



APAC March 7th – 12th 2022

APAC Call for Proposals – Introduction and Instructions

The organizers of the Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) extend their warm welcome to the first ever Africa Protected Areas Congress which will be held in Kigali from March 7-12 2022 and seek your active participation in the diverse activities that will take place before and during the congress.

APAC is intended to further enhance the status of conservation in Africa by engaging governments, the private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, and academia to shape Africa's Protected and Conserved Areas Agenda to better deliver benefits for people and 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 protected and conserved areas and biodiversity to address the multiple challenges Africa faces, including climate change, pandemics and financial sustainability, b) the role of local people in managing protected and conserved areas for the benefit of people and nature; and c) solutions to harmonize conservation and human development as part of the Africa Union 2063 vision.

APAC 2022 will bring together, political and community leaders, protected area practitioners, professionals from diverse fields, scholars, researchers, the youth, women, academia, and stakeholders from public and private sectors from across the continent with a goal of positioning Africa's protected and conserved areas within the broader goals of sustainable development and community well-being. This meeting will take place virtually and in person. This landmark forum will provide a platform for holding candid discussions on the future we want for our protected and conserved areas and seek solutions to the persistent and emerging problems.

Africa has lost over 50% of its ecosystems in the last 50 years, far higher than any other period in history. Both direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss are leading to an unsustainable future for our people and the planet as a whole, putting our common future in jeopardy. Africa needs to address the persistent challenges and threats to our existence which have been exacerbated by the destruction of our life supporting systems. These challenges include climate change, unsustainable consumption patterns, land use conversion, increasing human populations, and the degradation and destruction of our environment. These issues, compounded with the COVID19 pandemic, have cast a light on our tenuous financial models as well. Practical, homegrown solutions that are ecologically sensitive, and socially and politically acceptable must be agreed to, and decisive actions taken.

This call for proposals is designed to attract contributions from interested groups across Africa which focus on the **APAC objectives, streams and cross cutting themes**. More details for APAC can be found on the document titled "African Protected Areas for People and Nature: APAC Content for Streams and Cross-Cutting Themes" which can be viewed and downloaded from the APAC website (soon to be finalized and online). Before filling your application, be sure to be familiar with this document.

This call for proposal is open to all who have an interest in contributing to the success of APAC. APAC will focus on applications from Africa and applications can be made in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic. We encourage applications from government and parastatal agencies, regional bodies, non-



governmental organizations, international organizations, community-based organizations, youth organizations and networks, organizations and networks representing indigenous peoples and local communities, and private sector and business.

Key dates for contributions through the call for proposals

June 2021	The call for proposals opens.
August 31st 2021	The call for proposals closes.
September 1st to October 31st 2021	Technical review process takes place. Contributors or proponents will be notified if the proposal has been accepted as is, or with suggested changes, or merged with other similar proposals, or held until modifications have been made according to the review panel's recommendations.
November 15th 2021	<u>If</u> you are contacted with a request to modify your proposal, you must submit your revised proposal by this deadline.
December 1st 2021	The first draft of the Congress Programme will be published on the APAC website, which will include abstracts from accepted applications
December 2021 to March 2022:	Prepare for the Congress. The Programme Team will provide any updated information about logistics, room allocation, facilitation services, facilities, etc.

Types of Events you can apply for

- 1) *High-level dialogues* will take place during the opening and stream plenaries and include key note addresses and high-level moderated panels. The high-level dialogues will feature internationally recognized experts, politicians and CEOs in a series of moderated public debates that tackle the most strategic issues related to conservation and sustainable development. With high media exposure, and innovative techniques, these 1–2-hour sessions will offer strategic thinking to guide the implementation of practical solutions for a sustainable future.
- 2) *Conservation clinics*: Do you want to gain the best knowledge and know-how available, and a deeper understanding of specific conservation topics? Conservation clinics that can take 1-2 hours, will offer more in-depth approaches to specific conservation issues, facilitating a more complete understanding of the broader picture, factors and actors related to this issue.
- 3) *Knowledge Café*: Are you looking to engage in dialogue with a small group of people to foster mutual understanding or create new partnerships around a certain issue? The 1.5-hour roundtable discussions of the knowledge café, involving up to 12 people, will explore common areas of interest, how to build on each other's experience and discuss possible partnerships or joint ventures.
- 4) *Technical Workshops*: Do you want to share or learn how an approach, scientific finding or technology can provide practical solutions to various challenges? These 1.5-hour interactive, side events give participants the opportunity to find out how to apply new techniques.
- 5) *Posters*: Posters are a visual and concise way to showcase in the exhibition hall latest achievements. Posters show innovations and solutions on a multitude of topics, such as traditional and indigenous knowledge, new and more sustainable business models and investment opportunities, youth action, methods to address gender equity, latest technologies or emerging multi-sector partnerships.
- 6) *Conservation Campus* (capacity building session): Are you looking to enhance your skills and knowledge, or do you feel like becoming a teacher for a day? The half- or one-day interactive training and capacity-building sessions of the conservation campus provide opportunities to further develop skills for conservation practitioners through peer-to-peer learning and academic sessions, endorsed by recognised experts. The Conservation Campus may involve pre- and post-Congress on-line activities.



- 7) *Pavilions*: You want to meet and engage with like-minded people? The pavilions in the exhibition hall provide a great opportunity to learn about innovative partnerships to drive conservation globally in the coming few years and talk to the right people, in a more informal and relaxed atmosphere.
- 8) *Social events*: Networking and social interaction play an essential role at the Congress. Not only do the conference sessions allow for new relationships to form, social events also liven up the Congress and provide participants with a welcoming place to wind down at the end of the day or during the lunch break. Stay tuned for more information on how to book your prizes and awards ceremonial sessions, book launches, and more.

Selection Criteria for Proposals

The call for contributions for the Congress is competitive. Each proposal will be considered on its own merit. Due to limited space it may be necessary to limit the number of particular types of events that an organizing institution can submit. All concepts will be reviewed by the programme team against the following selection criteria:

- Relevant to the congress theme and involves 2 or more African regions;
- Addresses the diversity of landscapes/seascapes in Africa, in particular those that were previously poorly addressed (marine, mountain, etc)
- Contributes to one or more of the overall congress objectives, and contributes to Africa’s solution to conservation issues in areas such as the SDGs, CBD, UNFCCC, etc.;
- Focus on new knowledge or improved understanding;
- Personal, organizational or societal changes that helped achieve significant outcomes illustrated;
- New challenges, opportunities, approaches, innovations or solutions identified;
- Different perspectives and positions on the topic addressed;
- Broad scope of stakeholders associated with the topic;
- Gender, in terms of roles in the event and the topic covered;
- Youth engagement, in terms of roles in the event and the topic, covered; and
- Overall regional and cultural diversity.

Organizers of accepted proposals may be asked to:

- Proceed with developing their event, including organizing contributors and preparing a detailed event description;
- Collaborate with others who submitted similar proposals to prepare a consolidated event description, which will be considered in the second round; or
- Consider scaling their proposal for a different type of event (e.g., a proposal for a workshop might be better suited as knowledge café discussion).

Final check-list! - Before submitting your proposal, think about the following:

- 1) Be relevant – to the congress theme;
- 2) Be inclusive – choose partners from different regions. Don’t forget policies and strategies on gender equity and equality and mainstreaming intergenerational dialogue and young leaders’ empowerment!
- 3) Enhance participants’ understanding by – ensuring audience participation and learning by using innovative formats for your event; explore issues associated with the thematic area; convey new knowledge or improved understanding; illustrate personal, organizational or societal changes that helped achieve significant outcomes; identify new challenges, opportunities, approaches, innovations, or solutions relevant to the theme;
- 4) Be balanced in relation to – different perspectives and positions on the topic, and the scope of stakeholders associated with the topic, gender and age, in terms of roles in the event and the topic covered, and overall regional and cultural diversity; and



- 5) Contribute to the congress goals by – Showcasing that protected areas are important for both conserving our unique biodiversity and supporting sustainable development; Promoting interaction and participation; and catalysing new actions and transformative initiatives.

Funding

We hope each African country (with the help of the government and partners) will support the participation of at least 10 people to attend APAC. The congress organizing committee will, however, fund-raise to help sponsor deserving cases. Our collective effort will contribute to achieving the vision of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in international arena”. Event organizers will be requested to contribute funds for their event to help cover rental costs, and any food and beverages they may require.

Plan to join us and to contribute towards building “the Africa we want”, and for more information, please contact the APAC Secretariat through Ms. Jane Otieno at JOtieno@awf.org. Please fill in all sections of the application form. When you have completed the application, please submit it to the APAC Secretariat (JOtieno@awf.org) who will acknowledge receipt and allocate your application a unique number.

