



MOUNTAIN PAVILION

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MOUNTAIN CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION ACROSS LARGE-SCALE LANDSCAPES

UNCSD RIO+20, RIO DE JANEIRO, ATHLETES' PARK, JUNE 17, 2012, AT THE MOUNTAIN PAVILION



CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION

Connectivity conservation extends the concepts of biodiversity and biological corridors to the landscape scale. A revised conservation science consensus is beginning to emerge in response to the limitations of conservation efforts to date and the enormity of the challenge, especially in the face of the impacts of climate change on ecosystems and the fundamental services they provide to humanity. A connectivity conservation approach recognizes that conservation management is needed on the lands around formal protected areas to buffer them from threatening processes originating off-reserve and to care for biodiversity assets found on other land tenures.

Relevant participatory connectivity conservation initiatives focus on geographically extensive areas that are at least supra-regional in scale, and can extend to continental and intercontinental scales. Achieving conservation outcomes across the landscape matrix involves active management, policy support and conservation outcomes in an integrated way across a range of land tenures. Carefully designed science-sound connectivity conservation initiatives that link significant protected areas network allowing species to move and interact as part of ecological processes are a natural solution to climate change recognized by the CBD targets and part of IUCN policy as they serve as critical and cost-effective actions in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The contribution of connectivity conservation towards mountain sustainable development

MOUNTAINS AND CONSERVATION CONNECTIVITY

The world's relatively well-developed systems of Mountain Protected Areas can serve as examples of how to address connectivity issues, building ecological networks and applying the ecosystem approach. Mountain protected areas can demonstrate conservation strategies through ecosystem corridors to maintain biodiversity pattern and process in the landscape. Mountain connectivity conservation offers an opportunity to manage large-scale landscapes through alliances between governments and the civil society. Currently, many mountainous regions of the world allow enabling conditions for increasing connectivity in mountainous areas. The design of connectivity landscapes in mountains may be further conducted in order to fill conservation gaps, and in order to better plan land-use. Connectivity conservation represent a

relevant planning and management tool that may connect mountainous areas at the regional and continental scale with more densely populated lowlands, providing a readily link that may enhance the appreciation for mountains in the regional psyche. As well, there is a need for a clearer understanding of how cultural and spiritual values can be fully recognized and appropriately protected alongside natural ones. There is also a need to recognize and promote the involvement of a diverse range of communities in protected areas. Further, as mountain ecosystems are vulnerable to global changes, including the effects of climate change, they can also serve explore adaptation options while generally raising the profile of the issues.

THE EVENT

The Mountains and Connectivity Conservation Team from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the Tropical Science Center and other partners share experiences and lessons learned from several connectivity conservation initiatives that address the issues of mountain sustainable development in different continents. A panel debate involving national and regional leadership that addresses the critical questions determined by the Rio+20 Conference will be offered.

The International Connectivity Conservation Network (ICCN) is a WCPA voluntary network of individuals and organizations working on individual terrestrial and marine large-scale connectivity conservation projects and initiatives around the world that will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea in September 2012. The ICCN will be shortly presented during the side event in Rio + 20.

COMMUNIQUÉ

A short communiqué will offer targeted perspectives on key issues before the Rio +20 conference, illustrated by examples of success from the field.

ORGANIZERS

The event will be jointly organised by the Mountain Partnership, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the International Connectivity Conservation Network and the Tropical Science Center.

VENUE AND TIME

The event will take place at the Athletes' Park, on June 17, 2012 from 15.00 to 17.00 at the Mountain Pavilion.

LANGUAGE OF THE MEETING

The meeting will be conducted mainly in English, but also in Spanish.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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