OUR PACT FOR PARKS, PEOPLE, PLANET
2014 World Parks Congress, Sydney
November 2014

WHO WE ARE?

We are a collective, taking actions for conservation.
We are young, but do not feel limited by our age.
We acknowledge and respect the efforts and legacy of those before us.
We believe in our power and potential to be change makers. We believe in yours too.
Together we can create the future we want. To do this we commit to act, for and through protected areas, within and beyond their boundaries.

We are co-creating change. Join us.

AN EXPRESSION OF DISCONTENT AND HOPE

We are heartbroken that we are violently and rapidly emptying the world of life, beauty and diversity.

We are angry that greed and self-interest are comprimising our natural and cultural heritage.

We are disgusted that our natural and cultural heritage are being compromised for short-term economic gain.

We mourn the loss of indigenous and traditional knowledge and the interconnectedness of life.

We are disappointed that not everyone takes responsibility to care for parks, people and the planet.

We are frustrated at the political inertia preventing solutions to global challenges.

We will not stay silent.
We are not afraid of our passion.
We will infuse hope in every action.

OUR ACTION PLAN

1. *We commit to connecting ourselves and others to nature.*

- *Take at least one group of people we care about to a conserved area and share our knowledge, curiosity, and passion for nature with them.*
- *Using new media and technologies to encourage connections between people and with nature.*

- *Spend time with elders and children in conserved areas and learn from each other to encourage stewardship of nature.*
- *Make time to explore and play in Earth's wild places.*
- *Join a citizen science monitoring program.*

2. We commit to behave as a conscious part of a complex interconnected system.

- *Learn about our impacts on other living and non-living systems and live in a ways that do-no-harm.*
- *Read, support and share research and knowledge about the values and benefits of protected areas and nature.*
- *Tailor day-to-day choices for long-term investment in ecological security rather than short-term personal economic gain.*
- *Extend wildlife corridors and maintain/restore ecological connectivity.*

3. We commit to co-create and strengthen conservation livelihoods and economies.

- *Pioneer and cultivate conservation livelihoods and economies based on conservation or providing conservation outcomes.*
- *Choose renewable and clean energy options and advocate for divesting from non-renewable energy.*
- *Develop viable conservation finance programs in partnership with all sectors.*
- *Attend economic dialogues to promote and co-create conservation livelihoods and economies.*
- *Share and increase employment opportunities in conservation and protected areas.*
- *Donate time, money and other resources to conservation initiatives.*
- *Spend our money in ways that support local conservation-based economies.*

4. We commit to reach out, ask for help and help others.

- *Build diverse alliances and partnerships with all constituents and sectors of society to include and empower different perspectives.*
- *Support the rights and initiatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in conserving nature and culture, and learn from them in culturally appropriate ways.*
- *Include all constituents in our conservation dialogues and actions and join their dialogues.*
- *Collaborate with the creative arts and artists to communicate our messages.*
- *Partner with local schools, youth groups, eco-clubs and religious organisations to educate children and youth about conservation and connect them with nature.*
- *Participate in initiatives that ensure all voices, identities and cultures are equitably represented.*
- *Work with translators to ensure that conservation-relevant knowledge is available in as many languages possible.*

5. We commit to support empowering emerging leaders*.*

- *Seek a mentor and mentor an emerging leader.*
- *Respect, promote and connect new, innovative and creative ideas.*
- *Develop platforms for emerging leaders to strengthen their skills, capacities and networks, to share knowledge and to collaborate.*
- *Create a Conservation Incubator program to invite all sectors to support innovative conservation ideas of emerging leaders.*
- *Adopt and promote the Interleadership Framework within organizations and institutions.*

6. We commit to cultivate cultures of conservation.

- *Strengthen conservation as part of our daily lives, cultures and ethics.*
- *Revitalize biocultural knowledge and practices from our own cultures.*
- *Work with trend-setters and cultural innovators to evolve cultures of conservation.*

7. We commit to heal people and the Earth.

- *Spend time in nature for personal healing and to learn how to live in harmony with all our relations.*
- *Integrate socio-ecological restoration and regeneration into personal and community healing programs.*
- *Safeguard our connection to water, physical and spiritual nourishment, medicines and land that our cultures, communities and well-being rely on.*

8. We commit to a legacy of environmental regeneration.

- *Pick a conservation project or a conserved area and volunteer.*
- *Make choices that minimise or neutralise impacts on the environment.*
- *Contribute to social and ecological regeneration in the places we visit.*
- *Encourage others to learn about their social and ecological footprint and how to make better choices with net positive or regenerative impacts.*
- *Rewild urban areas and human-constructed land/seascapes.*
- *Organise and take part in synchronized global actions bringing together diverse actors and audiences for protected areas and nature conservation [e.g., Global Day of Action for Protected Areas].*

9. We commit to be proactive and not just reactive to conservation threats.

- *Anticipate threats to conservation and address them by proposing concrete alternatives backed by feasible plans and actions.*
- *Engage with political leaders and decision-makers to ensure fulfillment of commitments to protected areas and conservation.*
- *Incorporate protected areas and conservation into planning and development activities.*

10. We commit to being engaged in decision-making at every level.

- *Go to a local town/village council meetings and advocate for investment in conservation, renewable energies, public spaces for recreation, etc.*
- *Join relevant interest groups or decision-making bodies and share our visions and plans for action.*
- *Act at all levels and in all communities. Begin where we feel most empowered.*

We will lead by example.