



II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas

Bariloche, Argentina

30th September to 6th October 2007

BACKGROUND

Around the world, national parks and other protected areas (PAs) are priority biodiversity conservation strategies and the most widely used instrument to protect our biological and ecological heritage. For several decades now, Latin American countries have concentrated their efforts on developing strategic policies and strategies to ensure that these natural areas are adequately managed. However, significant challenges remain concerning the most appropriate procedures to achieve the firm support of the main institutional and social actors. It is important to embrace these challenges in order to reinsert the issue of social equity in the social, economic, political and ecological context that is determined by economic globalization, changes in governance systems and landholding regimes, the consolidation of social participation approaches based on human rights, climate change and the urgency of the poverty reduction agenda.



Quichua girl - Ecuador. Foto: R. Hobbieco

The Latin American Technical Cooperation Network of National Parks, Other Protected Areas and Wildlife (REDPARQUES), the FAO, IUCN and the Government of Colombia held the first Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas in Santa Marta, Colombia, in 1997, five years after the Caracas Congress (IV World Parks Congress) in 1992. After IUCN hosted the Fifth World Parks Congress in Durban (South Africa) in 2003, and based on the recommendation of the Caracas Congress, REDPARQUES and IUCN's Commission on Protected Areas requested collaboration from the FAO, IUCN and UNEP to organize the II Latin American Congress of National Parks and Other Protected Areas in 2007. This event will take place in Bariloche, Argentina and be hosted by the presidency of the Argentine National Parks Agency.



Espelella - Venezuela. Foto: R. Hobbieco

OBJECTIVES OF THE II CONGRESS

General Objective

To evaluate and plan the contribution the region's protected areas should make to biodiversity conservation, environmental services, the creation of sustainable development, poverty alleviation strategies and regional integration processes among the Latin American countries.

Specific Objectives

- To promote the interchange of experiences, information and technical and scientific knowledge on protected area management in the region and to keep abreast of advances that can contribute to the effective management of these areas and their border zones.
- To evaluate and value, from the perspective of protected area management, the state of biodiversity conservation both nationally and regionally, based on the contribution of the ecosystem approach to these areas and to land use planning, among other indicators.

- To define poverty relief strategies for the inhabitants living in or around the protected areas, that are compatible with the conservation of the natural environment; and to identify advances in policies, instruments and incentives aimed at achieving sustainable development.
- To analyze protected area planning and management methodologies so that tools can be shared and implemented according to the region's environmental goals; and to promote the development of management and conservation concepts.
- To propose policies aimed at repositioning biodiversity conservation on national and regional agendas, and to consider recommendations for financial, social and environmental reorientation and prioritization mechanisms.
- To identify and promote regional and subregional conservation strategies using mechanisms based on integration, new policy orientations and horizontal cooperation.
- To formulate new proposals, programmes, plans, activities and projects on this issue at a regional or subregional level and to develop recommendations to be applied in the next five years prior to the VI World Parks Congress.

The Congress Programme

The Congress will be organized around keynote presentations offering a general overview of the advances and trends related to each of the four big themes covered at the Congress, and around symposiums that will address a series of subtopics in greater detail. Each symposium's contents will include theoretic advances, case studies and concrete experiences through specialized lectures and specially selected case studies.

In order to provide the Congress organizers with information on the current situation of the region's protected areas, each country from the region shall submit information prior to the Congress. A regional summary will be produced based on an analysis of the different national reports.



Laguna Azul - Chile. Foto: I Mellare

Information

<http://www.congresolatinparques2007.org>
<http://www.rlc.fao.org/redes/parques/congre.htm>
<http://www.sur.iucn.org>
<http://www.pnuma.org>

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MAIN THEMES

The Congress will be organized around the four main themes indicated below, which have been selected based on their relevance to the current situation and the future of the region's protected areas.

PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION	ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES IN KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION ON PA MANAGEMENT	CAPACITY-BUILDING AND INCREASED SUPPORT FOR PA MANAGEMENT	GOVERNANCE, EQUITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE
<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 1 PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS</p>	<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 1 THE SCIENCES AND PROTECTED AREAS</p>	<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 1 MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES</p>	<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 1 OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS OF GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION</p>
<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA categories • Contributions by and complementary relationships with other conservation areas (community, extractive, private and forest reserves; indigenous territories, civil society reserves). • National, regional and local PA systems. • World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of knowledge on biodiversity in PAs • Knowledge management for PAs (incl. database management). • The role of knowledge related to PA management policies, practices and methodologies. • New technologies at the service of PA management. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies for identifying training needs • Ways and methods of training PA managers. • Capacity-building for the governance and social management of PAs. • Ways and methods of training PA managers and decision-makers from different sectors. • Skills development for the elaboration and application of policies, action plans, rules and regulations, and financial management. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economical globalization, free trade and regional commercial integration. • Infrastructure integration (IIRSA and Plan Puebla Panama projects). • Biocommerce and legal/illegal trafficking of flora and fauna. • The globalization of conservation: global interests in local, national or regional biodiversity. The role and legitimacy of different actors (including GEF, UN agencies, banks, international NGOs, IUCN)
<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 2 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION</p>	<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 2 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PAs</p>	<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 2 COMMUNICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION</p>	<p align="center">SYMPOSIUM 2 PA GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION</p>
<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAs for conservation of specific species or landscapes (IBAs, Ramsar sites). • Biological corridors – conservation corridors – connectivity. • Management of wild fauna and flora inside and outside PAs. • Protected Marine Areas. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships between traditional knowledge and academic research. • Management and protection of traditional knowledge, as related to PAs. • The role of traditional knowledge in PA management policies, methodologies and practices. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass communication and public awareness raising. How to create an environmentally friendly society? • New techniques and advances in visitor interpretation at PAs. • Efficiency and effectiveness of environmental education in Latin America, and the role of PAs. • Environmental careers: formal and academic education of PA managers. • Informal education: extracurricular training and PAs. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models of governance in different types of PAs. • Legal-institutional frameworks for governance. • Institutionality, authority; accountability and transparency. • Mechanisms for conflict management (land ownership, conservation vs. productive and extractive activities). • Indigenous peoples and PAs (regulations and legislation, peoples living in voluntary isolation, relationships between indigenous peoples and other actors.) • Role of the business sector in PAs and biodiversity conservation.

<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 3 CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES OF PAs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 3 MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 3 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PAs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 3 INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND TRANSBOUNDARY POLICIES</p>
<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History, Culture and Archaeology in natural areas. • Cultural-natural corridors. • Mixed cultural and natural heritage sites. • Sacred sites, cosmovision and spirituality. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control, surveillance and security. • Evaluation and management effectiveness indicators. • Strategies to involve and engage the local population vs. coercion. • XXI century perspective on the role of park rangers in PA management. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism (natural, cultural, agricultural, adventure) as a source of income, a form of sustainable use and/or a threat to PAs. • Agriculture and productive systems in protected areas. • Forestry management: mining in productive reserves. • Ecological restoration. • Integrated practices for PA management. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity management strategies in regional and international agreements (CAN; ACTO, CCAD, OAS, MERCOSUR, etc.). • The role of Global Environmental Agreements in PA management (Ramsar, CBD, UNFCCC, World Heritage, etc.). • Progress with the CBD Programme of Work. • Policies and experiences in the management of transboundary areas (binational parks, parks for peace, etc.).
<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 4 ECOSYSTEM APPROACH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OF PAs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 4 TECHNICAL TOOLS FOR PA PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 4 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF PAs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SYMPOSIUM 4 POLICIES, INSTRUMENTS AND INCENTIVES FOR POVERTY RELIEF AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MDGs</p>
<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interaction of PAs with the landscape. • PA planning on geographic and temporal scales. • Management of environmental-cultural dynamics in PAs. • The relationship between climate change and PAs; vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation. • Protected areas, water and watersheds. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans. • Land use planning. • Gap analysis, representativeness of areas, sizes and scales related to conservation objectives. • Methodologies for defining areas of high importance to biodiversity. • Modelling species distribution and populations in the landscape. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and financial administration of PAs. • Financial instruments (environmental service payment systems, conservation easements, conservation concessions). • Financial mechanisms for PA systems (national funds, trust funds, etc.) • Trends in international cooperation for PA management: facing the challenges. 	<p>Workshop topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships between poverty and conservation and the role of PAs (policies and strategies for poverty relief of the inhabitants of PAs, through the sustainable use of natural resources). • Relationship between social and economic policies, PA management and the quality of life of their inhabitants. • The function of PAs in the maintenance of environmental goods and services.

