



IUCN  
WORLD PARKS  
CONGRESS  
SYDNEY 2014

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



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## Enhancing Diversity and Quality of Governance

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

Governance is about **“who makes decisions”** and **“how decisions are made”**. We speak of **governance quality** (or “good governance”) when decisions are taken legitimately, fairly, with a sense of vision, accountability and while respecting rights. Another dimension of **governance** is **diversity**. A diverse protected area system encompasses a range of governance types such as shared governance, governance by Indigenous People and local communities, by private entities, and by national and regional governments. And **governance vitality** is about taking decisions in timely, well connected, adaptable, wise, creative and empowering ways. The stream focuses on **understanding and improving governance** to respond to the challenges and opportunities awaiting conservation.



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## DELIVERING GLOBAL ACTION

The stream will examine examples of diversity, quality and vitality of governance of protected areas across the world, illustrating positive and problematic cases and highlighting knowledge, tools and capacities useful to meet international conservation commitments, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will be shown how **diverse, good and vital governance can enhance protected area coverage, effectiveness, equity, connectivity and social engagement**. Issues will be approached in a participatory way, engaging delegates in drawing conclusions and developing recommendations. The stream will usher **country commitments to improve governance and national and regional learning networks** to sustain **“learning by doing”** in a variety of social and ecological environments.

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

The basic long-term impact of the Governance stream will be a world where **diversity, quality and vitality of governance** of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures are **widely understood and acted upon to strengthen conservation**. This includes a frank treatment of the political questions that underpin governance, from recognizing **collective land and resource rights and responsibilities** to taking **firm “no go” decisions** for conservation-incompatible developments.

A second, also ambitious, goal will be to **advance the “governance frontiers”** by influencing policies **beyond the conservation realm**. Improving governance of land, water and natural resources by enhancing its diversity, quality and vitality can and should become **one of the pillars of the post-2015 development agenda**. Drawing from the experience of protected areas, well-governed landscapes and seascapes can thus develop as **“models for sustainable living”**.

## 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?

In South Africa, protected ecosystems under diverse governance types including private nature reserves and conservancies have an overall coverage larger than all national parks together.

In Japan, a **2010** survey identified **1161** marine protected areas, of which **30%** are community-based autonomous areas established and run by fishery cooperatives.

A recent analysis of deforestation trends in the Amazon revealed that the percentage of observed deforestation, and deforestation predicted to take place, is five to seven times lower in indigenous territories than in territories where state property or private property prevails.

## CONTACT

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Development Agency, GIZ)  
 Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA) Consortium  
 IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP)  
 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
 UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)  
 Email Contact: [WPCGovernance@iucn.org](mailto:WPCGovernance@iucn.org)  
 Twitter: @WPCSydney @WPCGovernance #WorldParksCongress #WPCGovernance  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GovernanceStreamSydney2014>

