

Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions

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Dr. Ricardo Rozzi, a Professor of Philosophy and Religion Studies, and co-director of the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program at the University of North Texas (UNT) has been invited by Marton-Lefèvre, General Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and former Rector of the UN University for Peace to Australia to participate as a panelist at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The theme of the *World Parks Congress 2014* is **Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions**. Dr. Ricardo Rozzi will participate as a panelist in the **World Leaders' Dialogue** entitled "Stand up for your rights: parks and social equity" on November 15th. This **World Leaders' Dialogue** will look into indigenous and traditional peoples' cultures and their role in biodiversity conservation; gender equity; poverty and human development; tenure and natural resource rights; and

environmental security and vulnerability.

The congress is held every 10 years and is a landmark global forum to identify and communicate inspiring solutions involving protected areas for some of the world's most pressing global challenges. It will bring together around 3,000 people from over 160 countries, to reflect on proven approaches for protected area governance and management, to inspire people from all sectors to build a much deeper connection to nature, and to shape and guide the implementation of innovative solutions for people and protected areas for years to come. Messages from the *World Parks Congress 2014* will feed directly into global negotiating on the post 2015 sustainable development agenda. The shared ambition and focus will be to provide lasting natural solutions to today's conservation and development challenges will result in tangible and enduring benefits for parks and people worldwide.

Dr. Rozzi has been invited as a world leader in the integration of environmental ethics and ecological sciences into biocultural conservation. He has developed a biocultural ethics that demands incorporating this value of the co-inhabitants subjects into development policies as a matter of socio-environmental justice. A higher recognition of the value of biocultural diversity demands an environmental justice that includes poor and marginalized people: the oppressed human beings side-by-side with the oppressed other-than-human beings. Dr. Rozzi has also led the creation of the Omora Ethnobotanical Park and the UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve at the southern tip of South America. Today the Park and its Cape Horn Field Station are administrated by the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program, coordinated by UNT in the U.S., and the University of Magallanes and the Institute of Ecology and Biodiversity in Chile. Since 2005, this program offers international courses using field environmental philosophy as a methodology that is grounded on the cutting-edge collaborations between environmental scientists and philosophers that UNT has catalyzed for over two decades.

For more information see the <u>World Parks Congress 2014</u>. <u>http://worldparkscongress.org/programme/wld_stand_up_for_your_rights.html</u>.

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