

# The World Conservation Congress

Barcelona, 5 – 14 October 2008

## A Framework for Contributions

### 1. The Vision - A diverse and sustainable world

Combining unique convening power and scientific authority, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) helps the world find pragmatic, sustainable solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain, from 5 to 14 October 2008, will shape future policies and practices of conservation with active participation from all parts of the Union. It will also seek to engage new partners and constituencies to achieve our mission, and to make Barcelona the most successful World Conservation Congress ever.

Coinciding with IUCN's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The IUCN World Conservation Congress will be the place for the conservation community to engage representatives of other sectors to reach agreement, share solutions and work in partnership for **a diverse and sustainable world**.

### 2. Pragmatic solutions for urgent environmental challenges

Individual consumers are making eco-friendly choices, businesses invest in greener products and technologies, mindful farmers grow organic food and politicians address the environment through policy and law. Sustainability of development is now a recognised concern and a range of stakeholders increasingly take action to help achieve it.

But despite such progress, why is the state of our planet getting worse and not better? Our environmental crisis seems to be deepening and accelerating. Economic growth worldwide has not resolved blatant inequity. The impacts of climate change on already vulnerable people, regions and communities are increasingly visible, day by day.

IUCN's more than 1,000 member organizations and 10,000 Commission members are tackling these challenges from many different angles. But the environmental movement alone cannot solve these problems alone. Everyone must be involved, new alliances created, and new ethics shaped, to implement sustainable solutions. It is time for fundamental change; and it must happen quickly.

Building on IUCN's long history of bringing together diverse stakeholders and providing scientific leadership, the IUCN World Conservation Congress will bring different sectors together to work together, share knowledge and experiences, develop innovative and inspiring solutions and make practical and moral commitments to help us to move forward together on the path to sustainability.

### 3. The Congress theme – a diverse and sustainable world

What are our options for a sustainable future? The Congress theme – **a diverse and sustainable world** – is the umbrella for a compelling vision and pragmatic solutions. Government, civil

society, science and the private sector are applying inspiring solutions. Their efforts demonstrate that integrated and long-term approaches to restoring, conserving and sustainably using natural assets can lead to new livelihood opportunities and social, economic and environmental vitality. Our challenge is how to replicate, scale-up and mainstream these encouraging innovations and how to create the enabling conditions for sustainable and equitable alternatives to flourish.

The know-how of these innovations will be showcased at the Congress. It will present community and local level initiatives, policy and governance reforms, solutions based on traditional and indigenous knowledge, new and more sustainable business models and investment opportunities, initiatives that inspire ethical behavior, actions of youth, methods to address gender equity, latest technologies and emerging multi-sectoral partnerships.

A major focus will be the role of economic tools and markets in supporting the transition to sustainability by stimulating new production practices and consumption patterns that enhance social justice and nature conservation. Alternative models for a sustainable future will be explored as will the necessary governance reforms, partnerships and political alliances required to reinvigorate the sustainable development movement.

**4. Framework for contributions**

**1. Sharing know how**

Contributions to the Forum share know-how and lessons learnt of conservation approaches and techniques. Lessons learnt, best science, tools, techniques and approaches are presented that inform participants to your session on “how to” achieve a specific objective.

**2. Reaching agreement**

Contributions to the Forum build consensus on contentious issues between different stakeholders. Discussion focuses on trying to bridge differences of perception, knowledge or values and to arrive at a shared understanding of the issue and its solution.

**3. Moving to action**

Contributions to the Forum generate commitment of participants to work together on shared objectives with other stakeholders or specify what actions will be undertaken to contribute to the achievement of agreed objectives.

Contributions to the Forum don’t need to address all these objectives but should contribute to at least one, and can address all three when appropriate.

**5. Congress streams – a new climate for change; healthy environments - healthy people; safeguarding the diversity of life**

**5.1 A new climate for change**

Climate change may soon accelerate beyond our power to avert catastrophic consequences. We must set limits to the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gasses. Setting and meeting such a target is politically and practically difficult, but essential. Besides mitigating the impacts of climate change and reducing emissions, we also need adaptation strategies that reduce risks, allow species to migrate, and keep future management options open.

In this stream, we seek to present the best practice and science, discuss the main issues and identify a range of collaborative actions to address the relationships between energy, climate change, ecosystem goods and services and human security, guided by the following key questions:

<b>Sharing know how</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we provide energy to poor communities without adversely impacting or even improving their environment?</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can ecosystem management and adaptation strategies help biodiversity and people cope with climate change and energy issues?</li> <li>• Which incentives and voluntary and legal measures promote energy saving, emission reductions and adaptation measures throughout society, including by businesses and consumers?</li> </ul>
<b>Reaching agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What policies and strategies need to be in place to ensure future scenarios of energy production and consumption improve human well-being, conserve biodiversity and tackle climate change?</li> <li>• What international agreement that clearly addresses mitigation and adaptation measures should follow the Kyoto Protocol in 2012?</li> </ul>
<b>Examples of how to moving to action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which actions need to be taken?</li> <li>• Which stakeholders need to be involved?</li> <li>• How do we work together with them?</li> <li>• What commitment are you making?</li> </ul>

## 5.2 Healthy environments - healthy people

Environmental security is fundamental to human security. Human communities depend on ecosystem goods and services such as air to breathe, water to drink, soils to grow food, seas to fish in, and materials for construction. Nevertheless, the capacity of ecosystems to deliver these vital ecosystem goods and services is being eroded at an alarming rate.

In this stream, we will look at the importance of natural resources to human well-being, security, cultures and equity. By examining the following key questions, we seek to arrive at the sustainable management of land- and seascapes to meet the needs of growing populations and improve human well-being:

<b>Sharing know how</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can environmental management reduce vulnerability and increase security of communities?</li> <li>• How do we value ecosystem goods and services and translate these values into livelihood, market and finance opportunities?</li> <li>• How can we reduce the impacts of over-consumption and make producers and consumers worldwide aware of the social and environmental impact of production and consumption choices?</li> </ul>
<b>Reaching agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the costs and benefits of conservation to human well-being, including health, poverty reduction and security?</li> <li>• What could stimulate the growth of a new world economy that is clean, green and equitable?</li> </ul>
<b>Examples of how to moving to action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which actions need to be taken?</li> <li>• Which stakeholders need to be involved?</li> <li>• How do we work together with them?</li> <li>• What commitment are you making?</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Safeguarding the diversity of life

Countries and communities depend on natural wealth to fuel their development. Nature provides valuable assets that underpin the world's social fabric, cultural diversity and economic progress. Yet we are drawing down on those natural assets as our dwindling biological diversity testifies.

This stream, will examine the state of biodiversity and how it delivers ecosystem goods and services, how well-managed land and seascapes, including protected areas, sustainably deliver them, and how economic, social and cultural factors contribute to biodiversity loss or conservation, based on the following key questions:

<b>Sharing know how</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we assess the state of ecosystem goods and services and improve our understanding of their delivery?</li> <li>• How do we best manage ecosystems, including protected areas, so they sustainably deliver ecosystem goods and services for the long-term benefit of people and nature?</li> <li>• How can we influence economic, social and cultural factors to contribute to the sustainable management of ecosystems and the conservation of species?</li> </ul>
<b>Reaching agreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the world meet the 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss, and what do we do if we don't?</li> <li>• What changes do we need in international and regional governance structures to address the sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services?</li> </ul>
<b>Examples of how to moving to action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which actions need to be taken?</li> <li>• Which stakeholders need to be involved?</li> <li>• How do we work together with them?</li> <li>• What commitment are you making?</li> </ul>

## 6. Multistakeholder involvement

Contributions to the Congress involve a range of stakeholder involvement as far as appropriate. Participation of representatives of the private sector, indigenous communities, scientists, practitioners, politicians and others is actively sought to arrive at solid outcomes.

## 7. Outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

In conclusion, the Congress will deliver what we call the “Barcelona Legacy”:

- **increased know-how** about the way in which conservation can help meet today’s global challenges
- **long-term responses** to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a long-term vision for the engagement of the conservation community with other sectors of society
- **concrete commitments** to action of different stakeholders and innovative partnerships that empower cross-sectoral collaboration for the benefit of people and nature

## 8. More information

For more information, please visit [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org) or contact [congress@iucn.org](mailto:congress@iucn.org).