



JOINING HANDS TO STRENGTHEN THE BACKBONE OF AFRICA'S NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE: A VISION FOR PROTECTED & CONSERVED AREAS

Stream (2) Biodiversity: The Future of Protected Areas

(July 5 13:00 – 14:30)

The Africa Protected Areas Director (APAD) forum is a platform and network open to the representatives of national authorities of Protected Areas operating throughout Africa. APAD aims to foster information sharing, develop a common agenda for Africa's protected areas, facilitate collaboration and collective responsibility among the Africa Protected Areas Directors. The platform is underpinned by an Africa-led agenda for protected and conserved areas as the backbone of natural infrastructure.

Three main objectives cut across APAD's work: (1) To ensure sustainable financing for all of Africa's protected and conserved areas; (2) To strengthen the resilience and emergency preparedness of Africa's protected and conserved areas to disasters and pandemics; (3) To establish cooperation mechanisms among APADs and their networks. APAD is facilitated by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), its current secretariat, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Alongside its key objectives, APAD prioritizes engagement at the inaugural IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (Kigali, Rwanda, July 18 – 23, 2022) convened by IUCN, AWF and the government of Rwanda. As APAC will convene key stakeholders in conservation, and particularly protected and conserved areas, it will serve as a milestone engagement to launch and mobilize support for APAD and its initiatives.

The objectives of this dialogue were to:

- To inform CBFP members about the inaugural Africa Protected Area Congress and the role CBFPs can play; and
- To inform CBFP members about the Africa Protected Area Directors platform and to encourage their participation in and support for the flagship initiatives of APAD.

APAD will hosted an informal dialogue which briefed CBFP members on APAC and introduced APAD and its initiatives, including A-PACT. The informal dialogue was facilitated by Charly Facheux (AWF), and co-presented by Prof. Patience Gandiwa (ZimParks, APAD) and Norbert Sonne (AWF). The dialogue attracted 88 participants.

The outcomes of the dialogue included:

- CBFP member countries were briefed and motivated to attend APAC in Kigali, Rwanda, from the 18th to the 23rd of July;
- CBFP member countries were invited to join the APAD platform; and
- CBFP member countries were briefed and invited to support A Pan African Conservation Trust (A-PACT).

CBFP