



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

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



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# Supporting Human Life

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 **highlight the socio-economic benefits of protected areas** for sustainable human development, focusing on the **provision of food security, water management and disaster risk reduction**. It will do this by sharing innovative approaches such as **water funds and other payments for environmental services, sustainable use of genetic resources and wild food, participatory management schemes** to support livelihoods of local communities, and ecosystem-based approaches to facilitating restoration and recovery after natural disasters.

By involving people and institutions in ecosystem conservation and management, the stream will examine successes and challenges in maintaining societal resilience, both for **ensuring life support and for preventing and minimizing impacts and ensuring recovery from disasters**.



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## DELIVERING GLOBAL ACTION

Actions organized at the Congress include **workshops, capacity development opportunities, and exhibits** that highlight successful innovative approaches to addressing factors that affect human life support and security.

The outputs of stream activities before and during the Congress will include the **launch of a Natural Solutions website and capacity-building material**, and also **best practice guidelines for park managers to integrate food security concerns, disaster risk reduction and water management into their operations, and to ensure that these lessons are embedded in practice beyond protected areas.**

All of these lessons learned on the planning and management of protected areas for life support within the goals of economic and community well-being will be communicated globally through various media.

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

As an outcome of the Congress, this stream expects that people and institutions will perceive and understand protected areas in a wider sense and at the scale of landscapes, **providing basic physical services such as food and wild resources, water, and disaster risk reduction functions.** If protected areas are well-managed, they serve to support our lives through a multitude of socio-economic and environmental benefits while also supporting conservation outcomes.

A major impact will be the **adoption of compelling evidence on the role of protected areas for disaster risk reduction in global policy (Hyogo Framework for Action 2)**, as well as national policies and local practices. The role of protected areas in **food security and conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources as well as water will be reinforced**, and the awareness and understanding of the **contribution of protected areas in fulfilling the objectives of other socio-economic sectors will be tailored for introduction into national and international policy.**

## 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 Sierra de Manantlan Protected Area in Mexico protects populations of wild maize which increases disease resistance when crossed with cultivated maize.

**33** of the world's **105** largest cities derive much of their drinking water from catchments within forest protected areas.

In Ecuador, about **80%** of Quito's **1.5** million residents receive drinking water from two protected areas in the Andes, and the water company pays local communities to prevent deforestation.

Freshwater fishes are the most threatened group of vertebrates used by humans.

## CONTACT

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