



# Statement of Collaboration





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This is a statement of collaboration between World Urban Parks and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to advance our shared vision for inspiring and empowering people from all walks of life around the world to nurture and connect with nature, parks, and protected areas in and around urban areas.

## Background

In 2014, for the first time in history, more people lived in urban areas than in rural areas, with 55% of the world's population residing in urban areas in 2018. By 2030, more than 41 cities will have over 10 million inhabitants.

Cities are not isolated islands but are often dependent on natural ecosystems in surrounding landscapes and seascapes for services such as clean water and coastal protection. In urban areas, nature, parks, protected areas, and other conservation areas can be places to conserve biodiversity as well as to provide opportunities for recreation, exercise and relaxation.

Urban parks and protected areas can connect cities with the broader ecosystems in which they are embedded, creating corridors for people, plants and animals to move safely across the city and into its surroundings, including the broader protected area network. They also create important opportunities for people to access and understand the benefits they derive from nature.

Spending time in nature benefits people in diverse ways, including fostering social connections, encouraging community cohesion and social well-being, and promoting physical and mental health. It is foundational to fostering care and appreciation of the earth's natural wonders and deepened connections to the thriving ecosystems that support human and other forms of life.

## About Us

### World Urban Parks

World Urban Parks is a relatively new international non-government organisation representing the vibrant urban parks, open space and recreation sector. At a time when urban growth will see 70 percent of the world's population living in urban areas by 2050, sharing knowledge and providing a collective voice for all people and organisations engaged in green cities, open space, recreation, health and related activity is vital. Together we want to build healthy, liveable and sustainable communities.



[worldurbanparks.org/en/](http://worldurbanparks.org/en/)

### IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

The WCPA is the world's premier network of protected area professionals, with over 2,500 members, spanning 140 countries. WCPA works by helping governments and others plan and manage protected areas, including urban conservation areas, by providing strategic advice to policy makers; by strengthening capacity and investment in protected areas; and by convening the diverse constituency of protected area stakeholders to address key environmental issues. For more than 60 years, WCPA has been at the forefront of global action on protected areas.



[iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa](http://iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/wcpa)

## Working Together

World Urban Parks and WCPA will work collaboratively to foster effective action and advocacy for nature conservation through urban parks, and protected areas. We will work across generations, borders, languages, cultures, and sectors to promote access to and understanding of the health and well-being and other benefits of nature and inspire and empower people from all walks of life to connect with – and care for – nature, particularly in and around urban areas.

World Urban Parks and WCPA will collaborate in various ways, including:

- Sharing knowledge and best practices;
- Engaging in specific activities and programmes such as #NatureForAll, IUCN World Conservation Congress, International World Urban Parks Congress, and World Parks Week; and
- Participating in each other's specialist groups, such as the WCPA Health and Well-being Specialist Group, WCPA Urban Conservation Strategies Specialist Group, and the World Urban Parks National Park City Group.

As a means of reporting on progress, collaborating members of both organisations will be encouraged to share updates of their activities and associated outcomes with the leadership of World Urban Parks and WCPA through existing processes such as annual technical reports of relevant specialist groups and task forces.

We know that we can achieve more together than separately and will strive to make the most of our collaboration as we implement solutions for parks, people and the planet.

## Signed By

Handwritten signature of Julia Miranda Londoño in black ink.

Julia Miranda Londoño  
Deputy Chair  
IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

15 October 2018

Handwritten signature of Jayne Miller in black ink.

Jayne Miller  
Chair  
World Urban Parks

15 October 2018