

Sub-theme 3: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATIONS

Finally, talking about the future would not make much sense if the generations who will have to live in and develop this future further are not involved. The WLCF2018 represents a unique opportunity to involve, support, empower and engage with next generations as the international community is expressing an ever-growing interest on youth, recognising them as important stakeholders and actors in the creation of a better future for our planet and making their engagement a priority to address current and future challenges. Taking stock of the past is only useful if we can build on the lessons learnt to define an agenda for the years to come.

A special session (high-level dialogue) will close the WLCF by showcasing inspiring stories of outstanding individuals from different generations, geographical regions and sectors who are making a difference for biological and cultural diversity, people and sustainable development and who are acting as powerful drivers to facilitate connection and appreciation of nature and to empower the next generations of conservation leaders. The session will explore the importance of empowerment and meaningful engagement of emerging conservation and community leaders, and will discuss how we can work together in an intergenerational partnership to overcome environmental challenges, accelerate change and maximise conservation impact. The session will culminate in a hand-over ceremony between former Directors General of IUCN and young professionals, symbolising the continuity of the conservation movement through generations, on the occasion of IUCN's 70th anniversary.

Related technical sessions:

- Youth Forum: Through a special scholarship funded by the Jeju Self-Governing Province and international partners, a group of students from around the world will be invited to take part in the 2018 World Leaders' Conservation Forum. The Youth Forum will provide a space for these students to discuss the theme and sub-themes of the WLCF2018 and optimise their active participation in the event.