



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

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



© Evelyne Clarke

# Reconciling Development Challenges

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 the **intersections between protected areas, and the many development goals and challenges facing national governments**. It will do so by providing concrete guidance and examples of how protected areas can be designed, managed, assessed and utilized to achieve both ambitious conservation goals, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and development plans. In particular, the stream will look at the way in which **governments**, at national and local levels, **and businesses integrate protected areas and conservation into development policy, planning and programmes to ensure that wise trade-offs are made among sustainable development decisions and business practices**.



© Marco Calvo



© Sue Mainka

## DELIVERING GLOBAL ACTION

Before the Congress, activities organized by the stream include: **developing best practice guidelines** for designing, managing, assessing and utilising protected areas to address multiple development goals; **developing and disseminating case studies** that illustrate how protected areas can contribute to development goals; and **establishing the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Forum** to help in identifying key issues, best practices and case studies.

At the Congress, the stream will include a range of different formats (**workshops, keynote speakers, capacity-building sessions**, etc.) aimed at multiple target audiences, and **bring in new partners**, including from **development and private sectors** from around the world.

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

This stream will deliver guidance, aimed at protected area practitioners and planners, as well as managers and policy makers of productive sectors and development, on how protected areas can be designed, managed and utilised to achieve development goals and meet development challenges. It will also disseminate cases where protected areas have been intimately embedded within development plans, natural capital accounting, sectoral practices, poverty reduction strategies or other participatory mechanisms driving development.

A major component of this stream's outcome will be the **establishment of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Forum**, with an anticipated membership of over 2500 participants from biodiversity, protection, restoration, production and mainstreaming sectors. The stream will use this Forum to **disseminate lessons learned which will be adopted in the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in more than 140 countries, being recognised and adopted by all stakeholders including relevant civil society and private sector partners around the world.**

## 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!**



© Rafal Obrzud

## Did you know?

A global economic assessment of **63** million hectares of wetlands estimated their value at **US\$3.4** billion per year. The highest benefits are found in Asia with an economic value of **US\$1.8** billion per year.

The Finnish Forest Research Institute and Metsähallitus - Natural Heritage Services have assessed the local economic benefits of national parks and other protected areas in Finland. According to the assessment, **1** EUR investment in protected areas results in **10** EUR return to local economies.

In Peru, **60%** of the hydroelectricity produced comes from rivers in protected areas, a service valued at **US\$320** million annually.

## CONTACT

The World Bank  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Conservation International  
Email Contact: [WPCDevelopment@iucn.org](mailto:WPCDevelopment@iucn.org)  
Twitter: [#WPCSydney](https://twitter.com/WPCSydney) [#WorldParksCongress](https://twitter.com/WorldParksCongress) [#WPCDevelopment](https://twitter.com/WPCDevelopment)

