

## Submit an Abstract

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## Conference Coordinators

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## International Conference

# BiodiverCities

Strategies for Sustainably Managing Protected Areas in  
Urban and Peri-urban Environments, North and South

6-8 September 2010 - PARIS

## Context and Objectives

To coincide with the *International Year of Biodiversity*, the **Urban Protected Areas Network** is organizing an international conference on the relationship between Cities and Nature, focusing on the complexities of- and the strategies for sustainably managing protected areas in urban environments, both North and South.

Even though cities depend heavily on the goods and services provided by their immediate environment, urban pollution and consumption of natural resources place increasingly heavy burdens on these natural systems. Such urban natural spaces play an essential role, providing and maintaining ecosystem services, and more generally contributing to the wellbeing of city dwellers. Furthermore, against a backdrop of rapid urbanization, these green spaces are increasingly coveted and contested, manifesting strong socio-environmental inequalities.

By 2030, some 61% of the world's population is expected to live in cities, which in developing countries will correspond to a 93% increase in city dwellers. Accordingly, unless planning and housing can match this pace, a large proportion of these urban migrants – mainly poor – will find themselves settling at the precarious fringes of the urban fabric. Given this rate of urbanization, and the rapid expansion of cities around the world, natural protected areas are increasingly subject to the dynamic pressures of urban systems. Consequently, cities now play a growing role in global efforts to protect and manage vulnerable natural systems: the question is how to build and manage a city *within* nature, rather than in opposition to it.

The aim of Protected Areas is to conserve nature *in situ*, generally within a clearly bounded territory, where the possible uses of the land are regulated by law. In large urban areas, the restrictions inherent to Protected Areas invite various forms of social-environmental conflict, as competing demands of diverse populations interact with conservation imperatives, on questions as diverse as landuse & access, risk, representation, territoriality, social inequality, and spatial justice. These questions are at the heart of *BiodiverCities*, at the locus of urban and environmental politics. A further object of the conference will be to examine emerging forms of governance – and perhaps even a new paradigm of environmental management – in which protecting areas and conserving biodiversity are broadly integrated in sustainable urban practice.

In a comparative exercise, *BiodiverCities* will bring together protected area managers, municipal leaders and researchers, to exchange views and experiences from both South and North. The aim is to foster lively discussions, on a subject too often ignored by international organizations and scientific literature. Responding to an urgent need to bring diverse actors and experiences together in this common purpose, this conference will provide an occasion to collectively analyze participants' diverse perspectives, with an emphasis on exploring the similarities and differences – sometimes radical – between & within sites. The conference will conclude with a field visit to explore these questions on the outskirts of Paris.

## Organizers



# BiodiverCities 2010 - Call for Contributions



Researchers, managers of urban, peri-urban and urbanizing protected areas, representatives from local & regional governments, and other actors from civil society are all invited to participate in this conference, to share their local research and experience in a comparative endeavor with global reach.

The first day of *BiodiverCities* will consist of plenary discussions with practitioners from four Urban Protected Areas: *Cape Town, Mumbai, Nairobi and Rio de Janeiro*. Practitioners from each municipality will speak to the complexities of managing urban environments in close proximity to National Parks; likewise, respective managers from Table Mountain, Sanjay Gandhi, Nairobi and Tijuca National Parks will describe the challenges and opportunities of their urban settings. Moderated by researchers from the *UPA Network*, these four interrelated discussions will serve as a forum for comparing experiences, sharing strategies and challenging participants' expectations.



The second day, consisting of presentations selected via this present *Call for Contributions*, will focus on the relationships between protected areas and cities from both South and North (including the Paris region). In parallel sessions, scientists and practitioners from such contexts are invited together to present their research and local experiences. Proposed contributions should correspond to one of the four dimensions below, each of which will be the object of a parallel thematic session:

1. *Biodiversity without Borders:*  
*Conserving Urban Nature within—and beyond—Protected Areas*
2. *Whose Areas: Conflicts and Dialogues in and around Urban Protected Areas*
3. *What governance between cities and protected areas?*
4. *Protecting Areas? What future for this strategy in urban settings.*



The protected areas under discussion here need not exclusively be National Parks: all sorts of and all sizes of protected Urban Nature can offer insights: Local Nature Reserves, Regional Parks, Specially Classified Areas, Biosphere Reserves, Natura 2000 sites, etc

## Pre-conference Calendar

Deadline for Abstract Submission (maximum 3000 characters) : <b>05 April 2010</b> Submissions should include: Title, 5 keywords, professional position & contacts of corresponding author.
Response from scientific committee, publication of presenters & logistical details: <b>30 May</b>
Deadline for presenters to submit short text (two pages + one figure). Conference Registration Deadline : <b>30 June</b>
After the conference concludes, papers selected by the scientific committee will be collected for a published volume. Final texts from authors will be due by : <b>15 November</b>



**Abstract Submission: BiodiverCities2010@gmail.com**

# BiodiverCities 2010 - Pre-program

## Partners

PIR Ville et Environnement



The **Urban Protected Areas (UPA) Network** is an international, independent, decentralized and non-profit network, which brings together protected area managers, local authorities, representatives of civil society and teams of researchers, to collaborate on *Urban-Nature* issues, with particular attention to the role of protected areas in urban dynamics.

## Monday, 6 September 2010 (Paris)

Round Tables with Park & City Managers from across the UPA Network:

- Sanjay Gandhi National Park – Mumbai;
- Table Mountain National Park – Cape Town;
- Tijuca National Park – Rio de Janeiro;
- Nairobi National Park – Nairobi

Each round table will be followed by opportunities for plenary discussion.

## Tuesday, 7 September 2010 (Paris)

Presentations selected from this *Call for Contributions* will be followed by discussion sessions as part of four thematic parallel sessions:

1. *Biodiversity without Borders:*  
*Conserving Urban Nature within—and beyond—Protected Areas*
2. *Whose Areas: Conflicts and Dialogues in and around Urban Protected Areas*
3. *What governance between cities and protected areas?*
4. *Protecting Areas? What future for this strategy in urban settings.*

## Wednesday, 8 September 2010 (Fontainebleau Forest, just outside Paris)

Morning: plenary session on the question « *Towards which Urban Natures ?* », followed by summary remarks concluding the conference.

Afternoon: Guided visit and discussions with the National Forest Office (ONF) to the Fontainebleau Forest, (a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, this is the main forest on the Southern edge of Paris).

NB: Advance reservation and a 15€ participation fee are required for this excursion.

## Organizing Committee :

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