Dear Colleagues,

This year, as we celebrate the IUCN’s 70th anniversary, has proved to be another very busy year for the WCPA members in our North America region and globally. Evidence of this can be found in the News and Spotlight sections of the revamped WCPA website, which is now active and placed on the front of the IUCN home page. I strongly encourage all members to use this site to share your news with colleagues from around the world.

The latest Protected Planet report draws attention to the advancement the world has make in terrestrial and marine protected areas, while underscoring the ongoing challenges in front of us to conserve life on earth. No doubt, the global standards and guidance of the WCPA has facilitated actions by countries from around the world, striving to meet their international commitment under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. A good example of the Commission’s work is the recent synthesis of the existing IUCN Marine Protected Area Standard, a compilation of current relevant policies and positions taken from approved IUCN Resolutions, Recommendations and Guidance documents for MPAs.
Many of our WCPA colleagues actively participated in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (July 2-7, 2018) in Montreal, Canada. [https://www.cbd.int/recommendations/sbstta/?m=sbstta-22](https://www.cbd.int/recommendations/sbstta/?m=sbstta-22) The recommendations from these meetings were put forth to the UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (November 13-29, 2018) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, where the United Nations called on decision makers from more than 190 countries to step up efforts to halt the biodiversity loss and protect the ecosystems for current and future generations. [https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018](https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018)
A highlight of 2018 for the conservation community was the awarding of the Midori Prize for Biodiversity to our Global Chair, Dr. Kathy MacKinnon. This prestigious biennial international award is organized by the *AEON Environmental Foundation* and the *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity* to acknowledge and honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to conservation.


Finally, I wish to thank Yoko Lu, WCPA YP focal point for North America region, for her tremendous contributions to this newsletter. All the best wishes to you for the holiday season and for the New Year/ Todos los mejores deseos para usted para la temporada de vacaciones y para el año nuevo/ Tous les meilleurs voeux pour la saison des fêtes et pour la nouvelle année.

Mike Wong, Vice Chair, WCPA- North America

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**New Head of CONANP, Mexico**

It is with great respect to hear the news that our colleague, Andrew Rhodes Espinosa, has been named the Head of CONANP, Mexico’s National Commission of Natural Protected Areas of the new government. As an active member of the WCPA, Andrew is a leader of the Climate Change Specialist Group which promotes protected areas as essential tools for sustainable development and for adaptation to the impacts of a changing climate, providing clean water, carbon storage, genetic reservoirs, disaster mitigation, and soil stabilization, as well as for preserving our cultural heritage. Andrew also led several priority initiatives for the IUCN at the 2014 World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia and the 2016 World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, USA.

**VIDEO: If we want to protect our planet, here’s what has to happen next!**

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RzJPvMo9QNW

This video was created by the National Geographic Society for the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biodiversity, which invites decision makers from more than 190 countries to generate solutions for a healthy, more sustainable future for generations to come.
We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Andrew and wish him much success in his new role.

http://www.pueblaonline.com.mx/2017/portal/index.php/estado/item/71350-egresado-de-la-udlap-sera-director-de-la-comision-nacional-de-areas-naturales-protegidas#.W_wCyug3lPZ

On October 16, 2018, the National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Area Standards, tabled its final report, to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, on the development of protection standards for federal marine protected areas (MPAs) using the guidelines outlined by the International Union on the Conservation Nature (IUCN) on protected area categories as a baseline. The National Advisory Panel makes a suite of recommendations, including improving the process of MPA establishment and management that are focused on meaningful engagement and involvement of coastal communities and stakeholders at all stages of the process.

Contact: Risa Smith (risa.smith.wcpa.iucn@gmail.com)

An Excellent Infographic of the Benefits of Marine Protected Areas in a Changing Climate

https://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/sciencestewardship/climatechangeimpacts/

The Gulf of California in Mexico holds big potential for blue carbon.

Eduardo Nájera-Hillman (WILDCOAST) & Fernanda Adame (Griffith University).

Mangroves are considered ideal ecosystems for Blue Carbon projects. In the Gulf of California, Mexico, mangroves support important commercial fisheries and habitat for resident and migratory birds, marine mammals and sea turtles that complete critical stages of their lifecycles in their branches and surrounding waters. They buffer communities against sea level rise and hurricanes and their biomass as well as their underlying substrate, sequester and store more atmospheric carbon than most ecosystems on the planet. Mexico has the world’s fourth largest coverage of mangroves
representing 5.4% of the world’s total. Sadly, in the last 40 years, Mexico has lost 9% of its mangrove forest cover due to deficient land-use planning, unsustainable development, pollution, sedimentation, and runoff. It is estimated that avoiding the continued degradation and deforestation of mangroves in Mexico between now and 2030 will reduce CO₂ emissions by about 51.5 million tons. The conservation of these mangroves corresponds to 6–10% of Mexico’s target emission reductions from land use changes as outlined in the Paris Agreement¹.

Since 2008, the National Comission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) has worked closely with WILDCOAST to set-aside key mangrove ecosystems in protected areas throughout Mexico’s Pacific coastline, through federal conservation concessions known as acuerdos de destino. This work has resulted in the protection of 3,421.4 hectares of mangrove ecosystems in the Gulf of California.

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**The Canadian Parks Collective for Innovation and Leadership**

In 2018, the Canadian Parks Council (CPC)—a collaboration of federal, provincial and territorial parks agencies and other conservation and recreation partners across Canada—partnered with Mount Royal University’s Institute for Environmental Sustainability along with Royal Roads University, York University Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Moncton, and other academic institutions to create the Canadian Parks Collective for Innovation and Leadership (CPCIL).

Building upon the decades-long legacy of successful CPC Parks System Leadership Courses, the CPCIL project represents a renewed and expanded pan-Canadian approach to supporting parks and protected areas professionals through applied leadership development, training and resource sharing, communities of practice and mentorships, and collaboration between academics and practitioners. CPCIL offers two Park Leaders Development Programs per year for up to 25 participants each, a shared training and resource inventory, standalone courses and case studies, and an online collaborative forum to connect academics and practitioners across jurisdictions.

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Blue carbon and mangroves: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCPxb16Sn0w&t=77s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCPxb16Sn0w&t=77s)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dscb5zjiZyU&t=54s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dscb5zjiZyU&t=54s)
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzH1YUD4iRo&t=15s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzH1YUD4iRo&t=15s)
All CPCIL programs aim to incorporate core themes of Indigenous relationships and integrating different ways of knowing, effective leadership and management, inclusive and equitable public engagement, and sustainable conservation of biological and cultural resources. Each project will also focus on specific themes relevant to the continuum of parks and protected areas across Canada. The first Park Leaders Development Program in autumn, 2018 tackled Parkanomics and the financial sustainability of parks and protected areas. In spring of 2019 the focus will be conservation partnerships, and in autumn 2019 the program will address accessibility and diversity in parks and protected areas. Other future leadership program themes include climate change and biodiversity, connecting Canadians to nature, and managing social and recreational use.

Affiliated academic partners will contribute to the CPCIL initiative by hosting the Park Leaders Development Program in different parts of Canada, offering complementary online courses, developing case studies and resources, and facilitating collaborative research and knowledge mobilization through groups such as the Institute of Environmental Sustainability’s Parks and Protected Areas Research Group. CPCIL will also generate connections and collaborations across jurisdictions through communities of practice and capstone projects focused on common issues and opportunities.

The Canadian Parks Collective for Innovation and Leadership (CPCIL) aims to become a pan-Canadian Centre of Excellence to develop and connect emerging leaders, innovative managers, and engaged scholars in pursuit of the effective, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable stewardship of parks and protected areas. For more information or to get involved visit www.cpcil.ca or contact Donald Den Hoed ddenhoed@mtroyal.ca

Participants of the 2018 Parkanomics Program in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Alberta, Canada
New IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines

1) Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas  Brent Mitchell bmitchell@qlf.org

The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)’s Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Specialist Group has finalized and published their Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas. These Guidelines provide illustration from field experience on how best to manage, govern, evaluate and conserve privately protected areas across the globe.


2) Tourism and Visitor Management in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Sustainability  Yu-Fai Leung leung@ncsu.edu

The new IUCN sustainable tourism guidelines, entitled "Tourism and Visitor Management in Protected Areas: Guidelines for Sustainability", was just released at the CBD COP 14 meeting in Egypt. As part of the IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series, this publication provides guidance on key issues to help managers achieve sustainable tourism and visitor use in protected areas. Tourism plays a critical role of fostering visitors’ connection with protected area values, making it a potentially positive force for conservation. Drs. Yu-Fai Leung, Anna Spenceley, Glen Hvenegaard and Ralf Buckley served as the volume editors. Among the 58 contributing authors, over 20 reside in North America. The publication is available at https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47918, and https://go.ncsu.edu/iucn-sustainabletourism-bpg. This publication is being translated into French, German, and Spanish.
Founded in 1963, the **Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)**, an IUCN member, has been one of Canada's longest running national conservation organizations that advocates for the protection of public land and waters. It has significantly influenced the country's policies and direction on nature conservation and management of protected areas. CPAWS's efforts were recently recognized and it was presented with the Nature Inspiration Award for large non-profit organizations (see attached video).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxEvvKprQRk#action=share

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### Launching of the Latin American Alliance to Strengthen Protected Areas (ALFA 2020) at COP14

The Latin American Alliance to strengthen Protected Areas (ALFA 2020) was launched at the Protected Area Day at the Rio Convention Pavilion on the 22nd of November at the COP 14 of Biodiversity. The alliance is integrated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Pronatura México, IAPA-Amazon Vision project, RedParques and WCPA.

ALFA seeks to support RedParques members to accelerate the implementation of their national and international commitments of protected areas by 2020. How? By targeting specific identified gaps and aligning existing initiatives and actors working towards the same goal.

Why is this relevant?

Latin America supports 60% of global terrestrial life and 9 of the 20 Like Minded Mega-Diverse Countries (LMMC) are in the region and cover over 50% of their protected indigenous lands. However, significant challenges like increasing urbanization, loss of habitat and extinction of species continue to be at the forefront of the discussions in countries highly dependent on natural resources.

**Status and opportunities**

During COP 14, the “Progress Report on Achieving Aichi Target 11 in RedParques Member Countries: Results and Outlooks Ahead of 2020” was published. On the positive side, the report shows protected areas coverage has expanded significantly in the region: 22% achieved for terrestrial and 8.5% for marine, highlighting the success of a number trans-border initiatives due to regional cooperation. However, the financial sustainability of Protected Area National Systems and qualitative elements of the target remain the main challenge. Governance schemes, legal protection of Key Biodiversity Areas, connectivity and ecological representation of Marine Protected Areas will require more concentrated efforts to fulfill the gaps.
Several opportunities arise for RedParques to fulfill Aichi Target 11 by 2020. Some are: Green List Certification, mapping and supporting key actors in the certification of Other Effective Conservation Measures such as private and indigenous protected lands that are located in Key Biodiversity Areas. To support RedParques countries in achieving the specific gaps identified for Aichi Target 11, please contact: monica.alvarez@pronatura.org

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

Margot Bishop <margot.bishop@canada.ca>

Gathering in Canmore, Alberta, Canada: Implementing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

The Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Gathering was held in Treaty 7 Territory on October 15th-18th, 2018, within the traditional territories and home of the Stoney Nakoda, Blackfoot, and Tsuut’ina Nations, and Métis Nation Region 3. The gathering was hosted by former members of the Indigenous Circle of Experts (ICE), the Alberta Government, and the government (led by Environment and Change Canada with support from Parks Canada) set out to discuss how to implement IPCAs.

As part of the Pathway to Canada Target 1, the ICE produced a report on how IPCAs can support Canada in reaching 17% protection by 2020. To advance the recommendations in the report, the gathering brought together nearly 140 participants composed primarily of Indigenous government representatives leading the work of IPCAs and their prospective partners, including government, non-profit and academic representatives.

What are IPCAs?

IPCs are lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems. Culture and language are the heart and soul of an IPCA. (ICE Report, p.25)
The gathering focused on how to implement successful IPCAs in Canada - discussing the tools, types and partnerships available – and created the space for participants to meet, share lessons learned, and forge new partnerships. Through breakouts and panel discussions, the gathering broadened the understanding of IPCAs and shared tools designed to empower IPCAs in a regional context. The gathering concluded with a commitment to further and deeper discussions on IPCA opportunities at a regional level. For more information about IPCAs and the Pathway to Canada Target 1, please visit http://www.conservation2020canada.ca/.

Group photo on the last day of the Gathering (credit: River Voice productions)

The Edéhzhíe Protected Area

Working in collaboration, the Dehcho First Nations and the Government of Canada have agreed to formally designate Edéhzhíe Protected Area as a national wildlife area by 2020. The Edéhzhíe Protected Area is located in the southwestern part of the Northwest Territories and covers 14,218 square kilometres. It will be managed through a consensus-based management board and the activities of the Dehcho First Nations’ Indigenous guardians and stewardship programs. The creation of Indigenous Protected Areas will help Canada meet its international commitments to conserve biodiversity, support climate change adaptation, and reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

Funding for the establishment and management of the Indigenous Protected Areas will be provided by the Canada Nature Fund - a $1 billion investment created by the Government of Canada in partnership with corporate and not-for-profit organizations and with the provinces and territories.

An Inuit Strategy for the Future of Pikialasorsuaq
Pikialasorsuup aqunneqarnissaanut Inuit periusissiaat

The North Water Polynya (or Pikialasorsuaq in Greenlandic) is the highly biologically productive area of year-round open water that lies between Greenland and Canada in northern Baffin Bay. The Inuit Circumpolar Council’s Pikialasorsuaq Commission is calling for the creation of an Inuit-identified, Inuit-managed protected area in the ecologically and culturally significant area shared by Canada and Greenland in the High Arctic. More information can be found at: [http://pikialasorsuaq.org/en/](http://pikialasorsuaq.org/en/)

Dan.Kraus@natureconservancy.ca

New Birch River Wildlands Park, Alberta, Canada:

Expanding the World’s largest network of boreal protected areas

This year, a unique partnership resulted in the creation of a 3,300 km² conserved area in northeast Alberta. When added to other contiguous conserved lands in the region it is now part of the largest stretch of protected boreal forest on the planet — an area more than twice the size of Belgium.

A series of agreements between the Tallcree Tribal Government, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), the governments of Alberta and Canada and Syncrude Canada contributed to the creation of...
the new Birch River Wildland Provincial Park. The park borders the southern boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada’s largest national park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The catalyst for this protected area was a decision by the Tallcree Tribal Government to relinquish its timber quota on the A9 Forest Management Unit. NCC purchased the relinquishment for $2.8 million with the majority of the funding provided by Syncrude Canada Ltd with additional support from the Government of Canada through the Natural Areas Conservation Program, the Schad Foundation and others. NCC then worked with the Tallcree to return the quota to the Government of Alberta. The timber quota is now permanently cancelled.

The cancellation of the timber quota cleared the way for the Government of Alberta, through an Order in Council, to create the Birch River Wildland Park. When added to other new and expanded neighbouring parks, (Richardson, Kazan and Birch Mountain), as well as Wood Buffalo National Park, this forms the largest contiguous conserved boreal forest area in the world. The protected area now measures 67,735 km2.

The Birch River Wildland Park provides habitat for several species that are at risk in Canada including wood bison. Woodland caribou, listed as vulnerable on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, also occurs. This new protected area encompasses 13 per cent of the core habitat for the Red Earth caribou herd range. The wildland park will directly contribute to Canada Target 1 — the Canada’s pledge to conserve 17 per cent of lands and inland waters by 2020.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada acknowledges and thanks the Tallcree Tribal Government for working with us to achieve this important goal.

http://www.natureconservancy.ca/assets/documents/ab/Boreal-protected-area.pdf

Bison in Wood Buffalo National Park (Photo by Adam Hill)
Contact: Jim.Barborak@colostate.edu

2018 has been a busy year for the team at the Center for Protected Area Management at Colorado State University. We welcomed 23 participants from 9 Latin American nations including several Mexicans to our 28th annual 32-day Spanish language protected area management course, conducted in partnership with the US Forest Service International Programs and other donors. Our 6th annual Tourism and Protected Areas Mobile Seminar in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and Montana, had 27 participants from 20 nations around the world. Together with West Virginia University we conducted a study tour for Brazilian park managers and planners on visitor counting, estimation and economic impact calculation to PAs in Colorado and Washington state. We helped facilitate several training workshops on interpretation in Brazil with support from USFS, USAID and for staff of the Chico Mendes Institute, the Brazilian federal PA agency, and led a trail training workshop for staff of the La Amistad/Talamanca Range World Heritage Site from Costa Rica and Panama. Our staff and team of associates are all WCPA members and we continued to participate actively in several WCPA specialist groups on tourism, urban conservation, capacity development, finance, transboundary conservation, and connectivity conservation. We look forward to another great year in 2019!

More information:
https://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpam/
Primer Foro Mexicano de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza www.foromexicanouicn.org

El Comité Nacional de Miembros de México de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza en coordinación con la Oficina Regional para México, América Central y el Caribe, organizaron el “Primer Foro Mexicano de la UICN” los días 23, 24 y 25 de octubre en el Universum Museo de las Ciencias de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, sede del evento.

El Foro reunió a los tres pilares de la UICN, el Secretariado, las Comisiones y los Miembros con la finalidad de alcanzar los siguientes objetivos:

La Comisión Mundial de Áreas Protegidas (WCPA, por sus siglas en Inglés), fue representada por Mike Wong, Vicepresidente Regional para Norteamérica, el cual en su primera intervención resaltó que el trabajo en la conservación tiene como base la ciencia, ya que, la protección de las áreas protegidas es un tema transversal entre todas las comisiones. Presentó la numeralia y temas de trabajo de la Comisión de los cuales se distinguen los 2500 miembros, 23 de ellos en el Comité Ejecutivo, los 212 grupos de especialistas y los 5 grupos de trabajo, destacando que aproximadamente el 10% de los miembros son jóvenes.

Wong enfatizó que, en cuanto al cumplimiento de la Meta 11 de Aichi, la WCPA está promoviendo que las áreas protegidas, tanto terrestres como marinas, tengan mayor extensión, que se cuente con más herramientas para permitir la creación de nuevas áreas clave para la biodiversidad, y que se tome en cuenta la protección de los ecosistemas que rodean las áreas protegidas a fin de garantizar la protección y conectividad. Señaló que los desafíos que enfrenta la Comisión está generar una comunicación efectiva que permita la sensibilización sobre su importancia, así como el financiamiento a largo plazo para garantizar la gestión eficiente de las mismas.

Finalmente, destacó el trabajo de la Comisión en la elaboración de la Lista Verde, aclarando que el potencial varía de un país a otro, y que particularmente México podría jugar un papel importante en el tema, ya que en México, la restauración de áreas protegidas y la conectividad entre ellas es de gran importancia para asegurar que exista una red que permita la migración de especies, así como la integración de otros actores y sectores resaltando a los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales.

Durante el segundo día en la mesa de trabajo “Las áreas naturales protegidas ¿una inversión para el futuro?” Wong retomó datos entre los que destacan que en México hay más 44 expertos mexicanos colaborando en la Comisión, e invitó a los panelistas a presentar su experiencia en el tema de áreas protegidas, de forma que estos casos ayudarán a identificar temas de interés para el país en la materia, así como mecanismos de comunicación entre los pilares. La mesa fue conformada por un panel de expertos que incluyó a dos expertos de la Comisión: Alan Monroy de Dimensión Natural, A.C. (WCPA-Youth), y Mariana Bellot de PNUD-Biofin; tres invitados: Eduardo Nájera de Costa Salvaje; David Gutiérrez de la CONANP; y Luis Fueyo McDonald, de la CORENA de la CDMX (ex Comisionado Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas de México); y Ernesto Enkerlin (ex Comisionado Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas de México), como moderador.

David Gutiérrez presentó el sistema de áreas naturales protegidas de México y su relación con las categorías con base a la UICN, el trabajo que se lleva acabo para el cumplimiento de la meta 11 de Aichi, la cual si bien ya se logró a nivel nacional, se sigue trabajando ya que es fundamental dar continuidad a sus procesos de gestión y manejo.

Luis Fueyo enfatizó sobre los seis temas centrales para fortalecer y consolidar el esquema de ANPs en México: 1) Legislación y normatividad; 2) Estado de derecho y aplicación de la Ley; 3) Propiedad de la tierra y participación social; 4) Aprovechamiento y uso sustentable de la biodiversidad; 5) Nexos entre conservación y mega proyectos; y 6) el financiamiento.

Sobre el tema de financiamiento, Mariana Bellot líder de la iniciativa BIOFIN de PNUD, explicó que se buscan opciones para disminuir la brecha presupuestal, alineando programas y presupuestos a nivel
gubernamental, así como con el sector privado; buscando la eficiencia presupuestal, el cobro de derechos, la valoración de los servicios ecosistémicos y los mecanismos locales de conservación.

Eduardo Nájera por su parte resaltó la importancia del involucramiento comunitario y de la comunicación y promoción de políticas públicas; como por ejemplo los mercados voluntarios de carbono, en particular el carbono azul.

Alan Monroy habló sobre la importancia de la red de jóvenes profesionales de la Comisión, la cual busca una participación activa e intergeneracional, lo cual facilitará el trabajo de las juventudes gracias a las redes de acción y la tutoría que reciben de otros expertos. Adicionalmente Alan destacó la necesidad de Formar un grupo de Jóvenes para IUCN coordinado con grupos existentes (GYBN, etc); crear materiales de difusión; asegurar fondos para un comité juvenil (de IUCN México) que permita crear las bases y líneas de acción, así como participación el foros internacionales.

Al cierre de esta mesa, Mike Wong reconoció el trabajo de México en el cumplimiento de la meta 11 de Aichi, la importancia de la conservación y la conectividad como elementos clave para cumplir con los Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y de la necesidad de inspirar a nuevas generaciones; Destacó que el Primer Foro Mexicano representó una oportunidad para analizar el rumbo del Margo Estratégico de Biodiversidad post-2020 que será aprobado en la COP 15 del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica en Beijing, China.

Al cierre del foro el tercer día de actividades, se enfatizó el gran papel que tanto el Gobierno de México, los gobiernos subnacionales, las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y los pueblos originarios han tenido en materia de áreas protegidas, siendo México en numerosos casos referente del manejo y gestión que han detonado innovadores mecanismos para garantizar su conservación y uso sustentable. Felicitó a los organizadores que en el marco del 70 aniversario de la UICN, facilitaron el foro que sin duda es un ejemplo a nivel mundial, ya que representó un espacio hacia la consolidación de los temas hacia el Foro Regional de la UICN y en preparación de Congreso Mundial de la UICN en Marsella, Francia en el 2020.

Finalmente invitó a los expertos en las comisiones, y otros interesados a participar en el III Congreso de Áreas Protegidas Latinoamericanas y del Caribe en el 2019, que se llevará a cabo en Perú.

Dra. Nélida Barajas Acosta,
Coordinadora del foro
Líderes jóvenes: La nueva flama de la conservación.

Nota sobre el 1er Foro del Comité Mexicano UICN.

Decir nueva flama no es sólo un adjetivo, trae acción. Hemos ya visto en diferentes foros la gran energía que traen los jóvenes, el gran impulso que motiva sus deseos y sus proyectos.

Durante el pasado Foro del Comité Mexicano de la UICN, fueron muchos los jóvenes que presentaron sus iniciativas. Desde León, Puebla, Oaxaca, Veracruz, Chiapas y varios estados de este gran país, jóvenes líderes están haciendo que cosas positivas sean realidades a nivel socio-ambiental y nos dejan ver que su energía y su experiencia es la nueva flama que viene a unirse a la de los grandes expertos.
Durante esos tres días, pueblos indígenas, gobierno, academia; así como representantes de los pilares que conforman la Unión (Membresía, Secretariado y Comisiones), se reunieron para compartir experiencias y abordar temáticas ambientales. También fue la ocasión para profundizar sobre la estructura de la UICN y su funcionamiento. Varias Comisiones adhirieron nuevos miembros durante el Foro.

Fue sin duda, el espacio perfecto y el número de participantes lo que propició en este evento, un ambiente íntimo para el diálogo. Jóvenes y no tan jóvenes pudieron compartir conversaciones muy directas, el resultado de estos intercambios refuerza la gran necesidad de que UICN y miembros, fomenten que los expertos veteranos volteen a ver a los jóvenes líderes y apoyen su inclusión en la acción, a la toma de decisiones y al día a día del trabajo de esta familia mundial, de la familia UICN.
Durante el evento principal de juventud, se compartió que existe una iniciativa de las Comisiones para crear un programa de mentoría, donde justamente el objetivo es que los expertos veteranos acompañen a uno o varios líderes jóvenes a involucrarse más, adquirir nuevas experiencias y habilidades, y por supuesto, nutrirse del gran valor que es estar cercano a la experiencia de los grandes líderes. ¡Estaremos atentos a las próximas noticias sobre el tema!

Daniela Rubio  rubio.mdaniela@gmail.com  

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**Updates for #NatureForAll**

#NatureForAll es un movimiento global para inspirar el amor por la naturaleza. Después de solo dos años, nuestra asociación colectiva ahora cuenta con más de 300 organizaciones de más de 60 países. Más de 100 de estas asociaciones están basadas en América del Norte, proporcionando excelentes oportunidades para ampliar el alcance e impacto de nuestro trabajo a lo largo del país.

En 2018, #NatureForAll asociados se enfocaron en informar las decisiones a través de contribuciones a discusiones científicas, social científicas y políticas, incluyendo:

- En el noveno Encuentro COP-14, #NatureForAll co-sede, Sean South y Karen Keenleyside, junto con la Dra. Cheryl Charles de la Red de Niños y la Naturaleza, presentaron sobre los diversos valores del acercamiento de las personas con la naturaleza para inspirar una acción mejorada sobre la conservación de la biodiversidad. También se presentó un documento de información relacionado.

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*Disclaimer: This is an automatically generated translation. Please verify the accuracy of the translation.*
released by the Executive Secretary for this meeting: Recommendations for Increased Focus on Connecting People with Nature to Inspire Enhanced Action on Biodiversity Conservation.

- Similarly, an Information Document was circulated to participants of the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI): Evidence Supporting Enhanced Action on Connecting people with Nature as a Key Strategy for Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020.

2019 will bring a number of opportunities for public engagement through #NatureForAll. Some initiatives that may be of particular interest:

- The World Scout Jamboree will be held from July 22 – August 2, 2019 in West Virginia, USA. #NatureForAll partners are being invited to contribute to a #NatureForAll pavilion space at this event, which is expected to attract 50,000 young people aged 14 to 18 years from around the world. If being part of this pavilion interests you, contact Karen Keenleyside, Co-Chair IUCN #NatureForAll at Karen@NatureForAll.global

- A planning meeting will be held in Ottawa, Canada on January 23rd for the Spring 2019 #NatureForAll Canada public campaign. For more information, please contact Pascale van der Leest at Parks Canada, pascale.vanderleest@canada.ca

Updates on Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy’s MPA projects: Ryann Agbasi <rwilliams@pewtrusts.org>

Easter Island

- In February, 2018, Chilean President Michelle Bachalet signed a decree protecting 720,000 square kilometers of ocean called Rapa Nui Marine Protected Area and Motu Motiro Hiva Marine park. The designation protects thriving marine ecosystems from industrial commercial fishing, mining, and other large-scale extractive activities within Easter Island’s waters and allows the artisanal fishing practices of the Rapa Nui. Famous for its Moai statues and recognized as a UNESCO Heritage site, Easter Island is 4,000 kilometers west of mainland Chile amid a unique marine ecosystem that is home to 142 species found nowhere else, 27 of which are threatened or endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation for
Nature (IUCN). With that designation, Chile has protected over 40 percent of its exclusive economic zone.


### Ocean Ambassadors

- In October, the Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy Foundation announced a group of global leaders with a shared interest in safeguarding our ocean for generations to come. The five Ocean Ambassadors, including co-chairs John Kerry and David Cameron, intend to play a key role in advancing a strategy to secure and implement marine protected areas (MPAs) around the world by advocating for a healthier and more resilient ocean. Other members include, James Alix Michel, former president of the Seychelles (2004 -2016); Heraldo Muñoz, former Chilean minister of foreign affairs (2014-2018); and Carlotta Leon Guerrero, executive director of the Guam-based Ayuda Foundation and former member of the Guam Legislature (1994-2000). This effort builds on a decade of work by the Bertarelli Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts to protect the ocean.


### New Caledonia

- At the Our Ocean Conference in Bali in October, President Philippe Germain of New Caledonia committed to protecting 200,000 to 400,000 square kilometers (77,220 to 154,440 square miles) of marine waters within the Coral Sea Natural Park. This commitment will build upon the designation of 28,000 square kilometers of its waters within four marine protected areas (MPAs) in August of this year. These MPAs hold some of the world’s healthiest and most isolated reefs: Astrolabe, Pétrie, Chesterfield, Bellona, and Entrecasteaux, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage.

IUCN Green List Standard: California Expert Assessment Group (EAGL)

California EAGL Formation

The IUCN WCPA has partnered with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Ocean Protection Council, to support a State effort to apply to the Green List standard for the California Marine Protected Area (MPA) network. The Green List is a global standard that recognizes well-managed protected areas through a benchmark for good governance, sound design and planning, effective management, and successful conservation outcomes. As a first step, the IUCN selected seventeen key ocean stakeholders through a rigorous application process to form the California Expert Assessment Group for the Green List (EAGL) in July 2018. The experts represent the different groups and sectors pertaining to marine conservation along the Californian coast. Appointed for a two-year period, the EAGL's mission is to assess the California MPA network against a set list of criteria and recommend whether it can acquire the Green List status.
California EAGL Accomplishments

After finalizing their official training offered by IUCN and Accreditation Services International (ASI), the EAGL elected member Dr. Diane Matar to serve as EAGL Chair and take a leadership role in the assessment. The group faced an unprecedented challenge; not only did they have to adapt the Green List Standard (65 indicators) to the local context, but they also had to make the indicators relevant to a network of 124 sites. “This was particularly challenging since the indicators were created for evaluating one Protected Area. But we took the challenge with an open-mind and overcame any difficulties through healthy debate, perseverance, and good will”, according to Dr. Matar. The IUCN Green List Standard Committee followed closely the EAGL’s work, and gave continuous feedback to ensure that the adaptation wouldn’t compromise the integrity of the original standard. The Committee recognized the efforts put forth by the EAGL and its supporting State partners, and have recently approved starting the public consultation process to collect feedback from a broader audience on the adapted indicators, before moving forward to the next steps.
About the California EAGL Chair

Diane A. Matar is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, working on topics of social-ecology with Professor Nicole M. Ardoin at the Graduate School of Education and Woods Institute for the Environment. She previously worked in and researched protected area management effectiveness and evaluation in more than ten countries, where she developed a good understanding of IUCN’s protected areas guidelines and strong ties with its expert community.

Diane has been an active member of the IUCN WCPA for the past 6 years, starting in West Asia where she worked in a Lebanese Biosphere Reserve, then in Europe during her PhD studies, and more recently in North America.

“I am delighted to be working with such a mature and knowledgeable group of ocean experts, and have been impressed and inspired by everyone’s dedication to ocean conservation”.

Pamela Valdes pamelalanier@yahoo.com

Stories from the California Wildfires: October 2017 & 2018

Around 10 o'clock pm on October 8th, 2017, in the midst of powerful winds and following the heels of a hot and dry summer, a series of fires broke out across Sonoma, Napa, and Lake counties. Within hours the fires had reached catastrophic levels, aided by hurricane force gusts of wind that could carry live embers for miles. Sadly, before dawn had broken, the fires had made it into populated residential areas, including downtown Santa Rosa, prompting evacuations on a scale never seen in California prior.

The fires continued to rage for more than a week, primarily in uninhabited natural areas, but smoke pollution kept schools closed and people indoors all the way into the South Bay. When all was said and done, 245,000 acres had been burned, 8,900 structures destroyed, and 43 lives tragically lost.

There is no doubt that Sonoma County will be dealing with the environmental and economic repercussions of this disaster for years to come. The rainy season brought concerns about landslides, polluted runoff, and contamination of waterways to the discussion table. With approximately 100,000 people displaced a year ago, the already tenuous housing market has since suffered from lack of supply to meet the sudden demand.

Two different kinds of fires were responsible for the damages, creating areas of varying damage. Surface fires are fast moving, relatively low heat fire that run through forest floor and grassland, burning dry grasses and surface litter. These fires are a natural part of a forest’s lifespan -by burning the built up leaves and plant detritus, new life is able to sprout from the ashy, nutrient-rich dirt. The second kind of fires seen are far more dangerous and damaging. Crown fires (or treetop fires) burn much hotter and burn up the trunk of trees, especially deceased trees, flames coalescing at the top where a gust of wind can easily snag hot embers and carry them for miles to where they can ignite a fresh area of land. Due to the infestation of bark beetles throughout the forests of the west, many trees have died but still stand upright, making a perfect vehicle for surface fires to turn into crown fires.

Two of our protected areas -Sugarloaf Ridge State Park and Pepperwood Preserve- saw damage of varying degrees, but the rainy season brought renewal as green sprouts appeared in even the most damaged of areas, demonstrating just how resilient nature is.
With 74 percent damage from the fire, Sugarloaf Ridge was the hardest hit. Most buildings were spared, but two outhouses, a water tank, and a bridge were lost. Overall, 3,328 acres of the park’s total of 3,900, were damaged from the fire. The park remained closed until February 2018, and reopened for overnight campers in April.

Meanwhile, the Tubbs Fire burned 2,800 of the 3,200 acres of Pepperwood Preserve, including two staff residences which were completely destroyed. Pepperwood’s Barn, which housed a small office, most of their preserve management equipment, and off-road vehicles, were also lost, as was the Hume Observatory.

To quote notes from Observations on Fire History and Current Recover a presentation by David Ackerly, Ph.D., UC Berkeley. "High-severity areas include Douglas-fir (complete canopy burn) and chaparral. Oak woodlands fared relatively well – a fire can go under the canopy Great opportunity to study fire behavior in oak woodlands. Grasslands were high severity (burned completely) but not as intense (with a low amount of fuel, fire can’t build up much energy). The fine twigs on the oaks did not burn - this means the fire and the wind burned off the leaves, but did not consume much wood. Thin-barked madrones had a lot of overstory damage, but they are vigorous resprouters. Four weeks out from the fire, madrone, soap plants, grasses, and coast live oak were resprouting."

Pepperwood’s scientists have been working to conduct time-sensitive assessments of the ecological impacts of the Tubbs Fire on the local grasslands, chaparral, and forests, in collaboration with multiple university, federal, state and local agencies as well as sister nonprofit organizations. These agencies have come together to design a set of comprehensive post-fire studies, building off of pilot studies based at Pepperwood’s Sentinel Site.

"Staff members and visitors watched with delight and awe as last falls charred hillsides turned the most brilliant shades of green any of us can remember. Just as we thought it couldn't get any more beautiful, wildflowers of yellow, blue, red, orange, and seemingly every color of the rainbow began blanketing the meadows. Today, blackened oak trees are sprouting new leaves, and bay laurels that the Tubbs Fire had reduced to nothing but stumps are sprouting new growth at their base."

Photo credit: A young deer wanders the skeleton of the preserve finding new vegetation slowly Growing. November 5, 2018. (Photo: Pepperwood Preserve)
2019 WCPA – Coalition Wild Global Mentorship Programme

Applications to be a mentor or mentee in the 2019 Global Mentorship Programme will soon be opened. CoalitionWILD and the IUCN WCPA is excited to facilitate this 12-month Programme, bridging the gap between emerging leaders and veteran conservationists. The Programme, which takes place virtually, will pair mentors and mentees via a short questionnaire and will focus on building relationships, cross sharing knowledge and experience, tapping into expertise and networks, and growing leadership skills to support the advancement of the next generation of conservation leaders. Read the Frequently Asked Questions here.

Hear from one of our Mentor/Mentee pairs.

Apply to be a Mentee (Under 35 years old).

Apply to be a Mentor.

Learn more about the Global Mentorship Programme.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=19sWVit-pH_lXyMLdXKhRglwVVCeKNNLf

Contact: Crista Valentino <crista@coalitionwild.org>

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Publications of Interest:

Glen Hvenegaard (gth@ualberta.ca)


Hvenegaard, G.T. 2017. Visitors’ perceived impacts of interpretation on knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral intentions at Miquelon Lake Provincial Park, Alberta, Canada. Tourism and Hospitality

Paul Elsen (pelsen@berkeley.edu)


http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/05/15/1720141115/tab-article-info

The European Conference on "Biodiversity and Health in the Face of Climate Change" was jointly organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the European Network of Heads of Nature Conservation Agencies (ENCA) in co-operation with the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) / German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv). The event was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe.
The conference proceedings as well as the conference documentation are available now on our conference website at: https://www.ecbcc2017.com/
There, you can also find the related ENCA recommendations, which were approved by the heads of the Network of European Nature Conservation Agencies.
If you would like to get free printed copies of the conference proceedings, just send a note on how many you would like to get to jutta.stadler@bfn.de

Ensuring Co-benefits for Biodiversity,
Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2019
W. Leal Filho et al. (eds.), Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity,
Climate Change Management, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-98681-4_9, by

Risa Smith, Oscar Guevara, Lauren Wenzel, Nigel Dudley,
Valeria Petrone-Mendoza, Martin Cadena and Andrew Rhodes

Upcoming Conferences of Interest:

III Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas, Conventions Center, Lima Peru, 17-20 March 2019

https://www.areasprotegidas-latinoamerica.org/

The 9th World Ranger Congress will be held in the village of Sauraha (on the border of Chitwan National Park), Nepal between 11th-17th November 2019.


WCPA Awards:

The deadline for nominations for the Kenton Miller Award and the Parkard Award, to be presented at the III Latin America and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas, is December 15, 2018.

https://iucn-email.org/2GI3-1C6Z5-E748BQA9F4/cr.aspx
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