



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

# *Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions*





# The world's premier gathering on protected areas

The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 (WPC 2014) is a landmark global forum on protected areas held once every ten years. Since its official launch in Seattle, USA in 1962, it has evolved as the world's most influential gathering of people involved in protected area planning, governance and management, setting the direction and shaping the global agenda for the decades ahead.

WPC 2014 will be held in Sydney, Australia from 12 to 19 November 2014, at the Sydney Olympic Park close to the stunning Sydney Harbour National Park. This momentous event is organized by IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and hosted on behalf of the Australian Government by Parks Australia and the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, in the Office of Environment and Heritage.

## *Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions*

Our ultimate aim is to position protected areas firmly within the wider goals of economic and community well-being. We will strive for new commitments, and capacity to address critical efforts to conserve biodiversity in a world that faces enormous challenges. WPC 2014 will provide a unique global platform for professionals covering biodiversity conservation, government and business, as well as health, climate change adaptation, food security, sustainable livelihoods, water and disaster risk reduction. It will convene world leaders and promote targeted actions to meet some of the world's most pressing challenges in conservation and development, by increasing understanding of the vital role that protected areas play in delivering ecosystem services and underpinning human welfare and livelihoods.

More than a meeting place, WPC 2014 will result in action for protected areas through its design to achieve outcomes that have both global and local impact. Since its first staging, the IUCN World Parks Congress has substantially influenced the positive role of protected areas in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development worldwide. This Congress is expected to play an integral role in future conservation policy, stimulating people to propose and deliver creative solutions to global challenges, and acknowledging parks as a source of inspiration.

*“For over fifty years, the IUCN World Parks Congress has been the driving force behind conserving some of the world’s unique and most inspiring natural places for the benefit of humanity. IUCN is delighted to welcome leaders from governments, businesses, youth, indigenous peoples and the international community to Sydney in 2014 to collaborate on strengthening the protected areas estate worldwide as it continues to provide lasting natural solutions to today’s conservation and development challenges.”*

**Julia Marton-Lefèvre, IUCN Director General**





*"A sustainable future for humankind depends on a caring partnership with nature as much as anything else."*

**Nelson Mandela**  
V<sup>th</sup> World Parks Congress, 2003



# Recalling the legacy of Durban

The previous IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, with patrons including Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela and Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, focused on “Benefits Beyond Boundaries” and produced a legacy which continues to inform protected area conservation efforts today. The message from Durban to the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resulted in the adoption by 188 countries of the CBD’s **Programme of Work on Protected Areas**, one of the most successful programmes managed by the CBD. Of particular importance was the recognition of the vital role of good governance, especially involving indigenous peoples and local communities that has led to profound changes in the way nature conservation is conducted globally.

## What will be Sydney’s legacy?

The legacy from Sydney must build on and take forward the most important results of Durban in 2003 while recognizing new partnerships with sectors that fall outside of conservation. As Nelson Mandela pointed out during his stimulating opening speech:

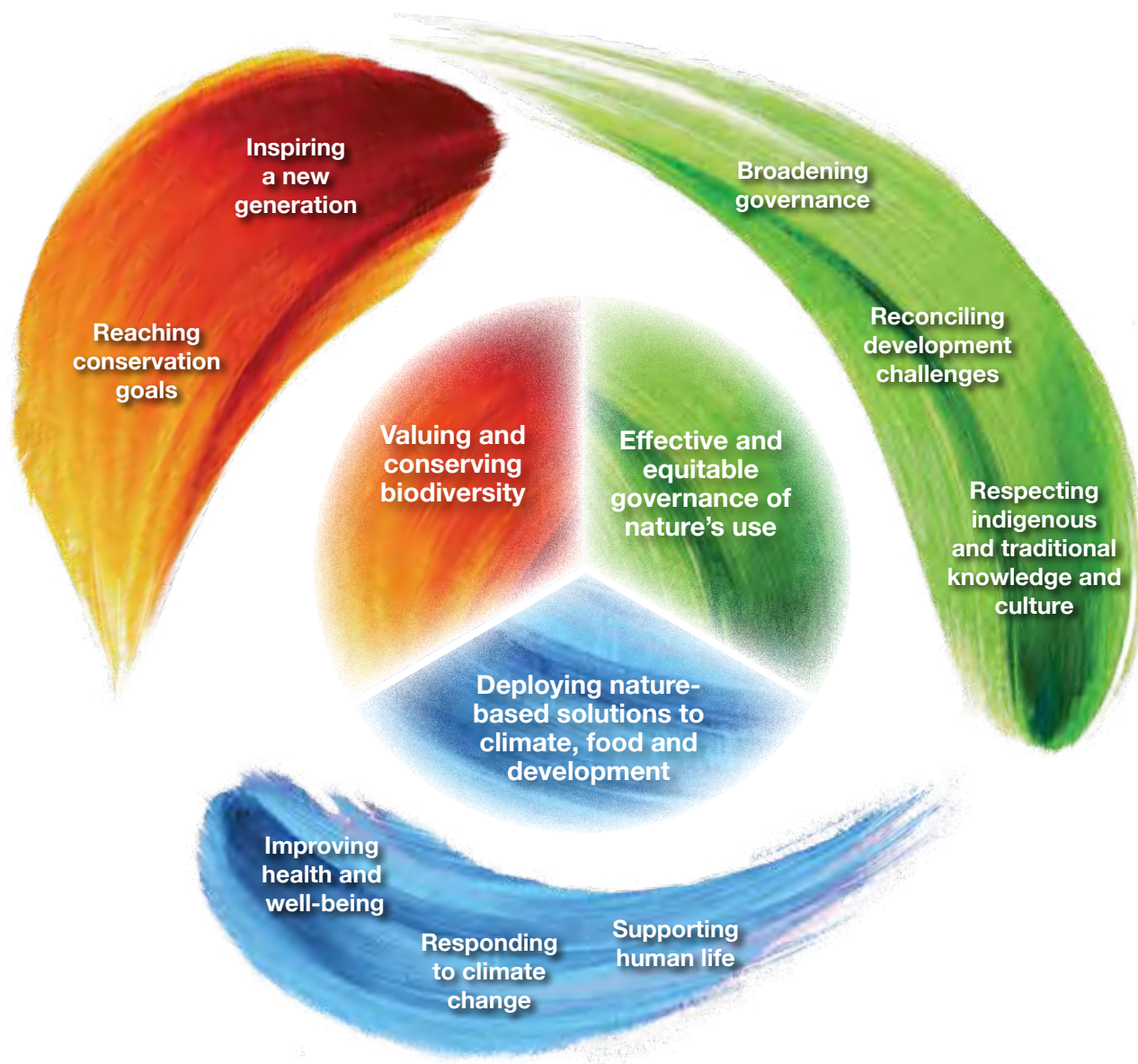
*“Among those who are preoccupied with the future of protected areas, there are a great many grey heads and far too few youthful ones.”*

Nelson Mandela, V<sup>th</sup> World Parks Congress, 2003

And so in Sydney, the importance of inspiring a new generation will be developed as the heart of the gathering. Equally important will be the challenge to engage with public and private sector partners, including those that rely on and impact protected areas to build a more sustainable future for our Protected Planet. For the private sector, investment in protected areas and institutions can be cost-effective and provide multiple economic and social benefits. In engaging with sectoral interests, we must foster collaborative efforts among governments, business, indigenous peoples, local communities, NGOs and youth for a new approach with tangible commitments. *Jointly*, our commitment through WPC is to position protected areas within the goals of economic and community well-being and achieve an understanding of their vital role within our society. *Together*, we will do this through innovative approaches and processes that are fair, equitable, and sustainable. The Congress is the ideal arena for all sectors to collaborate and we look forward to welcoming a diverse group of participants to WPC 2014.



## The eight streams



## IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 programme

More than forty national and international organizations are involved currently in developing strategies and plans for eight streams for WPC 2014 which will shape the outcomes. Each stream will be focused on the best available science, knowledge and practice to catalyse dialogue, open debates and ultimately result in commitment to action. Four cross-cutting themes highlighting Marine Conservation, World Heritage, Capacity Development, and a New Social Compact will be integrated into each of the streams to deliver powerful messages and action plans that guide the conservation agenda for the next decade.

## A timely gathering

Messages from the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 will feed directly into global negotiations on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, with implications in every sector. It will also be timely for taking stock on progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, agreed in Nagoya, Japan in 2010. With its theme of *Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions* WPC 2014 is expected to suggest bold new approaches for moving forward on protected areas and biodiversity conservation linked to sustainable development by envisaging what the world will be like in the next generation. Further, WPC 2014 outcomes will influence the work of IUCN's 1,200 Member States and organizations in 160 countries, 11,000 scientific experts and 1,000 staff.

# How can you contribute?

Staging WPC 2014 is a major technical and financial undertaking for IUCN and the host country, Australia. The success of WPC 2014 is dependent on its legacy and will rely on long-term investment to sustain the diversity, quality and purpose of the world's protected areas. Financial and technical assistance is essential to convene this event and to take advantage of its opportunities. Investment is needed for:

1

## **PROGRAMME AND LEGACY**

Invest in projects that enable the effective and equitable management of protected areas, resulting in improved sustainability of protected area systems and enhanced implementation of conservation and sustainable development targets.

2

## **WORLD PROTECTED AREA LEADERSHIP DIALOGUES**

Support leadership dialogues, speakers and panels that will debate and provide solutions for some of the most important issues of our time.

3

## **SPONSORED PARTICIPANTS**

Sponsor delegates from low and middle income countries, including protected area managers, community members and young professionals, whose attendance will be vital to the success of WPC 2014.

4

## **COMMUNICATION**

Support innovative media approaches that can inspire a new generation; contribute to the development of key products in different languages; support website design, social media or keynote speakers.

5

## **CONTENT DEVELOPMENT**

Enhance stream development, including convening communities of experts, collating and synthesizing knowledge, and contributing to important lead-in events up to and at WPC 2014.

6

## **STAGING**

Provide financial support for the staging of the event, including logistical support and funds needed to plan the actual event.



# Join us

For more information on ways you can contribute, please visit [www.worldparkscongress.org](http://www.worldparkscongress.org).

## For partner and sponsorship queries, please contact:

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