



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: YOUNG LEADERS AND PROTECTED AREAS Workshop Programme

Abstract

The diversity of life on earth is protected in over 100,000 Protected Areas covering over 12% of the globe. Despite this achievement, major challenges face the continued expansion, planning and management of these areas, all overlain by the formidable threats of climate change. Capacity and resources are limited and many countries are lagging behind in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Program of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA). Young people – the conservation leaders of tomorrow - will be the critical force in this global task. WCPA recognises the crucial need to transfer and build knowledge, experience and expertise between current and future protected area leaders. This session will be one part of encouraging youth engagement and younger people to see a global network like WCPA as a supportive network for their future careers in conservation.

While in Barcelona, WCPA and future leaders from the IUCN network will host an Alliance workshop to discuss emerging issues and needs in protected area management and conservation in the period ahead. The workshop will also draw on the results of a global survey of protected area professionals and inspire delegates with stories of how young leaders are making a difference in communities, management, research and policy in a rapidly changing world.

Programme

Time: Wed, 8 Oct, 14:30 – 16:00 Location: CCIB 122

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| 14:30 – 14:40 | Welcome and long term aspirations for WCPA and Youth Mentoring
<i>Kristy Faccer, WCPA Advisor</i> |
| 14:40 – 15:00 | Investing in the Future: Report of findings from global Young Professionals and Protected Areas survey
<i>Sudeep Jana, Nepal</i> |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Innovation and Youth Leadership in Protected Areas
<i>Edwin Sabuhoro, IRF/WCPA Young Conservationist Awardee, Rwanda</i> |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Conservation and challenges and opportunities for young professionals: Looking Ahead
<i>Dmitri Gorshkov, Russia</i> |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | New generation, new challenges for the conservation of natural heritage
<i>Geneviève Nadeau, Canada</i> |
| 15:45 – 15:55 | Next Steps Discussion |
| 15:55 – 16:00 | Closing statement
<i>Kenton Miller, former Chair, WCPA, President of IUCN</i> |

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To share the results of a global survey on protected area priorities
- To enhance our understanding of challenges and opportunities facing protected areas and the roles being taken by young leaders
- To generate support for a sustainable programme of professional engagement and development opportunities for future leaders within the IUCN family and WCPA in particular

The expected outputs/outcomes of the workshop:

- A summary of key action items arising from a global survey of protected area stakeholders and practitioners
- Feedback on the results of the survey and strategic themes in protected areas
- A clear message to IUCN to support a rejuvenated and youth-defined initiative/programme of work for protected areas
- Recommendations to protected area authorities, IUCN's WCPA and PPA and conservation leaders, young and old.

Outside the Alliance Session

- A regular meeting point for young people to continue their discussions outside formal sessions.
- We aspire to have a social gathering at some point.
- A collection of other events and initiatives aimed at leadership development and intergenerational capacity.
- An investment by a consortium of organisations within the IUCN network who will work together to enhance opportunities for young conservation professionals and to persuade the IUCN to deepen its commitment to achieving a culture which nurtures the next generation of conservation leaders.

Workshop Organisers

WCPA Young Professionals Core Group comprising of representatives from the following organisations: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN Secretariat; Conservation International, Australian Parks Agencies, IUCN members and other non-governmental organisations

Participants

Participants are welcome from a wide range of conservation professionals and decision-makers interested in the rejuvenation of protected area models, management and leadership. While the aim is to provide a platform for younger voices, all those concerned with encouraging younger members of the global conservation community are welcome.

We feel strongly about honouring Mandela's wish to see more young faces leading conservation successes and innovation – will you invest in the future leaders?

