

Nature + food

Background

The link between biodiversity, water and food security is important to recognize, as humans consume more than 7,000 different species of plants and animals. In the drive to address food security, there is a lack of understanding among policy makers that for many people, especially the more than 70% in less developed rural areas, wild sources of food form an integral part of people's diets. Loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems undermines health, livelihoods, food production, and the availability of clean water—what grows in the wild is just as important as what grows on farms.

At the 2012 World Conservation Congress in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, IUCN will be urging decision-makers to invest in nature—in the way we protect it, manage it and govern it. Investing in nature increases resilience and reduces the vulnerability of people to the impacts of climate change. The Congress will bring together the world's leading environmental and development experts working to improve the way we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

Key events at Congress

- Nature+ food: Can we feed the world sustainably? World Leaders Dialogues, 8 Sep, 17:00-18:30, Tamna Hall
- Toward Landscapes for People, Food, and Nature: Making the Case for Ecosystems in Food Security. Workshop, 8 Sep, 11:00-13:00, Halla Hall B
- Food Futures: Feeding Nine Billion People while Sustaining Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate. Knowledge Cafe, 8 Sep 2012, 11:00-13:00, Yeongju Hall B

Spokespeople

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Related Publications

- Putting Nature in the Nexus: Investing in Natural Infrastructure to Advance Water-Energy-Food Security: www.iucn.org/water_reports
- Pangani River Basin, Tanzania: Building consensus on water allocation and climate change adaptation: www.iucn.org/water_casestudies
- Environment as Infrastructure - Resilience to climate change impacts on water through investments in nature: www.iucn.org/water_reports

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