

Key Messages from the Canadian Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

Inspiring a New Generation

- A step change is needed in ambition, urgency, investment and action to achieve conservation and sustainable development goals – there is a need to reach out to, engage and influence new audiences
- ING is an opportunity to transform this situation by addressing a key indirect driver of change – peoples' lack of connection with nature
- Build upon outcomes of World Parks Congress, the recommendations in the Promise of Sydney and other initiatives to launch a new global programme element on Inspiring a New Generation that cuts across and is integrated into the three main program areas, with a specific global result and sub-results,
- This initiative should be led by the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas,, the Secretariat Global Directors and programmes responsible for CEC and WCPA
- Key elements include:
 - Launch global programme to connect people to nature and to encourage greater action on and support for conservation
 - ING needs to reach all citizens – not just youth and not just the “converted” – but different areas of society, such as health, industry, technology, local municipalities, urban dwellers and all income levels and ethnicities
 - Facilitate engagement with nature on peoples' own terms, creatively and unconditionally
 - Empower young people to be conservation leaders
 - Ensure young people have an active, powerful and fully integrated voice in conservation
 - Embrace technology as a means to connect with nature, rather than see it as a barrier
 - Implement regionally/locally as part of a coherent global programme
 - Use the 2016 IUCN WCC as a launch pad and a catalyst

Other Aspects of Programme Content

- Address indirect as well as direct drivers of change e.g. Inspiring a New Generation
- Do more but also do differently to make real progress on Aichi targets e.g. marine issues
- Continue focus on the Aichi targets and protected areas but begin to move beyond those targets to stronger science based targets and more ambitious results
- The scale and nature of the challenge from climate change needs to be better recognized in the draft Programme; traditional approaches may not be adequate in the face of climate change. The IUCN is well positioned to facilitate improved understanding of different conservation philosophies to assist with adaptation
- IUCN should be a leader in providing advice on critical adaptation strategies, such as the emerging debate over assisted migration
- Specific questions the IUCN Programme should address to more focus programming are:
 - Which major world ecosystems are most threatened by climate change?
 - Which specific conservation sites are most threatened by climate change?
 - What generalised management solutions can we offer?

Strengthen Program Implementation

- Focus on achieving demonstrable results. Balance between strategic targets and prescribing reasonable levels of implementation is required
- The programme needs metrics the Members and Commissions can use– we need the global priorities aligned with sub-priorities and targets and metrics.

- Finances cannot be an afterthought – the programme needs to be explicit on how investment, commitment and results on priority issues will be achieved including their costs and resourcing for and by Commissions and Members to leverage their capabilities and impact.
- Better One Programme guidance is needed to enable this.
- Creative thinking and perhaps new business models will need to be considered to achieve our goals.
- The work of the Commissions needs to be better integrated and focused on priority issues
- Use IUCN “convening power” North of the equator and build programme activities in Europe, North America like it already has in the southern hemisphere – convening regional and national public discourse in the North on issues of global/regional importance

Strengthen Awareness and Engagement

- The ‘voice’ of IUCN needs to be stronger at the international level, with a more ‘agenda setting’ profile, support for more purposeful constituency building for policy change, and on facilitating and motivating program implementation,
- There is a need for a communication strategy for the Congress, which should include a way to focus international media attention, public engagement and local government involvement
- Ensure constituencies see themselves in the programme results e.g Indigenous peoples, traditional knowledge

Governance

- Indigenous People’s Membership
 - Definite support for creating the opportunity for inclusion of Indigenous peoples along with voting rights explicitly recognizing and encouraging indigenous people’s organization membership
 - There was no clear preference for option 1 versus option 2 – a hybrid of some kind should be considered – aimed at Indigenous inclusion, voting rights but also maintaining the balance of voting rights of government and NGOs members in the current construct
 - Some Indigenous Peoples groups in Canada could apply now as governments in Category A membership
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- Local and Regional Governments Membership
 - No clear preference for option 1 versus option 2
 - There may be opportunity for some “cross-fertilization” between the proposal to include Aboriginal peoples and Regional Governments – the decisions need to be aligned
- Sole Authority of the Members Assembly over IUCN objectives and membership
 - This proposed amendment was seen largely as a clarification of the existing rules and was supported
- Second round of voting for President
 - In general, support for the proposed changes
 - The changes could be/should be applied to other officer positions