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DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE OF SYDNEY

August 2023



Welcome to the latest edition of the IUCN Newsletter. This month, among general news of our collective IUCN work on protected and conserved areas worldwide, we promote a topic of profound significance – the recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples, and the indispensable role they have played in conserving nature, and will continue to play as we look ahead to 2030 and beyond.

The relationship between Indigenous communities and their ancestral lands is a testament to the harmonious coexistence that is achievable between people and nature. For generations, Indigenous peoples have been the guardians of some of the world's most biodiverse and ecologically sensitive regions. Their deep-rooted knowledge, holistic understanding of ecosystems, governance, customary laws and sustainable practices have enabled these landscapes to thrive for centuries.

However, this essential partnership has often been marred by historical injustices, marginalisation, and the denial of basic rights. In recent decades, the international community has made significant strides in acknowledging the significance of Indigenous wisdom and practices in the realm of conservation. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other global initiatives have paved the way for recognising the critical role of indigenous communities in safeguarding biodiversity and ecological balance. IUCN's Protected and Conserved Areas Team are committed to implementing two significant Resolutions, that in turn reference and capture the essence of many other commitments to the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities. These resolutions are Resolution WCC-2020-002 on full engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the design, development and implementation of conservation programmes; and Resolution WCC-2020-125 on fairly and effectively conserving at least 30% of the planet. The newly adopted CBD Global Biodiversity Framework also contains important and unprecedented language on the rights of Indigenous peoples, including over their territories.

In two articles in this newsletter we delve into the pressing need to reaffirm and reiterate the rights of Indigenous peoples. Their inclusion in decision-making processes, land tenure security, and cultural preservation are not just ethical imperatives, but integral aspects of successful conservation efforts. As we confront the complex challenges posed by climate change, habitat loss, and biodiversity decline, indigenous knowledge offers invaluable insights into resilient and adaptive strategies that can benefit both people and nature.

From the heart of Patagonia, the story of the Kawésqar reminds us that the conservation narrative cannot be complete without their voices and contributions. Their story is important and we are delighted to give their voice to you, through this newsletter. We also feature a photo story on the Territory of Life of the Yaghnobi people from the Republic of Tajikistan, with a recent publication showcasing the importance of these areas in Central Asia and the Caucasus. There are many similar stories, worldwide, from Aboriginal Tasmania, Australia to Sami Tana, northern Finland.

In engaging with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) in the Podong Initiative, IUCN is setting the bar high for ourselves as an institution to really put words into action, guided by the IIFB's important network of indigenous expertise and representation, and by our other Indigenous Peoples Organisation members' voices and support.

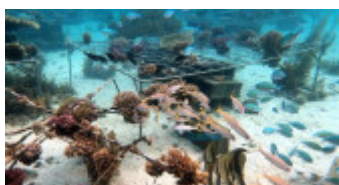
Moreover, in promoting the new Podong Initiative in this newsletter, we highlight the collaborative efforts underway between IIFB and the Protected and Conserved Areas Team, to bridge the gap between indigenous wisdom and modern conservation science. By fostering meaningful partnerships, respecting traditional governance systems, and integrating local knowledge into conservation strategies, we can pave a more inclusive and effective path forward.

As we continue to advocate for the recognition and empowerment of Indigenous peoples, let us remember that our work is interconnected. The conservation challenges we face are global in nature, transcending boundaries and cultures. By standing in solidarity with Indigenous communities, we not only honour their rights but also acknowledge the interdependence between humanity and the natural world.

We invite you to follow-up and research more of these stories, insights, and initiatives that IUCN and our members are engaged in. May they serve as a source of inspiration and motivation, propelling us to champion the cause of Indigenous peoples' rights and inclusive conservation in all our endeavours.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the planet and its people.

At a Glance - August highlights



Underwater and Under Threat: Restoring the Coral Reef Ecosystem in Mauritius

Cloud, underwater cameras, GPS, and 4G technologies are breathing life into the degraded coral system off the coast of Mauritius

[Read more](#)



World Protected Areas Leaders Forum Wraps Up Successful Event at Krkonoše National Park

Protected area leaders and conservationists discuss critical issues in the face of the twin climate and biodiversity crises.

[Read more](#)



Kawésqar: a living community battling for recognition and rights to lands and waters

Within a territory four times the size of Switzerland, encased in seven protected areas, the Kawésqar strive for recognition.

[Read more](#)

The path to protect 30x30

We're committed to supporting nations around the world to achieving Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and with

it, to conserve 30% of the world's ecosystems by 2030.



A new era in conservation: the Podong Indigenous Peoples' Initiative

The new initiative, signed into action on the 4th August between IUCN, IUCN's Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), looks to support indigenous contributions to biodiversity conservation and climate solutions.

[Read the article](#)

What counts? - Ensuring effective conservation

Through the IUCN Green List Standard, the global benchmark for Protected and Conserved Areas governance and management, we're working to ensure that 30x30 means real and effective achievement of conservation goals.



IUCN Green List Standard used for Effective Management along the Mekong River



Galápagos busca destacarse como una de las mejores Áreas Protegidas del mundo

The IUCN Asia Regional Office and the Mekong River Commission (MRC) are working to assess significant watershed areas and Protected Conservation Areas across the Mekong region, in alignment with the IUCN Green List standard.

[Read more](#)

Galápagos se une al grupo de áreas que han iniciado su proceso de certificación para ser parte de la Lista Verde de la UICN, una certificación que premia la gestión eficaz de las áreas protegidas y conservadas del mundo.

[Read more](#)

Who counts? - People at the centre of conservation

As important as 'what counts', is 'who counts'. We're working to put people at the centre of conservation through supporting Indigenous peoples and local communities to lead and benefit from 30x30.



Territories of Life - where ancient culture and conservation intersect

In the 30x30 ambition, shining a light on [Territories of Life](#) has never been more important. Click [here](#) to read and learn about how locally-driven Territories of Life are conserving critical snow leopard habitats in the Republic of Tajikistan.

[Read more](#)



Sacred Groves - The Secret Wizards of Conservation

India is home to over 990 Protected and Conserved Areas - including 106 national parks, 564 wildlife sanctuaries, 99 conservation reserves and 218 conservation reserves. Cultural conservation areas also exist worldwide - especially within Indian Hindu communities. These places are called sacred groves...

[Read more](#)



Kawésqar Wæs - Chilean Patagonia's greatest wilderness is a home

In recent decades, with the creation of national parks and marine reserves, the Chilean state has protected huge swathes of Western Patagonia. But far from being an empty landscape, this territory has been continually traversed for at least 6,000 years by canoe-faring, hunter-gatherer, Kawésqar nomads.

[Read more](#)

Hot off the Press



WORLD PROTECTED AREAS LEADERS FORUM
2023 Meeting Report
26-30 June 2023
Krkonoše Mountains National Park and Jizera Mountains Protected Landscape, Czechia



World Protected Areas Leaders Forum, 2023 Meeting Report

On 26-30 June, the World Protected Areas Leaders Forum (WPALF) took place in the Krkonoše National Park and the Jizera Mountains Protected Landscape Area, generously hosted by The Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic and the Krkonoše Mountains National Park Administration. The first WPALF meeting to be convened in-person since 2019, and the first ever hybrid virtual-in person event, this year's meeting acted as an important opportunity to revisit the role and purpose of WPALF, along with key thematic priorities of protected areas leaders from around the globe.

[Read more](#)

English version of IMET manual, COMIT, published

The coaching manual (COMIT) is for the second version of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) and of coaching or professional support for protected area management teams. IMET is a decision-support



Coaching manual for the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
 Manual to assess and improve protected area management effectiveness
 Carlo Paolini and Domènica Rakotobe



tool intended to develop the planning-monitoring-evaluation process in order to improve protected area management effectiveness. It is suitable for all protected areas, regardless of their management and governance category. IMET collects, organises and visualises data related to protected areas in order to facilitate analysis and guide decision-making for the planning, management and organisation of operations.

[Read more](#)



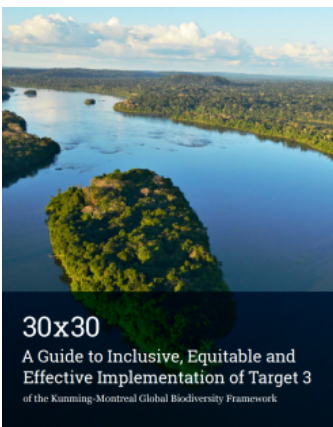
Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)
 Harry D. Jones, Kathy MacKinnon, Daniel Marnewick and Pete Wood



Site-level tool for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) : first edition

Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are sites outside protected areas that deliver effective and long-term in situ conservation of biodiversity. Biodiversity conservation may be the primary objective of the site, a secondary objective of a site that is managed for other purposes, or it may be an unintended consequence of the way the site is managed. OECMs may be governed and managed by governments, private entities or Indigenous peoples and local communities, or a combination of these. This tool guides an assessor through three steps to apply eight criteria which determine if a site qualifies as an OECM as set out under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

[Read more](#)



30x30: A Guide to Inclusive, Equitable and Effective Implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Developed by WWF, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and The Nature Conservancy, and supported by funding from the Global Environment Facility, this guide is intended to support governments and many other actors to contribute to this complex target in ways that are inclusive, equitable and effective.

[Read more](#)

Events and Getting Involved



Esri StoryMaps competition - Enter now!

As part of our ongoing open storytelling competition [2023 ArcGIS StoryMaps Competition](#), Michelle Thomas, Communications lead and Content Strategist from Esri's StoryMaps team has written a blog with tips for creating a compelling ArcGIS StoryMap media piece. [Click here](#) to read her blog.

If you don't have an ArcGIS account to apply, [click here](#) to learn about Esri's grant assistance programme.

[Read the blog](#)



Support Ziad Samaha's ocean legacy

Following Ziad Samaha's tragic passing away, his partner Marion, in consultation with Ziad's family, decided on the best way to honor him; a scholarship programme on shark conservation in the Mediterranean. The scholarship will be run through MarAlliance, an NGO that specialises in shark conservation.

A GoFundMe has been set up to raise the funds for the first 3 years of the scholarship.

[Click Here to support Ziad's legacy](#)

Work with IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas!

- **Consultancy:** "conservation contributions of Sustainable Agriculture through applying IUCN standards for effective area-based conservation (Green List, OECM guidance) to agricultural landscapes".
- **Consultancy:** Business Plan for the development of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas
- **Consultancy:** Cost-effectiveness analysis for the development of the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas

Donate

Help us keep nature alive

Since its establishment in 1948, IUCN has become the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. IUCN's new legacy gift options will help ensure IUCN keeps playing this essential role for years to come.

[Read more](#)

Learn More

Websites

[IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme](#)
[IUCN World Heritage Programme](#)
[IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas](#)
[IUCN Program on African Protected Areas and Conservation](#)
[BIOPAMA, From Knowledge to Action for a Protected Planet](#)
[PANORAMA, Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#)
[IUCN Green List](#)
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The monthly Protecting the Planet Newsletter aims to keep IUCN WCPA members, IUCN staff, and the wider IUCN network up-to-date with protected area news and announcements.