



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

# IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

## Information Pack

July 2013

This information is designed to inform environmental non-government organisations about stream development. Stream structure and content will evolve over time.

Additional information will be provided to inform the subsequent phases as needed.



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# 1. Achieving Objectives

This section outlines the overarching objectives of the streams, including strategic directions, outcomes and essential requirements.

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## 1.1 WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD PARKS CONGRESS?

In 2014, the World Parks Congress in Sydney will explore the theme Parks, People, and Planet: Inspiring Solutions. These are solutions drawn from practice that are inspired, innovative and successful, as well as inspiring others to apply, scale up and commit to in the future. The main objective of the Congress is to position parks within goals of economic and community well-being, by increasing understanding of their vital role in conserving biodiversity, delivering ecosystem services and underpinning human welfare and livelihoods.

The strategic direction paper outlines the key purpose and objectives for the Congress in further detail – see Appendix A. Please design your Stream program to achieve these objectives and lasting outcomes.

## 1.2 WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT THE CONGRESS TO ACHIEVE?

In 2003, the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban was successful in developing the Program of Work on Protected Areas which was adopted by the CBD in 2004. We would like the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 to leave a similar legacy by:

- Further developing and implementing specific initiatives to achieve Target 11 and other Aichi Biodiversity Targets – see Appendix B and lay the foundation for future support for expansion and strengthened governance and management of an ecologically representative global network of protected areas;
- Mainstreaming protected areas into the development agenda through changes in policy, programs and practice (from advocacy to action);
- Strengthening capacity at local, national and regional level to achieve these goals and promote protected areas as important mechanisms to deliver social and economic benefits and address global challenges.



### 1.3 HOW CAN THE CONGRESS DELIVER THESE OUTCOMES?

There are four essential elements that Streams must consider in the development and delivery of content.



## 2. Congress Structure

### 2.1 WHAT WILL THE CONGRESS LOOK LIKE?

There will be eight parallel and complementary Streams. Full contact details can be found in Appendix C. Listed below are the eight Streams. Full details can be found in Appendix D.

Stream	Title	Topic
1	Reaching Conservation Goals	This stream will demonstrate that a well-planned, managed and connected system of protected areas is an essential component to achieve conservation goals.
2	Responding to Climate Change	This stream will explore the changing needs of protected area management as well as innovative ways that protected areas can help communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
3	Improving Health and Well-Being	This stream will be designed to encourage exchange of ideas, build partnerships, review achievements and develop new alliances between diverse sectors on the role of healthy ecosystems in protected areas for supporting human health and well-being.
4	Supporting Human Life	This stream will examine the socio-economic benefits of protected areas through provision of water, food security, and services such as disaster risk reduction.
5	Reconciling Development Challenges	This stream will focus on the intersections and trade-offs between protected areas and development goals and challenge national and local governments to fully integrate protected areas into spatial planning and sectoral development plans.
6	Enhancing the Diversity and Quality of Governance	This stream will examine the diversity and quality of governance of the world's protected areas, as well as governance practice in other areas that are contributing to biodiversity conservation.
7	Respecting Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge and Culture	This stream will engage members of Indigenous and local communities, governments, non-governmental and international organisations, and the private sector to collaborate in recognising the role of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of protected areas, sacred natural sites, and surrounding landscapes and seascapes.
8	Inspiring a New Generation	This stream will focus on the challenges and opportunities of "connecting people to nature" to ensure that future generations care about, and take the necessary steps to conserve nature.

### 2.2 CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Cross cutting themes are topics that are relevant to multiple Streams. They will not become stand-alone Streams but will be incorporated into and across the eight key Streams. Cross cutting themes include;

- Marine
- World Heritage
- Capacity Development, and
- A New Social Compact for Protected Areas



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The first full day of the Congress is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014, with the final session held on Wednesday 19 November 2014

There is also an opportunity for organisations to contribute ideas and/or leads for the exhibition, public festival, proposed capacity development workshops, field trips or social program. A social program will be developed to provide optional activities and networking opportunities outside of business hours. The table below shows the components, highlighting the core program in darker blue.

Days prior	Various TBA	Capacity Development Workshops (Proposed)	
Wed 12	TBA (from 12.00pm)	Registration & Opening Ceremony	
Thurs 13	9.00am – 12.00pm	Opening plenary	
Thurs 13	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Introduction to the three sub-plenary sessions 1. Parks      2. People      3. Planet	
Fri 14	9.00am – 12.00pm	Parallel sub-plenary sessions – Setting the Scene	
Fri 14	1.00pm – 5.00pm	Stream sessions	
Sat 15	9.00am – 5.00pm	Stream sessions	
Sun 16	TBA	Public Festival	
Mon 17	9.00am – 5.00pm	Stream sessions	
Tues 18	9.00am – 1.00pm	Stream sessions	
Tues 18	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Closing sub-plenary sessions in parallel 1. Parks      2. People      3. Planet	
Wed 19	9.00am – 12.00pm	Closing plenary	
Wed 19	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Closing Ceremony	
Days following	Various TBA	Field Trips	

Social Program  
(outside business hours)

Exhibition  
(9.00am – 5.00pm)



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### 2.3 OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE CONGRESS WHERE CONSERVATION SECTOR CAN CONTRIBUTE

There are many additional components of the Congress where participants (streams and others) can contribute. There are no minimum requirements for contributions to these components.

Component	Location	Description	Examples
Exhibition Throughout	The Dome	Interested parties have the opportunity to hire space to profile their products or services to the broader Congress and public.	An exhibition of a protected area agency of the host country, or a protected area-related commercial business (e.g. tourism operator)
Public Festival Sunday 16	Sydney Olympic Park	The festival will promote and celebrate parks and protected areas to a public and predominately Australian audience. The festival aims to attract families, youth and students by being fun, highly engaging, interactive and inspiring.	Hands-on activities, demonstrations, games, exhibitions, debates or presentations by well known experts in the field.
Social Program Throughout	Various, some offsite	The social program will comprise of informal events and activities outside the core program. The social program aims to provide Congress participants opportunities to network or learn in a relaxed environment.	Launches, film screenings, performances, social events, side meetings (on and off site), sightseeing tours.
Capacity Development Workshops (Proposed)Prior	Various – offsite venues	Workshops are proposed in the days leading up to the Congress which will provide practical training for participants. Ideas for workshops will need to demonstrate a demand and a global requirement for the training.	



### 3. Key Milestones Timeline

This section outlines the key milestones for program development between now and November 2013.

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Timing	Milestone
August 2013	Website live : worldparkscongress.org  NGO Information and Participation Forum
Sept 2013	Stream Program Development  National Steering Committee Meeting
October 2013	Program Working Group to finalise Program Structure, including details of plenary and sub-plenary sessions, and Stream session.  International Steering Committee convenes to approve the scale and direction of Congress.
November 2013	1 year to go Registrations open
June 2014	Early Bird Registrations Close
August 2014	Stream Program Finalised

# Appendix A: Strategic Plan

## Strategic Direction

Position parks and protected areas firmly within goals of broader economic and community wellbeing by increasing understanding of their vital role in conserving biodiversity and delivering ecosystem services, and demonstrating how this can be achieved.				
Parks Biodiversity conservation		People Sustainable development		Planet Nature-based solutions
Strengthen policy and action commitments for the expansion, connectivity and better management of parks and protected areas to cover all areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services		Foster the equitable governance of parks and protected areas to empower communities (including Indigenous peoples) to become involved and to benefit		Explore and promote parks and protected areas as natural solutions to global challenges such as climate change, food and water security, health and a green economy
Collaborate and share knowledge and perspectives Build understanding and knowledge of effective and equitable ecosystem and protected area management, positioning them as a strong-hold of the natural world	Inspire and connect for enduring relationships Engage new generations and inspire people to take action, change behaviour and influence others	Identify and integrate common goals and interests Reach out and engage social and economic interests beyond the protected area sector to develop practical solutions that yield results and benefits across sectors	Lead on and debate new ideas and options Facilitate and promote dialogues between the parks and various development sectors, including promoting innovative funding mechanisms for contributions by protected areas	
Targets reached Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, in particular achievement of Aichi Target 11 on protected areas	Solutions implemented Provide a science-based platform for stakeholders to reach consensus and design solutions for cases of competing interests on the use of natural resources	Capacity increased Provide a technical focus for professionals working on protected areas to share and exchange best practices and facilitate networking	Policy change Articulation of a vision and delivery of global policies and actions beyond 2020 for improved conservation outcomes	Legacy established Develop a lasting initiative for the world, implementable in the Oceania and East Asia region in the decade following the Congress
Outcomes and Legacy.				

PURPOSE →

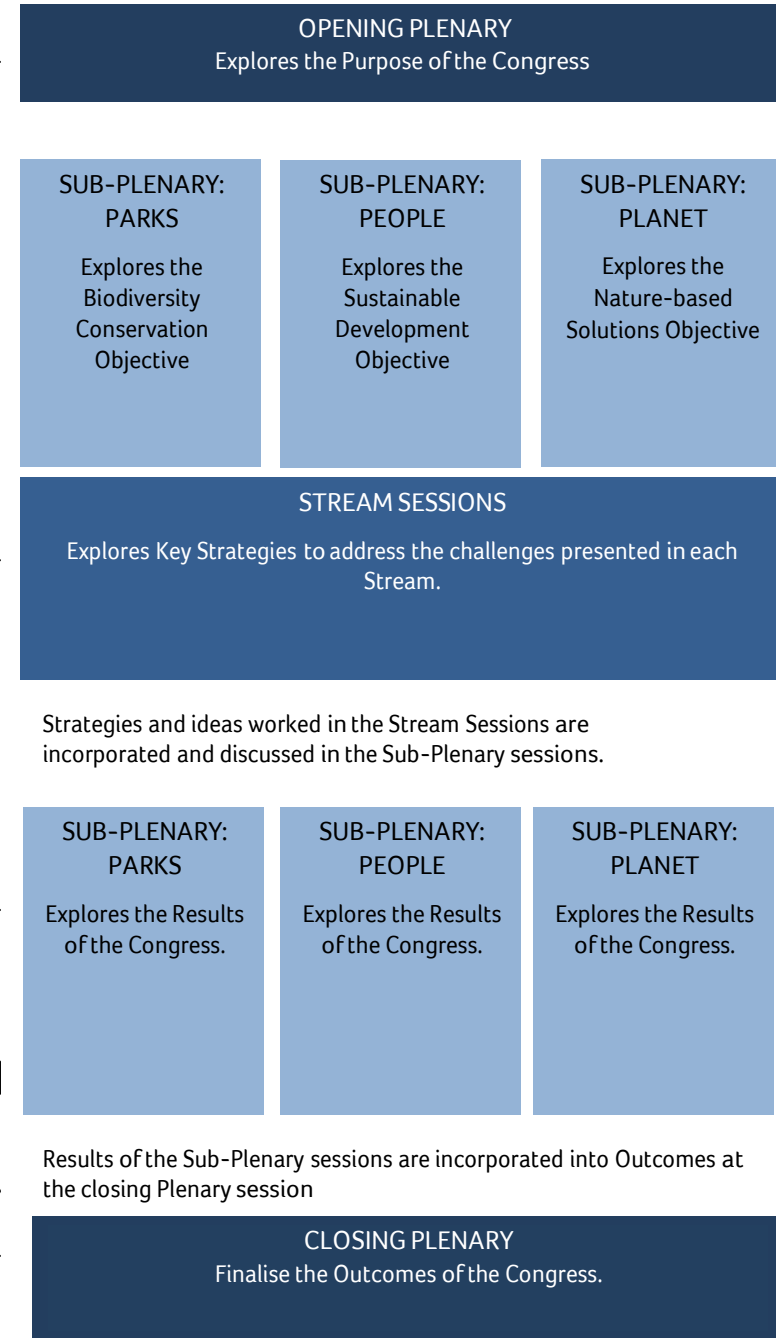
OBJECTIVES →

STRATEGIES →

RESULTS →

OUTCOMES →

## Congress Program





## Appendix C: Key Contacts

World Parks Congress Working Groups		
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## Appendix D: Description of Streams and Cross-cutting Themes

### 1. Reaching conservation goals

This stream will demonstrate that a well-planned, effectively managed and connected system of protected areas is an essential component of achieving conservation goals. It will profile those countries, people, places and organisations that are leading the way to conservation success. Highlighting hope for the future, it also will profile global examples of leadership, creative thinking and optimism to show that conservation goals are achievable. It will propose new global standards for what constitutes an effective protected area and protected area system. The stream will conclude with a look at the future. If the Aichi Targets are meant to be interim targets for 2020, what should the ultimate targets for nature conservation look like? It will ask the questions such as , what does a truly sustainable protected planet look like, and what science and evidence is available to inform the answers?

Led by: The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the Zoological Society of London, and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), together with a consortium of ten partner organisations

### 2. Responding to climate change

This stream will explore new needs for planning and managing protected areas to conserve biodiversity in the face of climate change, including a greater focus on carbon storage, landscape connectivity and restoration to maintain ecosystem resilience. It will also explore the role of protected areas as “natural solutions” helping communities to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It will include new knowledge and case studies in the field of ecosystem-based adaptation, to outline a broad and bold vision which emphasises the key role of protected areas in climate change strategies at both national and local level.

Led by: United States National Park Service, the Mexican National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) and Australia’s Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)

### 3. Improving health and well-being

This stream will be designed to encourage exchange of ideas, build partnerships, review achievements and develop new alliances between diverse sectors on the role of healthy ecosystems in protected areas for supporting human health and well-being. It will contribute to solutions for global challenges associated with human health, disease regulation, medicines, mental/physical/cultural well-being. Australia’s successful hosting of the first international conference on Healthy Parks Healthy People in 2010 initiated a new engagement with the health sector, including the medical profession, public health management and the health insurance industry. The mental, physical and intrinsic benefits of engagement with nature and green space are of great value to communities, and the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 will provide the opportunity to build on the “Healthy Parks, Healthy People” approach and apply these principles more universally in practice.

Led by: Parks Victoria (Australia) and the United States National Park Service



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### 4. Supporting human life

This stream will examine the socio-economic benefits of protected areas through providing water, food security, and services for disaster risk reduction. It will translate these into the “how to” of implementation, sharing many innovative approaches, such as water funds, payments for environmental services, and public works programmes for restoration to achieve beneficial “win-win” outcomes. Protected areas in diverse governance arrangements are one of the most secure mechanisms developed over centuries to maintain the integrity of ecosystems, critical to human well-being and survival. By involving people and institutions in ecosystem management, the stream will examine successes and challenges in maintaining societal resilience, both for ensuring life support, and in preventing, minimising impact or ensuring recovery from challenges.

Led by: the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Environment-Japan and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

### 5. Reconciling development challenges

This stream recognizes that protected areas contribute enormously to addressing the development challenges of the 21st Century. Governments are focused on maintaining food and water security, ensuring jobs and sustainable livelihoods, maintaining the productivity of fisheries, forestry and agricultural sectors, and making key trade-offs with sectors such as mining, energy, and infrastructure development all in the face of rapid climate change. This stream will focus on the intersections between protected areas and these many development goals and challenges facing national governments. It will do so by providing concrete guidance and examples of how protected areas can be designed, managed, assessed and utilized to achieve both ambitious conservation goals, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and development plans, taking these challenges into account. In particular, the stream will look at the way in which governments, at national and local levels, and businesses integrate protected areas and conservation into development policy, planning and program to ensure sustainable development decisions and business practices

Led by: The World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and Conservation International (CI)

### 6. Enhancing the diversity and quality of governance

This stream will build on the achievements on protected areas governance made at the 5th World Parks Congress in 2003, which led to emphasis on the key role of governance in the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). Globally, improvements in governance have contributed significantly to strengthening the protected areas systems of many countries. This stream will, examine both the diversity and quality of governance of the world's protected areas, as well as other areas that are contributing to biodiversity conservation. The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 will take stock of achievements, share experiences and present practical governance approaches and tools, illustrating progress to enhance the diversity and quality of governance in national protected areas systems.

Led by: the German International Development Agency (GIZ), UNDP, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Secretariat, and the ICCA (Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas) Consortium



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### 7. Respecting indigenous and traditional knowledge and culture

This stream will engage members of indigenous and local communities, governments, non-governmental and international organisations, and the private sector to collaborate in recognising the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of protected areas, sacred natural sites, and surrounding landscapes and seascapes. It will explore the role of traditional and indigenous ecological knowledge and management systems, as well as cultural and spiritual values, in protected areas, to increase the resilience of both people and biodiversity. At a landscape/seascape level, the stream will look at the management of cultural landscapes (e.g. sacred natural sites), and their contribution to biodiversity conservation and livelihoods both within and beyond protected areas. Ultimately, the stream will seek to review achievements and build long-term partnerships that will demonstrate how cultural landscapes and indigenous management systems contribute to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, as well as to the long-term well-being of communities around the world.

Led by: The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA); the United Nations University (UNU) in conjunction with SOTZ'IL (Mesoamerica Indigenous Leaders Coalition) and the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC).

### 8. Inspiring a new generation

The goal of this stream is to make “connecting people to nature” a priority over the next decade, as a means to ensure that future generations care about, and take the necessary steps to conserve, nature both within and beyond protected areas. It is well-known that a love and understanding of nature stems from early experiences in the environment. However, many young people and city dwellers are becoming disconnected from the environment in an increasingly urbanized world, and this can ultimately have negative implications in the political and policy arena. This stream will support the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014’s aim to creatively build the global engagement of children, young people and urban communities as advocates for protected areas by exploring the use of new technology and digital platforms, such as social media and virtual participation.

Led by: Parks Canada, WCPA Young Professionals and the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

### Cross-cutting themes:

Cross cutting themes are topics that are relevant to multiple Streams. They will not become stand-alone Streams but will be incorporated into the 8 Streams.

#### Marine

This cross-cutting theme will focus on how to design and manage effective Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine Protected Area networks. Marine issues will be clustered around three sub-themes: Invest More, increasing the investment of funds, time, partners, and other resources in MPAs; Involve More, engaging a broader range of stakeholders, building new partnerships, and moving from awareness to action; and Protect More, expanding the use of MPAs and MPA networks to achieve conservation goals and targets and maximize their resilience and effectiveness. The theme will build upon the outcomes of the Third International MPA Congress (IMPAC3), and will produce at least one major initiative, potentially a partnership with relevant industries. The Congress will facilitate the sharing of experiences and innovations, foster alliances, and highlight both achievements of and new commitments by the MPA community.

Led by: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority



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### World Heritage

This cross-cutting theme will provide an opportunity to take stock of successes and challenges in this subset of protected areas that are listed as being of outstanding universal value. As an exemplar, World Heritage Sites offer the opportunity to examine the role of protected areas when addressing the specific strategic directions of the Congress. For example, mining exploration or development that affects World Heritage sites is a key issue in reconciling the conflicting goals of conservation and development. Finally the cross-cutting theme provides an opportunity to take lessons learned from global practice in protected area systems to enhance the integrity of World Heritage Sites, and to make recommendations for renewed commitment and effectiveness of the World Heritage Convention.

Led by: IUCN World Heritage and IUCN WCPA

### Capacity Development

Capacity Development is expected to be a lasting legacy of the Congress. This theme is relevant to all Streams and will seek to address systematically the implementation gap between policy and practice in protected area sites and institutions. The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 provides an opportunity to reach agreement and commitment on a global programme for professionalising protected area management, supported by standardised resource materials, a standardised curriculum delivered through accredited courses hosted by accredited institutions, as well as producing protected area professionals who meet competency standards and can contribute to effective systems of protected areas.

Led by: IUCN WCPA and IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

### A new social compact for protected areas conservation

Within the context of protected area systems and institutions globally, this cross-cutting theme will seek to provide fresh and effective approaches to addressing the human drivers behind the spiralling threats to the planet, including gross imbalances of power and decision-making. The solution to the world's global environmental and climatic process must be built on the will of humans to work together to change behaviour and impacts. An inspirational platform will be created across the streams and themes of the Congress where diverse rights holders, stakeholders and interest groups are able to enter into dialogue and commit to building solidarity in human networks and a shared understanding of the intrinsic and functional value of nature.

Led by: IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)