

Dear Colleagues,

We all recognise the immense importance of the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille. It will be the major global conservation event feeding into the critical Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15 at the end of the year. The Congress traditionally attracts great expertise and experience from round the world. However, IUCN has increasingly emphasised inclusiveness to allow many voices from diverse cultures and sectors to be heard. Of particular importance has been boosting the presence and voices of both Indigenous people and younger people. Marseille will have dedicated forums for both.

Since the IUCN World Park Congress in 2003 WCPA has made an effort to assist outstanding young people conservationists to participate in WCPA and where possible participate in these vital meetings. For example we contributed to funding to bring 35 indigenous people and young professionals to last year's Latin American Parks Congress.

We wish to do so again for WCC 2020 and seek your assistance.

While we want to be inclusive, the reality is that there will only be limited places. This is because France is an expensive country and our costs of getting SC to the Congress and contributing to needs like the Pavilion are demanding on limited funds.

As a result of these limitations EXCO has decided that rather than RVCs seeking a few candidates on a regional basis, we should instead endeavour to seek the most impressive and promising 20 young people we can identify and assist them, rather than provide full funding, to a limit of 2000 CH. If they wish to attend both the forum and the special youth event during the Assembly over the full ten days, they will clearly need to raise additional funding.

We are asking for you to identify candidates, preferably people who are already WCPA members or are at least very active in conservation matters.

The Application has two parts and must be emailed to penelope.figgis@outlook.com and Mike.WONG@iucn.org by **Friday 6th March**.

Please note that the **Early Bird Registrations finish on the 11th March** so try to mobilise applications as soon as possible to maximise the chance of meeting this deadline.

1. A brief support letter from yourself identifying why you are recommending the candidate.
2. The Application from the candidate. The Candidate's letter must include:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Nationality
 - Contact email and phone
 - Current Position
 - Qualifications
 - Whether they are a Member of WCPA or connected to IUCN in any way.
 - Approx. 300 words on your experience and skills in issues related to Protected Areas
 - Approx. 300 words on why you would like to attend the Congress, what you believe you get out of the experience and what you could offer to WCPA in future.
 - The willingness of the candidate to assist on a roster basis in some of the organisational tasks of the Protected Planet Pavilion.