



15th World Congress on Public Health

3-7 April 2017 Melbourne Australia www.wcph2017.com

Nature is good medicine

Tuesday 4 April 2017, 1600 - 1800, Plenary Hall 1

Lead	Jo Hopkins, Parks Victoria
Speakers	Dr Maria Neira, World Health Organization Cristina Rominelli, Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity Daniel Buss, Pan American Health Organization Matthew Jackson, Parks Victoria Kevin Lafferty, Forestry Commission, Scotland Taholo Kami, IUCN Oceania Regional Office Mr Zhang Xinsheng, IUCN Clare Shine, Salzburg Global Seminar Austria

Nature is essential to human health and wellbeing. We are all part of the natural world. This has been known by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. The growing body of evidence on the connections between nature and human health and wellbeing call for our urgent attention. Global experts from World Health Organisation, International Union for Conservation of Nature and other key organisations will discuss how the positive impacts of nature for human health can be accurately measured to influence both policy and practise. This Dialogue will challenge the health and environment sectors to present the evidence and outline opportunities for managing healthy nature for healthy people.

Outcomes of health and nature sessions

- Commitment by World Health Organisation (WHO) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to continue to advance the health and nature agenda globally;
- Progression of IUCN Resolution #064 and actions on health and wellbeing as part of the IUCN Programme 2017-2020;

Context & background

- Following on from the recent IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2016 in Hawaii, the awareness of nature as being an important health





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prevention solution has been significantly raised, particularly within the broader conservation sector.

- Partnerships between the health and conservation/environment sectors are integral to continuing to progress this agenda. As the largest conservation organisation in the world, the IUCN have committed to working with the WHO to develop global and regional programmes to advance the values of nature for health.
- Similarly, we would like public health sector to follow and utilise the opportunity of the 15th WCPH in Melbourne to create a platform to raise awareness of the 'health and nature' agenda from the health sector point of view.
- The approach has been adopted by many partners and has broadened significantly to encompass the health of not only individuals (physical, mental, health etc.) but also of community's environmental and economic health and wellbeing.

Partners & supporters

- World Health Organisation
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)
- Salzburg Global Seminar
- #NatureForAll Taskforce
- Federal Dept. Environment and Energy (Australia)
- Dept. Health of Human Services (Victoria)
- Dept. of Environment Water and Planning (DELWP, Victoria)

- Parks Victoria (convener of these 2 sessions)
- VicHealth
- Office of Environment and Heritage/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW)
- Dept. of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (SA)
- Dept. of Health (SA)
- Dept. of Conservation (NZ)
- Dept. of Health (NZ)





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