



IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON AFRICA'S PROTECTED AREAS OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMES

The Second Africa Protected Areas Directors' (APAD) Conference Report

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ACRONYMS

APAC	Africa Protected Areas Congress
APAD	Africa Protected Areas Directors
ANA	American Nurses Association
AU	African Union
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Regional Office
IUCN	International Union on Conservation of Nature
PAs	Protected Areas
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WPC	World Parks Congress

SUMMARY

This report is a summary of the proceedings and the outcomes of the second virtual conference of the Africa Protected Areas Directors held on 17th August 2020. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for the protected areas directors and other conservation experts to explore the findings of the online survey carried out on COVID-19 and the recommendations of the preceding first Africa Protected Areas Directors conference held on 22-23 April 2020. Information on the Africa Protected Areas Conference (APAC) was also provided, and the Protected Areas Directors were given an opportunity to join the APAC process. The outcomes of this conference outlined the participants' reflections on the online COVID -19 survey report of June 2020, recommendations on creating a unifying platform for the heads of protected areas in Africa, suggestions on how to come up with an effective Regional Wildlife Crisis Funding Mechanism and recommendations around the inclusion of Africa Protected Areas Director in the Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) process.

INTRODUCTION

The conference brought together over 45 participants comprising of protected areas directors from 13 countries in Africa, their representatives and conservation experts from various conservation organizations. (The list of participants is available in **Annex 2**).

The opening remarks were delivered by Luther Bois Anukur, IUCN Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office. He outlined the conference agenda, emphasizing on the need to amplify the critical role of protected areas in safeguarding biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem balance, preserving important habitats and building resilience as a basis for water and food security as well as driving economic success.

The negative effects of COVID-19 have been felt across all sectors with the reduction of revenue from tourism at the centre of protected area challenges. The impacts on the operations in protected areas and lack of funding has led to increased pressure on natural resources with reports on more occurrences of human wildlife conflicts.

Kathy MacKinnon, chair of the IUCN-WCPA expressed her appreciation on the efforts relating to securing the venue to host the Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Rwanda on 18-23 October 2021.

She also provided information on the COVID-19 WCPA Task Force and on the existing small grants schemes which have been established by 1BIOPAMA and 2IUCN to support protected areas in times of crisis.

“WCPA has established a Task Force on COVID-19 and is led by Mariana Ferreira from Brazil. If anyone wishes to join the Task Force, please contact; Kathy.s.mackinnon@gmail.com”

1 Information on BIOPAMA Rapid Response Grants is available on: <https://action.biopama.org/rapid-response-grant/>

2 Information of IUCN-SOS Rapid Action Grants is available on: <https://www.saveourspecies.org/rapid-action-grants-1>

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the second virtual APAD Conference were:

- 1.** To affirm the role of the protected areas directors in redefining the future especially by working together through an established framework; the Africa Protected Areas Directors Forum.
- 2.** To identify the role of Africa protected areas director in the first Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) aimed at providing an opportunity to build a collective vision for Africa.

ONLINE SURVEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST APAD'S CONFERENCE

Frederick Kwame Kumah, AWF's Vice President, External Affairs led this session with a presentation highlighting the online survey findings and the recommendations made during the first APAD conference held in April 2020.

([Find presentation here](#)).

The survey assessed 23 operations and programmes of protected areas and although the survey team reached out to all countries in Africa, only 14 nations responded. They all reported that the spread of the pandemic had significant impact on all operations and programmes that were assessed but to a lesser or greater extent depending on the country at stake.

Most countries reported high impacts on activities relating to monitoring illegal wildlife trade, gathering security intelligence and carrying out security intervention. They also indicated inadequate funding to continue basic operations beyond three months after the pandemic.

A majority indicated that collaboration between protected areas and partners, including local communities, researchers and private sectors had been severely impacted as well as many projects that were on the ground, especially those that were supported by resources from tourism hence the loss of livelihoods.

The survey suggested that supporting communities was a priority and that the space between protected areas and communities need to be managed carefully if we were to continue protecting wildlife and preventing future pandemics.

The absence of emergency response guidelines and lack of preparedness had a significant impact on the way that protected areas authority responded to the pandemic. There were clear gaps in capacities and skills on COVID-19 and how to engage with it.

The survey also flagged on the failure of the national government to set aside funding for protected areas which left most protected areas with nothing to fall back to during the pandemic.

Key issues that needed extra focus were identified as follows:

1. Strengthening of the abilities of protected areas across the board to respond to COVID-19, in the present and future. Providing funding, technical capacity, basic protection equipment, partnerships etc.
2. Presenting an opportunity for regional level dialogue to engage with COVID-19 and also prevent future outbreaks.
3. Solidifying the role of protected areas in maintaining human health and wellbeing.
4. Elevating the critical role of protected areas to the economic aspect of the society.
5. Developing a continent-wide system of effectively managed ecologically representative protected areas for a healthy environment and prevention of future pandemics.

The following recommendations were agreed upon during the first Africa Protected Areas Directors Conference:

1. Creation of the Africa Protected Areas Directors forum for the directors to meet and deliberate on issues.
2. Formulation of continental levels emergency preparedness and response policy and guidelines to enable comprehensive, standardized and consistent approach to engaging with future pandemics.
3. Establishment of an African wildlife crisis fund to help engage in future pandemics.
4. Lobbying the governments to provide support to protected areas by allocating sufficient funds for national budgets.
5. Development of practical ways of addressing common challenges across areas such as biodiversity loss, illegal wildlife trade, disease outbreak and the impact of climate change on protected areas at the continental level.

THE AFRICA PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS (APAC) ENGAGEMENT

Luther Bois Anukur, IUCN- Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Regional Office delivered a detailed presentation on the progress of the congress. APAC is the first ever regional congress set to be held to share best practices and implementation processes that can be replicated across the continent. The congress is an initiative of the IUCN-WCPA as a subset of the World Parks Congress (WPC) held every 10 years.

An MOU between Rwanda and IUCN has already been signed confirming that the congress would be held in Kigali, Rwanda on 18-23 October 2021. In the lead up to the main event, the APAC secretariat has been established and will be hosted by AWF.

“There will be 3 regional meetings in Rwanda in 2021: How would we align the themes of these different events? The 3rd Ecosystem African Conference 1-5 march, ICCB 18-22 July and APAC 18-23 October”

Florence Palla

Other mentions on APAC’s progress included the formation of the governing and planning committees and the ongoing effort to bring the Rwanda Government on board. The APAC committees include the International Steering Committee (ISC), Congress Organizing Committee (COC), PR Communications and Marketing Committee, Logistics and Administration Committee and, Programme committee. APAC’s expected outcomes include building a case for protected areas, the strategy to implement CBD post 2020 framework for Biodiversity and framing the common vision for protected areas in Africa among others. (Find more information on APAC’s Objectives and expected outcomes on [APAC Presentation.pptx](#))

³He then introduced the APAC Stream and Cross-cutting themes and briefly described how they are organized after which he introduced the second group breakout session.

³ For any information about Wildlife or Climate Change from the Horn Africa especially Somalia, Contact Director of Wildlife and Forests, Mr. Ahmed Osman Email: busuri555@gmail.com, or Director of Climate Change Eng. Abdisamad H. Ahmed Email: shirwac@gmail.com, - Abdisamad H. Ahmed

SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

In regard to participants' reflections on the online survey's findings, participants noted the high degree of uncertainty at the time the survey was conducted. They indicated coming to terms with the crisis, with a bit more experience to address the related impacts.

A lot of expectations were set on the outcomes of the first APAD conference to speak to the issues learnt through the COVID-19 situation and to get the governments to mainstream the aspects of environment and conservation into their various dialogues.

There was a strong interest on the need to have a unified structure for Africa Protected Areas Directors to channel their concerns and have their voices heard.

Most participants also welcomed the possibility of participating at a high-level meeting of the African states that would communicate the messages agreed upon from these forums.

The role and importance of local communities was reiterated while emphasizing on the ultimate need to build more value around conservation, having a business case that is well articulated and also integrated so that the inputs that secure long term conservation would also be understood by the non- conservation players, our governments, the African Union and globally. There was great concern on how to plug in to the continuous growth and development in Africa and how that impacts conservation.

Looking at contributing to CBD post 2020, these are some of the agreed-upon messages that participants hoped APAC would help consolidate

- 1.** The common voices around protected areas management beyond the boundaries of protected areas.
- 2.** The unified messages to the people who support conservation in the African countries.
- 3.** The consolidated messages we want to put forward regarding Biodiversity and Development.
- 4.** The role of the Youth. How would the role of Youth be embedded across the different aspects around protected areas management?
- 5.** How to leverage on technology in a response mechanism.

The issue of funding was greatly emphasized with recommendations on thinking back about existing funding mechanism, i.e. BIOPAMA, UNESCO, Water Heritage site. Strategically putting together, a trust fund that would help to fill the gaps and encourage the governments in protected area investments because they are the safeguard to health and economy in times

of crisis. Ultimately, it was evident that that a forum would be needed to bring these thoughts together to build into APAC engagement opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey report showcased lack of collaboration and preparedness particularly in terms of financial capacity, coordinated technology and insufficient information on COVID-19 and zoonotic diseases in general. Moving forward, the conference recommended the following:

Collaboration

- Present a strong business case for PAs that will attract investors and wider stakeholders, (highlight opportunities e. g gender mainstreaming, role of PAs in climate change mitigation, job creation etc.)
- Partnerships: The survey and discussions should be directed to stakeholders and audiences at higher levels e.g., United Nations, CBD etc... Convey the message in a language that could easily be understood by the target audience since the messages of this nature are always scientific.
- Have an overarching mandate similar to the SDGs.

Budgeting for Protected Areas & defining business models:

- The survey presented an opportunity for conservationists to push forward the conservation agenda at local, regional and global level.
- Think about long term sustainable funding mechanisms, considering the cost of doing business in the new normal.
- How do we prepare models of funding for the PAs? There is need to determine the cost of values for PAs and quantify the number of people benefitting from the PAs.
- Craft a new vision for PAs with partnership options for wider stakeholders.
- Invest in a proper/ coordinated technology.

Link with regional level institutions at both social and political level

- Look at the current interventions being undertaken by governments and the private sector and learn from them.
- Continue with this kind of monitoring / survey: Consider a follow –on survey and define a time when this can be undertaken. Include diverse fields of respondents in the follow-on survey.
- Develop a narrative/ make available information on the propagation and emergence of new zoonotic diseases.

Forum/ platform for the Africa Protected Areas Directors

- Design the platform with clearly defined objectives and roles to enhance communication. Also assess factors such as costs, roles and key players.
- Link the platform to various existing protected area forums/ institutions at higher level in the region and also existing partnerships.
- Draw lessons/ experience from existing platforms for the heads of Protected Area, Central Africa for example.

“BIOPAMA has initiated a Rapid Response Small Grant Scheme to help PAs during the crisis. Also grants available from IUCN- SOS programme”

Kathy MacKinnon – WCPA Chair

Regional African Crisis Funding Mechanism

Participants felt that COVID-19 crisis provided an opportunity to get involved in streamlining the budgeting processes and planning at national levels. Therefore, it would be important to think about a long-term sustainable mechanism. The conference recommended the following:

- Ensure that overlaps are avoided since many grants are now being disbursed without a central function.
- Engage the government and ensure that they put more money aside for protected areas and conservation in general. The government should be made to understand that health of the environment is directly linked to the health of the people so they can step-up to ensure sustainability and accountability.
- Identify priority activities that can be carried out directly by every country and ensure that every country has the ability to suggest the minimum operating budget in the face of disasters such as pandemics.
- Liaise with the African Union (AU) to establish a unified funding mechanism for PAs like in the case involving the security sector.
- Build a PAs funding system that is self-sufficient and sustainable. PAs were already in crisis before COVID-19 in most places. A system that is more resilient is what is required even before we start discussing a crisis fund.
- Combine Traditional funding mechanism with a Rapid one to focus on crises.
- Assess whether we have the means of operating in case the resources are made available; the focus should be more on how we can implement activities than winning the funds.

- Carefully assess the feasibility of centralized funds; benefits and challenges involved, including protocol that should be put in place, etc...

CONCLUSION

Nancy Ogonje, Chief Executive Officer of East African Wildlife Society closed the conference by thanking the participants and the organizers for a successful conference. She particularly thanked Janvan Kombo, International Policy and Government Relations Assistance (AWF) for IT support, Sophy Ajwala, Executive Officer (IUCN-ESARO), Caroline Nyamamu, Regional Communications and Constituency Officer (IUCN-ESARO), Eileen Kairu (AWF) and Jane Otieno, APAC Administrative Assistant for taking notes.

She also thanked Luther Bois Anukur and Frederick Kwame Kumah for making the presentations that formed the basis of the discussions, Lucy Waruingi and Frederick Kwame Kumah for providing group discussion summaries, Alain Ngonzo for conducting the translations, Luther Bois Anukur for chairing the meeting, all the protected areas directors who attended the meeting, all the Regional Directors, COC members, WCPA and IUCN, and thanked AWF for hosting the conference.

Looking forward to the next conference, Nancy urged all participants to avail themselves and share within their networks as the lessons that have been shared so far are vital and have made significant changes.

****** THE END ******

REFERENCES

First Africa protected Areas Conference Report (Link)

For any information about Wildlife or Climate Change from the Horn Africa especially Somalia, Contact Director of Wildlife and Forests, Mr. Ahmed Osman Email: busuri555@gmail.com, or Director of Climate Change Eng. Abdisamad H. Ahmed Email: shirwac@gmail.com,- Abdisamad H. Ahmed

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Information of IUCN-SOS Rapid Action Grants is available on: <https://www.saveourspecies.org/rapid-action-grants-1>

Report on Impacts of COVID-19 on Africa's Protected Areas Operations and Programmes (Link)

ANNEX 1: CONFERENCE AGENDA



Protected Areas Directors' Virtual Conference II Agenda

Announcement: All participants requested to log in by 13:45 PM (East African Time)

17 th of August, 2020	
Aim:	
1. Taking forward recommendations from <i>COVID-19 conference report</i> 2. <i>Reviewing outcomes of survey questionnaire on COVID19 and agreeing next steps</i> 3. <i>Agreeing the role of Protected Area Directors in Africa Protected Area Congress</i>	
Time	Activity
14:00 – 14:10	Welcoming participants, calling the Meeting to Order, outlining agenda <i>Luther Anukur; Regional Director, ESARO, IUCN</i>
14:10 – 14:30	<i>Presentation of results of the Questionnaire - IUCN</i> Presentation of key recommendations from <i>COVID-19 conference</i> <i>Frederick Kwame Kumah, VP External Affairs, AWF</i>
14:30 – 15:10	Break Out groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflections on the survey report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What surprised you most from the survey report? - Is there a need for further information on the implications of COVID19 and what more information is required? 2. Create a forum/ platform for Heads of Protected Areas 3. Develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy and Guidelines to enable standardized and consistent approach in future pandemics 4. Establish a Regional African Wildlife Crisis Funding Mechanism
15:10 – 15:50	Presentations from break out groups
15:50 16:00	Presentation on APAC
16:00 16:20	Break Out groups: What concrete contribution will Africa Protected Area Directors like to make to APAC?
16:20 – 16:40	Group Reports by Group Representatives
16:40 – 17:00	Summary of congress conclusions and closing remarks / vote of thanks <i>Frederick Kwame Kumah, VP External Affairs, Africa Wildlife Foundation</i>

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Name	Affiliation
1	Prosper Uwingeli	Rwanda
2	Abel Musana	Rwanda
3	Thulani Methula	Eswatini
4	Moustafa Fouda	Egypt
5	Ibrahim M. Goni	Nigeria
6	Suleiman Yahsaya	Nigeria
7	Agba Gabriel	Nigeria
8	Yakubo Kolo	Nigeria
9	Tondossama Adama	Ivory Coast
10	Mammy Rakoto, DG/MNP	Madagascar
11	Abdisamad H. Ahmed	Somalia
12	Dr. Ameer Mohamed	Sudan
13	Luthando Dziba	SANParks
14	Fedinand C. KIDJO	Benin
15	Patience Gadiwa	Zimbabwe
16	Nuhu Bell	Republic of Niger
17	Mamady Saiba Keita	Guinea
18	Munira Anyonge	TNC
19	Janvan Kombo	AWF
20	Florence PALLA	IUCN-WCPA CAMEROON
21	Nancy Ogonje	East African Wildlife Society
22	Kathy MacKinnon	WCPA-Chair
23	Evelyn Namvua	The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group.
24	Eileen Kairu	AWF based in Nairobi, Kenya
25	Lucy Waruingi	African Conservation Centre / KENYA
26	Jeff Worden	WWF - International, Kenya
27	Leo Niskanen	IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
28	Fiesta Warinwa	AWF
29	Christine Mentzel	IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, BIOPAMA Coordinator for ESA

30	Caroline Nyamamu	IUCN, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
31	Frederick Kwame Kumah	AWF, Vice President
32	Harisoa Rakotondrazafy	WWF PANORAMA Solutions
33	James Isiche	IFAW
34	Josphat Ngonyo	ANAW
35	Sharize Odongo	AWF
36	Jane Otieno	APAC
37	Caroline Nyamamu	IUCN
38	Per Karlsson	AWF
39	Charles Oluchina	IUCN
40	Sophy Kategeka	IUCN
41	Indekhwa Anangwa	AWF
42	Philippe Mayaux	European Union
43	David Onenchan	AWF
44	Alistair Pole	AWF
45	Alain Ngono	English French Interpreter
46	Charly Fauchaux	AWF
47	Luther Bois Anukur	IUCN
48	Sophy Ajwala	IUCN
49	Edwin Tambaria	AWF

ANNEX 3: FIRST BREAKOUT GROUP SESSION NOTES

Participants were divided into four groups, three that were English led and one that was French led. The groups were assigned questions for discussion, and each group nominated a leader (a Protected Areas Director) who led the group discussions and presented the team's recommendations to the plenary.

The first group break-out session was assigned 40 minutes and the questions for discussion were distributed as follows:

1. Reflections on the survey report (All groups)
 - What surprised you most from the survey report?
 - Is there a need for further information on the implications of COVID-19 and what more information is required? How would you hope we take forward future surveys?
2. Creation of a forum/ platform for the heads of Protected Areas. (What recommendations do you have for organizing a platform for protected areas directors?) – Group 1
3. Develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy and Guidelines to enable standardized and consistent approach in future pandemics (Brainstorm on what would be involved and how to come up with Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy and Guidelines) – Group 2
4. Establish a Regional African Wildlife Crisis Funding Mechanism (Recommendations around funding mechanisms, how do we deal with future pandemics and what mechanisms should be put in place now and into the future to allow for effective response whenever we have such crisis) – Group 3

Reactions from the Survey Report:

The survey report showcased lack of collaboration and preparedness particularly in terms of financial capacity, proper/coordinated technology and insufficient information on COVID-19 and zoonotic diseases in general. Moving forward, the conference recommended the following:

Collaboration

- Present a strong business case for PAs that will attract investors and wider stakeholders (highlight opportunities e.g. gender mainstreaming, role of PAs in climate change mitigation, job creation etc.)

- Partnerships: The Business case, survey and discussions should be directed to stakeholders and audiences at higher levels e.g., United Nations, CBD etc.
- Have an overarching mandate similar to the SDGs

Budgeting for Protected Areas & defining business models:

- The survey presents an opportunity for conservationists to push the conservation agenda at local, regional and global level
- Think about long term sustainable funding mechanisms, considering cost of doing business in the new normal.
- How do we prepare models of funding for the PAs; need to have a cost of value for PAs and quantify the number of people benefitting from the PAs
- Craft a new vision for PAs with partnership options for wider stakeholders

Idea of a platform for heads of Protected Areas:

- Draw lessons/ experience from existing platforms for the heads of Protected Area, Central Africa for example.
- Design the platform with clearly defined objectives and roles to enhance communication. Also assess factors such as costs, roles and key players.
- Link the platform to various existing protected area forums/ institutions at higher level in the region and also existing partnerships.

Establish a Regional African Wildlife Crisis Funding Mechanism

- There are many grants are now being disbursed but there is not centralized function. Important to avoid overlap in the mechanisms.
- Is there a benefit to have the funds centralized? How long do we see the funds running for? Do we need a protocol or a standing fund or a preparedness mechanism instead of the funds?
- Combine traditional fund with Rapid one focus on crisis. The problem is more on how we can implement activities and not win the funds. Do we have the means of operating even if we did have the resources?
- Kenya set a precedent with the stimulus packages. Engage governments and ensure that they put extra money aside.

- Need to engage the governments to understand that their roles are not locked within park boundaries. The health of the environment is directly linked to the health of the people. The fund needs to also be led by governments for sustainability and accountability. The funds should not only be from external partners.
- We need to be able to identify the priority activities that can be carried out directly by our States and to be able to suggest the minimum amount, as in the case of natural disasters.
- Liaise with the AU for a unified funding for PAs in Africa. Setting aside funds for environment like what is done for security sector.
- Build a PA system that is self-sufficient and that can create its own 'rainy day' fund. PAs were already in crisis before COVID-19 in most places. A system that is more resilient is what is needed first before we start discussing about a crisis fund.
- The crisis has provided an opportunity to put our foot at the door and now we can streamline the budgeting processes and planning at national levels. Think about a long-term sustainable mechanism.

ANNEX 4: SECOND BREAKOUT GROUP SESSION NOTES

The second group breakout session was assigned 30 minutes. Each group was requested to discuss the following question:

1. General question: What concrete contribution will Africa Protected Area Directors like to make to APAC?
2. Specific question: What key outcomes will PAs Directors like to see?
3. Specific question: What contributions will Pas Directors like to make to the Programme Committee: Work Streams – (Protected Areas, People, and Biodiversity) and cross-cutting themes?

1. Africa Protected Areas Directors' Commitments to APAC/ what contribution will Protected Areas Directors like to make to APAC?

- Provide useful information and data on protected areas and conservation in general i.e. carry out biodiversity assessment on required subjects to assess opportunities and gaps, highlight what has been done across Trans -boundary natural resources to showcase the benefits; packaging and telling the stories of Protected Areas.
- Provide a vision for APAC and link it to global conferences; carry out strategic communications for APAC as necessary.
- Increased community participation and ownership of the protected areas; ensuring that more youth and children would be involved in the management of PAs and recognizing the environment as a driving factor to provide community livelihoods and sustainable development.
- Consider a global business plan for Africa's PAs at the local and regional levels which can be linked to a global plan – broaden the agenda by getting the various stakeholders and policy makers involved. Showcase the importance of PAs in mitigating climate change, importance of Africa's biodiversity to the global biodiversity and provide opportunities for partnerships.
- Collaborate in the establishing an Emergency Plan for PAs.
- Policies: Consider joint policies across borders involving shared natural resources.
- Plastic pollution: Discuss and find ways of keeping Africa's PAs free from plastic pollution.
- Participate in address Climate crisis impact on wildlife. Under the APAC theme of climate change.

- Use APAC to share experiences, challenges and best practices.
- Harmonizing the use of emerging technologies for PAs
- Reconciling the human rights issues surrounding PAs; human needs vs. conservation. What benefit-sharing models?

2. Protected Areas Directors' expectations from APAC-What Protected Areas Directors expect to see:

- Address the issues/ impacts of climate change during the conference.
- Lobby for funding of Protected Areas and show the importance of PAs in mitigating climate change.
- Commitment from governments to fund PAs and strengthen Trans -boundary collaboration.
- Recognition of voices especially communities living around PAs, i.e. the indigenous groups.
- Involvement of youth and young professionals in PAs as the future custodians of wildlife.
- Collaboration of agencies involved in PAs both at the local and international levels.
- Alternative sources of income other than tourism which communities living around PAs can venture into.
- A unified structure: All PA's to be unified through the congress so that Protected Areas Directors can speak in one voice to allow involvement in tangible agreements leading to the formation of the Heads of Protected Areas Forum.
- APAC as the voice for PAs to provide a bridge between governments and PAs. The congress should be able to speak on the interconnectedness of the environment to other sectors.
- Partnerships with communities; elevating communities as key stakeholders, recognizing environment as a driving factor to provide community livelihoods and sustainable development.
- Harmonized use of emerging technologies for PAs.
- Sharing lessons learnt.
- Reconciliation of human rights issues surrounding PAs: Human needs vs. Conservation. What benefit-sharing models are required?
- Inclusion of Community Conservancies in the IUCN list of PAs.
- Consideration of the impact of PAs vis-à-vis infrastructure development.

- Position Africa's PAs where they need to be; ensure that Africa leaders are well represented in global discussion for greater decision-making influence.
- Broadened stakeholder engagement to include AMCEN/AU/NEPAD on the role of PAs in ways that will enable them to raise the profile and capital-base; social, financial, and human.



*****END*****