

Sub-theme 2: BEYOND BORDERS

Many of the issues to be dealt with to ensure a sustainable future go beyond national boundaries. The conservation of large ecosystems, the effective protection of large mammals or of migrating birds, or the reduction of greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere will only have a symbolic impact if they are limited to national jurisdictions. Other matters, like the protection of high seas, are, de facto, beyond national jurisdictions. To be fully effective, a wide array of conservation efforts need international cooperation. In turn, conservation can provide a neutral space for peace. Transboundary protected areas are only one example of this, and with conflicts over natural resources becoming potentially more frequent, conservation can increasingly play a role in peace-building and peace-keeping.

This sub-theme will explore the interlinkages between conservation and peace, through and beyond borders. It will analyse the role of conservation to prevent conflicts, the need for international cooperation to tackle specific issues like wildlife trafficking, water management or climate change, and will show concrete example of how transboundary cooperation through peace parks, for example, have allowed countries to work together for a sustainable future.

Related technical sessions:

- Conservation beyond borders: Biodiversity and nature conservation should be considered on a global scale rather than within geopolitical boundaries. The conservation of large ecosystems or the fight against wildlife trafficking are two of the issues this session will explore, showing how a more holistic approach is essential to successful conservation and defining basic principles for such an approach. Peace Parks (and other transboundary protected areas) will provide one of the powerful peace-keeping and peace-building instrument, among many others, that will be explored and analysed during this session with the objective to inspire and promote action in this regard.
- Harmonising the Management of Multi-Internationally Designated Areas: Today there are 238 natural World Heritage sites, 2,241 Ramsar sites, 669 Biosphere Reserves and 120 UNESCO Global Geoparks. Some of these overlap, which creates both benefits and challenges due to the various standards required by each designation. A more integrated and effective management of areas with multiple designations is needed and this session will provide both an overview of the work done so far in this regard, and a space to discuss the challenges ahead.