The IUCN Congress was originally scheduled to take place from 11 to 19 June 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was rescheduled and thus took place from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille, France in a hybrid (physical and virtual) format.

Every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples’ organisations, business, and academia together, to take decisions related to major conservation issues.

The Congress agenda highlighted dual existential crises for the planet - climate change and biodiversity collapse, and drew significant political attention, as it took place ahead of key global meetings on these two issues: the COP15 on Biodiversity (organised online in October 2021 and then to be held physically in China in 2022), and the COP26 on climate (31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland).

The Congress also resulted in the adoption of 28 resolutions on conservation and sustainable development issues.

FORWORD

IUCN Congress in numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Virtual participation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9,200 participants in Marseille and online</td>
<td>• 50,000+ views of online sessions</td>
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<td>25,000 visits by the general public to Exhibition and Nature Generation Areas</td>
<td>• 4,730 individual connections</td>
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<td>• 19,000+ hours viewed</td>
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Media

• 10,000 news stories
• 140 countries covered the Congress

Social media

• 54 million people reached per day with #IUCNcongress
• 567% increase in engagement over August 2021
The Congress comprised the following components:

1. Forum (4-7 September)
2. Exhibition (4-9 September)
3. IUCN Members’ Assembly (8-10 September)
4. Nature Generation Areas, or “Espaces Générations Nature” (4-11 September)

In the closing session of the Congress, IUCN members (states, non-governmental organisations, and Indigenous Peoples’ organisations) adopted the Marseille Manifesto. This captured a number of key messages that are globally relevant and which relate to the Congress proceedings, including a number of notable and important commitments and announcements that emerged from Congress events. The focus is on the post-COVID-19 recovery, the biodiversity crisis, and climate emergency.

This report gives an overview on how BIOPAMA, together with its donors, implementing partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries, contributed to the results of the IUCN World Conservation Congress between 3 and 11 September 2021.

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_Biodiversity can live without us but we cannot live without biodiversity—Dr Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of the Environment of Rwanda_
ABOUT BIOPAMA

The Program for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) helps African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries to address their priorities to improve the management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources.

It aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected areas and surrounding communities. It is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) financed by the European Union’s 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). Building on the first five years of activities financed by the 10th EDF (2012-2017), BIOPAMA’s second phase provides tools for data and information management, services for improving the knowledge and capacity for protected area planning and decision making, and funding opportunities for specific site-based actions.

BIOPAMA in numbers:

- 60 million Euro initiative.
- Interventions in six regions, 79 developing countries that are home to over 9,000 protected areas, in more than half of the world’s biodiversity hotspots.
- Five Regional Observatories for Protected Areas and Biodiversity.
- 108 grantees implementing actions on the ground in 347 protected and conserved areas through the “BIOPAMA Action Component”.
- 1300+ practitioners trained in the use of tools and services for improving protected and conserved areas management and governance.
- Four high-level “State of Protected and Conserved Area” publications.

The locations: African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries
The report offers an overview of the activities implemented as part of the BIOPAMA Programme at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, in collaboration with the Regional Observatories, implementing partners and donors, including:

- The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
- The European Union
- The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG)
- The Regional Resource Hub (RRH)
- The COMIFAC Central Africa Forest Observatory (OFAC)
- The Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO)
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- The University of the West Indies (UWI)
- The Regional Centre for Mapping of Development Resources (RCMRD)
- Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAT)
- The University of Ghana
- The Agrhyмет Centre
- West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
- The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC)
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

BIOPAMA was strongly represented as an organiser at the “Vital Sites for a Protected Planet” Pavilion, which was the hotspot for the protected and conserved areas agenda at the IUCN Congress. The programme delivered 35 events across 4 main formats, highlighting key products and their contribution to the global conservation agenda. These included:

- **11 Pavilion events** at the ‘Vital Sites for a Protected Planet’ Pavilion (some events have been hosted by other pavilions, e.g. the IUCN Knowledge Hub and Capacity for Development)
- **8 Pavilion clinics** at the ‘Vital Sites for a Protected Planet’ Pavilion
- **2 Permanent working stations** at the ‘Vital Sites for a Protected Planet’ Pavilion
- **4 Forum sessions**: Online and livestreamed to share lessons learnt and details of the tools and services developed by BIOPAMA

Click [here](#) for the BIOPAMA official congress schedule in high resolution.
The Vital Sites Pavilion was the pre-eminent venue for public events around the protected areas agenda at the IUCN Congress. It highlighted how fair and effective protected and conserved areas are a foundation for addressing biodiversity and development challenges, and are essential for human health and well-being. These sites are key to achieving conservation and social outcomes through effective governance and management, achieving vitality for nature and for people.

BIOPAMA led a big part of the Vital Sites Pavilion, with topics ranging from the Regional Observatories in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific established through BIOPAMA, the BIOPAMA grant-making facility, capacity development initiatives, and use of tools for improving protected and conserved areas governance and management.

In addition, in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, all events and clinics at the Vital Sites pavilion were both livestreamed as well as recorded for future release on YouTube, thereby contributing to the legacy of the Pavilion and of BIOPAMA.

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The partnership between Ol Pejeta and BIOPAMA comes in handy, in the sense that it is making data collection more accurate, speedy, moving from manual data entry to digital data capture and entry which allows for quicker decisions, which allows for interpretation of what is happening in the field to facilitate management decisions. – Ol Pejeta Conservancy / Kenya
HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONGRESS EVENTS

A range of diverse and important events took place at the IUCN Congress. The "Vital Sites for a Protected Planet" pavilion hosted around 150 speakers and panellists in total and around 4000 attendees, both in-person and online.

The pavilion provided visitors a great opportunity to learn more about conservation projects and local/regional initiatives, as well as about the challenges and the actions undertaken by local organisations and individual underground stories.

Of the 35 events that made up the BIOPAMA journey during the congress, here is a selection of key moments:

4-7 September 2021: ‘From knowledge to action for protected areas in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific’

Five sessions were hosted at the Vital Sites Pavilion, with a focus on each of the five BIOPAMA-established Regional Observatories for Protected Areas and Biodiversity, and their information systems. With the support of the Regional Observatories, the relevant information leads to improvements of biodiversity protections, management effectiveness, and governance of protected areas. These sessions brought together the regional stakeholders and beneficiaries of the programme.

This session was an opportunity to support the launch of the English version of the report at the IUCN Congress. It allowed for detailed conversations between the publications’ editors and the public.

Ms. Úrsula Parrilla highlighted the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) as a regional resource hub for biodiversity and protected area data and information: “The Gateway is well placed to support countries in the management and use of biodiversity related data and information to inform decision making at national, regional and global levels.”

BIOPAMA partners and stakeholders in the ACP regions presented and discussed financial mechanisms, strategies, and innovations they are using to overcome the challenges related to financing and resourcing protected and conserved areas in the long term.

BIOPAMA project is one of our projects that really comes in handy to support our educational outreach program. So our obligation as an organization is to see that as many people are taught to understand conservation so that in the end, we all achieve the objective of restoring our ecosystems – ZSL, Oikos, Soralo
5 September 2021: ‘IUCN WCPA high-level evening event’

This evening event launched the French version of the publication ‘Protected Areas Governance and Management’, initially launched in English at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 and in Spanish at the Third Latin American and the Caribbean Protected Areas Congress 2019.

6 September 2021: ‘Demonstration of the BIOPAMA West Africa Reference Information System (OBAPAO Consortium)’

Learned more about the Regional Observatory of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO) and how to access the information, knowledge products and tools.
6 September 2021: ‘Getting more bang for your buck’

The purpose of this session was to gather different grant-making initiatives together to explore the current status of conservation funding, including duplications and opportunities for collaboration that will maximise return on investment through on-the-ground conservation outcomes. Drawing on a range of initiatives of varying size, scope and focus, the session teased out the commonalities and differences between them and looked at ways in which partnerships can be formed to leverage and scale up interventions. The ultimate focus was to look at ways in which landscape level conservation finance initiatives can address and fulfil some of the objectives of the SDGs and provide a focus for concrete plans in the post-2020 agenda.

The theme targeted by the session was conservation finance, while the target audience is comprised of grant-makers, institutions and donor agencies.

6 September 2021: Visit of Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Élisabeth Claverie de Saint Martin, President and CEO of CIRAD to the Vital Sites Pavilion to discuss the publication “State of Protected Areas In Central Africa: 2020”.
6 September 2021: ‘Celebrating protected and conserved areas with success stories from BIOPAMA and BEST’

This high-level evening event lined up speakers who emphasised the critical importance of programmes such as BIOPAMA and BEST, for building a future in harmony with nature and in support of the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. An evening of celebration and networking followed by a cocktail reception with several interventions and presentations of success stories.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Dr. Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Rwanda, and Mr. Kako Kossavi Nubukpo, Commissioner for Agriculture, Water, and Environment of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary from the Convention on Biological Diversity, in her opening remarks, delivered virtually, said, “We need initiatives like BIOPAMA and BEST to help identify and support the diamonds in the rough and to support the scaling-up of these success stories across the world”.

This celebratory event was completed with interventions by:

- Luther Anukur, Regional Director, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa
- Philippe Mayaux, Team Leader, Biodiversity and Forests, Directorate General for International Cooperation, European Commission
- Ursula Parilla Artiuguina, Regional Director, IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
- Cristelle Pratt, Assistant Secretary General, Environment and Climate Change, Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)
- Trevor Sandwith, Director, IUCN Global Protected and Conserved Areas Programme and
- A wide range of BIOPAMA grantees, through a video testimonial.
This evening ended with the screening of the movie “Quand Baleines et Tortues nous montrent le chemin” followed by a discussion with the movie maker Rémy Tézier.

Why are humpback whales and sea turtles once again frequenting Reunion’s waters? To understand the phenomenon, this documentary follows the daily life of a young whale calf, from its birth in Reunion Island to its departure for Antarctica, and of a green turtle that grew up on the coral reef and is about to leave for its native island to reproduce. In their wake, he gives the floor to photographers, naturalists and scientists who work to protect them.


At the Press Conference the main conclusions on the new publication entitled “State of protected areas in Central Africa: 2020” have been launched. Central Africa is close to meeting the international targets for protected areas. However, these areas are often poorly run and their management could be improved. In the interests of sustainable development, the authors of the report insist on the importance of protecting this natural capital, which will, in return, contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.
07.09 BIOPAMA at the IUCN Knowledge Hub

Dedicated to discussion on how to improve information and knowledge for a better decision-making in conservation, with examples from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

Since I joined the service, it was not easy, but the arrival of the BIOPAMA project relieved us and we were able to support training and military training. BIOPAMA provided transportation and water. We are proud of their support – Les Anges Gardiens de la Nature / Burkina Faso

Over the course of this year the BIOPAMA grant has allowed us to strengthen our enforcement and surveillance effort through the acquisition of 2 boat engines, surveillance equipment, training for staff and fuel needed for active enforcement within Lighthouse Reef Atoll seascape and across one of our largest terrestrial sites Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary – Belize Audubon Society / Belize
BIOPAMA VISIBILITY

1. Channels

The BIOPAMA programme’s presence across different venues, platforms, and sessions during the IUCN Congress contributed to BIOPAMA’s visibility and helped advance thematic and regional agendas that BIOPAMA supports, such as the Promise of Sydney.

2. Pavilion

The active presence on the IUCN Congress website and channel also played a major role in promoting BIOPAMA’s events and work.

3. Website

On the BIOPAMA website, outreach activities have been very strong before the Congress to create visibility for programme activities to reach a high level of engagement to post-Congress to communicate the results and outcomes of BIOPAMA’s work.

4. Marketing materials (examples)
6. Social media performance

71 INTERACTIONS ON FACEBOOK
2000 VIEWS FOR BIOPAMA EVENTS AT CONGRESS

videos with 1650 VIEWERS

7. Social events to celebrate successes

Evening events with celebrations and networking were held during the IUCN Congress with the participation of key guests followed by cocktail receptions.

More details [here](#).

Official Programme [here](#).

8. Developing capacity

‘What works in protected areas? Data and information tools for mapping and understanding Protected Areas outcomes’ - this campus session gave hands-on experience of the tools developed in the BIOPAMA programme to use, share, and analyse data on protected areas - what do they contain, what are the pressures and threats, what are the management responses and how are conservation and livelihood objectives being met?
9. Tools to support fair governance and effective management

Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) - Technical Event-Clinic Space

One technical event and 10 clinics have been dedicated to share the knowledge around the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) with a broad audience of conservation practitioners and decision makers. It is a tool to assess and support Protected Areas management effectiveness developed by JRC for improving protected areas management through a participatory process that involves all the main Protected Areas actors. The IMET scaling-up clinic showed a new functionality with potentially relevant uses in Key Landscapes for Conservation as well as in Transboundary Protected Areas (TBPA). IMET has been widely tested in Central Africa with the support of the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC), the Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa (RAPAC), and the IUCN’s Central and West African Programme (PACO). Several participants expressed interest in this tool and based on the positive feedback received during these events from participants, IMET has great potential to be used widely around the world.
Interactive tools for monitoring Protected Areas - Conservation Campus Event

Conservation practitioners from across the world attended the Conservation Campus led by a combined BIOPAMA-JRC Team. The live training focused on raising awareness on the importance of monitoring progress toward biodiversity conservation targets at different levels, to foster appropriate and country-specific policies and strategies to halt the loss of biodiversity. In order to enhance the availability and accessibility of data and knowledge on the state of biodiversity and to promote regional and national engagement to make policy-related data available, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, through the BIOPAMA Programme, has developed a publicly-available online platform to share information and indicators at global, regional, national, and local levels. This platform aims to support policy-makers and decision-makers to monitor the progress towards conservation goals and to set new targets and share important information and knowledge to enhance the PA management effectiveness.
Identifying new conservation areas: a web-based, multi-criteria approach using Earth Observation and other spatial information

This event focused on a web-based multi-criteria tool for identifying globally areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem services values. It is a decision support platform that allows to analyse and spatially compare biodiversity related information, in an easy to use and visual manner, supporting conservation planning activities in the preliminary assessment phase. The audience was very diverse and particularly interested in the technical background of the tool and on its future use. Several participants reached out with the speakers and expressed their interest in using the tool for local assessments or within PhD research.
With the support of the BIOPAMA Programme, five publications were officially launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

**Gouvernance et gestion des aires protégées**

Initially launched in English at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 and in Spanish at the Third Latin American and the Caribbean Protected Areas Congress 2019, the purpose of this compendium textbook is to provide highly accessible and relevant information to underpin competent, effective and professional management decisions for protected areas.

More info [here](#).

**Visitors count! Guidance for protected areas on the economic analysis of visitation**

A new guideline on how to assess economic impacts of protected area tourism, such as employment, income, finance, and tax revenues.

More info [here](#).

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*I wanted to reach out after listening to your talk on the tool that you have developed to identify new conservation areas. I’m currently in my second year of my PhD and this tool could be great to use in my research* – C.M.
State of Protected Areas In Central Africa 2020

Written by a group of experts specialising in conservation in Central Africa, with the financial support of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the European Union (EU), through the BIOPAMA and RIOFAC projects, as well as GIZ, ‘State of Protected Areas in Central Africa 2020’ follows a first edition published in 2015, which has now become the flagship publication on protected areas in the region.

The goal of this report is to help all Central African countries to better manage their protected areas, but especially to promote sub-regional cooperation on common and transboundary issues.

It proposes a vision of partnerships between protected area managers, communities, governments and civil society, with the shared goal of improving conservation efforts and contributing to achieving global objectives on the protection of biological diversity.

More info here.

State of protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa

The “State of protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa” is the first report that brings together information on protected and conserved areas for the whole Eastern and Southern Africa region. The Eastern and Southern Africa region covers 24 countries from South Africa in the south to Sudan in the north and four of the six Western Indian Ocean island nations. After the launch of the publication in English in November 2020, the French and Portuguese versions are now available.

More info here.
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