



## **FINAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **NATURE/CULTURE CONNECTIONS AT THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS, HAWAII –September 2016**

**Deadline for submissions: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

**Submit proposals at: <http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>**

**This is a request for your proposals to be made as part of a proposed Culture/ Nature Journey within the “Forum” at the next IUCN World Conservation Congress - WCC 2016. WCC takes place between 1-10 September 2016, and the Forum will be between 2-5 September.**

IUCN and ICOMOS, with a growing group of our members and partners, envision a high profile theme at the IUCN World Conservation Congress with multiple components that will address the interconnected character of natural and cultural heritage. We think this is a vital issue, of growing importance to our work on conservation, globally and locally. The theme, potentially to be called the “Culture/Nature Journey” will include diverse elements, but its success relies on members and partners of IUCN and ICOMOS making your proposals before 15<sup>th</sup> October, so they can be considered within the overall programming for the whole of WCC. If you have a potential session to contribute, please read on...

#### **Draft ideas on themes and subthemes of the Culture/Nature Journey**

Below are some ideas of themes to prompt thinking about your contributions. These come from a first consultation within IUCN and ICOMOS on suggested themes and sub-themes that could be part of the Culture/Nature Journey. Please note that it is not meant to be comprehensive, nor yet fully sorted or organized and not in any priority order, so please let us know if you see other important themes that should also be considered in proposing contributions to the journey, or have comments on the below.

- 1. Rights-based approaches, equity, and equitable and effective governance**

- community engagement/people-centered approaches
- access to traditionally used lands and protection traditional activities and practices. Nature/culture and the intersection with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- engaging youth
- Social inclusion in nature and culture conservation.

## **2. Cultural landscapes and biocultural landscapes**

- Cultural landscapes and biocultural landscapes: Are they the same thing? Where are the points of commonality and difference? Can and do they work together in practice?
- Large landscapes - a case study approach to good practice in nature-culture integration.
- What Indigenous cosmologies, without being coopted, provide models for an integrated conservation practice?
- Intimacy and personal space: valuing individual human experience 'alongside' global conservation goals. What roles are there for emotion and empathy in conservation practice?
- overlap of endangered languages and endangered nature - the “dual extinction crisis”

## **3. Adaptation and resilience to climate change for natural and cultural values – learning from ecology, culture and history**

## **4. Local and traditional cultural and ecological knowledge**

- intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge
- using, linking and reconciling traditional knowledge with western scientific approaches

## **5. Contemporary Culture, Arts and Nature Conservation**

- The role of the arts in conservation, in particular as a means of facilitating dialogue and deepening engagement
- role nature plays in the formation and continuation of culture -
- trans-national nature of the 21st century where cultural and social identities are often formed and performed away from the natural (and cultural) spaces being valued

## **6. Cultural and spiritual significance of nature in management and governance**

- diversity of cultural and social attitudes toward nature - symbolic importance for both species and places
- sacred natural sites and well-being
- working with faith communities, and the sites they value

- 7. Role of local natural resources management systems and local dynamic cultural systems/heritage in the conservation of nature**
  - linkages between provisioning and natural and cultural processes - how provisioning practice produces material benefits, food, and provides a setting for cultural processes, ceremonies, and narratives
  - role of traditional land-based uses and cultural practices such as provisioning, wayfinding, inhabiting, teaching, representing (through performance and display), naming, articulating (through story telling and oral traditions) in achieving natural conservation objectives while also contributing to cultural identity, diversity and well-being
  - species conservation in relation to provisioning and food security and cultural processes
  - rural landscapes and sustainable agriculture
- 8. Nature/culture linkages in the urban and peri-urban contexts, including Historic Urban Landscapes**
- 9. The conservation of natural and cultural heritage as a focus of the Sustainable Development Goals**
- 10. Ecosystem goods and services, inclusion of dynamic cultural processes – valuing broader socio/economic/health benefits for local and traditional communities**
- 11. World Heritage processes - nomination for indigenous sites, recognition of inter-linkages of natural and cultural values in all landscapes**
  - Process for assessments of World Heritage property nominations and mixed cultural/natural nominations and how to improve indigenous participation
- 12. Capacity-building needs for nature/culture practice**

Note that there are a variety of formats available and that demonstrating participant engagement during your session is an important selection factor.

You will see that there are some requirements for a proposed contribution such as “one programme” which means that each proposal has to have involvement of at least two IUCN offices or commissions. Also given the nature of the journey, we hope that each proposal will also involve members from both IUCN and ICOMOS. If you would like suggestions on who to work with, we offer to connect you to others in IUCN or ICOMOS who are involved in the topic of your proposal and to answer other questions you have on the submission process.

We also suggest that you reference the nature/culture journey in your contribution – for example:

*As part of an emerging WCC 2016 journey devoted to nature/culture, we propose to build on recent collaboration about this issue between IUCN and ICOMOS. Our contribution will expand on the strengthening evidence that natural and cultural heritage are closely intertwined in most landscapes and that conservation of such places depends on better integration of philosophies, policies and procedures regarding their management. IUCN and ICOMOS face overlapping conservation challenges for places with complex biocultural systems and the two bodies bring substantial complementary knowledge, ideas, standards and capacities to this matter. Collaboration is vital to advancing good practice.*

Please do let us know if you are working on a proposal, so we have a sense of the number of submissions related to the journey.

Thank you again for working with us on this journey – and we look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew and Tim

**Andrew S. Potts** | Executive Director

 [\(202\) 463-1291](tel:(202)463-1291) |  [\(202\) 463-1292](tel:(202)463-1292)

 [apotts@usicomos.org](mailto:apotts@usicomos.org)

US/ICOMOS Directorate  
1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW  
Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-1531  
United States of America

 <http://www.usicomos.org>



**Tim Badman**

Director

World Heritage Programme  
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)  
28 rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland  
Tel: ++41 22 999 0278 Fax: ++41 22 999 0025  
Mobile: +41 79 521 8984

<http://www.iucn.org/>,



IUCN  
World  
Conservation  
Congress  
Hawaii 2016

Planet at the crossroads

[www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org](http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org)

1-10 September 2016, Hawai'i

Share your World Heritage knowledge: [www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org)

Next meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee: Istanbul 2016