

# IUCN WORLD COMMISSION ON PROTECTED AREAS NORTH AMERICA REGION NEWSLETTER December 2020



*Kootenay National Park, Canada*

Dear WCPA members,

The year 2020 was supposed to be the ‘super year’ for biodiversity and the environment with several key global summits to set the course of action for the next decade. However, a novel coronavirus created chaos to our social, health and economic systems, and the postponement of decision-making at these important conferences. The call for real action to save the planet is getting louder. The recent [speech on the State of the Planet by the Secretary-General of the United Nations](#) highlighted that humanity is waging war on nature and nature is fighting back through biodiversity collapse, dying ecosystems, air and water pollution, unpredictable weather, and emerging infectious diseases. He concludes by stating that making peace with nature must be the top priority for everyone everywhere. This was similar to the message that was delivered by Greta Thunberg to world leaders the year before. [WATCH: Greta Thunberg's full speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit - YouTube](#).

There is some positive news! [The Leaders' Pledge for Nature represents](#) the political promise from heads of 64

countries to match their collective ambition for nature, climate and sustainable development with the scale of the climate and biodiversity crisis the world is facing.

Within our Commission, members continue to put forth vital scientific knowledge and policy on protected and conserved areas to support these upcoming international discussions. [The Beyond Aichi Task Force](#) continues to build momentum to establish new conservation targets which can result in positive outcomes at the next UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties in 2021. A recent publication on the [Global Deal for Nature](#) outlines a science-based pathway to achieve biodiversity and climate goals by 2030. As WCPA members, we should all be raising awareness and advocating for these new directions.

The May edition of PARKS, the International Journal of Protected Areas and Conservation, released an editorial on the early impacts of COVID-19 on protected and conserved areas and issued a Call to Action for the rescue, recovery and rebuilding of these global networks. [A special edition of PARKS](#), specifically on the challenges

Continued on next page...

Happy New Year - Feliz Año Nuevo - Bonne année

2021



and opportunities as a result of the pandemic, will be published early in the new year.

Covid-19 reminds us that human and economic health are inseparably linked to planetary health. A broad range of organizations, including the OECD ([Biodiversity and the economic response to COVID-19: Ensuring a green and resilient recovery \(oecd.org\)](#)) and a consortium of conservation and business organizations ([COVID-19 Response and Recovery \(nature.org\)](#)) are advocating for nature conservation to be a central component of the post-Covid-19 recovery. Some countries have already embraced these bold directions, ([EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)) with the hope that many others will also be doing so.

Although public health measures related to Covid-19

will no doubt make this holiday season different than most of us had planned, the rapid development of several vaccines has created hope that next year we will have a more festive holiday season. Maintaining this optimism, I hope that you and your family will stay healthy, safe and take care of one other, as we embark on a fresh, new beginning in 2021.

Best wishes for 2021,  
Mike Wong, Regional Chair, WCPA- North America

*I am grateful for the support of Sophie Lauro, Izabella Balcerzak and Ashley Campbell for the production of this newsletter.*

Chers membres de la CMAP,

L'année 2020 était censée être la « super année » pour la biodiversité et de l'environnement, avec plusieurs rencontres mondiales clés destinées à définir la ligne de conduite pour la prochaine décennie. Cependant, un nouveau coronavirus a semé le chaos dans nos systèmes sociaux, sanitaires et économiques, et a entraîné le report de la prise de décision lors de ces importantes conférences. L'appel à une action réelle pour sauver la planète se fait de plus en plus pressant. [Le récent discours sur l'État de la planète du Secrétaire général des Nations unies](#) a souligné que l'humanité fait la guerre à la nature et que la nature se défend contre l'effondrement de la biodiversité, la mort des écosystèmes, la pollution de l'air et de l'eau, l'imprévisibilité du temps et l'émergence de maladies infectieuses. Il conclut en déclarant que faire la paix avec la nature doit être la toute première priorité pour tous, partout dans le monde. Ce message est similaire à celui que Greta Thunberg avait adressé aux dirigeants mondiaux l'année précédente. [WATCH: Greta Thunberg's full speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit - YouTube](#)

Il y a des nouvelles positives ! [L'engagement des dirigeants en faveur de la nature](#) représente la promesse politique des chefs de 64 pays de faire correspondre leur ambition collective pour la nature, le climat et le développement durable à l'ampleur de la crise du climat et de la biodiversité à laquelle le monde est confronté.

Au sein de notre Commission, les membres continuent à mettre de l'avant des connaissances scientifiques et une politique essentielles sur les aires protégées et conservées afin de soutenir ces discussions internationales à venir. Le groupe de travail « [Beyond Aichi](#) » continue de créer une dynamique pour établir de nouveaux objectifs de conservation qui pourront déboucher en des résultats positifs lors de la prochaine conférence des parties à la Convention des Nations unies sur la diversité biologique en 2021. [Une récente publication sur le Global Deal for Nature](#) trace une voie scientifique pour atteindre les objectifs en matière de biodiversité et de climat d'ici 2030. En tant que membres de la CMAP, nous devrions tous sensibiliser les gens et plaider en faveur de ces nouvelles orientations.



[Le numéro de mai de PARKS](#), la revue internationale des aires protégées et de la conservation, a publié un éditorial sur les premiers impacts de la COVID-19 sur les aires protégées et conservées et a lancé un appel à l'action pour le sauvetage, la récupération et la reconstruction de ces réseaux mondiaux. [PARKS 26.1 final.pub](#) ([parksjournal.com](#)) Une édition spéciale de PARKS, portant spécifiquement sur les défis et les opportunités résultant de la pandémie, sera publiée au début de la nouvelle année.

La Covid-19 nous rappelle que la santé humaine et la santé économique sont indissociables de la santé planétaire. Un large éventail d'organisations, dont l'OCDE ([Biodiversity and the economic response to COVID-19: Ensuring a green and resilient recovery \(oecd.org\)](#)) et un consortium d'organisations de conservation et d'entreprises ([COVID-19 Response and Recovery \(nature.org\)](#)) plaident pour que la conservation de la nature soit un élément central de la reprise post-Covid-19. Certains pays ont déjà adopté ces orientations audacieuses, ([EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 | European](#)

[Commission \(europa.eu\)](#) avec l'espoir que beaucoup d'autres le feront également.

Bien que les mesures de santé publique liées à la Covid-19 rendront sans doute cette période du temps des Fêtes différente de celle que la plupart d'entre nous avaient prévue, le développement rapide de plusieurs vaccins a fait naître l'espoir que l'année prochaine sera plus festive. En maintenant cet optimisme, j'espère que vous et votre famille resterez en bonne santé, en sécurité et que vous prendrez soin les uns des autres, alors que 2021 marque un nouveau départ.

Meilleurs Voeux pour 2021,  
Mike Wong, Président régional, CMAP- Amérique du nord

*Je remercie Sophie Lauro, Izabella Balcerzak and Ashley Campbell pour l'assistance fournie lors de la production de ce bulletin.*

Estimados miembros de CMAP

Se esperaba que el año 2020 iba a ser el “súper año” para la biodiversidad y el medio ambiente con varias cumbres mundiales clave para establecer el curso de acción para la próxima década. Sin embargo, un novedoso coronavirus creó el caos en nuestros sistemas sociales, económicos y de salud, y con ello, el aplazamiento de la toma de decisiones en estas importantes conferencias. El llamado a una acción real para salvar el planeta es cada vez más fuerte. [El reciente discurso sobre el Estado del Planeta del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas](#) destacó que la humanidad está librando una guerra con la naturaleza, la cuál, está contraatacando mediante el colapso de la biodiversidad, la muerte de los ecosistemas, la contaminación del aire y del agua, el clima impredecible y las enfermedades infecciosas emergentes. Concluye afirmando que hacer las paces con la naturaleza debe ser la máxima prioridad para todos en todas partes.

Esto fue similar al mensaje que fue entregado por Greta Thunberg a los líderes mundiales el año anterior. [WATCH: Greta Thunberg's full speech to world leaders at UN Climate Action Summit - YouTube](#)

¡Hay algunas noticias positivas! [La Promesa de los Líderes](#) para la Naturaleza representa la promesa política de los jefes de 64 países de igualar su ambición colectiva para la naturaleza, el clima y el desarrollo sostenible con la escala de la crisis climática y de biodiversidad que el mundo está enfrentando.

Dentro de nuestra Comisión, los miembros siguen aportando conocimientos científicos y políticas vitales sobre las zonas protegidas y conservadas para apoyar estos próximos debates internacionales. [El Grupo de Tareas “Más allá de Aichi”](#) sigue cobrando impulso para establecer nuevos objetivos de conservación que puedan dar lugar a resultados positivos en la próxima



Conferencia de las Partes en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica de las Naciones Unidas en 2021. En una reciente publicación sobre el Acuerdo Mundial para la Naturaleza se esboza una vía de base científica para alcanzar los objetivos en materia de diversidad biológica y clima para 2030. [A Global Deal for Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets | Science Advances \(sciencemag.org\)](#). Como miembros de la CMAP, todas y todos deberíamos crear conciencia y defender estas nuevas direcciones.

En la edición de mayo de PARKS, la Revista Internacional de Áreas Protegidas y Conservación, se publicó un editorial sobre los primeros impactos de COVID-19 en las áreas protegidas y conservadas y se emitió un Llamado a la Acción para el rescate, la recuperación y la reconstrucción de estas redes mundiales. A principios del próximo año, se publicará [una edición especial de PARKS](#), específicamente sobre los desafíos y oportunidades como resultado de la pandemia.

Covid-19 nos recuerda que la salud humana y económica están inseparablemente ligadas a la salud del planeta. Una amplia gama de organizaciones, incluyendo la OCDE ([Biodiversity and the economic response to COVID-19: Ensuring a green and resilient recovery \(oecd.org\)](#)) y un consorcio de organizaciones de conservación y empresariales ([COVID-19 Response and](#)

[Recovery \(nature.org\)](#) abogan por que la conservación de la naturaleza sea un componente central de la recuperación posterior a Covid-19. Algunos países ya han adoptado estas audaces orientaciones, [\(EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)\)](#) con la esperanza de que muchos otros también lo hagan.

Aunque las medidas de salud pública relacionadas con Covid-19 sin duda harán que esta temporada de fiestas sea diferente a lo que la mayoría de nosotros había planeado, el rápido desarrollo de varias vacunas ha creado la esperanza de que el próximo año tengamos una temporada de fiestas más festiva. Manteniendo este optimismo, espero que usted y su familia se mantengan sanos y salvos y se cuiden mutuamente, mientras nos embarcamos en un nuevo y fresco comienzo en 2021.

Mis mejores deseos para el 2021,  
Mike Wong, presidente regional, CMAP-América del Norte

*Agradezco a Sophie Lauro, Izabella Balcerzak y Ashley Campbell por su ayuda durante la producción de este boletín.*





## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN PROTECTED PLANET REPORT

As a result of the III Congress of Protected Areas from Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, 2019) and the initiative ALFA 2020 (Latin American Alliance to Strengthen Protected Areas by 2020) to achieve Aichi target 11, [the regional network of Latin American Protected Areas Systems, Redparques](#) along with partnering organizations, are in the final phase of the development of the first Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Protected Planet Report.

Led by Redparques, more than 58 authors of more than 40 organizations between Governments, Academic Institutions, National and International NGOs and International Cooperation Agencies, got together to make it the most comprehensive report in the level of achievement of Latin American Countries towards Aichi Target 11, providing specific recommendations for decision makers.

The report includes 51 countries, islands and territories. Through its 14 chapters, all the elements of Aichi target 11 were assessed, including special chapters related to the level of progress in aspects such as Governance, OECMs, IICAs, Privately Protected Areas as well as Local Protected Areas. A special chapter on Protected Areas enabling conditions showcase the input of Protected Areas to other international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of rangers and other PAs staff for effective management and conservation, as well as the progress made in the region towards financial sustainability.

This report is expected to be launched early next year and will provide a valuable input for the establishment of new Post 2020 area based conservation targets. This effort was made possible thanks to the support of UNEP-WCMC, the National Commission of Protected Areas of Mexico (CONANP), IUCN-WCPA, The French Development Agency (AFD), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the initiative Integration of Protected Areas in the Amazon Biome (IAPA Project).



Como resultado del III Congreso de Áreas Protegidas de América Latina y el Caribe (Lima, 2019) y la iniciativa ALFA 2020 (Alianza Latinoamericana para fortalecer Áreas Protegidas al 2020) para lograr la meta 11 de Aichi, [La Red Latinoamericana de Cooperación Técnica en Parques Nacionales, otras Áreas Protegidas, Flora y Fauna Silvestres \(REDPARQUES\)](#), junto con organizaciones aliadas, se encuentran en la fase final del desarrollo del primer Informe Planeta Protegido de América Latina y el Caribe (ALC).

Liderados por Redparques, más de 58 autores de más de 40 organizaciones entre Gobiernos, Instituciones Académicas, ONG Nacionales e Internacionales y Agencias de Cooperación Internacional, se unieron para convertirlo en el informe más completo en el estado de cumplimiento de los países de América Latina y el Caribe frente a Meta 11 de Aichi, proveyendo de recomendaciones específicas para los tomadores de decisiones.

El informe incluye 51 países, islas y territorios. A través de sus 14 capítulos se evalúan todos los elementos de la meta 11 de Aichi, incluyendo capítulos especiales relacionados con el nivel de avance y aportes en aspectos como Gobernanza, OECMs, TICCAs, Áreas Protegidas Privadas así como Áreas Protegidas Locales. Un capítulo especial sobre las condiciones propicias muestra el aporte de las áreas protegidas a otros compromisos internacionales como los Objetivos y Metas del Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), la importancia de los guardaparques y personal de las áreas protegidas para una gestión y conservación efectivas, y el progreso logrado en la región hacia la sostenibilidad financiera.

Se espera que este informe se lance a principios del próximo año y proporcionará un aporte valioso para el establecimiento de nuevos objetivos de conservación basados en áreas posteriores a 2020. Este esfuerzo fue posible gracias al apoyo de UNEP-WCMC, La Comisión Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de México (CONANP), La Comisión Mundial de Áreas Protegidas de la UICN, La Agencia Francesa para el Desarrollo (AFD), El Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza (WWF) y el proyecto Integración de Áreas Protegidas del Bioma Amazónico (IAPA –Visión Amazónica).

## PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA PRESENTED WITH THE PLANETARY LEADERSHIP AWARD



National Geographic has presented the Planetary Leadership Award to the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, in recognition of his leadership in protecting the country's terrestrial and marine ecosystems and making a historic investment of \$1.3B for nature conservation.

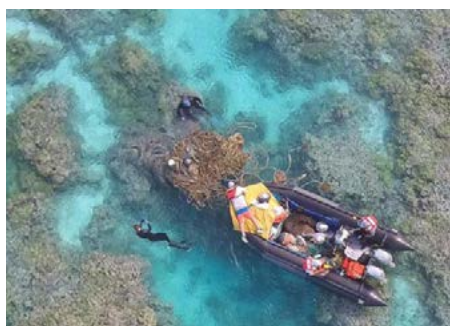
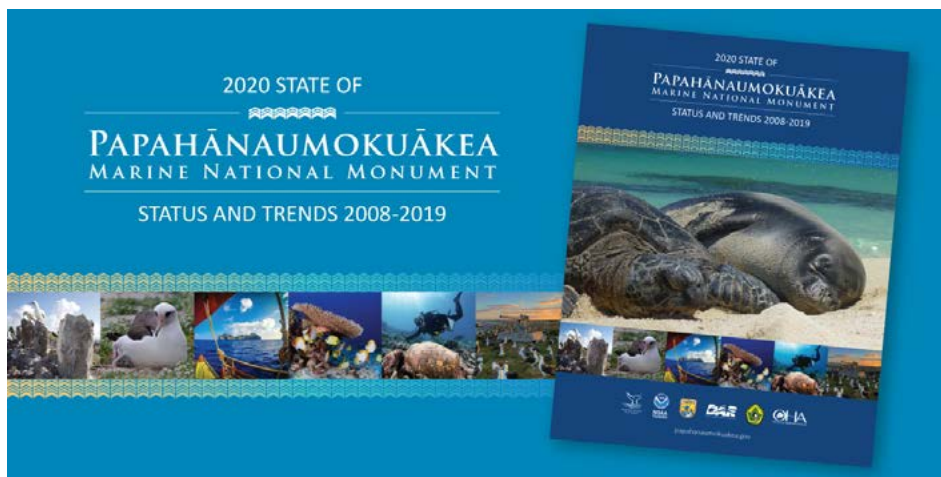
[Planetary Leadership Award | National Geographic Society](#)

The past awardees include the Presidents of the Seychelles (Danny Faure and James Michel) and the President of Chile (Michelle Bachelet).

*The award 'recognizes a world leader who has successfully established globally significant protected areas, such as national parks, wilderness areas, or marine reserves, that are fully shielded from exploitation. Only 15 percent of our land and 7 percent of our ocean are part of officially protected areas, while our planet's critical natural systems are increasingly under attack due to the accelerating impact of human activity and development. The bold actions of informed and inspired global leaders are vital to building a better future for our planet'.*

## NEW REPORT REVEALS INSIGHTS INTO THE CONDITION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF PAPAHAŌNAUMOKUĀKEA

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument released the 2020 State of the Monument Report on the status and trends of monument resources from 2008-2019. The report is intended to support ongoing adaptive management of the monument by helping to identify not only the status of resources, but also gaps in current monitoring efforts. It describes management implications, including future research and management needs.



The findings in the report document status and trends in the physical environment, living resources, and historical and cultural archaeological resources. It highlights issues that may require monitoring and management in the future, and provides a framework that can inform discussions among

managers, researchers, communities, and stakeholders about preserving the integrity of Papahānaumokuākea.

To find out more about the report, see the story [here](#).  
Eight page overview is available [here](#).  
For the full report, read [here](#).





## CANADA TARGET 1: MAKING PROGRESS

The Pathway to Canada Target 1 (similar to Aichi Target 11), with representatives from all levels of governments as well as Indigenous peoples is a pan-Canadian collaboration to not only increase the amount of area conserved across Canada, but to help conserve the right areas for positive biodiversity outcomes and to do so in a collaborative way. In other words, to conserve the right amount, in the right places and in the right ways. A historic, \$1.35 billion (CAD) investment, known as Canada's Nature Legacy, by the national government greatly catalysed these efforts in 2018.

Work to date has led to a number of firsts including the creation of several Indigenous Protected and Conserved

Areas (IPCA) in Canada, including the Edézhzié Protected Area, which was established in the Northwest Territories and is home to many important species at risk such as woodland caribou. This was quickly followed by the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve and several territorial protected areas, an IPCA in the Northwest Territories that spans 26 thousand square kilometers, and for which the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation recently won the United Nations Development Programme's prestigious Equator Prize for their work to protect their lands and waters. In total, Canada has initiated work to establish 30 IPCAs over the next 3 years.

Collective action under the Pathway to Canada Target 1 has led to:

- Quantitative progress - the addition of over 150,000 square kilometers to Canada's network of conserved areas (between 2017 – 2019) – an area equivalent in size to Greece;
- Qualitative progress - action on the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas; the development of national freshwater and terrestrial connectivity indicators; revised national ecoregions for reporting on ecological representation; and, importantly,
- An emphasis on the crucial contributions of Indigenous peoples in Canada's conservation efforts as well as the importance of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas on the landscape. Since 2018, over CAD\$100M has been allocated by the federal government to Indigenous conservation projects from the Canada Nature Fund and Indigenous Guardians pilot program.



To learn more about Canada Target 1, the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative and the various collaborative efforts underway, please consult one of the following sites:



- [The Pathway to Canada Target 1 – conservation2020canada.ca](https://conservation2020canada.ca)
- [Canadian Key Biodiversity Areas Coalition – KBACanada.org](https://KBACanada.org)
- [2020 biodiversity goals and target for Canada - biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net](https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net)
- Canada's Nature Legacy - [www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/nature-legacy.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/nature-legacy.html)



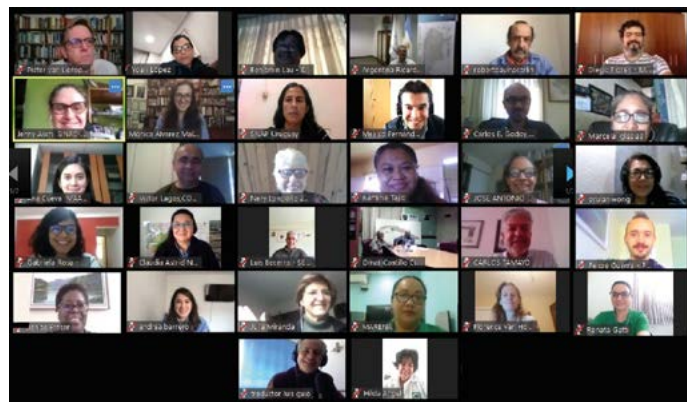
## FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EXTENDED REGIONAL COUNCIL OF REDPARQUES WAS HELD VIRTUALLY.

**November 25.** The annual meeting of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation in National Parks, other Protected Areas, Flora and Fauna (Redparques) was held virtually and had the participation of 15 national systems of protected areas: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. Delegates of Guyana, Suriname, the Caribbean, the European Union and the IAPA Amazon Vision Project participated as special guests.

In his opening remarks, Roberto Aviña, National Commissioner of Natural Protected Areas of Mexico (CONANP) and current Regional Coordinator of Redparques, highlighted the importance of Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of conservation *“as a regional bloc we are finding a lot of participation at all levels, from governments to civil society. In the midst of the pandemic we have a lot of strength, hope and enthusiasm to continue working”*. For his part, Pieter Van Lierop, FAO Forestry Officer for Latin America and representative of the Technical Secretariat, highlighted that Redparques has had a strong impact on international discussions on protected areas and offered all the support for it to continue playing a fundamental role at the international level in the work and positioning of protected areas on the world agenda.

To begin, Mónica Álvarez, focal point of the Regional Coordination in Mexico, made a presentation on the context and history of Redparques and presented the one-year activities report since Mexico received the coordination. Subsequently, the focal points of the working groups presented a brief report of their groups: effective management, coastal marine, financial sustainability, tourism in protected areas and capacity building.

Subsequently, José Antonio Gómez, coordinator of the IAPA, presented the progress and next steps of the project, while Mónica Álvarez shared a brief analysis of the current challenges that the Redparques systems face due to the pandemic.



On behalf of the European Union, Florence Van Houtte, presented the agenda for Latin America in the Post 2020 Framework and Rodrigo Hernandez, Director of South Cooperation of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) invited the national systems to develop environmental cooperation projects with Mexico.

In the second block, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the progress of the ALFA 2020 Action Plan where they expressed their interest in reactivating the alliance by 2030, followed by an executive presentation of the first draft of the Protected Planet Regional Report for Latin America and the Caribbean. Finally, Felipe Guerra from National Natural Parks of Colombia and Fernando Camacho, General Director in CONANP, presented the challenges of the region's protected areas in the Post 2020 Framework and opportunities for Redparques recalling the importance of positioning the [Declaration of Lima](#).

Despite the challenges of virtuality, a highly productive annual meeting was held with a broad representation of 15 of the 19 member systems, leaders of the working groups, special guests and, for the first time, with simultaneous translation that allowed greater integration of the Caribbean systems.



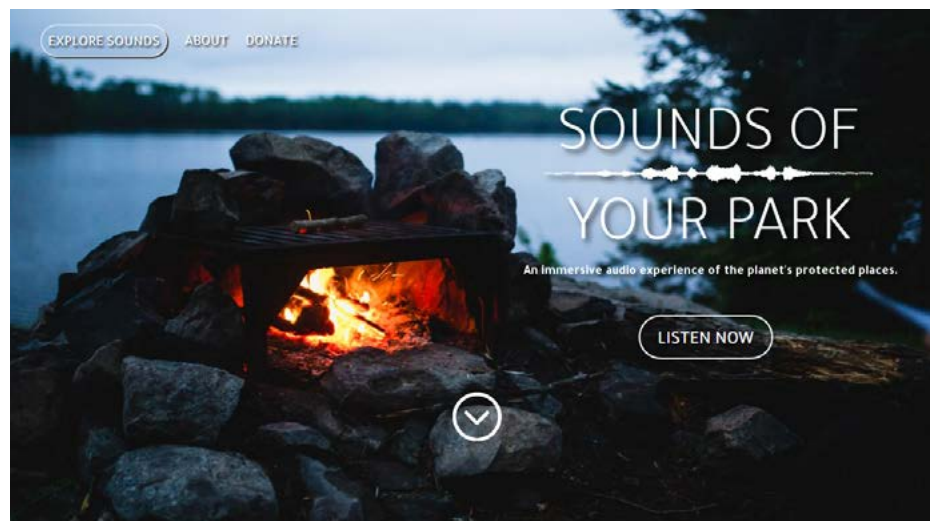


## EXPLORE PROTECTED AREAS THROUGH SOUNDS

Immerse yourself in nature through Sounds of Your Park, an audio experience of the planet's protected places.

The WCPA invites you to experience nature from your home, and then share your quality recordings. The goal of this collaborative project is to build a global collection of natural and cultural sounds from the planet's protected places.

Find out more at  
[soundsofyourpark.com](https://soundsofyourpark.com)



## THE #NATUREFORALL DISCOVERY ZONE CONNECT WITH NATURE VIRTUALLY

While COVID-19 has changed many facets of our lives, it has also amplified the importance of nature connection for all. We know that connections with nature can influence how we care for the Earth.

That's why the WCPA and the CEC, through the #NatureForAll initiative, developed a multi-lingual, fully-searchable database of resources that help individuals, children and families

experience and learn about nature, from their balconies, to urban parks, protected areas or virtually.

The [Discovery Zone](#) is a comprehensive and collaborative tool that features resources in multiple languages and formats, such as games, curriculum, music and videos.

Explore the site and then share your resources!



## TEST YOUR NATURE KNOWLEDGE



Celebrate the WCPA's 60th anniversary by testing your knowledge of nature globally.

The WCPA, in collaboration with the CEC and Parks Canada, launched the [#NatureForAll Online Trivia Game](#).

Test your knowledge of protected areas, conservation and biodiversity in North America and around the world – then challenge others on social media.

Can you get a perfect score?

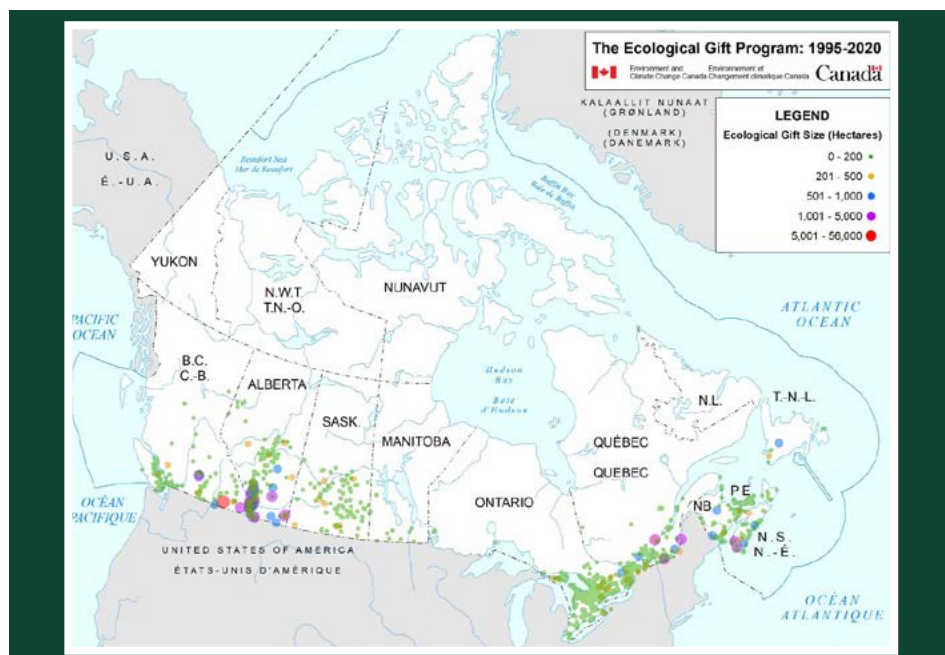


## CANADA'S ECOLOGICAL GIFT PROGRAM TURNS 25

Canada's Ecological Gifts Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2020. Since its inception in 1995, landowners in Canada have donated more than 1500 gifts through the program. These generous ecological gifts from Canadians from across the country are now protecting over 205,000 hectares of land - worth nearly one billion dollars - bringing Canada closer to its target of conserving 25 percent of our land and inland waters and 25 percent of our oceans by 2025.

Now more than ever, Canadians know the value of nature and wild spaces and that by taking care of nature, we are taking care of ourselves.

The Ecological Gifts Program is a program administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada that provides a way for landowners in Canada to protect their ecologically sensitive lands and receive enhanced tax benefits. Landowners can donate land or a partial interest in land to a government or an environmental charity such as a Land Trust, who is then responsible for conserving the land in perpetuity.



[Watch the Clifford family](#) in Ontario who donated a natural legacy for future generations to enjoy.

[The 1500<sup>th</sup> ecological gift](#), consisting of a large salt marsh and forested island in New Brunswick, was donated in 2020 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada by Glen and Jane-Anne Campbell.

[The 200,000<sup>th</sup> hectare](#) conserved through the Ecological Program was achieved recently thanks to the generous land donation of more than 1,500 hectares by the Clark and Skibsted families in Alberta to the Western Sky Land Trust.

Please visit the [Ecological Gifts Program](#) website for more information on the program



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## EFFECTIVELY AND EQUITABLY MANAGED PROTECTED AREAS

Countries around the world have been focusing much of their recent attention on reaching the numerical part of CBD Aichi Target 11 (e.g. 10% marine, 17% terrestrial and freshwater) as reported in the recent [Global Biodiversity Outlook report](#).

There is now considerable consideration on the ‘effective and equitable management’ of these protected and conserved areas.

UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre has been tabulating these measures and underscored in their September Protected Planet report that many of the world’s protected areas lack a systematic assessment approach or do not report on management effectiveness.

[Effectively Managed | Protected Planet Digital Report](#)

In order to obtain all the benefits from

these protected areas, much more attention will be needed in the future on this portion of the Aichi target. The IUCN Green List, as the first global standard of best practice for area-based conservation, should help countries achieve these goals [Global Standard | IUCN](#).



## NEW REPORTS

### ENHANCING CANADA'S CLIMATE CHANGE AMBITIONS WITH NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

A new report by WCPA Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group, Risa Smith, *Enhancing Canada's Climate Change Ambitions with Natural Climate Solutions*, provides 5 recommendations.

By far the most effective approach is to protect Canada’s carbon-dense/ high biodiversity ecosystems that are under imminent threat, including remaining old-growth forests on high productivity sites in British Columbia,

old-growth boreal forests with a low frequency of disturbance by fire in Quebec, Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, remaining natural grasslands mostly in the prairies and remaining eelgrass meadows and salt marshes on all 3 coasts. By 2030 this would not only increase Canada’s climate change ambition by 25% over its current 2030 target, but would also result in an increase in conserved and protected areas of over 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup>.



River Jordan for NRDC

*An intact boreal forest.*



Andre Erlich/Istock

*Polar bear in Peatlands Hudson Bay*



Zachary Cannizzo

*Mangrove stand in Avalon State Park, Florida-USA*

The report can be downloaded [here at ResearchGate.com](#)



### ROLE OF PROTECTED AREAS IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

A new report titled Role of Protected Areas in Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, by WCPA members R. Smith, Z. Cannizzo, E. Belle and L. Wenzel, has just been published in

Climate Action: Encyclopedia of the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides evidence for the important role that protected areas play in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The report can be downloaded [here at SpringerLink](#)



For further information on both of these reports contact [risa.smith.iucn@gmail.com](mailto:risa.smith.iucn@gmail.com)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### ADVANCING MARINE CONNECTIVITY IN NORTH AMERICA

The WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group's (CCSG) [Marine Connectivity Working Group](#) was formed last year to bring greater focus to connectivity science, policy, and management for marine and coastal areas. Building on momentum since the release of the [IUCN Guidelines for Conserving Connectivity through Ecological Networks and Corridors](#), the working group has partnered with the [U.S. National Marine Protected Areas Center](#) to publish the report '[Ecological Connectivity for Marine Protected Areas](#)'. The report summarizes the importance of connectivity to MPAs, the current status and trends for application, and outlines a path forward to build on current knowledge and advance related conservation outcomes.

Enhancing protection of the ocean habitats and ecosystems of North

America with connectivity conservation is further garnering attention in science and policy circles.

For example, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has published a working paper titled [Approaches for Assessing and Monitoring Representation, Replication, and Connectivity in Marine Conservation Networks](#), which includes a 19-page section about the variety of approaches that can be used to incorporate or evaluate connectivity within the design of MPA networks. In the U.S., the draft [Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020](#) has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would include making it "...the policy of the United States to protect ocean habitats and ecosystems that represent... interconnected networks of marine protected areas and wildlife migration corridors".

For additional information, contact CCSG.



For further information contact [connectivity@largelandscapes.org](mailto:connectivity@largelandscapes.org)



#### Ecological Connectivity for Marine Protected Areas

The role of ecological connectivity in the effective design and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) networks is gaining attention in the field of marine conservation. This document provides an introduction to ecological connectivity in MPAs, while highlighting information needed to help coordinate and integrate management across for more effective and resilient MPAs.



The WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group has completed the first ever global guidelines for advancing best practices to protect the interconnections of protected and conserved areas, and restore degraded or fragmented ecosystems.

See the [text published on the July WCPA page](#).





## HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE: BRITISH COLUMBIA DOCTORS OFFICIALLY PRESCRIBING NATURE TO IMPROVE PATIENT HEALTH

Research has demonstrated that connections to nature provide measurable health benefits for a range of conditions, including heart disease, obesity, diabetes, depression and anxiety. In recognition of this evidence, for over 10 years health professionals in many countries have been issuing Parks Prescriptions on a mostly ad hoc basis. In Canada its now official. The [BC Parks Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment](#) and other health professionals' organizations, have developed a "[Prescription for Nature](#)" (PaRx), to improve patient health.

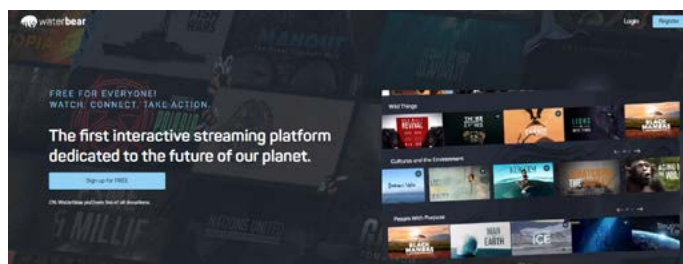
Licensed Health Care Providers can register with the program and receive a nature prescription provider code to prescribe and log nature prescriptions. Patients can also register to log the effects of the program on their health.



## THE WATERBEAR NETWORK

Do you have Netflix fatigue? Check out the [Waterbear network](#) - a recently launched free film streaming platform with award winning films and inspiring documentaries on our relationship with the natural world.

It is also interactive, and you can take action while watching. Available on iOS, Google Play and on any computer.



## UPDATES FROM THE CENTER FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Protected Area Management at Colorado State University has pivoted quickly to the new reality of doing conservation training and technical assistance remotely. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all three international short courses conducted in partnership with the US Forest Service International Programs were canceled this year, along with the three-decade-old one month short course in Spanish for protected area managers, the English language multi-week mobile seminar on tourism and protected areas, and the newer seminar on women in conservation leadership, given in alternate years in English and Spanish. Instead of residential courses, a webinar series on protected area resilience was launched for our thousands of past short course graduates and other interested conservationists, in both Spanish and English, with webinars on the evolving role of rangers in

protected area management; on tourism and protected areas in the post-COVID reality; and on how the new reality affects conservation finance.



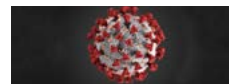
For more information: [Center for Protected Area Management, Warner College of Natural Resources](#)

Contact: [Jim.Barborak@colostate.edu](mailto:Jim.Barborak@colostate.edu)





## COVID-19 AND PROTECTED & CONSERVED AREAS TASK FORCE



The WCPA has recently launched the COVID-19 and Protected and Conserved Areas Task Force with Mariana Napolitano Ferreira and Rachel Golden-Kroner as co-chairs. The main goals of the task force is to

collate and share relevant information on the impacts and best practice in responding to COVID-19 on protected areas and OECM and to develop principles and good practice for protected and conserved areas across

the 3 phases of the pandemic (relief, recover, rebuild). If you are interested in making a contribution to this group's work, please contact the co-chairs.

See [here](#) for further information



## PAN-CANADIAN PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS RESEARCH NETWORK

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with the Canadian Parks Council and Mount Royal University's Institute for Environmental Sustainability, recently announced the launch of the Pan-Canadian Parks and Protected Areas Research Network. The Network is made up of scientists, researchers, Indigenous knowledge holders, students, and parks and protected areas specialists and managers, who collectively will work towards building a shared

understanding of the challenges of and potential solutions for Canada's parks and protected areas.

Over the next three years, the Network will engage through an online platform. It will develop and offer learning opportunities such as webinars, virtual summits, and online courses in knowledge exchange and sharing. These actions will help advance science, research and evidence-informed decision making to protect natural treasures in Canada.



Read more about the [Network](#) and join the [CPCIL community](#)

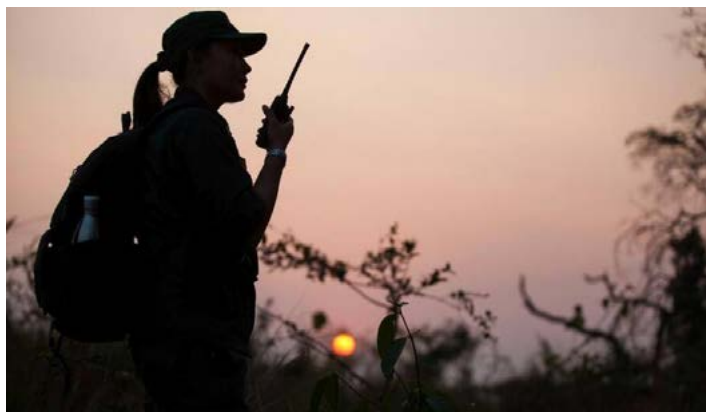


## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE FIRST-EVER INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS

Open till 31 December 2020

IUCN Protected Areas and World Commission on Protected Areas are proud to announce the new International Ranger Awards, developed in collaboration with the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies.

To download the full International Ranger Awards announcement details as a PDF, [select here](#).





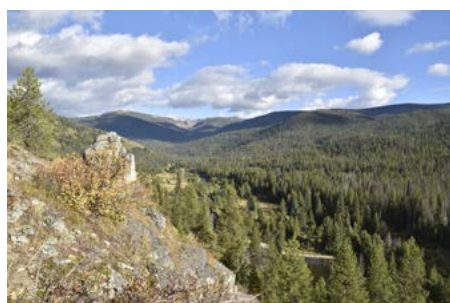
## INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREAS (IRAs)

Inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) in the United States are vulnerable wildlands. While the nation's 1964 Wilderness Act offers statutory protection for the wildlands designated as Wilderness, IRAs—which have the same characteristics—lack legislative protection. Most IRAs, which are primarily managed by the U.S. Forest Service, are governed by an executive-branch administrative rule. The Clinton Administration created the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) to protect roadless areas from logging and roadbuilding. In Conservation value of national forest roadless areas (2020), by McKinley J. Talty, Kelly Mott Lacroix, Gregory H.

Aplet, and R. Travis Belote, the authors studied IRAs from several frameworks and found them the most wild and undeveloped in the nation and even their respective states, containing the potential to increase legislatively protected areas, buffer original protected areas, and reduce isolation between them. These authors found that IRAs contribute ecosystem services for carbon capture and, in some places, for drinking water. The authors conclude that IRAs have the potential to contribute positively to conservation and the existing U.S. protected-area system.



The link to the article can be found here:  
[conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/conbio.13888)



In The Roadless Report: Analyzing the Impacts of Two Roadless Rules on Forested Wildlands (2020), Katie Bilodeau and Gary Macfarlane examined the current management effectiveness of non-legislative rules intended to protect IRAs. Since 2001 Idaho and Colorado have created their own state-specific roadless rules that supersede RACR, and other states like Alaska and Utah are

currently maneuvering to follow suit. The authors found that RACR initially halted logging and roadbuilding in IRAs in two Idaho national forests, but after the Idaho Roadless Rule began to apply (2010-2018), the Forest Service approved logging on these same two forests, and approved between 10,000 and 19,000 acres of logging in IRAs statewide. However, this paper also found logging increases in IRAs where RACR still governs; from 2010 to 2018, the Forest Service approved logging between 33,000 and 40,000 acres of IRAs in Montana. A major goal of this paper was to understand why the roadless rules fail to protect roadless areas. The authors found that the U.S. Forest Service exploits the tree-cutting exceptions written into both roadless

rules and produces increasingly uncritical environmental analyses that tend to arbitrarily minimize the actual impacts of logging IRAs. The authors conclude that the U.S. needs to substantively review its roadless rules because these rules have facilitated a gradual erosion of the roadless system. The U.S. also needs a thoughtful discourse about whether protecting roadless areas is a priority and, if so, how to effectively do that.

The executive summary, full report, and supporting materials can be found at [this link](https://www.fs.fed.us/r2/reports/roadless_report/roadless_report_executive_summary.pdf).





## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST:

- [Blye, C.J., E. Halpenny, G. Hvenegaard, and D. Patriquin. 2020.](#)  
[Knowledge mobilization in the Beaver Hills Biosphere, Alberta, Canada. Land 9\(11\), 424; 31 Oct 2020.](#)
- [Ostrem, J.A., and G. Hvenegaard. 2020.](#)  
[Reaching common ground: The potential for interagency collaboration in UNESCO biosphere reserves. International Journal of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves 4\(1\): 23-47.](#)
- Cayan, Buhler, Goodrich, Dulen and Alden (2021).  
 Relief from Summer Warming: Devils Postpile National Monument's Cold Air Pool Supports a Refugium-based Conservation Strategy. Park Stewardship Forum (in press)
- Fuwen Wei, Shuhong Cui, Ning Liu, Jiang Chang, Xiaoge Ping, Tianxiao Ma, Jing Xu, Ronald R Swaisgood, Harvey Locke (2020).  
 Ecological Civilization: China's effort to build a shared future for all life on earth. National Science Review, nwaa279
- Croft, R., J.E. Gordon, J. Brilha, M. Gray, J. Gunn, J. Larwood, V.L. Santucci, D. Tormey, G.L. Worboys, and C. Groves. 2020.  
[IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines on Geocoservation in Protected and Conserved Areas.](#)  
 31: 144p. ISBN: 978-2-8317-2079-1

