



Document for Website

African Protected Areas for People and Nature

APAC Content for Streams and Cross-Cutting Themes

Kigali Conference Centre
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List of Acronyms

APAC	Africa Protected Areas Congress
AfDB	African Development Bank
ALU	African Leadership University
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
AU	Africa Union
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CBO	Community Based Organization
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EbA	Ecosystem based Adaptation
EU	European Union
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICCA	Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NbS	Nature Based Solution
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure
P&CAs	Protected and Conserved Areas
PES	Payments for Environmental Services
PPA	Privately Protected Areas
Q&A	Question and Answer
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Introduction

APAC is intended to further enhance the status of conservation in Africa by engaging governments, the private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples & local communities, & academia to shape Africa's Protected & Conserved Areas Agenda to better deliver benefits for people & nature. Participants will share experiences on how critical protected and conserved areas are for the development of Africa, its people and nature by addressing major challenges such as a) the importance of effective and well managed P&CAs and biodiversity to address the multiple challenges Africa faces, including climate change, pandemics and financial sustainability, b) the role of local people in managing P&CAs for the benefit of people and nature; and c) solutions to harmonize conservation and human development as part of the Africa Union 2063 vision.

This document contains the technical content of APAC. The Africa Protected Area Congress is centred around 3 streams and 6 cross-cutting themes. The focus of these streams and themes comprises the following:

1. Stream 1 (*Protected Areas*): Promoting Effective and Well-Managed Networks of Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa.
2. Stream 2 (*People*): People and Protected and Conserved Areas: Towards Mutual Well-being,
3. Stream 3 (*Biodiversity*): Africa's Biodiversity as the basis for life on the Continent.
4. Cross-cutting Theme 1 (*Governance*): Governance mechanisms to safeguard Biodiversity and Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa.
5. Cross-cutting Theme 2 (*Conflict*): Resolving resource use conflicts as a pathway to security and conservation within and around protected and conserved areas across Africa.
6. Cross-cutting Theme 3 (*Climate Change*): Securing a climate resilient future for Nature and People in and around Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa.
7. Cross-cutting Theme 4 (*Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge*): Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge contribution to the management and effectiveness of Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa.
8. Cross-cutting Theme 5 (*Sustainable Financing*): Financial resilience and sustainability are the key for long-term success of Africa's protected and conserved areas.
9. Cross-cutting Theme 6 (*Physical Infrastructure*): Reducing the impact of Physical infrastructure on ecosystems and biodiversity in Key Africa Landscapes.

The concepts for the 3 streams and 6 cross cutting themes were developed by a total of 54 experts from diverse parts of Africa and diverse organizations. Each stream and cross-cutting theme have a lead and co-lead. Figure 1 provides a summary for the congress. A call for proposals will be issued in early June 2021 for contributions to these Stream and Cross-cutting theme sessions, for side events (a total of approximately 60-80) and space for posters, booths and pavilions in the Exhibition Hall. This document provides the background information necessary for engaging with APAC through side events, use of the exhibition hall, and engagement with the streams and themes.

Annex 1 is an informal note on protected and conserved areas (P&CAs) for APAC. In the past there has been a national and global tendency to focus on State owned and controlled conservation estate. This is changing and APAC will help move the discourse to embrace various forms of community conserved areas, private protected and conserved areas, as well as formal state-owned protected areas. These different types of P&CAs can all fit in the IUCN Protected Area Categories I-VI even though they may not all be formally recognized as such. It is these combinations of P&CAs which creates and supports an integrated conservation landscape which is more resilient, adaptable and useful. This Annex summarizes each of these three broad categories.

In the following pages, the Streams and Cross-Cutting Themes are presented. These concepts are developed by the respective expert teams (identified) and they are an indication of the type of focus we would like to have in bringing each of these issues to the table.

Objectives for the Africa Protected Areas Congress

Pre-amble: Africa is immensely rich in biodiversity which comprise a quarter of all global biodiversity. The continent supports the earth's largest assemblages of large mammals. Africa's ecosystems extend from coral reefs and mangroves to deserts, from Mediterranean to tropical forests, from temperate to sub-tropical and montane grasslands and savannahs, and to ice-capped mountains. As environmental issues have become more globalised, African governments have adopted many regional and global agreements¹ on the environment, biodiversity and sustainable development. Across all these commitments, success will be contingent on halting and reversing biodiversity loss at national and local levels, for which protected and conserved areas² represent a prime mechanism supporting multiple interventions. With new decadal targets on biodiversity and climate to be set by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) Conferences of the Parties in late 2021, APAC can integrate key commitments in its deliberations, agreements and action plans. The overarching objective of APAC is to stress implementation of actions agreed to halt biodiversity loss and land degradation, address climate change and support delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using protected and conserved areas as one implementation mechanism. Critically, the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss need to be understood and addressed in practical ways, and the global post-COVID-19 economy needs to reflect the reality that our lives and economies depend on nature. Climate change-related interventions such as low carbon and net zero emissions, on their own, are not sufficient for a sustainable and resilient post-pandemic economy. The effective and sustainable management of protected and conserved areas should remain the backbone to ensuring resilience against shocks.

In support of the above, the objectives of APAC are to:

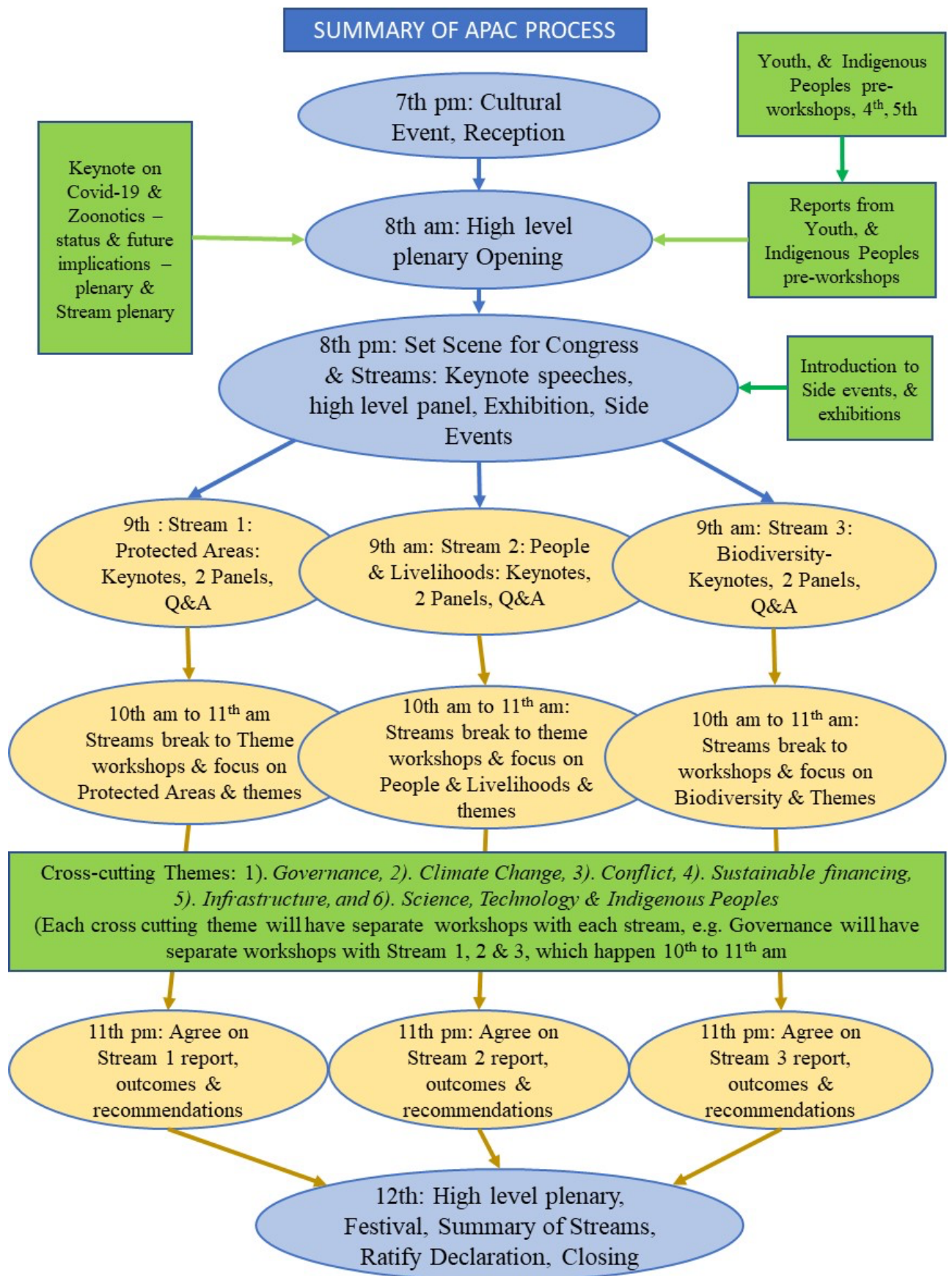
1. **Make a strong case for African leadership and commitment to implement a development vision prioritizing nature and societal aspirations for sustainable and resilient outcomes.**
2. **Agree on practical actions to promote the value and role of protected and conserved areas to enhance resilience, support sustainable development, human welfare and well-being.**
3. **Agree on the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and seek commitments from African and developed country governments to comprehensively address these.**
4. **Agree on practical measures to enhance effective governance and management of protected and conserved areas to achieve their biodiversity and social outcomes, and ensure social and environmental sustainability.**
5. **Agree on practical measures to recognize, elevate, and uphold the rights, responsibilities and roles of indigenous people, local communities and young people in conserving nature.**
6. **Agree on key messages and effective platforms to advocate for protected and conserved areas to be high on the agendas of Governments, society, local communities, the private sector, and partners as part of post pandemic nature-positive recovery efforts.**
7. **Launch effective Pan African networks, partnerships and cooperation mechanisms to support the effective management of protected and conserved areas and ensure their long-term sustainability including a Cooperation Agreement, a Directors' Platform, and a Conservation Trust.**

¹ These include, for example, the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (SDGs), the African Green Stimulus Programme (2021), the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework goals, and climate change agreements. In addition, there are regional and international decisions which have been ratified by African Governments. These include, for example, the UN Environment Assembly's resolutions and AMCEN's decisions, as well as the AU Strategy on Illegal Trade in Wildlife, and the African Regional Strategy on Wildlife.

² A Protected Area refers to 'A geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives' (CBD, 1992), while an Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure (OECM) refers to 'A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values' (CBD, 2018).

Roadmap to APAC: The APAC will culminate in the adoption of “The Kigali Protected and Conserved Areas Action Plan for Africa” anchored by the objectives and the emerging consensus and recommendations of the Congress. In the lead-up to APAC, heads of state, ministers and representatives of government agencies will be invited to prepare and make statements supporting these commitments during the congress. In support of this, each congress stream and cross cutting theme will propose actions that will contribute towards “The Kigali Protected and Conserved Areas Action Plan for Africa”.

Figure 1: Summary of Overall Congress Process



Stream 1: Protected and Conserved Areas (P&CAs)

Lead, co-lead	Samuel Kasiki and Ibrahima Gueye
Other members	Richard Ndiga, Leo Niskanen, Thomas Sberna, Howard Hendricks
Title	Promoting Effective and Well-Managed Networks of Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa.
Summary	Africa P&CAs are home to the most bio-diverse, iconic and important landscapes/seascapes and species on Earth. How effective and well managed they are matters for their role in conserving and protecting biodiversity, and because they represent the natural and cultural heritage of Africa. They are important economic assets for Governments, civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector.
Introduction	P&CAs are cornerstones for global conservation, and most nations recognize their value and designate areas of land and water to protect ecosystems, scenic beauty, and their associated cultural heritage. Africa has over 8,000 protected areas. The formal protected area estate has been expanding to the extent it currently represents the world's largest planned land use. OECMs and privately managed protected areas, including community based, are becoming important assets. However, significant land use changes, increased human population, rapid unplanned urbanization, resource over-exploitation, and climate change threaten conservation in Africa. These drivers have led to significant losses of biodiversity and declines in the populations of species, even in protected areas. There is a need to evaluate and improve the effective management and governance of P&CAs for nature and Africa's people.
Overview	This stream will summarize the extent of Africa's terrestrial and marine P&CAs, and whether they are formally gazetted, privately managed or community conserved. The stream will demonstrate the current status and level of effectiveness of all models of management of P&CAs, including the policy challenges and solutions, and will demonstrate conservation representativity and connectivity through area networks to secure biodiversity and ecosystems. The stream will showcase the challenges P&CAs face and call on African countries to create best practice conservation connectivity. The stream will explore how different sectors of society—State, civil society, communities, and the private sector, face different challenges with respect to P&CAs
Scope	This stream will focus on government, community and privately owned/managed and co-managed P&CAs in Africa, and demonstrate the effectiveness in their management, the capacity gaps, and demonstrate how important they are for conservation and people, whilst seeking solutions to the challenges that P&CAs face in the 21 st century.
Objectives	<p>The objectives of the P&CAs Stream are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflect on the status and effectiveness of Africa's terrestrial and marine protected areas under government management, as well as community and privately conserved areas and OECMs, based on the IUCN-WCPA Protected Area Categories. 2. Assess how P&CAs can be more effective in conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions, including the World Heritage sites. 3. Assess how protected areas provide ecosystem services, for example, as climate change buffers, securing important watersheds and forests, and serving as seed and gene banks. 4. Provide a platform for P&CA managers (State, CSOs, private) to engage with each other for learning, greater collaboration and problem solving. 5. Understand how the Covid19 and other zoonotic diseases have impacted and can impact P&CA effectiveness and management. 6. Assess how APAC can integrate decisions, key lessons and recommendations from the CBD post 2020 process. 7. Address issues of security in protected areas, especially transboundary protected areas and how they can contribute to peace amongst nations. <p>In this respect, the Stream will organize debate around five themes:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Status of Africa’s P&CAs - Reflect on the extent of Africa’s terrestrial and marine protected and conserved areas. 2. Effective Management of Africa’s P&CAs - Evaluate the level of effective management of Africa’s P&CAs, including security and associated cultural heritage. 3. Africa’s P&CAs, and Human Well-being and Livelihoods –Demonstrate the important role P&CAs play as catalysts for socio-economic transformation and development. 4. Participation of Society in promoting Africa’s P&CAs - Demonstrate how the State, civil society and the private sector contribute to the enormous challenges P&CAs face in Africa in the 21st century. 5. Africa’s Conservation Connectivity - Formulate conservation representiveness and connectivity through international cooperation to build resilient P&CAs and seek management solutions to the persistent and emerging challenges facing P&CAs.
Expected outcomes	<p>The following outcomes of the P&CAs Stream include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appreciation of the status of Africa’s P&CAs – An overview of Africa P&CAs – showing a system of conservation areas including the total P&CAs, their spatial coverage and governance. 2. Appreciation of the state of effectiveness management and governance of Africa’s P&CAs – An overview of the current state of effectiveness of Africa’s P&CAs management and governance. 3. Established value of protected and conserved areas for livelihoods and human well-being - Mapping ecosystem goods and services, and the quantification of P&CAs as catalysts for socio-economic transformation and development in communities. 4. Established role of other effective conservation measures in support of Africa’s P&CAs - A register of sectors that contribute to the challenges facing P&CAs, and examples of best practices experienced by management authorities and by community and privately owned conserved areas. 5. Understanding of the importance of Conservation Connectivity - An Africa Conservation Connectivity Strategy supported.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments demonstrate the value of P&CAs as climate change buffers, their contribution to development, and the role they play in livelihoods; 2. Governments commit to contribute financially through a percentage of GDP to P&CAs and through strengthening support for Trust Funds. 3. Adopt the IUCN-WCPA framework and establish a peer monitoring mechanism to measure progress and effectiveness of protected area management and governance in Africa. 4. Commit to integrate key lessons and recommendations from the CBD post 2020 process, and other decisions from the CoP in October 2021 with a particular focus on P&CAs. 5. Adopt the establishment of an APAD network (Africa Protected Areas Directors Network) for P&CAs together with other interest groups, including State, communities and the private sector, to work in partnership on the challenges facing P&CAs, and be tasked with peer reviews on status of effectiveness of PCAs.

Stream 2: People

Lead, co-lead	Fiesta Warinwa and Monipher Musasa
Other members	Richard Muvunyi, Dickson Ole Kaelo, Maxi Louis, Patrick Nsabimana, Telesphore Ngoga
Title	People and Protected and Conserved Areas: Towards Mutual Well-being
Summary	The stream will explore ways in which mutually beneficial relationships between people and nature can be strengthened in and around P&CAs. It will highlight best practice, provide space for a diversity of voices including women, indigenous peoples, local communities and youth, and develop practical actions and recommendations to further a paradigm shift in conservation.
Introduction	<p>P&CAs provide ecosystem goods and services, which make substantial contributions to human well-being, and upon which wildlife and people depend, particularly communities in remote, biodiversity-rich forest and savannah ecosystems and in coastal areas. They maintain essential ecological processes and regulatory functions that underpin the resilience of communities, maintain productive capacities that contribute to local livelihoods, preserve cultural, spiritual and historical features which form part of the identity of local people.</p> <p>IPLCs are often at the forefront of conservation, in and around formal protected areas, and through their efforts in conserving their lands and defending them against unsustainable resource exploitation. Traditional knowledge, the institutions and values of IPLCs contribute significantly to the understanding and effective management of ecosystems and species in and around P&CAs. People, including protected area staff, are frontline defenders of lands, wildlife and natural resources, often putting their personal safety at risk. Many protected areas in Africa were originally established on the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities. Local people in and around protected areas are dependent on the benefits, but also bear many of the costs associated with protected areas (through restrictions in resource use, human-wildlife conflict, etc.) Involving people in the governance and management of P&CAs is therefore essential for equity and effectiveness.</p> <p>In some places, the roles and rights of communities as custodians of biodiversity are not sufficiently recognised in protected area systems, and do not receive sufficient financial and technical support. In other places, exclusionary models of conservation and historical grievances continue to create conflicts between protected areas and the people living in and around them. Increasing competition for land, water and natural resources leads to further conflict, causes the shrinkage of large ecosystems, and compromises the integrity of ecosystem functions, including in P&CAs and their buffer zones. Incompatible infrastructure development and resource extraction continue to expand in P&CAs. A healthy environment is a human right and is a key factor for other human rights and freedoms to flourish – this presents unique opportunities to mainstream biodiversity conservation into society. Conversely, protected areas in Africa and other regions are increasingly scrutinized for their role in human rights abuses.</p>
Overview	This stream will explore ways in which mutually beneficial relationships between people and nature can be strengthened in and around P&CAs. It will highlight the deep social, cultural, spiritual, and economic relationships that people across the continent have in their landscapes and seascapes. We will showcase the contributions of people, including IPLCs, women and youth, to the governance and management of P&CAs, and in defending nature against unsustainable exploitation. The stream will discuss which changes are still needed in many parts of Africa in policy and practice to support and sustain these efforts, including the recognition of rights to land, resources, and local governance. It will provide a space for dialogue on existing conflicts, as well as historical legacies of exclusionary forms of conservation, and explore potential solutions.
Scope	The stream will focus on people's roles in and around P&CAs, i.e., those within formal protected areas systems as well as other effective area-based conservation measures

	(OECMs), including indigenous territories and conserved areas (ICCAs), both in terrestrial and marine environments.
Objectives	<p>The overall objective of the stream is to further develop an African vision for a paradigm shift in conservation, which will lead to mutually beneficial relationships between people and P&CAs. Specifically, the stream will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcase examples from across the continent of people’s contributions to conservation, including ICCAs, conservancies, community forests, locally managed marine areas, etc.; and the involvement of rightsholders and stakeholders in the governance and management of government protected areas. 2. Assess the performance of these examples in terms of conservation outcomes, equity and well-being. 3. Debate and look for solutions to existing conflicts between protected areas systems and peoples, including regarding resource use conflicts, human rights abuses, historical injustices, human-wildlife conflicts, etc. 4. Identify the resources and capacities needed to support, strengthen and spread successful approaches. 5. Assess how current policy frameworks facilitate or hinder the recognition of people’s rights and contributions to conservation. 6. Develop practical recommendations to reform those conservation policies and practices that are hindering participation, equity and benefit sharing. <p>The stream will provide a platform for different stakeholders (e.g., protected area managers, decision-makers, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, private sector) to enter into dialogue and collaborate to develop recommendations and practical next steps. In particular, the stream will provide as much space as possible to the voices of indigenous peoples, women and youth. It will build connections and foster dialogue between stakeholders from participating countries (governments, private sector, local communities, etc.) which will continue after the congress and result in changes in policy and practice.</p>
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge gained from different parts of Africa on successful models and mechanisms of involvement of different groups (youth, IPLCs, women, others) in conservation, including best practice examples and local stories. 2. Agreed strategic priorities for action and concrete next steps to further develop a paradigm shift in conservation, including policy reform, funding mechanisms, capacity development etc. 3. Joint commitments between stakeholders (governments, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, NGOs etc.) on specific P&CAs from the same country or shared region, on such challenges as upholding the rights of defenders of the environment and will to such commitments clearly made by governments and the private sector.
Suggested Actions	<p>Participants recognise the unique contributions of all actors in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and P&CAs as the cornerstone of conservation; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments enact policy to elevate customary wisdom and knowledge to the same level as scientific knowledge in decision making and policy formulation. 2. All stakeholders agree to continuously build capacity to strategically use and build on traditional knowledge in a way that involves and motivates new generations. 3. African Governments adopt green and inclusive economic policies as a pathway to growth and development.

Stream 3: Biodiversity

Lead, co-lead	Lesle Jansen, Youssofph Diedhiou,
Other members	Leo Niskanen, Louisa Richmond-Coggan, Moreangels Mbizah
Title	Africa's Biodiversity as the basis for life on the Continent
Summary	Biodiversity is the basis for life in Africa. Yet its values are often hidden and assumed in the quest for development. Biodiversity in and around P&CAs has been affected by climate change, development of infrastructure, invasive species, and land use change. Development without conservation of biodiversity and consideration for the people linked to it, will ultimately fail. By recognizing the importance of managing biodiversity, including the need to functional community stewardship, connectivity, representativity and the need for ecological restoration, stakeholders can collaborate towards a more resilient network of P&CAs and surrounding areas.
Introduction	<p>In Africa, biodiversity loss impacts food and livelihood security of communities, whose way of life is intimately connected to nature. It also impacts the growing and robust plant and wildlife economy based on biodiversity and the people who sustainably benefit from them. It is critically important to promote a compelling narrative to raise the relevance and importance of biodiversity, its economic importance and the role P&CAs and people have to play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p> <p>This stream will take stock of the status of biodiversity in Africa, and, using the lens of P&CAs, will demonstrate the economic, social, cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity at multiple-scales from the contribution to the GDP to the community level. This will include the creation of business opportunities, jobs and improved livelihoods and indigenous knowledge systems that are respected. It will demonstrate how managing biodiversity can generate profitable land uses with high value and can co-exist with other forms of land use. It will demonstrate that biodiversity across P&CAs and surrounding areas has intrinsic values for people. The stream will propose what Governments and civil society need to do more of to protect and conserve biodiversity and ensure that spaces are safeguarded for future generations and development. The stream will showcase how communities' governance is deeply and sustainably historically interlinked to conservation in Africa today.</p>
Overview	<p>This stream will take into consideration other relevant processes such as the relevant sections of the AU Strategy on Illegal Trade in Wildlife, African priorities for UN Decade on Restoration, the African Green stimulus programmes for post-Covid-19 recovery, United Nations Environment Assembly's resolutions, AMCEN and what the African Group of Negotiators are formulating for the Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 in terms of what is hindering biodiversity conservation, to highlight best practice examples that support Africa-wide initiatives.</p> <p>The stream will assess the status of biodiversity across Africa's P&CAs and how conservation is a development strategy at multi-scales. It will understand the status of community governance and knowledge of biodiversity and identify how conservation is integral to multi-scale development strategies through national regional and global sources. The stream will outline how the Covid-19 pandemic and other zoonotic diseases have changed perceptions about and influenced the need to value biodiversity and promote a debate on the sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular amongst regions and areas where livelihoods, jobs and human wellbeing are so dependent on sustainable use and how it contributes to its safeguarding.</p>
Scope	Discussions on biodiversity will cover P&CAs and surrounding areas, including buffer zones, wildlife corridors, and will encompass terrestrial and marine environments.

Objectives	<p>Content will cross several themes (status, poaching, sustainable use, conflict, trade, climate change, invasive species, extractive industries, infrastructure) and habitats and species (marine, freshwater, desert, forest, swamps, montane). The objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess available knowledge about the current status of biodiversity in Africa’s P&CAs. 2. Demonstrate best practices in Africa regarding the conservation, management and valuation of biodiversity inside P&CAs, and around areas that impact on conservation; 3. Show Africa’s success stories around sustainable use of their biodiversity leading towards increases of African indigenous biological species and the economic development of communities across P&CAs. 4. Use this platform as a call for action from Governments, private sector, civil society and communities for a change in paradigm regarding the conservation of biodiversity and recognize P&CAs as key elements. 5. Demonstrate the linkages and interdependences between pandemics and healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of status of biodiversity in Africa P&CAs demonstrated over the past 50 years—showing trends and spatial dimensions and identify knowledge gaps. 2. Agree on a list of key biodiversity areas or hotspots that governments commit to protect and conserve for posterity. 3. States and all sectors of government recognize biodiversity as an economic asset, value it and account for it in development strategies. 4. Governments enact policies to recognize the rights of sustainable use of biodiversity. 5. Governments agree to maintain biodiversity and healthy ecosystems as one commitment to prevent future pandemics.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt APAC as an Africa-wide platform on biodiversity in and around P&CAs that meets regularly, learns lessons, is action driven and involves all stakeholders. 2. As part of AU 2063, governments agree on no net loss of biodiversity going forward and restore degraded lands in P&CAs. 3. Governments fulfil their ecosystem restoration commitments as part of the UN decade on ecosystem restoration and for nature conservation. 4. Agree that key biodiversity areas or hotspots are mapped and clearly categorized under some form of protection (P&CAs) and become an important and active component of land use and spatial planning supporting the determination of key biodiversity area.

Cross Cutting Theme 1: Governance

Lead, co-lead	Edmond Moukala, Dode Houehounha
Other members	Enathe Hasabwamariya, Hugues Akpona and Junior Ohouko
Title	Governance mechanisms to safeguard Biodiversity and Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa
Summary	Governance of P&CAs is the cornerstone of conservation and sustainability. Governance arrangements include the important roles African institutions and local communities play in conservation. These will be assessed and lessons learned to identify important factors that influence the opportunities and limitations of each type of governance on conservation. “Governance” here refers to the <i>“interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are taken and how citizens and other stakeholders have their say”</i> .
Introduction	<p>Natural resources are often seen as common property. Africa is going through accelerated development with implications on natural resources. This is often modelled around privatization, with its history in colonial and post-colonial periods. Alternative approaches are emerging for natural resource management. IUCN and CBD have four types of governance models by: a) government (at various levels); b) diverse rights holders and stakeholders together; c) private entities (often landowners); and d). IPLCs, referred to as ICCAs or territories of life. P&CAs “governance” has grown in importance and refers to the principles, policies and rules regarding decision-making –which are vital for all P&CAs.</p> <p>P&CAs include many types (national parks, wilderness areas, safari areas, game reserves, forest reserves, community conserved areas, nature reserves, private conservancies, game farms, cultural reserves etc.), all with varying types of governance. In addition to conservation benefits (for habitats and species), P&CAs provide other services (for example, food, clean water, medicines and disaster risk protection).</p> <p>During the colonial period, wildlife and natural resources were state property and centrally controlled for the benefit of colonial powers. Since independence, most P&CAs are still state governed, representing the most common form of governance. However, since the 1980s and 1990s, there has been a shift from “fortress conservation” to more inclusive models involving IPLCs. Models of Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) were developed to improve environmental management and increase equity and justice for local people who become reliable stewards. There are also other models that were developed and involved other stakeholders (private, CSO).</p> <p>With these developments, there have been policy shifts to a greater focus on governance, including governance by IPLCs, and a more inclusive P&CAs establishment and management. These shifts highlight questions about governance, e.g., the level and quality of IPLC participation, fairness in decision making, equity and benefit sharing, generation of benefits, and recognition and respect for human, land, and resource rights. Despite progress, substantive changes with regard to governance have often been slow to emerge in many parts of Africa.</p>
Overview	<p>Many P&CAs in Africa still cannot guarantee the protection of biodiversity. In some parts of Africa, their effectiveness is undermined by conflict and encroachment. One key factor affecting the quality of P&CAs governance is the degree of inclusion of key stakeholders. More inclusive governance with improved benefit-sharing will better contribute to effective and equitable conservation and benefits to livelihoods.</p> <p>Of particular interest is collaborative governance or co-management, which entails shared management between a government agency and communities or user groups. It provides the potential to customize rules and regulations to local conditions, increase compliance, improve collaboration and lead to greater stakeholder engagement and empowerment.</p>

Scope	This theme covers governance aspects affecting P&CAs and OECMs (Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures) in Africa, including those privately managed by communities, indigenous peoples and the private sector. There are two main dimensions: i) the type of governance, i.e., who holds authority, responsibility and accountability for key decisions; and ii) the quality of governance, i.e., how far agreed principles are followed in making decisions in practice.
Objectives	<p>The main objective of this theme is to review and assess the current governance systems of P&CAs, learn and share lessons and promote suggestions for improvement. It is hoped that better governance will enable more effective conservation and have more equitable impacts on livelihoods. The following are the intended ways to achieve the objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake, in advance of the Congress, technical meetings of regional experts on evolving governance systems, and develop lessons and positions. 2. Organize online technical meetings with selected regional experts to prepare the technical sessions for APAC. 3. Assess governance as to how it can be improved so it works for conservation and has more equitable impacts on livelihoods. 4. Discuss governance of P&CAs in Africa in terms of principles, governance arrangements, including the role of African institutions and IPLCs. 5. Make practical recommendations as to how best to move forward in terms of the factors influencing the opportunities and limitations of each type of governance.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge gained on ways to improve governance in P&CAs through inclusive engagement of stakeholders. 2. Demonstrate the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of different governance models and regimes including IPLC initiatives, policy and governance reforms, traditional and indigenous knowledge. 3. Demonstrate effective inclusive and responsive governance models in Africa are possible and necessary. 4. Develop and promote guidelines for inclusive governance to P&CA management through developing a position paper on governance of biodiversity and P&CAs for adoption by AU.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments and other stakeholders use existing inclusive and equitable governance policies and commitments to strengthen all types of P&CAs, including community and privately managed areas. 2. Key policy makers in Countries and Regions fully commit to strengthen policies and legislation that enhance equitable governance where necessary. 3. Key stakeholders involved in different forms of governance in P&CA, such IPLCs, private sector, civil society and academics, use existing and enhanced legal frameworks to promote equitable governance.

Cross Cutting Theme 2: Conflict

Lead, co-lead	Dr. Winnie Kiiru, Dr. Dolmia Malachie, Ms. Greta Lori
Other members	Dr. Hugo Jachmann, Mr. Grant Burden, Dr. Naomi Doak.
Title	Resolving resource use conflicts as a pathway to security and conservation within and around protected and conserved areas across Africa.
Summary	Resource use conflict across Africa is complex and disparate, often linked to historical legacies and contemporary developments. This is important to understand when seeking solutions to address underlying causes, and not just symptoms, of conflict, while recognising measures of success will vary with location and context.
Introduction	<p>Conflict in the context of conservation and natural resource between people and P&CA's are complex and often characterised by human-wildlife interactions, land use and armed conflicts, poaching and trafficking, bushmeat trade and livestock or wildlife incursions. Different sectors of the community experience conflict differently with gender, age, social status and educational background. Conflict cuts across the streams of biodiversity, protected areas and people.</p> <p>It is not possible to discuss protected areas and conflict in Africa without recognising and understanding the role of colonial and post-colonial policies that have shaped the establishment of P&CAs.</p> <p>The typical conservation narrative for much of Africa is one of vanishing herds and habitats in the midst of exploding human populations and armed conflicts. The latter is particularly prevalent in West and Central Africa, often becoming the central narrative. However, this often overlooks the many important biodiversity hotspots and successful conservation impacts that can be found, despite the challenges of armed conflicts and instability.</p> <p>In many parts of Africa, national park systems have remained largely intact since their establishment by the colonial powers. Some of these systems have expanded into community conservancies. In other parts of Africa, the networks of P&CAs have expanded but often coupled with policies of strict separation of people from conservation.</p> <p>Shortfalls in capacity, weak governance, corruption, lack of funding to support research and development and apathy are threats that impact on the success of efforts to address conflict. The interplay between these systemic issues and the increasing threats from climate change and most recently the impact of Covid-19, continue to influence efforts to prevent conflict through the adoption of technology and science. All of these ultimately impacting people, livelihoods and biodiversity.</p>
Overview	<p>Well managed P&CAs play important roles in maintaining biodiversity and contributing to the economic success of communities and governments. A management approach that fails to include effective strategies to address conflict will continue to struggle and have limited positive impact on biodiversity conservation or people. Spatial planning and conflict resolution approaches not only reduce human-wildlife interfaces but improve connectivity and help address some of the serious threats to biodiversity. Responsibly engaging local communities through well-established conflict resolution strategies may facilitate benefit sharing, help protect biodiversity, and move from conflict to coexistence.</p> <p>This theme will highlight case studies and facilitate discussions to share successful approaches from within conservation and conflict resolution approaches and focus on examples from Africa. It will bring together experiences of conservation practitioners with researchers and academics who are exploring novel approaches to the challenges of co-existence under increasing external threats that provide positive outcomes for people and biodiversity through effectively managed protected areas.</p> <p>The IUCN WCPA, EU Larger than Elephants Initiative, Key Biodiversity Areas Secretariat and African Protected Areas Managers Network, and The Elephant Protection Initiative</p>

	<p>National Focal Points will contribute to the knowledge base to guide discussions during workshops and panel discussions.</p> <p>The theme will organise side events and workshops with communities to discuss the historical aspects of resource use conflicts and the enduring narratives that complicate conflict resolution initiatives across Africa. The theme will highlight efforts to combat commercial poaching and trafficking. Our focus is to use successful community-managed conservancies and CBNRM actions as part of the fight against poaching and trafficking.</p>
Scope	The theme will focus on issues of conflict specific to land-use, human-wildlife interface and armed conflicts, while acknowledging the topic of conflict is much broader. It will focus on examples of conflict and how they link to effective P&CAs management as ways to achieve biodiversity conservation and support livelihoods.
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring together high-level government leaders to engage in an African knowledge exchange to identify key underlying drivers of resource use conflicts. 2. From conflict to co-existence by highlighting approaches to prevent and mitigate conflicts leading to positive conservation and livelihood impacts including spatial planning. 3. Promote the importance and role of local communities in identifying effective solutions to human-wildlife conflict and combating commercial poaching and trafficking.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased understanding of the impact of conflict on the lives, livelihoods and the security of people who depend on natural resources for their survival. 2. Knowledge gained on successful conflict resolution approaches to address conflict including by Governmental and community organisations, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs. 3. Increased understanding about the need to change the narrative from conflict to co-existence through high level political engagement in conflict resolution. 4. Increased understanding about the need to mainstream conflict mitigation strategies in national policy.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments commit to mainstream conflict prevention and mitigation strategies in national policy and implementation. 2. Governments commit to reduce conflicts by enhancing and use tools that have an immediate impact – such as land use planning, green infrastructure, HWC mitigation measures, etc. 3. Stakeholders commit to work towards the coexistence in conflict prone zones through high level political engagements and agreements that are regularly monitored. 4. Stakeholders commit to continue supporting and replicating successful mechanisms with immediate impacts on conflict.

Cross Cutting Theme 3: Climate Change

Lead, co-lead	Harisoa Rakotondrazafy, Sonwa Denis Jean
Other members	Thulani Methula, Chris Zganjar, Kevin Coldrey and Judith Nyunja
Title	Securing a climate resilient future for Nature and People in and around Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa
Summary	Africa ecosystems and P&CAs are affected by climate change which affects people, and impacts the ability of habitats and species to survive. Yet they also have the potential to address climate challenges facing Africa. Nature and people will benefit through use of science and traditional knowledge, solutions at scale, and supported by effective policy and finance. Africa must mitigate and adapt to climate change, across all realms, including the terrestrial and marine environments.
Introduction	<p>Four of the five countries most vulnerable countries to climate change are in Africa³. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, droughts and floods impact Africa’s natural resources, ecosystems, biodiversity, livelihoods, infrastructure, economic development, and human well-being. The recent IPBES Global Assessment identifies climate change as one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss, driving between 11-16% of the impact. Africa is predicted to be among the continents with the largest habitat loss by 2050. The reality of nature loss driven by climate change is critical for people and biodiversity. Without action, the world stands to see \$10 trillion wiped off the global economy over the next 30 years, with developing countries and regions being particularly affected⁴</p> <p>P&CAs are the building blocks for conservation supporting human goods and services. Climate change poses serious threats to their effectiveness. African ecosystems are already being affected by climate change, and future impacts are expected to be substantial⁵. Climate change vulnerability assessments done on 263 protected areas in Africa (WWF and Anchor Environmental report, 2018-2020), show 57% are highly vulnerable to climate change. Building their resilience is crucial to safeguard Africa’s biodiversity and peoples’ needs in the future. By 2100, climate change could result in the loss of more than 50% of African bird and mammal species, a 20-30% decline in the productivity of Africa’s lakes, and significant losses of African flora⁶.</p> <p>P&CAs (as part of landscape approaches) have huge potential to address holistically climate challenges facing Africa. They are part of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to climate change. They help address climate change by preventing the loss of carbon from vegetation and soil and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation). P&CA’s in Africa store about 13.7% of the continent’s carbon⁷. Tropical protected areas reduced deforestation carbon emissions by one third from 2000-2012. They also help human and natural systems address climate change impacts and reduce vulnerability (adaptation).</p>
Overview	<p>The climate change cross-cutting theme will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Share evidence and best practices around P&CAs on climate impacts and resilience building:</i> a). vulnerability, impacts and risks assessments of P&CAs, biodiversity and people; b). importance of climate scenarios and modelling to inform future interventions as well as of carbon assessments; c). important role of IPLC knowledge, solutions provided by P&CAs (NbS, EbA, REDD+, Blue Carbon, restoration initiatives, etc.).

³ Verisk Maplecroft, 2016 - <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/verisk%20index>.

⁴ Roxburgh, T., Ellis, K., Johnson, J.A., Baldos, U.L., Hertel, T., Nootenboom, C., and Polasky, S. 2020. Global Futures: Assessing the global economic impacts of environmental change to support policy-making. Summary report, January 2020. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/globalfutures>

⁵ Niang, I and *al.* 2014. Africa. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part B: Regional Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

⁶ IPBES, (2018). Regional Assessment report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Africa, Summary for policy makers.

⁷ ⁷ Dudley, N., et al. (2009). “Natural Solutions: Protected areas helping people cope with climate change.” IUCN-WCPA, TNC, UNDP, WCS, The World Bank and WWF.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Value the fundamental role played by P&CAs as they are part of the solution:</i> demonstrate the roles played by P&CAs in preventing carbon loss, increasing the sinks and addressing climate impacts and risks including their contributions as NbS. Highlight the ecosystem services P&CA's provide to increase the resilience of people and nature to climate change impacts and boost food and water security. 2. <i>Call for commitments:</i> given the scale of biodiversity loss and climate concerns Africa is facing, this is an opportunity to call for joint action from state and non-state actors to reduce climate impacts on protected areas and increase its profile as NbS. This is in line with the preparation of the post 2020 frameworks, and revision of Africa NDCs (where 14% of African countries refer to Ecosystem-based Adaptation but do not refer to P&CAs specifically, and 14% of African countries refer to P&CAs for carbon sequestration⁸). Africa should join global movement like the RedParques declaration⁹.
Scope	<p>This cross-cutting theme will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise the importance of current and projected climate change impacts and risks on P&CAs and people in Africa and the need for building their resilience. 2. Demonstrate how P&CAs are part of overall strategies to address climate change (NbS/EBA, REDD+, Blue Carbon, etc.) and are well positioned to inform global agendas (three UN conventions and SDGs).
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate scientific, traditional knowledge and best practices on P&CAs and climate change. 2. Demonstrate and promote P&CAs as NbS to climate change adaptation and mitigation. 3. Boost contributions of P&CAs for climate at sub-national, national and regional level and support better positioning of the nexus P&CAs and climate change in the global agendas (CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) and SDGs. 4. Promote an Africa think tank around P&CAs and climate change from existing platforms & networks (formed by governments, CSOs, Youth, Private sectors, IPLCs), where African countries could (i) make a united, multi-government statement about the key role of P&CAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and (ii) use this to start a pan-African think tank to develop and promote these ideas. 5. Highlight the nexus between P&CAs, climate change & COVID 19 based on the One Health approach where P&CAs are a link between human and animal health.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Best available knowledge and practice related to P&CAs and climate change mapped. 2. Knowledge on the role and value of P&CAs as NbS to climate change enhanced and demonstrated through sharing case studies and best practices. 3. Increased level of understanding on the importance of the role of P&CAs in climate change for the post 2020 frameworks and revisions of African NDCs. 4. The establishment of a Pan African regional strategy and Pan African platform or think tank on P&CAs and climate change are supported by all P&CAs stakeholders.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the development of a Pan African strategy on climate change and P&CAs as a guide to drive transformational knowledge, solutions, effective policy and sustainable finance in Africa. 2. Agree to establish a Pan-African think tank on climate change and conservation. 3. Governments commit to provide a more inclusive and fundamental role of P&CAs as NbS for climate change in the post 2020 frameworks and revisions of Africa NDCs. 4. Africa Union endorses the alliance with the Redparques declaration in order to drive a more global declaration.

⁸ Hehmeyer, A., et al. 2019. Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions through protected areas. WWF and GIZ.

⁹ <https://panorama.solutions/en/solution/redparques-declaration-national-commitments-international-interventions>.

Cross Cutting Theme 4: Science, Technology & Indigenous Knowledge

Lead, co-lead	Florence Palla and Bernard Guri
Other members	Samuel Kalimunjaye
Title	How Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge contributes to the management and effectiveness of Protected and Conserved Areas in Africa.
Summary	Science and technology are vital for the success and effectiveness of P&CA. The interface between indigenous knowledge and modern scientific approaches can be adapted and mainstreamed in the specific contexts of managing P&CAs in many parts of Africa. Lessons and experiences will be analysed and recommendations suggested for science, technology and indigenous knowledge to work hand in hand for successful conservation in Africa.
Introduction	<p>APAC aspires for African solutions to African P&CAs challenges. Local and indigenous knowledge and methods are central to success. This will help interface modern scientific approaches and successful indigenous African practices. African indigenous knowledge can provide innovative strategies and answers to problems, especially in the context of finding African Solutions to managing Africa’s P&CAs.</p> <p>Science and technology stewardship can be informed by traditional knowledge and contribute to secure ecosystems, livelihoods and improve the resilience of communities. It is also important P&CAs adapt and benefit from the digital revolution. Technology will be more effective if it integrates different technological tools to manage for conservation.</p>
Overview	This theme will analyse the contributions of science, technology and traditional knowledge as a basis to improve the management of P&CAs, and showcase examples to better understand how such innovations can trigger a transformation of P&CAs management. This will enlighten conservation decision making in Africa and create synergy between these different innovations while taking into account their limitations.
Scope	The theme will encompass institutions which are conducting research and developing technology to provide support and solutions to the management of P&CA in Africa. It will look into experiences and lessons in the transfer of technology and know-how to practitioners, which will highlight the cases where indigenous knowledge has been or can be used in specific circumstances.
Objectives	<p>The main objectives of this theme are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and learn from where the interface between scientific and traditional knowledge has worked in P&CAs management. 2. Identify and learn from the use of technologies that are adaptable to specific contexts in Africa. 3. Develop strategies to mobilise investments to maintain functional ecosystems and traditional knowledge. <p>The suggested ways to achieve the objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Pre-Congress webinar, linked to the pre-congress IPLC workshop, to collect different proposals to contribute to the lessons and recommendations which will involve different stakeholders - women, youth, indigenous populations, private sector, and NGOs. 2. Prepare an exhibition on “Innovations in Protected Area Management in a post COVID Africa”. 3. Showcase advances in technology to improve the management of P&CAs to demonstrate accessible and adaptable scientific and traditional technologies to solve local problems. 4. Create synergies between traditional know-how and modern tools.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand how best to enhance the interface between scientific and traditional knowledge. 2. Understand technological and process innovation to improve P&CAs management and how they contribute to community well-being.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Secure investments to maintain functional ecosystems through science, technology and Indigenous knowledge. 4. Build on what works (or does not work) in terms of science, technology and indigenous knowledge so as to combine approaches and develop opportunities for enhanced biodiversity conservation in P&CAs in Africa.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments and communities commit to demonstrate the involvement of the private sector (Public-Private Partnerships) so innovation and lack of skills no longer hinder the management of P&CAs. 2. States and government commit to demonstrate and promote the use of traditional knowledge as part of national and regional policy and legislation, and ensure that this is aligned with science and contributes to improved management of natural ecosystems. 3. Implement clear achievable policy guidance to support innovation and adoption of conservation and climate-friendly technologies so they have the confidence to invest in P&CAs. 4. Ensure lessons on policy efforts from science, technology and indigenous knowledge are available and implemented for mutual benefit.

Cross Cutting Theme 5: Sustainable Financing

Lead, co-lead	Sue Snyman and Pauline Nantongo
Other members	Candice Stevens, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Edwin Tambara, Arthur Tuda, Nafeesa Esmail, Aurelie Flore Koumba Pambo, Ronald Gashumba
Title	Financial resilience and sustainability are the key for long-term success of Africa's protected and conserved areas.
Summary	Africa's P&CAs underpin human health and well-being as well as economies. Well managed P&CAs and landscapes foster countless benefits but face substantial financing constraints. Approximately 90% of Protected Areas in Africa are under-funded and among those, average budgets are just 10-20% of what is required. Financing and resourcing for P&CAs and managed landscapes requires attention so their full environmental, social and economic potential is reached. Sustainable financing mechanisms are key to securing the networks of African P&CAs and unlocking their economic opportunities.
Introduction	<p>This theme will focus on conservation finance, and the wildlife economy – i.e., financial investment through various mechanisms, such as bonds and grants, as well as revenue generating activities, for example, ecotourism, hunting, wildlife ranching, carbon projects, non-timber forest products, and wildlife estates. The theme will showcase innovative finance mechanisms that go beyond traditional funding and income generating models, and will include a discussion on the role of government in sustainable financing.</p> <p>Innovative and sustainable solutions are needed to resolve the current biodiversity crisis which can be mitigated through effective P&CAs, but unfortunately these are grossly under-funded, often destabilizing and disempowering operations and management. The COVID-19 pandemic's resultant losses of tourism revenue combined with reductions in government budgetary allocations (as governments prioritize other sectors of the economy and social safeguards), has increased deficits in funding and ability to generate finance. This highlights the fragility of current conservation finance models and the need for diversification.</p>
Overview	<p>Practical sessions on particular mechanisms and innovative solutions, such as REDD+, PES, Conservation Trust Funds, pipelines for bankable projects and bespoke solutions will be led by practitioners who have implemented and managed successful projects. We will draw on African examples, ensure geographic representation, and include examples from other regions to share learning and best practices. Some session ideas include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning from collaborative management partnerships around the key ingredients for sustainability and success. 2. Interactive and dynamic wildlife (fauna & flora, marine & terrestrial) economy panel will discuss how to create an enabling environment for investment, and what is needed for policy change and reform to successfully grow the wildlife/biodiversity economy. This will include discussions on innovative options and build a suite of options to enhance resilience. 3. A session on what it will take to build the domestic market and greater resilience in the conservation-based tourism industry. 4. Roundtable discussions on conservation financing; opportunities for Debt for Nature Swaps; bonds; conservation trust funds; Finance for Permanence which is a mechanism successfully used around the world, and which Africa can benefit from lessons learned. The theme will look at blended finance approaches, combining philanthropic or public financing with commercial investment, bonds and trust funds.
Scope	<p>This theme highlights different, innovative financing and funding options, ways to diversify financing and funding, and wildlife economy activities, ultimately to support sustainability, as well as how approaches can be scaled up to reduce and diversify risk, and increase efficient and sustainable use of resources.</p> <p>We will draw on successful models in Africa to showcase examples, such as the Debt for Nature Swap in Seychelles, the REDD+ Kasigau Project in Kenya, the Moz Bio</p>

	<p>Conservation Trust Fund; and fiscal instruments, for example, in South Africa, Blended Financial Mechanism in Trees for Global Benefit, and the Nairobi Water Fund.</p> <p>We will document and share practical lessons to replicate and scale up. We will look at emerging models and discuss their potential, the challenges, and what is needed to ensure success. For example, the role of bankable projects and opportunity in ESG (Environment and Social Governance) markets globally, especially where environmental, social and governance impacts can be measured and modelled.</p> <p>We will make the argument that, if governments, communities and the private sector can ensure sustainable, resilient financing (domestic and international), proportionate to Africa’s contribution to global biodiversity and reinvest this into the asset (nature), this will promote long-term conservation and economic development.</p>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcase successful and innovative conservation finance models in Africa, and from around the globe. 2. Enhance knowledge for developing tailor-made finance solutions for P&CAs. 3. Increase understanding regarding key financial mechanisms and equip attendees with practical tools and approaches.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share learning and best practice related to a diverse wildlife economy and conservation financing options to build resilience and ensure sustainable financing for conservation in Africa. 2. Identify actions needed to make the case for and support of an enabling environment for green investment. 3. Understand the investment opportunities for wildlife economy growth and investment strategies for each country. 4. Possible publication related to the theme and based on discussions at the Congress.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect and provide data on the contribution of the wildlife economy and demonstrate the value is captured in accounting so governments fully recognise biodiversity as a key strategic asset and invest in it. 2. Countries have or appoint National Task Forces on conservation finance within the National Treasury and/or Presidency.

Cross Cutting Theme 6: Physical Infrastructure

Lead, co-lead	Lucy Waruingi and Adam Ceesay
Other members	Wendy Collinson; Kishaylin Chetty; Lt. Colonel Abdou Aziz; Lourens Leeuwener; Dr. Ian T. Little
Title	Reducing the impact of Physical infrastructure on ecosystems and biodiversity in Key Africa Landscapes.
Summary	Infrastructure development is synonymous with the economic growth and societal advancement of a country. In Africa, physical infrastructure projects are developing rapidly in many regions and countries, often with little or no consideration for the long-term impacts and implications on people and the environment, where the hidden costs could be negative social and environmental impacts and irreversible damage to ecological services. African governments need to pursue sustainable infrastructure initiatives, with integrated approaches, to sustainable infrastructure in support of the SDGs.
Introduction	<p>Africa faces two dilemmas with respect to conservation: a) Africa needs to move to an economically and socially inclusive conservation model reflecting African values and development priorities and b) Africa needs economic development in response to growing populations, growing economies and urbanization. So, how can conservation priorities be retained and included in the face of rapid economic development, population growth and urbanization?</p> <p>One way to enable economic development is physical infrastructure. Africa currently experiences the largest physical infrastructure boom in its history, estimated at \$130-170 billion per year. Infrastructure projects are large, long-term, complex and with potentially massive social and political consequences. Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent in the world. By 2050, the continent will have more urban people than rural. As cities grow, they require more physical infrastructure for transport, water, food, sewage and energy. The ecological impacts of cities go beyond city boundaries into peri-urban and rural areas. Understanding the links between expanding cities and rural ecosystems is critical.</p> <p>Not all infrastructure is good. P&CAs can support climate and environment smart infrastructure in a manner that transcends sectors and disciplines. The challenge is to make the right choices in terms of physical and ecological infrastructure. How do we manage the trade-offs and how can we create democratic spaces for broader citizen participation in decisions around these investments? How can issues of governance and transparency, lead to better choices before decisions are made at government level?</p> <p>The impact of physical infrastructure on P&CAs (and threatened species in general) has to be viewed in the context of landscapes. While landscape boundaries, which include P&CAs, are defined by ecological, biodiversity and catchment parameters, the functioning of these landscapes is impacted and influenced by national and regional level decision-making processes. National and regional infrastructure decisions have significant implications for many, if not all, of African landscapes. The net outcome could be a fragmentation and disruption of the ecological connectivity of iconic landscapes.</p>
Overview	<p>Our actions today should be informed and inspired by the future we want for African countries and landscapes. Futures thinking offers an open outlook that allows us to create imagined futures through scenario planning. It enables us to explore new choices and pathways about Africa's development trajectory. Futures thinking can assist in making the best choices about nature and economic development, and can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a powerful approach to drive thinking from short-term to longer term strategic initiatives. 2. Design initiatives responsive to challenges and deliver solutions for a desired future. 3. Assist in identifying existing capacity and gaps in government agencies, academic institutions, CSOs and development finance institutions for new thinking to cope with emerging challenges.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Provide evidence-based communications highlighting stories around futures thinking and trade-offs between economic development and ecological infrastructure which can support policy influencing and lobbying for more equitable development. 5. Transform how infrastructure is designed, financed and implemented requires strong institutional governance.
Scope	<p>This theme will take a holistic approach that looks outside the protected and conserved areas as broader development goals at regional and country levels and are part of larger urban landscapes. And the impacts should acknowledge the social aspects of infrastructure development.</p> <p>A case study of the Benefits of Nature’s ecological infrastructure and how this supports sustainable development will be developed. This will be based on appropriate tools and methods, e.g., multi stakeholders’ and private sector approaches in climate resilient infrastructure. Best practise examples from Africa and other regions in Asia and South America will be presented for sharing of knowledge and experience. Through building resilience, we will link COVID-19 influence in government future plans and spending on infrastructure as economies make recovery strategies.</p>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore best practices to reduce the impact of physical infrastructure on biodiversity and ecosystem services inside and outside P&CAs. 2. Draw attention to the benefits of mainstreaming ecological futures thinking, tools and methods in planning and promote a greater balance between physical and ecological infrastructure to minimize impacts on biodiversity and promote the use of these national and African scale conservation and landscape planning tools. 3. Explore mechanisms to mainstream effective social and environmental safeguards to underpin resilient and sustainable physical infrastructure.
Expected outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effective mitigation approaches reduce the impact of infrastructure on biodiversity and landscapes explored, which are based on environmental standards for buildings. 2. Recommendations made to mainstream environmental and social safeguards into laws, policies and practice to drive infrastructure development. 3. Awareness of the value of futures thinking and tools for infrastructure planning, designing and financing raised with stakeholders. 4. Awareness raised on the role of ecological infrastructure in reducing biodiversity loss and creating climate resilient infrastructure. 5. Improved transparency and early-stage involvement of all stakeholders in large scale government development planning to allow public sector involvement in planning prior to multi-lateral or inter-governmental investment.
Suggested Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governments commit to enact policies to mainstream social and environmental safeguards as to how physical infrastructure projects are designed, funded and implemented. 2. All stakeholders (including governments, investors, and the private sector) to double their investment in ecological infrastructure as part of a move to climate resilient infrastructure. 3. Governments and the private sector adopting policies in support of ecological futures thinking in planning physical infrastructure. 4. Governments and regional bodies adopt critical recommendations from the African Youth and IPLC pre-congress workshops, and actively engage them in policy and planning in future.

Pre-Congress Workshop: Youth are the Future Stewards of Protected and Conserved Areas - Summary

As a part of the process leading to the congress, Stream 2 will hold two pre-congress workshops for the youth and Indigenous Peoples and Local communities. Approximately 75% of people of Africa are under the age of 35 and considered as youth. It is these groups of people who Africa will bequeath its conservation heritage. To ensure they become active and respected parts of the solutions to enhance conservation in Africa, a two-day workshop will be conducted to explore issues important for the youth. Building on the April 2021 IUCN Youth Summit, the Stream will also organize a virtual Africa Youth Environment Summit. Virtual participation will come from, amongst other sources, the Africa participation at the Youth Summit and from the top 100 youth in Africa on Conservation and even the 100 most influential young Africans (<https://www.africayouthawards.org/2020-100-most-influential-young-africans/> ; and <https://top100youth.africa/>)

This two-day workshop will explore issues important for the youth and prepare them so they can fully engage with the streams and cross-cutting themes of APAC. Stream 2 of APAC has the broad responsibility for organizing this pre-congress workshop.

Pre-Congress Workshop: Respect the role Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities play in conservation - Summary

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) conserve, with rights and responsibilities, large areas of Africa's conserved lands – as conservancies, indigenous and community conserved areas, sacred natural sites, amongst other models. This workshop will help IPLCs make the case for the importance their role in conserving Africa's biodiversity and conserved areas. This workshop will also prepare the participants to engage fully in the three Streams and six cross-cutting themes. Stream 2 of APAC has the broad responsibility for organizing this pre-congress workshop.

For the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), the two-day workshop will help them make the case for the importance of their role in conserving Africa's biodiversity and conserved areas. Both workshops are intended to prepare the youth and IPLCs participants to engage fully in the other three Streams and six cross-cutting themes.

Annex 1: Informal Note on Protected and Conserved Areas (P&CAs) for APAC

In the past there has been a national and global tendency to focus on State owned and controlled conservation estate. This is changing and APAC will help move the discourse to embrace various forms of community conserved areas, private protected and conserved areas, as well as formal state-owned protected areas. These different types of P&CAs can all fit in the IUCN Protected Area Categories I-VI even though they may not all be formally recognized as such. This brief note summarizes each of these three broad categories in this short informal annex.

1. State Owned Protected Areas¹⁰

Protected areas – national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas, nature reserves are a mainstay of biodiversity conservation, and also contribute to people’s livelihoods, particularly at the local level. Protected areas are at the core of efforts for conserving nature and the services it provides us – food, clean water supply, medicines and protection from the impacts of natural disasters. Their role in helping mitigate and adapt to climate change is increasingly recognized. It is estimated the global network of protected areas stores at least 15% of terrestrial carbon – at least based on the Protected Planet¹¹ which is the most up to date source of data on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), updated monthly with submissions from governments, non-governmental organizations, landowners and communities.

Helping countries and communities designate and manage systems of protected areas on land and in the oceans, is very important together with species conservation. Effectively managed systems of protected and conserved areas are recognized as critical instruments to achieve the objectives of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

There are 6 categories of Protected Area (Categories I-VI) on which the Protected Area Guidelines¹² are based. Often it is the formal “State-Owned” protected area estate which is referred to when talking about protected areas. Such areas fall under the responsibility of Government and their Directors of Protected Areas (or of wildlife, or Environment, Forests, Fisheries or a combination). People tend to more familiar with the “State-Owned Protected Area Estate”. The reality is conservation is and will be best achieved in combination (State, Community, Private). Indeed, it is likely that OECMs and Private Protected Areas are likely to grow in importance.

2. Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)¹³

‘Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures’ (OECMs) is a conservation designation for areas that are achieving effective *in-situ* conservation outside of protected areas. From 2015 to 2018, a WCPA task force on OECMs provided technical advice to Parties on OECMs to the CBD ([Reports](#)). In 2018, Parties to the CBD agreed guiding principles, common characteristics and criteria for the identification of OECMs ([CBD Decision 14/8](#)). An ‘Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure’ is defined by the CBD as:

A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values (CBD, 2018).

Governments, organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) can apply voluntary guidance on OECMs to identify, recognize and support OECMs, and report data on OECMs to the [World Database on OECMs](#) at the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The identification of OECMs provided increased recognition and support for effective

¹⁰ <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about>

¹¹ <https://www.protectedplanet.net/en>

¹² <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-area-categories> and see <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/30018>

¹³ <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/oecms> and see <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48773>

conservation taking place outside currently designated protected areas under a range of governance and management regimes, implemented by diverse actors, including by Indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector and government. OECMs can include ICCAs – Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas¹⁴ which refer to the age-old, widespread, diverse and dynamic practice where areas are conserved by IPLCs, for example, sacred groves and sacred natural sites, pastoralist dry season refuges etc. OECMs may be very many and very extensive. For instance, the number of sacred groves across the globe number between quarter and half a million. OECMs can

- Promote equitable governance, effective management and positive conservation outcomes.
- Increase coverage of ecologically representative areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services.
- Support the recovery of threatened species.
- Enhance connectivity between protected and conserved areas and across land- and seascapes.
- Foster engagement with a diverse range of rights-holders and stakeholders who contribute to area-based conservation outside of protected areas.
- Support sustainable livelihoods and provide a framework to help transform sectoral practices.
- Address climate change by contributing to net-zero climate targets and building resilience to the physical impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions.

3. Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

Privately protected areas are often under-recognized, despite their significant contributions to conservation. These areas, which meet the definition of a protected area, are under private governance, are highly diverse, and involve a wide range of people and organizations. But there are challenges and opportunities that maybe different from those faced by government protected areas. IUCN WCPA has a specialist group on PPAs and Nature stewardship¹⁵.

While many thousands of PPAs exist around the world, they do not always receive recognition, support or incentives from governments. When properly supported, they have enormous potential to connect protected areas across the landscape and seascape, and conserve important species that might otherwise be neglected. Best practices can help landholders to maintain these benefits by ensuring that their PPAs are well-managed, sufficiently-funded and secured into the future.

Based on the IUCN Guidelines for Private Protected areas¹⁶, PPAs can be established outside the typical conservation community. A PPA can be under private governance (i.e., individuals and groups), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporations (existing commercial companies and corporations set up by groups of private owners to manage groups of PPAs); for-profit owners, research entities (e.g., universities, field stations) or religious organizations. The guidelines discuss the role networks of landholders can play in connecting otherwise isolated conservation practitioners and initiatives. PPAs can be used to raise their visibility, and enable them to be counted towards international conservation goals such as Aichi Target 11, and the post 2020 targets of the CBD.

¹⁴ <https://www.iccaconsortium.org/>

¹⁵ <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-protected-areas/our-work/privately-protected-areas-and-nature-stewardship>

¹⁶ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47916>