



IUCN
WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions
www.worldparkscongress.org



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Marine Theme

The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 is the premier global event on protected areas. Building on the theme *Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions*, it will pave the way for a new era where protected areas are valued and conserved by all parts of society as natural solutions to global challenges.

Four cross-cutting themes will **incorporate relevant and innovative case studies, programmes, speakers and activities** into stream programmes; **distil technical and policy lessons learned** from discussions across the streams; and **propose practical recommendations** to be implemented by IUCN, the World Commission on Protected Areas and other Congress participants.

THEME FOCUS

This theme will focus on how to design and manage Marine Protected Areas and their networks to address the key challenges considered across the Congress' streams. It will be characterised by three sub-themes: **Invest More, increasing the investment of funds, time, and partners in Marine Protected Areas;** **Involve More, engaging a broader range of stakeholders,** building new partnerships, and moving from awareness to action; and **Protect More, expanding the use of Marine Protected Areas to achieve conservation goals and maximize their effectiveness.**

The Congress will facilitate the sharing of experiences, foster alliances, and highlight both achievements of and new commitments by the Marine Protected Areas community.



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DELIVERING GLOBAL ACTION

During the Congress, this theme will **coordinate workshops, side events, capacity-building sessions and lunchtime debates** with the emphasis on practical application and innovations for Marine Protected Areas. The theme will also host an Ocean+ Pavilion, which will provide a sociable, interactive meeting point with exciting multimedia technologies and events such as announcements and launches; **host social functions** to provide networking opportunities, enable public access to the Congress thanks to an Ocean+ Web TV and Google Hangouts, and **facilitate a management-focused field trip to the Great Barrier Reef**.

The theme will also deliver an **exciting opening event** that will highlight marine connections throughout the Congress for an inspiring 'Marine Journey', **and a closing event** that will reflect and look forward.

TOWARDS THE PROMISE OF SYDNEY: THE FUTURE OF PROTECTED AREAS

The overall long-term outcome of the Marine cross-cutting theme will be strengthening, connecting and expanding Marine Protected Areas to restore ocean health and resilience and sustain long-term ocean benefits.

The Marine theme will adopt a strategy of innovative approaches and recommendations to enhance implementation in the next decade within the Promise of Sydney. The specific outcomes sought for each sub-theme will be: **Protect More – Achieving the target of conserving 10% of coastal and marine areas** around the world; **Involve More – Connecting people and protected areas by creating a Global Protected Area Network for future generations; Invest More – Appreciating ocean wealth by recognizing the true value of marine resources.** These sub-theme outcomes, built upon the outcomes of the Third International Marine Protected Areas Congress, complement and support the overall purpose and objectives of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, **connecting terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas into an effective global network of people and places.**

WHY INVEST IN THE CONGRESS PROGRAMME?

Your contribution is essential to promote nature-based solutions to the most pressing environmental and sustainable development challenges humanity faces today. **Investing in the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 will support a unique event in convening a broad variety of actors interested and actively involved in protected areas and sustainable development.** The Congress provides an exceptional opportunity for different sectors to demonstrate commitment, share expertise and knowledge and take a responsible approach to shape the global agenda for protected areas in the next decade and beyond. **Be part of the solution!**



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Did you know?

About half of the Earth's population lives in coastal regions, and millions of people derive all of their nutrition and base their livelihoods on marine and coastal resources.

Oceans produce over 50% of the oxygen in the atmosphere, and have a pivotal role to play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The marine realm covers over 70% of the surface of the planet and is home to 80% of the world's biodiversity. Yet, less than 3.5% of the ocean and less than 0.3% of the high seas are currently protected in Marine Protected Areas.

CONTACT

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