

IUCN  
WORLD  
CONSERVATION  
CONGRESS  
JeJU 2012

# Highlights

Preliminary Report  
September 2012



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WORLD  
CONSERVATION  
CONGRESS  
JeJU 2012



# 10 Days of ‘Nature’s Olympics’ in Jeju

The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress was held from 6-15 September on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, generously hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea and the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province. Some 10,000 people from over 160 countries participated in various parts of the Jeju Congress.

The Congress slogan was **Nature+**, capturing the fundamental importance of nature and its inherent link to every aspect of our lives.

The key issues on the agenda were:

- Nature+ climate
- Nature+ food
- Nature+ development
- Nature+ people & governance
- Nature+ life



The Congress included a Forum open to the public, and a Members’ Assembly, IUCN’s unique global environmental parliament.

Nearly 600 events were held during the five-day Forum, including five World Leaders’ Dialogues. The Members’ Assembly approved the IUCN Programme for 2013-2016, debated over 180 draft resolutions that set the future conservation agenda, and elected the IUCN President and the governing Council for the next four years.

*“The Congress, which has become known in Korea as “Nature’s Olympics”, has brought home gold for conservation. It has demonstrated how nature-based solutions, as expressed in the Congress slogan “Nature+”, help us address many of our most pressing challenges.”*

*Julia Marton-Lefèvre,  
IUCN Director General*



President of the Republic of Korea, HE Lee Myung-Bak, addressing the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress

## Leaders from local to global come together in Jeju

Thought leaders from all walks of life—politics, business, civil society, academia, local and indigenous communities, faith groups and the media—came together at the Jeju Congress, including:

- HE Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea
- Mr Bharrat Jagdeo, former President of Guyana, IUCN Patron of Nature
- Mr Lyonpo Kinzang Dorji, former Prime Minister of Bhutan
- HRH Prince Carl Philip of Sweden, IUCN Patron of Nature
- HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali Bin Nayef of Jordan
- Ms Rachel Kyte, Vice President, Sustainable Development, The World Bank
- Mr Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme
- Ms Naoko Ishii, CEO & Chairperson, Global Environment Facility
- Ms Heidi Hautala, Minister of International Development, Finland
- Ms Yoo Young Sook, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea
- Mr Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Republic of Congo
- Mr Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet, Minister of International Cooperation, Gabon
- Mr Erik Solheim, former Minister of Environment and International Development, Norway, IUCN Patron of Nature
- Mr Peter Bakker, President, World Business Council on Sustainable Development
- Mr Marvin Odum, President of Shell Oil Company
- Mr Michael Mack, CEO, Syngenta
- Mr Suk-Chae Lee, Chairman, Korea Telecom
- Dr Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer and IUCN Patron of Nature
- Dr Cristián Samper, CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society
- Dr Thomas Lovejoy, Biodiversity Chair at the John Heinz III Center
- Mr Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias, Secretary-General, Convention on Biological Diversity
- Mr Anada Tiega, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Mr Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UN Convention to Combat Desertification

***“The visibility and constructive engagement between business, IUCN, governments and the NGO community was a remarkable positive takeaway from this Congress .”***

***Peter Bakker, President, World Business Council for Sustainable Development***



*Nature+:* *Saving nature, why bother?* World Leaders Dialogue panel (L-R): Moderator Rafael Méndez, El País; Panelists: Ms Yoo Young Sook, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea, Mr Braulio Ferreira De Souza Dias, Secretary-General, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ms Razan Al Mubarak, Secretary General, Abu Dhabi Environment Agency, Mr André Hoffmann, President, MAVA Foundation

## Congress Forum: Debating the future of conservation

A total of 581 events were held during the five-day Forum. The five World Leaders' Dialogues on the themes of nature+ climate, nature+ food, nature+ development, nature+ people & governance, and nature+ life were a highlight of the Forum, generating significant participation from audiences in Jeju and online.

The Forum underlined the crisis facing the natural world through new reports on threatened species and ecosystems. New knowledge products presented included the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas, and the Protected Planet Report.

Key messages from the Forum discussions included:

- how ecosystems can be used as buffers to reduce the impact of climate-related disasters;
- that the true cost of food needs to be reflected in its price;
- how biodiversity and business are learning each other's language, such as an increasingly popular concept of natural capital;
- how local and indigenous communities are successfully managing biodiversity and ecosystems; and
- that political will is fundamental to valuing natural and social capital.

*“To address the challenges ahead, each and every one of us will have to cross boundaries and we in the conservation community will need to move collectively outside our comfort zones.”* Rachel Kyte, Vice-President,

*Sustainable Development, The World Bank*

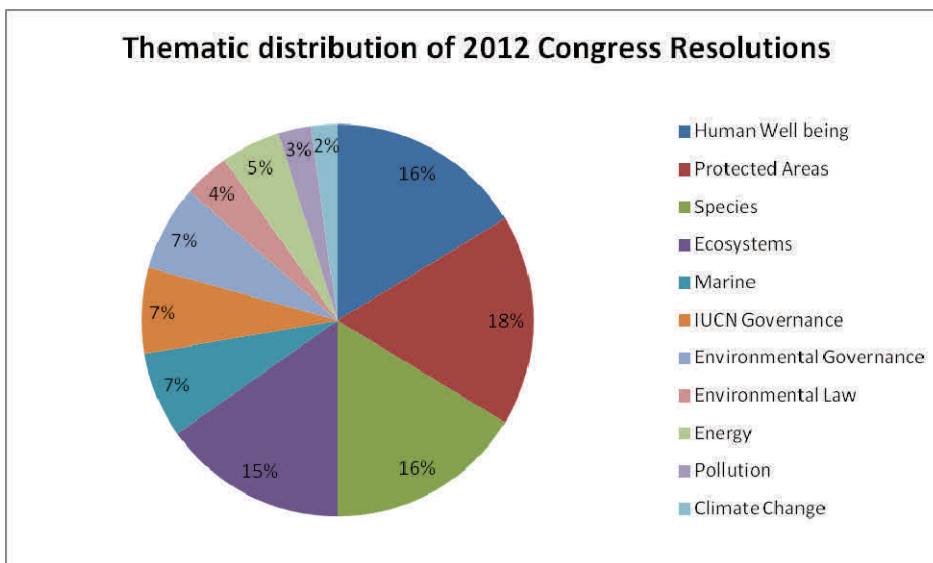
Forum events	Number
Posters	132
Knowledge cafés	105
Workshops	146
Conservation campus	44
Pavilion events	149
World Leaders Dialogues	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>581</b>



Participants at a session held in the Just World Pavilion at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress

## IUCN Members' Assembly: Environmental democracy in action

The Members' Assembly, IUCN's unique global environmental parliament bringing together governments and non-governmental organizations, approved the new IUCN Programme for 2013-2016. The Programme builds upon IUCN's niche as the world's authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and related environmental governance.



The Assembly also approved over 180 resolutions on a wide range of issues, including action to recover Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and avert extinctions of rare dolphin species; scaling back offshore drilling; promoting the human right to water; and providing better payment channels for ecosystem services in poor countries. Action on stopping the escalating poaching of elephants and rhinos was approved, and the push for a globally binding treaty on protecting wildlife from mercury contamination was endorsed, as was greater enforcement of laws on wildlife crime. More information: <http://iucn.org/motions>

*“I found this Jeju Congress to be the best IUCN has ever held. The volume of workshops and programs was extraordinary and the business of the Union was dispatched with care and effectiveness.”*

*Professor Nicholas Robinson, Former Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law*



IUCN's government and NGO members jointly debate and vote on key conservation issues

# Elections of IUCN President and Council

The Congress elected the IUCN President and 32 other Members of the IUCN Council for the next four years:

## **President**

Mr Zhang Xinsheng, China

## **Treasurer**

Mr Patrick de Heney, Switzerland/United Kingdom

## **Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat:**

Mr Willy Geiger

## **REGIONAL COUNCILLORS**

### **Africa**

Mr Mamadou Diallo, Senegal  
Dr Brahim Haddane, Morocco  
Hon Eriyo Jesca Osuna, Uganda

### **Meso and South America**

Ms Jenny Gruenberger, Bolivia  
Mr Miguel Pellerano, Argentina  
Mr Ramón Pérez Gil Salcido, Mexico

### **North America and the Caribbean**

Mr George Greene, Canada  
Dr John Robinson, USA  
Mr Spencer L. Thomas, Grenada



IUCN Director-General Ms Julia Marton-Lefèvre congratulates IUCN President-elect Mr Zhang Xinsheng

### **South and East Asia**

Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, Nepal  
Ms Meena Gupta, India  
Mr Shinichi Kitajima, Japan

### **West Asia**

Mr Malik Amin Aslam Khan, Pakistan  
Dr Samira Omar Asem, Kuwait  
Mr Mohammad Shahbaz, Jordan

### **Oceania**

Mr Andrew Bignell, New Zealand  
Prof Brendan Mackey, Australia  
Ms Anna Elizabeth Tiraa, Cook Islands

### **East Europe, North and Central Asia**

Dr Amirkhan Amirkhanov, Russia  
Mr Michael Hošek, Czech Republic  
Ms Tamar Pataridze, Georgia

### **West Europe**

Mr Jonathan Hughes, United Kingdom  
Prof Nilufer Oral, Turkey  
Ms Marina von Weissenberg, Finland

## **COMMISSION CHAIRS**

### **Commission on Ecosystem Management**

Mr Piet Wit, The Netherlands

### **Commission on Education and Communication**

Dr Juliane Zeidler, Germany

### **Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy**

Ms Aroha Te Pareake Mead, New Zealand

### **Species Survival Commission**

Dr Simon Stuart, UK

### **World Commission on Environmental Law**

Dr Antonio Herman Benjamin, Brazil

### **World Commission on Protected Areas**

Dr Ernesto Enkerlin Hoeflich, Mexico

More information about IUCN Council is found on:  
<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/council/>

# Recognizing Conservation Greats

The 2012 Congress recognized two outstanding individuals of the conservation world with its highest awards, and conferred honorary membership of IUCN to 11 other conservation greats:

- Recipient of the John C. Phillips Memorial Medal: Sir David Attenborough (UK)
- Recipient of the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal: Dr. Wolfgang E. Burhenne (Germany)

2012 Honorary Members:

- Dr Abdulaziz Abuzinada, Saudi Arabia
- Ms Angela Cropper, Trinidad and Tobago
- Dr Aila Keto, Australia
- His Excellency, The State President, Lieutenant General Seretse Khama Ian Khama, Botswana
- Mr Veit Koester, Denmark
- Dr Russell Mittermeier, USA
- Dr Ian Player, South Africa
- Professor Nicholas Robinson, USA
- Dr Marina Silva, Brazil
- Mr Achim Steiner, Germany
- Professor Randolph Robert Thaman, Fiji

*“IUCN is an organization of enormous importance for all of us who care about the natural world; there is no other international organization quite like it.”*

*Sir David Attenborough*

*Recipient of the John C. Phillips*

*Memorial Medal*



IUCN Patron of Nature Dr Sylvia Earle presents the Harold Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal to Dr Wolfgang E. Burhenne during the Awards Ceremony at the Jeju Congress, as IUCN President Dr Ashok Khosla looks on.

## Getting the message out

The Congress offered a unique platform to send a clear message to the rest of the world that nature can and does provide solutions to some of the world's biggest environment and development challenges.

Millions of people worldwide followed news from the Congress via print, broadcast and social media, as well as the IUCN website.

Communications highlights from the Congress include:

- 320 journalists on site in Jeju;
- 61 press conferences;
- Over 8,000 Congress mentions in international and local media;
- Nearly 17 million people reached via Twitter;
- 60 per cent increase in website visits; and
- 10 issues of Congress e-newsletter produced.

A 10-day Festival was organized by the host country during the Congress to inspire local people about conservation, including a Nature+ K-Pop concert attended by thousands of Congress participants. The concert featured Korean and international acts, including IUCN Goodwill Ambassadors Malouma (Mauritania) and IRUKA (Japan).

*“What you’ve done in terms of media and getting your messages out is amazing.”*

*Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme and former IUCN Director General*



Nature+ K-Pop concert held during the Congress included performances by Korean and international musicians



## What next? The way forward from Jeju

The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress marked an important milestone for strengthening collaboration and moving from commitments to action. The Jeju Declaration, signed on the final day of the Congress, recognizes that nature offers important solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges in climate change, sustainable energy, food security and economic and social development.

Among the initiatives and partnerships announced at the Congress were:

- the establishment of a Jeju World Leaders' Conservation Forum by the Republic of Korea;
- an €20m investment in biodiversity and protected areas by IUCN and the European Union;
- commitments by Microsoft and Google to support innovative conservation technologies;
- launch of the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress by IUCN, the Government of Australia and the State of New South Wales; and
- celebration of 50 years of collaboration between IUCN and the Council of Europe;

Other emerging partnerships and initiatives discussed at the Congress include:

- further operationalizing the concept of Net Positive Impact on biodiversity, with the World Bank;
- exploring the role for Payments for Ecosystem Services in international environmental governance, with the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility;
- developing an international governance and transparency initiative on renewable resources, with Finland; and
- addressing the "implementation gap" in climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments, with Norway.

*"The IUCN vision of a just world that values and conserves nature is one the world deeply needs to see fulfilled."*

*Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN President*



IUCN President-elect Zhang Xinsheng addressing the 2012 Jeju Congress closing ceremony

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- GS25
- Korean Gas Corporation
- Korean Institute of Machinery and Metals

