



IUCN
WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

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



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Responding to Climate Change

The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 is the premier global event on protected areas held once every ten years. 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.

The programme streams are at the heart of delivering the Congress outcomes. The **complementary suite of eight streams will look ahead to anticipate and address prominent issues and challenges faced by protected areas**, which will be vital to positioning them firmly within the broader goals of sustainable development and community well-being through the next decade and beyond.

STREAM FOCUS

This stream will focus on **demonstrating how natural solutions help ecosystems and people respond to climate change**. This will be achieved by **exploring new knowledge and tools for adaptation and decision-making, establishing best practices** for their application, and **developing and sharing effective climate change communication techniques**. In this process, the **engagement of cultures, communities, and cities** that rely on natural environments is essential.

Ultimately, this stream expects to **foster new coalitions that emphasise the key role of protected areas in climate change communication and response at the international, national and local levels**.



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DELIVERING GLOBAL ACTION

Actions promoted by the stream at the Congress include demonstrating ways in which parks and other protected areas provide **'natural solutions' for climate change**, such as conserving biodiversity, protecting ecosystem services, connecting landscapes to promote species movement and adaptation, capturing and storing carbon, and offering a range of opportunities for acquiring new knowledge and engaging communities in stewardship and learning.

To showcase these examples, the stream will offer, **technical and capacity-building sessions** around adaptation and mitigation tools and **techniques for effective communication and capacity-building**. Additionally, a **Best Practice Guidelines for Managing Protected Areas in the Face of Climate Change** will be launched with practical examples of ecosystem-based approaches and substantial effort will be directed to recruiting informative, illustrative examples from protected area managers across the globe. Finally, prior to and during the Congress, **innovative social networking and communication techniques will also be used and promoted**.

TOWARDS THE PROMISE OF SYDNEY: THE FUTURE OF PROTECTED AREAS

As a Congress outcome, this stream will **position protected areas in relation to climate change policy discussions and solutions**. The stream will contribute to **society's understanding and acceptance that climate change is already affecting ecosystems and protected areas** through altered water supplies, habitats, infrastructure, and subsistence activities of communities and will **enhance protected area managers' ability to communicate about and cope with these changes**.

This stream expects **all sectors of society to adopt protected areas as natural solutions** in their climate change responses, with new coalitions working together across protected areas, business, climate science, cultural boundaries and geographies to address this challenge. As a result, **people's capacity to explore and respond to climate change will increase**.

A major goal of the Congress is the **implementation of an integrated and dynamic network of healthy, well-managed protected areas that anticipates climate and ecosystem change**, and that contributes to the solutions that the world needs to face up to this crisis.

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?

Data from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre suggests that there are already **312 Gt** of carbon stored in the world's protected area network, or **15%** of the world's terrestrial carbon stock.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the restoration and conservation of the Nariva wetlands recognises their importance as a carbon sink, a high biodiversity ecosystem and a natural buffering system against coastal storms.

In Switzerland, **17%** of forests are managed to stop avalanches, worth **US\$2-3.5 billion** per year.

CONTACT

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