



PARKS, PEACE, AND PARTNERSHIP: GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

Edited by Michael S. Quinn, Len Broberg,
and Wayne Freimund

ISBN 978-1-55238-643-9

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PIET THERON (B Landscape Architecture, MPhil Environmental Science) is a professional landscape architect working in the environmental planning and management field. He has more than seventeen years of experience working on a wide range of natural resource management projects in southern Africa. His key skills and expertise are focussed on planning, managing, and implementing large and complex multi-national, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder integrated conservation and development projects, which often involve setting up effective partnerships between governments, the private sector, and NGOs. This includes being closely involved in the planning, development, and implementation of five transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs) projects in southern Africa. His other fields of expertise include landscape level planning, environmental impact assessments, site assessments and comparative site analysis, visual impact assessments, project management, stakeholder management and participation (including workshop facilitation), and conflict resolution. His specific areas of professional interest include integrated conservation and development projects, environmental planning and management, community based natural resource management, and project development and management.

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Today, over three thousand protected areas around the world contribute to the protection of biodiversity, peaceful relations between neighbouring countries, and the well-being of people living in and around the protected environs. Historical and geo-political constraints are disappearing in a new spirit of collaboration for the long-term sustainability of ecosystems, species, and communities.

From Waterton-Glacier International Park to the European Alps and Lake Titicaca in Peru and Bolivia, the essays presented here provide examples of the challenges and successes associated with implementing collaborative networks to promote greater peace and stability. The global leadership evident in the development of transboundary protected complexes in southern Africa receives special attention.

International peace parks are currently being proposed to address a spectrum of other regional challenges. The proposed Siachen Peace Park between India and Pakistan in the mountains of northern Kashmir in the western Himalayas lies in an area of disputed territory and often hostile climatic conditions. The United States and Mexico continue to seek a cooperative transboundary protected area that meets conservation goals while maintaining homeland security. The demilitarized zone between North and South Korea is an area of incredible biodiversity and has the potential to become the core of a nature and peace park with a multitude of mutual economic and ecological benefits. Other examples in Canada and India point to the role that these parks play in fostering international collaboration, strengthening resource management, and improving cross-border political relations, as well as celebrating shared cultures and unique differences.

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