



## WORLD PROTECTED AREAS LEADERS FORUM



*12th WPALF event, 26–30 June 2023, Krkonoše Mts. National Park and Jizera Mts. Protected Landscape, Czechia*

The World Protected Areas Leaders Forum (WPALF) welcomes the leadership and initiative of the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic and its administration of Jizera Mts Protected Landscape Area, the Krkonoše Mts National Park for hosting the 12th WPALF meeting and reconvening this forum after the global pandemic.

### **The Krkonoše–Jizera Mts. Declaration**

Protected and Conserved Areas are incredibly diverse covering a vast array of climates, terrains, waters and ecosystems. These special places, along with Other Effective area based Conservation Measures (OECM) and dedicated indigenous and local community lands and territories are set to cover to at least 30% of the planet by 2030 with the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in December 2022.

With equitable governance and effective management, in partnership with custodians and local communities, these areas play a transformative role, not only to address biodiversity loss, but also in combating climate change as well as unlocking a cascade of additional benefits for mental health and wellbeing, the economy, local jobs.

These benefits were illustrated throughout the 12th meeting of the WPALF through a series of educational field trips, including a detailed examination of the Jizera peat bogs in the Jizera Mountains core area. The management measures taken to restore these peat bogs has not only secured and restored environmental benefits but also reduced carbon emissions, increased carbon sequestration, added to the visitor experience and are supporting jobs in the local economy. Appropriate ongoing resources are essential for management measures to be effective and for positive outcomes to be sustained.

The hosts and participants of the 12th WPALF call on all protected area agencies and governance bodies to help ensure equitable governance and effective management of their systems and networks of special places. Protected and Conserved Areas offer a unique combination of attributes and routes to positively impact the major issues of our time. With further engagement, investment, adjustment to linked policies and by drawing on best practice from across the global family these areas can unlock an even greater cascade of benefits to address biodiversity loss, to support the route to net zero, to improve health and well-being and to underpin local economies.