



## IN FOCUS

### **World Parks Congress delivers major commitments to save precious natural areas**

Over 6,000 participants from more than 170 countries committed to an ambitious agenda to safeguard the planet's natural assets at the recently concluded IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 in Sydney. Building on the theme "Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions", this year's forum culminated with The Promise of Sydney, a landmark document that outlines a vision of hope, innovative pathways toward conservation and development, inspiring solutions and landmark pledges.

> [Learn more](#)



### **The IUCN Green List: Green is the new gold**

Nine protected areas in Asia have made it to the IUCN Green List, the first global standard for assessing good practice for protected areas. The Green List of protected areas, launched at the World Parks Congress 2014, is a new global initiative that celebrates the success of effective protected areas and encourages the sharing of best practices in their management. A total of 24 sites worldwide have been selected this year.

> [Learn more](#)



### **New report and partnership on Asia's protected areas**

Asia's protected areas were in the spotlight at the World Parks Congress, where the official launch of the Asia Protected Areas Partnership took place. The partnership aims to promote collaboration between countries on protected area management. The launch was accompanied by the release of the first-ever Asia Protected Planet 2014 report which highlights the urgent need for countries to accelerate their work on protected areas.

> [Learn more](#)



### **Inger Andersen named new IUCN Director General**

IUCN announced the appointment of Inger Andersen as the new Director General of the Union, starting in January 2015. Currently serving as Vice President for Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank, she brings significant global conservation experience and leadership to IUCN.

> [Learn more](#)



### **The 50th Anniversary of the IUCN Red List: A Barometer of Life**

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ marks its 50th year this year as the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of wild species and their links to livelihoods. Throughout 2014 we have celebrated its significant contribution in guiding conservation action and policy decisions over the past five decades. The latest Red List update reveals that Pacific Bluefin Tuna, Chinese Pufferfish, American Eel, Chinese Cobra and an Australian butterfly are threatened with extinction,



conveying the need for urgent, informed action.

> [The Red List turns 50](#)

> [Species under threat](#)

### **A historic step for World Heritage and protected areas in Myanmar**

After years of relative isolation, Myanmar has emerged as one of the last frontiers for biodiversity conservation and protected area development in South East Asia. A side-event at the IUCN World Parks Congress explored this country's positive prospects and immense potential in terms of biodiversity conservation, protected areas management, and World Heritage status.

> [Learn more](#)



## **ACTION**

### **IUCN signs landmark agreement with Indonesian government**

Indonesia will be the fifth country in South East Asia to host an IUCN office, starting 2015. The recent signing of the Host Country Agreement lays the foundations for future collaboration for efforts to protect and conserve the country's rich biodiversity, while also ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and promoting the development of nature-based solutions to global challenges.

> [Learn more](#)



### **A royal gift for the 'Asian unicorn'**

In honour of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort of Denmark's 80th birthday this year, the Copenhagen Zoo made a generous donation to the IUCN Saola Working Group to support their efforts to conserve the Saola, a rare and enigmatic creature that is nearing extinction, and that is found only in South East Asia.

> [Learn more](#)



### **CEPF supports community-based species protection efforts**

Civil society organizations are leading successful conservation efforts through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a US\$10.4 million, five-year investment for conservation of globally important biodiversity in the "Indo-Burma Hotspot". More than 60 grants have been made so far for a wide range of projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as parts of southern China. One of the fund's priority directions is to empower local communities in conservation and management of key biodiversity areas. Examples of the work include community-based approaches to address population declines in sandbar-nesting birds in Cambodia, and building local community support in Lao PDR for conservation of Probarbus fish species and preventing its capture during the spawning season.



There is currently an open call for proposals for work in Myanmar, restricted to local groups, with a deadline of 22nd December 2014. For more information please contact [CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org](mailto:CEPF-Indoburma@iucn.org), or [mem.myanmar@gmail.com](mailto:mem.myanmar@gmail.com).

> [Sandbar nesting birds in Cambodia](#)

> [Probarbus fish in Myanmar](#)

### **Coastal communities commit to climate change adaptation**

Coastal communities in Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam have committed to strategic adaptation to climate change with the adoption of the Preah Sihanouk Declaration during third and final Annual Coastal Forum of Building

Resilience to Climate Change in Coastal South East Asia (BCR). The forum, a culmination of four years of intensive learning and working together between villagers, local governments, scientists, NGOs and the media in the three countries, highlighted the diverse efforts at local and national levels to strengthen coastal zone, livelihood and ecosystem resilience.

> [Learn more](#)



### Myanmar joins Mangroves for the Future

Myanmar has been officially welcomed as the 11th member country of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative during MFF's recent Regional Steering Committee meeting in Cambodia. Started in 2007 as a response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, MFF works through National Coordinating Bodies in member countries to provide grants for local project delivery and other activities building resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities. While mangroves are the flagship species, MFF focuses on all types of coastal ecosystem, including sea grasses and coral reefs.

> [Learn more](#)



## KNOWLEDGE

### Conserving the Myeik Archipelago in Myanmar: Where to start?

IUCN recently organised a workshop in Myeik in Myanmar's Tanintharyi Region to introduce the concept of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and how they could be applied in the Myeik Archipelago. Myeik, which contains around 800 (mostly uninhabited) islands, is on the national World Heritage Site tentative list. While this region has been relatively unexplored, the workshop provided several opportunities to jump-start marine conservation in the area.

> [Learn more](#)



### An introduction to hydro-diplomacy: More exciting than it sounds!

IUCN recently organized a two-day training course on hydro-diplomacy in Hanoi, Viet Nam. The training focussed on legal and institutional aspects of transboundary water resources, and looked at opportunities deriving from the application of international UN water law.

> [Learn more](#)



### Myanmar-Nepal exchange visit of forest and farm producer groups

Representatives from Myanmar visited Nepal to learn from their experiences with community forestry and to see what it takes to build successful community businesses. The exchange visit included meetings with key stakeholders and discussions on a range of issues, from forest management to business establishment and marketing.

> [Learn more](#)



## IUCN MEMBERS

### IUCN welcomes 17 new members

The IUCN Council, President, Director General and the entire Union, extend a very warm welcome to the Union's new Members and look forward to their active involvement. Three of the new Members are from Asia, including Thailand, Pakistan and Korea.

> [Learn more](#)



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IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.