



IUCN
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

New Social Compact Dialogue - Stream 5: 'Reconciling Development' Statement to IUCN Leadership

Dear IUCN Leadership,

We were a diverse group, including mining industry executives, indigenous peoples' leaders, protected area managers and experts from around the world (*see list in Annex*). We met in facilitated dialogue over a total of 5½ hours across three sessions during the Congress, at the end of which we wanted to share the following with you.

- 1. The Value of Dialogue.** We were surprised and heartened by how quickly we reached a place of deep mutual respect and empathy, from which it was possible to come to shared perspectives and fresh thinking on one or two issues that are normally contentious. This was the fruit of the process itself and we recommend that facilitated dialogue amongst diverse interests should play a much more prominent role in future IUCN gatherings.
- 2. IUCN's Role.** We consider IUCN to be uniquely positioned both to sound the alarm and provide active leadership regarding the global biodiversity crisis. Yet we felt the agenda of the World Parks Congress did not act with an urgency or boldness sufficient to respond to the scale and scope of the current challenges. We wish to support IUCN to do so at this critical time and are concerned that failure to do so endangers the reputation and viability of the IUCN and its members.
- 3. Accountability.** We urge IUCN to hold itself publicly accountable for delivery against previous goals and targets, such as those that emerged from Durban 2003, and specifically hold its member governments, signatories to the World Heritage Convention (WHC) of 1972, accountable for their adherence to the WHC commitments regarding incompatibility of World Heritage sites with extractive and industrial activities.
- 4. Boldness.** Given the continuing decline in global biodiversity and the growing intrusion into protected areas by extractive and industrial activities, we strongly urge IUCN to make it publicly and unequivocally clear that "No-Go" means "No-Go" for said extractive and industrial activity.
- 5. Focus on Root Causes.** At the heart of IUCN's agenda must be discussion of the root causes of the loss of cultural and biological diversity. These losses are largely attributable to biodiversity-versus-development conflicts, the root causes of which went unaddressed in Sydney and thus became labelled 'the elephants in the room'. These causes include the consequences of our economic systems, failure of our systems of governance, power dynamics, historical inequalities and discrimination, and attitudes that position certain world views (such as the dominant scientific and financial world views) above those of indigenous peoples and other rights- and stakeholders. As a global leadership organisation we believe IUCN must take up these underlying challenges more directly and holistically, for example through a social, environmental, and human rights framework.

6. **Re-Conceptualising the World Parks Congress.** Since the World Parks Congress aspires to reflect and represent the best of IUCN and, in light of the above, we suggest that it be positioned less as a professional conference and more a summoning of every available avenue and resource for the protection of nature and people through protected areas. This implies extending the diversity of representatives and points of view. To do so successfully we recommend prioritizing inclusivity through diversifying Congress leadership, increasing translation facilities in all sessions and simplifying access to the program, in print and digital form. More dialogue and less presentations will also enable this re-positioning. Some members of the group have expressed willingness to assist IUCN with the details of this if that would help.

In Closing

The world is calling out for leadership that crosses the old boundaries between science, government, commerce, spirit and indigenous peoples, knowledge and cultures. Our generational task of reversing the collective destruction of Nature demands, we believe, an unparalleled commitment of intelligence, mutual trust and energy. We want – indeed we need – IUCN to take a full and coherent leadership role in this regard. We and many thousands of others stand behind the organisation, and our commitment would increase if IUCN can take up this active leadership in the future. We therefore urge IUCN's leadership to set its course afresh and pick up the strengthening winds of tomorrow.

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Annex 1

PARTICIPANTS

Note: Participants were specifically invited to engage in the dialogue in their own capacity, rather than to make statements on behalf of their organisation. The above 'Statement to IUCN' should therefore not be taken as in any way representative of the views of the organisations listed here nor of any specific indigenous peoples.

Dialogue Participant	Organisation
Matthew Hatchwell	WCS Europe
Patrick Yepe Lombaia	PNG MiningWatch
Juanita Cabrera Lopez	Guatemala (CEESP)
Diana Shand	IUCN CEESP, NZ
Goran Sekulic	Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia
Tony Hodge	International Council on Mining & Metals
Jamison D Suter	Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée
Daniel Banuoku	Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development, Ghana
Gwendolyn Wellmann	Gwendolyn Wellmann Ltd., RSA
Dr. Kenneth Iain Macdonald	University of Toronto & IUCN
Sharon Shay Sloan	The WILD Foundation
Jo Confino	The Guardian, UK
Jonathon Ekstrom	The Biodiversity Conservancy
Kevin McCann	Wildlands Conservation Trust, RSA
Saw Htun	Director, Nature & Wildlife, WCS Myanmar
Phillipa Holden van Zyl	Project Manager, Planning & Natural Resources, Kangaroo Island
Todd Stevens	WCS
Peter Willis	Facilitator
Caroline Seagle	CEESP Young Professional & Rapporteur