



Stephan Bognar at IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

The IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 – being hosted in Sydney from 12 to 19 November - is a global forum on parks and protected areas held once every 10 years. The theme is *Parks, Planet, People: inspiring solutions*.

If you care about our parks and environment as well as our health, then the **Improving Health and Wellbeing: Healthy Parks Healthy People** stream of the Congress will be of great interest to you.

The stream will explore the diverse health benefits provided by parks including medicines, disease regulation, livelihood support, mental and spiritual wellbeing, and settings for diverse activities and enjoyment. The stream will also cover the importance of city and urban parks as well as large protected areas.



The stream is being led by Parks Victoria, in partnership with the US National Park Service. Just one of over 150 speakers from around the world that will be presenting in this stream is Stephen Bognar, Chief Executive Officer of the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation (MJP). MJP is an organisation dedicated to eradicating extreme rural poverty, protecting natural resources and conserving wildlife. As a leading NGO in the region (Cambodia) MJP works to integrate conservation into all sectors of human development.

In his role as CEO, Stephan designs, implements and manages MJP's global community and conservation portfolios. His career has spanned many countries and international organisations in the conservation sector. Before joining MJP, he worked for both WildAid USA and WildAid Cambodia, an international wildlife conservation organisation dedicated to fighting the illegal wildlife and timber trade.

At the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014, Stephen will be helping to deliver information on forming new and diverse partnerships and will also be involved in a session on building on the links between biodiversity and human health in the Sustainable Development Goals