



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

*Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions*  
[www.worldparkscongress.org](http://www.worldparkscongress.org)



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# New Social Compact for Just and Effective Conservation 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

One of the outcomes of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 will be the drafting of a **New Social Compact**, which articulates **principles and actions to change human behaviour, shift political will and foster new alliances to achieve environmentally successful and socially just conservation**.

Within seven of the Congress streams, representatives of different human constituencies – rights holders, stakeholders, specialists and duty bearers – will be invited into a professionally facilitated dialogue to examine and respond to the key lessons, opportunities and threats being presented in the streams. It is designed to be frank and challenging, dealing with hidden assumptions, confronting issues of power, race, culture, gender, science, economics, and the reality of growing poverty, extremism and exclusion. From mining to drinking water, from human rights to wildlife trafficking, from land rights to changes in sea temperatures. Everything is on the table. The dialogue participants will include protected areas staff, policy makers, Indigenous Peoples, artisanal fishers, scientists, civil servants, community leaders, women, youth, philanthropists, religious leaders, health professionals, hunters, healers, private sector, media and other rights-holders and stakeholders. The dialogues are designed to represent our diverse global community. **Participants will explore and identify diverse pathways to sustain life on Earth through a just and effective New Social Compact.**



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## DELIVERING GLOBAL ACTION

We stand at a crossroads of human civilisation. Our human society has the potential to conserve or undermine our life-giving ecosystems and biodiversity. The New Social Compact allows a fresh opportunity for people to share their perspectives from their particular point of reference, as we seek to find a common and sustainable human destiny. The **New Social Compact dialogues generate statements with specific language and commitments relevant to each stream which are shared back to the Congress**, providing insights, challenges and inspiration regarding a New Social Compact. The shared positions will form pledges and road maps for action at the Congress. The theme will **aggregate the outcomes to find common threads, shared challenges, specific language, inspirational ideas and fundamental principles of change, effective action, equity and commitment to conserve bio-cultural diversity.**

## TOWARDS THE PROMISE OF SYDNEY: THE FUTURE OF PROTECTED AREAS

The process of speaking with and listening to one another with a new sense of urgency is part of the outcome of this theme. Professional facilitators convene dialogues with delegates from diverse constituencies to speak frankly about ethical, social, cultural, economic and political relationships between humans and what is required to find a shared commitment to address and reverse the anthropogenic drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss. There will also be three major public events at the Congress, where women, youth and Indigenous Peoples respectively will take the floor to speak about their views on a sustainable future and their relationships with protected areas and conservation. Out of each dialogue, there will be opportunities for projects, processes, and policies, expressed as a **New Social Compact for Just and Effective Conservation of Biological and Cultural Diversity**. The New Social Compact will build on the legacies of the Earth Charter, Agenda 21 and the Durban Accord, signalling a **new era of a global commitment to saving the planet. This time has now come; let us find the courage to have these conversations.**

## 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?

The previous Congress, held in Durban, South Africa in **2003**, produced outcomes that continue to influence global protected areas policy and practice. For example, the message to the Convention on Biological Diversity resulted in the adoption by **188** countries of the Convention's Programme of Work on Protected Areas, considered one of their most successful.

The recognition in Durban and in the CBD's Programme of Work, of the vital role of good governance, especially involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities, has led to profound changes in the way nature conservation is conducted globally. This legacy will inform the objectives and achievements of the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014.

## CONTACT

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

IUCN WCPA Theme on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)

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