



IUCN
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A strategy of innovative approaches and recommendations to enhance implementation of a **New Social Compact** in the next decade

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IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

A promising future

ACROSS THE PLANET, WE MUST FOSTER DIALOGUE TO DEVELOP A NEW CONSERVATION ETHIC IF THE HEALTH OF OUR PLANET, INTEGRAL TO OUR OWN HEALTH, IS TO BE SAFEGUARDED FOR US AND FOR ALL LIVING THINGS.

The vision of the new social compact is to **inspire a movement towards effective and just conservation that increases the relevance and strength of protected and conserved areas by galvanizing diverse stakeholders to collectively commit to a new conservation ethic.** We will not be able to reach effective conservation outcomes unless a new relationship is built between protected areas, conservation efforts and women, youth, Indigenous peoples and the communities who live closest to them and are more impacted, and unless existing and new community-centred approaches to protected and conserved areas are recognized and supported. We started the new social compact dialogues on the traditional territory of Eora clans, in what is now Sydney, Australia. The New Social Compact honoured the invitation by Wangal and Burramattagal people of the Eora nation who are the traditional owners of the country. As the journey continues, **a conservation ethic** will be promoted throughout the conservation community **that supports diverse knowledge systems and values, delivers rights-based and equitable conservation for improved governance of natural resources and tangible benefits for livelihoods.** Ultimately, every state, corporation, non-governmental, civil society and governmental organization and citizen should **adopt specific obligations** to maintain the health and integrity of nature that nurtures humanity.

The current situation

At the World Parks Congress in 2003, the Durban Accord stated that, “our strongest commitments will fail if we neglect to maintain avenues for open communication ... in a climate of humility, credibility and trust”. In the face of biodiversity decline, fragmentation of landscapes, climate instability and an ever greater gap between rich and poor, **we must work cooperatively as a human family to address the drivers of threats to the fabric of life and** promote intercultural, intergenerational and equitable dialogue. It is essential that the IUCN community breaks free of the silos that often dominate the World Parks Congress to engage in such a dialogue, critically and reflexively analyzing the drivers of, and solutions to, continued loss of biological and cultural diversity. The new social compact dialogues for effective and just conservation at the World Parks Congress in 2014 galvanized diverse stakeholders to commit collectively to engage in a new diplomacy so as to increase the relevance and strength of protected and conserved areas across the world as well as improve social justice, equity and rights of governance and management. This necessarily included an analysis of where we stand with regard to rights standards, affirmation and redress; increased pressure on land and resources, primarily by development; and the continued threats to collective and customary ownership or tenure. IUCN must go further in enhancing diversity,

quality and vitality of governance systems; sustainable economies; and the valorization of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems and values.

Novel and innovative ways towards a 'new conservation ethic' must be propelled and scaled by thoughtfully integrating cultural and biological diversity into processes which, stemming from the new social compact dialogues, support equitable conservation and sustainable livelihoods across all of the topics and themes addressed in IUCN and beyond. The dialogues, attended by diverse constituencies across commissions, identified a process of social fragmentation mirroring ecological fragmentation that is undermining land custodianship, fuelling disempowerment, destabilizing well-being, in some cases leading to land grabbing, and creating a disconnect between nature and human beings. An economic model that measures success according to growth in production is the 'elephant in the room', eventually undermining the integrity and efficacy of protected areas and conservation efforts. This has led to either ignorance or skewed understanding of the Earth's value and stewardship requirements. The failure of IUCN and the conservation sector to take seriously the surge in mining, extractive industries and other forms of development has put into question the integrity of protected and conserved areas, the maintenance of livelihoods for Indigenous peoples and local communities, and possible solutions to climate change and instability-- the impacts of which are immediate, very visible and urgent. These threats are compounded by IUCN's position on business which, since Durban, has marked it either as complicit or irrelevant in setting the international dialogue on sustainable economic models that are consistent with what nature needs to function well. The silos that continue to emerge at international meetings such as the WPC 2014 demonstrate a real need to address these challenges collectively, through dialogues attended by, and engaging, diverse stakeholders.

Recommendations for change

Recommendation 1: DIALOGUE - In future gatherings the IUCN should incorporate facilitated dialogues as a core process within its deliberations on critical, complex challenges facing the organisation and the conservation movement it serves. The NSC dialogues in Sydney demonstrated what is known in many other quarters, namely that deep dialogue amongst committed but diverse role-players within a system is the most effective way for that system's toughest challenges to be brought to a point of genuinely fresh thinking and the possibility of mutual resolution. Because deep dialogue requires small groups and extended sessions to be effective, it should be designed as a dynamic counterpoint to the more traditional plenary and information-based sessions to which the IUCN is institutionally accustomed.

Recommendation 2: INCLUSION OF LOCAL RIGHTS- AND CLAIMS- HOLDERS IN DECISION-MAKING – IUCN must take concrete steps to include right-holders, local and Indigenous peoples in the higher levels of governance, including the Secretariat and Regional Council, and improve their participation in actual IUCN decision-making processes. Such individuals include but are not limited to women, youth, Indigenous peoples and local communities and their representatives.

Recommendation 3: A 'NEW CONSERVATION ETHIC' - IUCN should embrace a new conservation ethic that is just, equitable, reciprocal and respectful, and links biological with social-cultural diversity. Such an ethic supports diverse knowledge systems and values and puts local, sustainable livelihoods at the centre while delivering on improved governance, transparency and accountability.

Recommendation 4: RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES (RBAs) - IUCN should support the adoption of a clear set of human rights standards and capacity building techniques (see recommendation 5). Such standards must uphold transparent use of Free, Prior and Informed Consent as mechanism in all stages of planning, including designating, governing and managing protected areas, to better address issues of conflict, dispossession and inequity.

Recommendation 5: CONCRETE MEASURES FOR REDRESS - The IUCN Secretariat should develop a “rapid response” mechanism to respond to and support Indigenous peoples and local communities impacted by protected areas and, where applicable, development. IUCN, governments and conservation actors should consider the following as important tools and concrete steps to explore redress mechanisms and land restitution: the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Cochabamba Declaration, the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (CIHR), and the processes of the Whakatane Mechanism, Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and the Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF).

Recommendation 6: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (TK) - IUCN should work with its members, Indigenous people and local communities to co-produce both western scientific and traditional knowledge so as to better address environmental problems and their possible solutions. Indigenous and traditional forms of evaluation and assessment of cultural and ecological health, drawn from first-hand, long-term observation of the natural world, should better inform Social and Environmental Impact Assessments and other industry or IUCN-wide measurements.

Recommendation 7: WOMEN - IUCN needs to better consider issues of equity when addressing gender. Specifically, IUCN members should encourage inclusion of women in all stages of protected areas governance. This means improved participation in decision-making processes which impact the livelihoods of women and their families, but also giving women space to identify and address their strategic and practical needs as they differ according to context, class and level of access to resources.

Recommendation 8: YOUTH AND INTERGENERATIONAL - IUCN Council and members should recognize that ‘youth involvement’ within the IUCN needs to go beyond tokenism, moving towards an intergenerational vision and valid, meaningful participation in IUCN decision-making processes. IUCN should support opportunities for place and land-based capacity building and learning to be extended to both youth and senior as part of the intergenerational approach.

Recommendation 9: ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR AND INDUSTRY - Protection of natural ecosystems must be extended to communities adversely affected by industry or market-based mechanisms employed by the conservation sector (e.g. REDD+, biodiversity offsets, Payments for Environmental Services). IUCN’s relationship to business should not preclude it from taking a firm and vocal stance against development activities that are openly opposed by local, traditional owners and custodians or threaten Sacred Natural Sites and Territories.

Recommendation 10: ROLE OF THE IUCN - The IUCN Council is uniquely positioned both to sound the alarm and provide active leadership regarding the global biodiversity crisis. At the heart of IUCN’s agenda must be a discussion of the root causes of the loss of cultural and biological diversity, landscape fragmentation, climate change and instability, and the unequal distribution of costs and benefits of these changes.

Key partnerships needed