

## IUCN Resolution # 64 - Progress Report (by operative statement) - January/February 2019

### *“Strengthening cross sector partnerships to recognise the contributions of nature to health, well-being and quality of life”*

Co-sponsors (organisations): Various listed below

Department of Conservation New Zealand (DOC), Europarc Federation, Department of Environment and Water, South Australia (DEW), Australian Government Federal Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE)

#### Operative Statement

#### Co-sponsor implementation activity

1. **REQUESTS** the Director General to work in collaboration with the World Health Organisation to develop global and regional programmes that advance the value of nature, including parks and protected areas, for health and wellbeing benefits;

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2. **URGES** the Director General to establish suitable mechanisms to bring together Members, Commissions and the Secretariat to develop policies, programmes and cross-sectoral partnerships on the connection between healthy ecosystems and natural heritage and community health and wellbeing, including economic, social and cultural well-being;

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3. **CALLS ON** Members to consider further recognising and quantifying the extent of benefits for human health and well-

DEW sets out a park prioritisation process that includes considering the social, health and wellbeing benefits to inform investment into the management of its services

being provided by nature and apply this information to inform cost-benefit assessments for increased investment in the management of ecosystems and natural heritage, including parks, protected areas and natural spaces within urban areas;

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**4. ALSO CALLS ON Members to contribute to improving methods for quantifying the benefits of nature (more specifically parks, protected areas and natural spaces within urban areas) for human health and well-being, including the development of more consistent global accounting standards for this purpose;**

- DoEE: Commonwealth, state and territory governments are implementing a common national approach to environment-economic accounting, and development of national environmental-economic accounts has commenced. This work is using the internationally accepted standards from the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy)

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**5. RECOMMENDS that Members actively seek interdisciplinary partnerships and alliances with the health sector and local and regional communities to develop programmes of nature-based solutions to prevent and treat noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental illness and dementia, as well as to encourage the appropriate use of parks and protected areas for**

- DOC has restated its relationship with the Mental Health Foundation NZ, promoting nature connection for good mental health and wellbeing
- DOC has worked with partners to encourage people with disabilities into outdoor settings
- EUROPARC Federation is the networking organisation for Europe's nature and landscape areas and has over 300 members. Through chairing the Federation's Health and Protected Areas Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage is working with partners to raise the profile of the Healthy Parks Healthy People approach and help expand the contribution that parks and protected areas can make to delivering a range of health outcomes. A series of [case studies](#) illustrate how site managers are working across sectors to develop nature-based solutions, and a [toolkit](#) has been developed to provide practical advice including how to engage better with the health sector.

**improving cultural and spiritual well-being and social connection;**

- DEW - South Australian Healthy Parks Healthy People model is delivered through a health and environment agency partnership that reinforces the critical role that nature, and hence parks, can play in improving the health and wellbeing of the South Australian community. The aim of this second Memorandum of Understanding (the agreement) with Department for Health and Wellbeing is to build on the successes and extend the existing partnership between DEW and DHW for a further four years. It acknowledges the achievements to date and aims to provide a basis for further collaboration to build public value of nature by ensuring that parks and open green public spaces are accessible, relevant and improve the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.
- DEW - Five Ways to Wellbeing in Nature Campaign was launched by both the Minister for Health and the Minister for Environment, with support from Chief Psychiatrist, Mental Health Commissioner and the SA Healthy Parks Healthy People leadership team. The campaign was very well received with high levels of website views and social media impressions and shares. 5 Ways of Wellbeing in Nature Messaging has been embedded into the activities of SA Suicide Prevention Networks and other key community groups including:
  - 5 Ways to Wellbeing in Nature starter packs have been shared with Suicide Prevention Networks
  - 5 Ways to Wellbeing in Nature starter packs were shared with all of the SA Natural Resource centres and NRM boards.
  - The Heart Foundation SA will utilise the 5 Ways to Wellbeing in Nature branding and messaging to promote their Nature Walks Calendar of Events
  - Many stakeholders have shown an interest in the 5 Ways to Wellbeing in Nature materials including several local government groups; the project team continue to liaise with groups re supporting them to think through how they could utilise the campaign materials.
  - Following the success of the campaign promotion in December 2017, SA Health and Dep Environment and Health ran a second social media campaign for the 5 Ways to Wellbeing in Nature, with a winter focus.
  - DEW in partnership with Department for Health and Wellbeing are developing two pieces of work that are used to drive a shared understanding of the value of quality green public open space for health and wellbeing and the environment.

**DEW- Better Greener Campaign**

- Access to high-quality public open space is a key ingredient of healthy, liveable cities. The design and delivery of green open spaces is becoming a key challenge for the urban planning, health and environment sectors as our cities grow and densify. Evidence shows that most of Adelaide's metropolitan areas have experienced a decline in green space.

- As part of the Healthy Parks Healthy People SA initiative, SA Health and the Department for Environment and Water will be launching a campaign highlighting the important role of green open spaces for health and wellbeing, biodiversity and our urban ecosystem.
- 'Better Greener' aims to help us recognise the benefits of green spaces and support its role in creating healthy and liveable places.

#### **DEW- Creating Greener Places for Healthy and Sustainable Communities- Ideas for Quality Green Public Open Space**

- Ensuring that quality green public space is available to all South Australians is becoming a key challenge for the urban planning, health and environment sectors as our cities grow and densify.
- A set of principles for quality green public open spaces are being developed to support the new planning system and the opportunities it presents to enhance green infrastructure in South Australia.
- The QGPS principles have been developed by the Department for Health and Wellbeing and the Department for Environment and Water in partnership with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) under the Healthy Parks Healthy People SA initiative. Their development is an action included in the Healthy Parks Healthy People SA, Quality Green Space Action Plan.
- It is envisaged that the principles will stimulate discussion and progress the dialogue on how to support the growth of Greater Adelaide in a way that protects and enhances our green spaces alongside the creation of new open space destinations.
- The principles can inform state and local government and they are primarily targeted at policy-makers, planners, builders and developers, landscape architects, urban designers, engineers, and land and asset owners and managers. The principles will also be of interest to the community and the business sector.
- The principles intend to:
  - Drive a shared understanding of the value of quality green open space;
  - Promote increased collaboration and a shared responsibility for the delivery of green open spaces;
  - Raise awareness of the range of benefits provided by green open space;
  - Support long-term liveability and sustainability of our communities and the local environment.
- DEW- Joint Statement of Action- Connection to Country for Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing is an initiative driven from the South Australian Healthy Parks Healthy People framework. This Statement is intended to be an advocacy and accountability tool for the Aboriginal community, and state government agencies. It documents an agreed understanding of the importance of Connection to Country for Aboriginal health and wellbeing, and articulates principles to guide how Aboriginal

people in South Australia can be better supported to connect to Country through the combined action of government, the non-government sector and the community.

**Australian Federal Government Department of the Environment and Energy**

- Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2010- 2030) is being refreshed. The links between the environment and human health are being considered as part of this process.
- Australia’s National Landcare Program and the Improving Your Local Parks and Environment Program now highlight the nature-health linkages.
- Australia’s Indigenous Protected Areas and the Indigenous Rangers- Working on Country programs are specifically aimed at environmental, social and economic outcomes for Indigenous people.
- The Australian Government supports each Australian state to establish green urban spaces for the benefit of human health.
- The Australian Government's Green Army and 20 Million Trees programs enabled programs such as the Victorian State Government’s Greening the West 1 Million Trees project which aims to enable sustainable, liveable, healthy communities through urban greening in Melbourne’s west.
- Australia is also an active Party to the Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of their Habitats in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. A Ramsar regional initiative, the Partnership is an informal and voluntary collaboration of effort focusing on protecting migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependant on them.

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**6. CALLS ON Members to continue to  
build the evidence base for quantifying  
the benefits of nature for human health  
and well-being and encourages  
Members to build cross-sector  
partnerships to measure the  
effectiveness of nature-based health  
programmes; and**

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**7. WELCOMES IUCN's leadership in recognising and communicating the initiatives and co-benefits from connecting nature and human health and well-being, and integrating these initiatives as part of national and international policies regarding public health and 'nature based solutions'.**