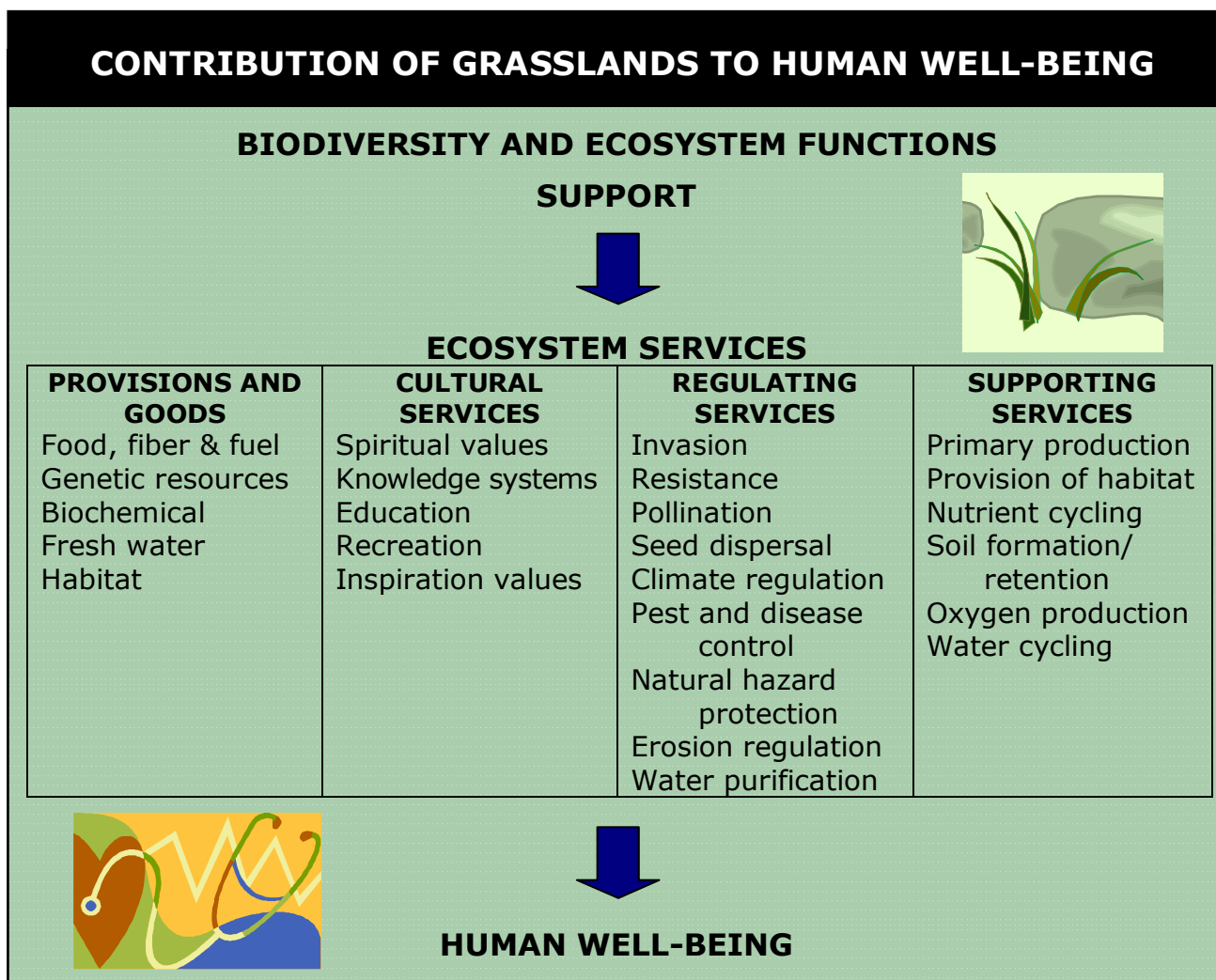


Figure Seven: The Contribution of Grasslands to Human Well-being⁷

⁷ Adapted from *Ecological Concepts, Principles and Applications to Conservation*. Biodiversity BC, 2008.

4.3 The Management of Temperate Grasslands

The message is clear that temperate grasslands must be better managed if the trend toward habitat loss, fragmentation, loss of diversity, integrity and ecosystem services, degradation and desertification is to be reversed.

It is important to differentiate between the current management patterns and the driving forces behind them. Driving forces can be political, economic, societal, environmental and/or technological - and they can be of a positive or negative nature. A more effective long-term approach is to develop strategies that influence the drivers rather than focusing energy directly on the current threats.

Suggestions for improving the management of the temperate grassland ecosystem were raised:

- Expand the number and size of protected areas, conduct research within their ecosystems and improve their current management.
- Develop and/or clarify standards that would facilitate better management, perhaps leading to a 'tool box' of best management practices⁸.
- Produce and make available a description of the variety of formal and informal mechanisms for 'protecting' both private and public land through legislation, covenants and other means.
- Outline the variety of current practices and dimensions of governance that can assist us in developing partnerships with governments, indigenous people and NGO's.
- Education was seen as a key element in achieving the goals of grassland protection and sustainable management.
- Promote the value of community conservation and shared governance with mobile indigenous people to improve conservation.
- Strongly promote the value of transboundary conservation networks as an eco-regional approach to managing temperate grasslands, as more of a continental outlook is better for wildlife that requires large landscapes.
- Put less emphasis on protected areas as the solution - with more focus on sustainable land management of the entire landscape and protected areas as one critical tool within that matrix. It was suggested that each temperate grassland region might need its own conservation strategy, as each region likely has its own set of issues and appropriate solutions.

The value of conducting inventory, monitoring and research related to the science, agricultural practices and community tenure systems was also emphasized, and the following points stressed:

- Identify the 'top hot spot' grasslands that need attention and determine the 'gaps' in information required to improve their management.
- Establish a common monitoring framework that could be used worldwide to help assess the state of temperate grasslands. Use 2-3 key common species as indicators that could be used as 'a window on the world of temperate grasslands'.
- Increase the effort to record and better understand nomadic, pastoral experiences and how that contributes to conservation, and the role of indigenous community conservation areas.

⁸ The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan was identified as an excellent model. For information the website is www.pcap-sk.org.

4.4 Communications

There is a strong requirement for focused communications, both internally within the TGCI network and externally to critical sectors, governments, funding agencies/donors and related NGO's. Internally there needs to be a mechanism to share and communicate among ourselves regionally, nationally and globally. The advice from participants was that a specific TGCI website where material could be posted and information exchanged would be most welcome. This website should have the flexibility to allow communications among interested parties to upgrade their skills and share experiences to improve the management of protected areas and develop standards or best practices.

Externally, a vision or case statement that distills the key values of our initiative and outlines the urgent reasons for protecting/conserving temperate grasslands and working on conservation at the community level would play an invaluable role for education and fundraising. We need a mechanism to take our story to government (international, national and regional) and key business sectors to increase their awareness and persuade them to assist us in obtaining additional capacity and funding. A communication document that tells this story will also make it easier to work with carefully selected sympathetic politicians, donors, businesses and industry, in both the public and private sector, as we move forward. In this manner our vision will strengthen the temperate grasslands ecosystem role in climate change adaptation, water conservation and food security - each of which are important challenges at the global and regional level.

4.5 The Hohhot Declaration

Building on the experience of a number of participants, we thought it strategically important to have a Declaration that outlines the value of the world's temperate grasslands, why they are endangered and how important it is for citizens of the world to work together to protect them. The Hohhot Declaration was therefore developed (Figure Eight).

Additionally a shorter resolution version of this Declaration was presented to the Business Meeting of each of the XXI International Grassland Congress and the VIII International Rangeland Congress taking place in Hohhot subsequent to our workshop. The resolution was approved unanimously by each congress on Saturday July 5th, 2008⁹.

⁹ The XXI International Grassland Congress and the VIII International Rangeland Congress Resolution: WHEREAS the World Temperate Grassland Conservation Initiative held a workshop on June 28-29, 2008 as part of the IGC/IRC Congress and which resulted in a consensus from fourteen countries on a Hohhot World Temperate Grassland Declaration; and

WHEREAS the declaration states that temperate indigenous grasslands are critically endangered and urgent action is required to protect and maintain these grasslands and the services they provide; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the IGC and the IRC endorse the Declaration as respectfully submitted.

The Hohhot Declaration

XXI International Grasslands Congress/VIII International Rangeland Congress July 2008 - Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China

We, the participants of the World Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative, recognize that:

Considering that temperate indigenous grasslands provide critical ecological goods and services essential for life on earth as a source of food, fibre, human livelihoods and well being, cultural and biological diversity, the recharge of aquifers and the sequestration of carbon, particularly in the face of global climate change;

Agreeing that temperate indigenous grasslands are terrestrial ecosystems dominated by herbaceous and shrub vegetation, maintained by grazing, soils, fire, drought and/or low temperatures and that all of these processes are dynamic and display great variability in terms of time, extent, intensity and place;

Recognizing the opportunities that temperate indigenous grasslands provide in feeding people, it is imperative to maintain the genetic diversity of grassland systems;

Realizing the importance of temperate indigenous grasslands to the life and cultural survival of mobile indigenous peoples and to the maintenance of valuable indigenous knowledge as well as the accumulated experience of traditional indigenous temperate grasslands users;

Acknowledging that temperate indigenous grasslands are currently considered among the most imperiled ecosystems on the planet, having been modified by human activity to such a degree that most grasslands have been transformed and very few remain in a natural state;

Recognizing that the remaining areas of natural grassland continue to be threatened by inappropriate policies that lead to loss of grassland, as well as unsustainable land uses and management practices;

Acknowledging that success will require participatory management approaches and partnerships among all sectors to ensure the integration of production and biodiversity conservation outcomes for the continued provision of grassland ecological goods and services;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening indigenous territories, community conserved areas and protected areas;

Recognizing the important opportunities for collaboration to ensure worldwide societal recognition of the enduring value of natural grasslands; and that,

Developing and implementing incentives for good land stewardship, restoration and the sustainable management of indigenous temperate grasslands is essential to guarantee their sustainable use as healthy working environments.

Therefore, we the participants of the Hohhot World Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Workshop from five continents and 14 countries, declare that temperate indigenous grasslands are critically endangered and urgent action is required to protect and maintain the many valuable ecological services they provide to sustain human life. We call upon all sectors of society to collaborate towards this goal.

Li Bo, China

Dr. John MacKinnon, China

Dr. Wu Ning, China

Dr. Luo Peng, China

Gendensengee Enkhtaivan, Mongolia

Enebish Tumurbaatar, Mongolia

Eugene Simonov, Russia

Ilya Smelaynsky, Russia

Dr. Tatiana Tkachuk, Russia

Dr. Clinton Carbutt, South Africa

Anthea Stephens, South Africa

Mahlodi Tau, South Africa

Dr. Alan Mark, New Zealand

Dr. Katherine Dickinson, New Zealand

Dr. Louise Gilfedder, Australia

Dr. Bronwyn Myers, Australia

Dr. Dick Williams, Australia

Dr. Ian Lunt, Australia

Dr. Taghi Farvar, Iran

Jalil Noroozi, Iran

Karsten Wesche, Germany

Jeff Hardesty, United States

Susan Antenen, United States

Bill Henwood, Canada

Bruno Delesalle, Canada

Bob Peart, Canada

Ed Wiken, Canada

Robert Hofstede, Ecuador

Andrea Michelson, Ecuador

Jurgen Hoth, Mexico

Elizabeth Juliana Jacobo, Argentina

Ulises Martinez, Argentina

Fernando Olmos, Uruguay

Figure Eight: The Hohhot Declaration

5. REVIEW OF WORKSHOP GOALS

The workshop was without a doubt a success. However to meet expectations and to continue to accomplish the stated purpose there needs to be a transition from a Project Team-led initiative to one with more directed funding and a minimal staffing level.

1. To establish a global strategy and two regional-specific action plans for increased protection by 2014.

Although a global strategy wasn't established *per se* there were a number of decisions made and recommendations put forward in this report that will lead to the formation of such a strategy. In particular there were conversations about the need to undertake a global inventory and assessment of existing temperate grassland protected areas to document their location, size, characteristics, etc., their management challenges and threats and their levels of protection and representation according to an appropriate temperate grassland classification system.

2. To confirm South America and East Asia as the two priority pilot regions for the project.

East Asia and South America were confirmed as the two priority pilot programs for the project. Immediately after the Hohhot workshop an East Asia group met and a series of decisions made toward developing that specific action plan. Everyone felt the East Asia meeting was productive and were particularly pleased that all three countries (China, Russia and Mongolia) were represented and agreed to a plan for moving forward. It was confirmed that the South America meeting will be held in early Fall 2008. Additional funding is required to move each forward and plans were made to coordinate fundraising in Fall 2008.

3. To develop a mechanism for improving international communications and cooperation for the continued conservation, protection and management of the world's temperate grasslands.

As one participant said: "What a spectacular meeting!" So, although a specific mechanism was not developed there was a strong start to communicating and cooperating internationally, regionally and inter-institutionally. Clear direction was provided to the Project Team about the importance of a 'web site function' and the need to get it established as soon as possible. It was also stressed that we need to develop a professional case/vision statement for distribution.

4. To establish a Steering Committee to help guide the Project Team and implement the global strategy and region-specific action plans.

A Steering Committee was established and a number of participants agreed to help the Project Team as required.

5. To discuss the potential for and benefits of transboundary protected areas.

This discussion took place and the importance of this approach was noted. Each of the East Asia and South America pilots will be transboundary in nature. As well, there were insightful discussions and contacts made about species survival and pastoral people that will prove invaluable as this project proceeds.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

6.1 Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION ONE: That the Governance Structure as outlined in Figure Four be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION TWO: That the TGCI clarify and strengthen its official partnership with the IUCN and WCPA: in particular, Nik Lopoukhine (Chair, WCPA) and David Sheppard (Head of the Protected Areas Programme, IUCN). Generally, technical/administrative advice and support for fundraising comes from the IUCN, whereas the WCPA provides more specific direction on the Terms of Reference and project outcomes. Strengthening this relationship should also lead to improved cooperation with the Species Survival Commission, the Transboundary Conservation Task Force and the Commission on Environment, Economic and Social Policy. It was understood that as the project evolves over the next year or so this governance structure might need to be re-examined.

RECOMMENDATION THREE: That the Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative Purpose Statement as outlined in Figure Six be adopted and implemented. Within this recommendation is the sense that protected areas not be emphasized to the degree of downplaying the important role of the pastoralist and nomadic cultures in conservation and protected area management.

RECOMMENDATION FOUR: That the final J. M. Kaplan Fund monies and any additional funds raised during 2008-09 be focused on communication, socio-economic research, global inventory/assessment, on the ground assistance in East Asia and South America and improving TGCI capacity and outreach.

RECOMMENDATION FIVE: That the Hohhot Declaration be widely distributed and translated into a number of languages so that it is available and broadly used as a key statement advocating for the improved conservation and protection of temperate grasslands.

RECOMMENDATION SIX: That the Project Team, Steering Committee and Task Force Members meet again in 2-3 years in a similar workshop format. This meeting should coincide with a relevant, logical other forum taking place where many of the participants may already be attending.

6.2 Next Steps

There was consensus that the following action steps are required:

1. A record of the Hohhot meeting be circulated to all participants, plus other key or interested individuals by mid-August 2008. These notes will include an updated template compendium.
2. The Project Team focus their Fall 2008 efforts on fundraising to ensure that the important work discussed at Hohhot can continue to be undertaken.
3. The Project Team, led by Bill Henwood, make a strong effort to clarify our partnership with both the WCPA and IUCN Protected Areas Programme, and associated commissions or programs that can assist us in achieving our goals. Their 'official' support will provide us much needed status with the international world of conservation. Three particular action points are:
 - Through the IUCN/WCPA, that effort be made to have a United Nations International Year of the Indigenous Grasslands declared.
 - Within the Protected Areas Programme of the IUCN specific biomes - in particular, marine and mountain ecosystems - are identified as themes and recognized as being of particular significance, but not temperate grasslands. Effort should be made by the Project Team to ensure that indigenous grasslands are recognized as a Biome of Importance.
 - The Project Team, led by Bill Henwood, approaches the editors of Parks: The International Journal for Protected Area Managers to publish a second issue dedicated to temperate indigenous grasslands.
4. The remaining J. M. Kaplan Fund money, and/or other monies as they become available, be focused on communication/awareness, bioregion conservation, undertaking a socio-economic assessment and TGCI capacity:
 - Development of a professional case/vision statement for wide distribution.
 - Formalizing a web-site location for our work. The WCPA Task Force website was suggested.
 - Undertaking a socio-economic research assessment to determine the goods and services elements of the temperate grasslands and their value to humans.
 - Support for the two identified projects in East Asia and South America as pilot frameworks for future action.
 - Determining how to best undertake a global inventory and temperate grassland assessment, leading to the development of an overall global strategy.
 - Securing a staff person to assist the Project Team with implementing these recommendations and action steps. It will be difficult for this project to be successful if it continues to proceed on the goodwill of volunteers.
5. The Project Team and Steering Committee assess progress at least semi-annually during the remainder of 2008 and 2009 and communicate that progress to the Task Force members for their information and feedback, beginning December 2008.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE: PARTICIPANTS INVITED AND IN ATTENDANCE

In Attendance:

Elizabeth Juliana Jacobo, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Ulises Martinez, Fundacion Vida Silvestre, Argentina
 Dr. Louise Gilfedder, Conservation Scientist, Australia
 Dr. Ian Lunt, Charles Sturt University, Australia
 Dr. Bronwyn Myers, Charles Darwin University, Australia
 Dr. Dick Williams, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Australia
 Bruno Delesalle, Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia, Canada
 Bill Henwood, TGCI, Canada
 Bob Peart, TGCI, Canada
 Ed Wiken, Canadian Plains Research Centre, Canada
 Li Bo, CEESP-IUCN, China
 Matt Durnin, The Nature Conservancy, China
 Dr. John MacKinnon, EU-China Biodiversity Programme, China
 Dr. Wu Ning, Chengdu Institute of Biology, China
 Dr. Luo Peng, Chengdu Institute of Biology, China
 Robert Hofstede, IUCN, Ecuador
 Andrea Michelson, IUCN, Ecuador
 Karsten Wesche, University of Goettingen, Germany
 Dr. Taghi Farvar, CEESP-IUCN, Iran
 Jalil Noroozi, University of Tehran, Iran

Jurgen Hoth, World Wildlife Fund, Mexico
 Susan Antenen, The Nature Conservancy, Mongolia
 Gendensengee Enkhtaivan, Ministry of Nature and Environment, Mongolia
 Enebish Tumurbaatar, Center for Ecosystem Management, Mongolia
 Eugene Simonov, World Wildlife Fund, Russia
 Ilya Smelaynsky, The Steppe Bulletin, Russia
 Dr. Tatiana Tkachuk, Chita State University, Russia
 Dr. Clinton Carbutt, KZN Wildlife, South Africa
 Anthea Stephens, South Africa National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa
 Mahlodi Tau, South Africa National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa
 Jeff Hardesty, The Nature Conservancy, United States
 Fernando Olmos, Agronomic Engineer, Uruguay
 Dr. Katharine Dickinson, University of Otago, New Zealand
 Dr. Alan Mark, University of Otago, New Zealand
 Siobhan Denniss, IUCN, Asia Regional Office

Invited and Unable to Attend:

Dr. David Bilenca, Argentina
 Dr. Fred Duncan, Australia
 Dr. John Morgan, Australia
 Dr. Bob Pressey, Australia
 Koen de Rijck, Bulgaria
 Natalia Danilina, Russia
 Dr. David Gauthier, Canada
 Georg Grabherr, Central/Eastern Europe
 Millary Hernandez, Chile
 Dr. Roman Jashenko, Kazakhstan
 Eva Klebelsberg, Kazakhstan
 Dr. Dmitry Malakhov, Kazakhstan
 Dr. Sergei Sklyarenko, Kazakhstan
 Dr. Maria F. Gimenez, Mongolia
 Dr. Charles Krusekopf, Mongolia
 Dr. A. Namkhai, Mongolia
 Yanka Kazakova, Romania
 Eugeny Borovyk, Ukraine
 Curt Freese, United States
 William Waldman, United States
 Xie Yan, WCPA China
 Trevor Sandwith, WCPA
 Dr. Les Molloy, New Zealand
 Peter Shadie, IUCN Asia Reg. Office

APPENDIX TWO: A COMPENDIUM OF REGIONAL TEMPLATES ON THE STATUS OF TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION

Due to the size of the Compendium of Regional Templates document, a pdf has been posted for viewing at:

http://www.srce.com/files/App_2_Comp_of_Regional_Grassland_Templates.pdf

APPENDIX THREE: TGCI HOHHOT WORKSHOP AGENDA

World Temperate Grasslands Conservation Initiative: Planning for a Decade of Progress

Hohhot, China, June 28 & 29, 2008
Room 315, International Conference Centre

*(Sponsored by: World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA) - Grasslands Protected Areas Task Force
with the generous funding support of the J.M. Kaplan Fund)*

Saturday June 28: 830am -1200

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ▪ Purpose of Meeting and Agenda approval (Bill Henwood) | 10 minutes |
| ▪ Introduction of Project Team and Bob Peart, Facilitator | 10 minutes |
| ▪ Meeting Logistics and Format (Bob Peart) | 10 minutes |
| ▪ Participant Introduction (Bob Peart) | 50 minutes |
| ▪ TGCI Overview (Bill Henwood) | 20 minutes |

Coffee Break (20 minutes)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| ▪ Regional Template Overviews (10-12 minutes allotted for each) | 1.5 hours |
|---|-----------|

LUNCH PROVIDED

Saturday June 28: 100pm - 430pm

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| ▪ Regional Template Overviews (conclude) | 1.5 hours |
|--|-----------|

Coffee Break (20 minutes)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| ▪ Discussion and Questions | 30 minutes |
| ▪ Ecosystem-Transboundary Approach to Grassland Conservation | 20 minutes |
| ▪ Patterns/Issues --- Discussion of Key Threats and Status | 30 minutes |
| ▪ Prepare June 29 morning agenda | 20 minutes |

DINNER NOT PROVIDED --- ON YOUR OWN

Sunday June 29: 830am - Noon

- | | |
|---|--------|
| ▪ Strategy Discussions (Bob Peart) | 1 hour |
| - Global | |
| - Regional: Confirm East Asia and South American Pilots | |
| - Ecosystem-Transboundary Approach to Conservation | |

Coffee Break (20 minutes)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| ▪ Action Plan (Bob Peart) | 1.5 hours |
| - Steering Committee | |
| - Next Steps | |
| ▪ Conclusion and Closing Comments (Bill Henwood) | 30 minutes |