

Please see the note below by David Sheppard on the follow up of The World Parks Congress.

Tasneem

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Dear WCPA Friends and Colleagues

The aim of this email is to UPDATE you on the World Parks Congress (WPC) and also to suggest TEN (10) STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO FOLLOW UP THE CONGRESS.

#### UPDATE ON THE WPC

The Vth IUCN World Parks Congress proved to be enormously successful and will be long remembered as one of the most outstanding IUCN events ever held. WCPA was recognized as the driving force behind the planning of the Congress and the event has bought a high profile to the Commission.

Over 3,000 delegates from 157 countries attended the Congress, representing the largest and most diverse gathering in history of those concerned with protected areas. A rich and substantive programme was implemented, involving more than 50 workshops, more than 100 side events and the launching of numerous initiatives and commitments to assist the world's protected areas. In total more than \$US 35 million was committed to strengthen the management of protected areas worldwide. The Congress reached out to and engaged a wide range of new groups and partners, including indigenous peoples, youth and the private sector and ensured their substantive input to the programme.

The Congress delivered a number of key outcomes, including the Durban Accord and Action Plan, a set of 32 Congress Recommendations, and a Message to the Convention on Biological Diversity. All of these outputs can be downloaded from the Congress website at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/>

IUCN is now following up the Congress and will particularly be working to ensure engagement with key partners and stakeholders so that the recommendations and results from the Congress are effectively communicated and implemented.

#### TEN (10) STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO FOLLOW UP THE CONGRESS:

1) Ensure that the Congress Outcomes are widely communicated within your organisation and to your networks.

2) Along with others in your country, plan a national (or sub national) level meeting to follow up the Congress in your country. Such meetings are already planned or proposed in the United Kingdom (4 planned), Spain and a number of countries in Latin America.

3) Contribute to the implementation of Congress Outputs by making contact with one or more of the leaders of the Workshop Streams or Output Leaders. Contact details at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/wpc2003/english/who/intro.htm>

4) Contact your WCPA Regional Vice chair suggesting regional level meetings to follow up the WPC. Contact details (click on the region) of all WCPA regional Vice chairs are at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/region/regionindex.htm>

5. Discuss with the WCPA Regional Vice Chair how best to integrate the WPC Outputs into the WCPA Regional Action Plan in your region and contribute to this process.

6. Include WPC outputs into any other relevant processes that you might be involved in, such as preparation of national or sub-national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national or sub-national environmental and/or socio-economic development strategies and actions plans, sector strategies and action plans, and country development assistance programmes and projects, etc.

7. Build appropriate elements of the WPC into existing or planned staff training, other capacity development initiatives, and general awareness raising programmes.

8. Lobby and seek additional financial resources from government and donors to implement the recommended measures and identified priorities within your countries.

9. Consider writing an article on the WPC for publication in an appropriate place, such as a local newspaper, WCPA newsletter or a specific publication on the WPC.

10. Let Peter Shadie or David Sheppard (Head, IUCN Programme on Protected Areas; and Secretary-General 2003 World Parks Congress.) know of any follow up meetings that are planned. Direct Line: ++41 (22) 999-0162;  
Web: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/>