

Call for Proposals

2027 Global Congress
of the International Land
Conservation Network

People. Nature. Action.

Delivering on a Global Conservation Agenda

October 26-29, 2027 | Naarm (Melbourne), Australia

Join land conservation experts and practitioners advancing private and community-led conservation around the world at the International Land Conservation Network's (ILCN) 2027 Global Congress, co-hosted by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA).

ILCN and ALCA are **calling for proposals** for workshops, sessions, and presentations that share important work with this global community of practice.

Important dates

Proposals open:	July 2026
Proposals due:	19 October 2026
Notification of acceptance:	Late November 2026
Workshops:	26 October 2027
Conference sessions:	27-28 October 2027
Field trips:	29 October and other dates to be confirmed



About the ILCN

The ILCN, a project of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, serves as the global network for organisations advancing private and civic land conservation. Formally launched at its first Congress in Berlin in 2015, the ILCN connects and convenes land conservation experts and practitioners from across seven continents, sharing good practices, strategies, and innovations to advance the more rapid and effective use of private and civic land conservation tools and strategies.

The triennial ILCN Global Congress brings together the conservation community from around the world who are leading this effort. Each Congress grows and strengthens an international community of practice, showcases host-country leadership, and accelerates the ideas, investment, and collaboration needed to secure healthy ecosystems as the foundation of cultural wellbeing, economic prosperity, and climate resilience.

Proceedings from the [2015](#), [2018](#), [2021](#) and [2024](#) Congresses are available to download.



About the Congress

The 2027 Global Congress of the ILCN will be co-hosted by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA). ALCA is Australia's peak body for nature conservation, and represents organisations that protect, steward, and restore nature on private and non-government land. They are a founding partner of the ILCN. Together, the ILCN and ALCA will convene over 500 participants and speakers from around the globe in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia.

The Congress will showcase, strengthen, inspire, and celebrate the people, organisations, countries, and regions advancing private and community-led land conservation. By uniting conservation practitioners and experts from the private, non-profit and non-governmental, Indigenous, academic, and public sectors, it will foster the cross-boundary collaboration and knowledge exchange needed to achieve national and global targets for halting biodiversity loss, addressing climate change, and ensuring sustainable development.

Through plenary discussions, skill-building workshops, interactive sessions, and facilitated dialogues, Congress participants will share their experiences, knowledge, and expertise and consider the challenges and opportunities ahead for private and community-led land conservation globally.

About the Theme

196 countries across six continents have made ambitious commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by the end of this decade. With a deadline fast approaching, achieving this global conservation agenda requires conservation at an unprecedented scale and level of collaboration.

Around the world, private and community-led conservation is providing one of the most powerful pathways to safeguard natural systems and wildlife, adapt to climate change, and build resilient communities and economies. The challenge now is to enable, connect, accelerate, and scale existing and novel solutions and innovations.

To this end, the 2027 Congress program will have an overarching theme of **People. Nature.**
Action: Delivering on a Global Conservation Agenda. Proposals should highlight how people and organisations are working collaboratively, with nature and across sectors, to take action, develop solutions, and catalyze innovation in areas of critical importance – from securing sustainable financing for restoration to achieving long-term stewardship of protected and conserved areas.

Congress Streams

The 2027 Congress program will be organised around six streams. Streams provide focused pathways for exploring the ideas, partnerships, and actions needed to advance a global conservation agenda. Proposals should demonstrate a clear connection to at least one stream. The descriptions below are to help guide and inspire great ideas for proposals, rather than be overly prescriptive.



CONSERVATION FINANCE

This area may include topics such as: when and how to finance land transactions, including philanthropy/grants, public funds, tax incentives, bargain sales, limited development, Indigenous-led conservation finance, and innovative and/or new sources of funding; public-private partnerships to support conservation; carbon and biodiversity financing; nature credits and markets; mitigation or compensation funds; ecotourism; opportunities and challenges in developing long-term sustainable finance mechanisms, and more.



POLICY AND LAW

This area may include topics such as: national or regional laws and policies enabling private and community-led land conservation in countries with a range of legal systems; financial incentives that support land conservation; exploration and discussion of tools and instruments such as permanent or term easements or covenants, conservation leases or agreements; innovations in conservation law and policy to respect Indigenous rights and traditional laws; policy frameworks for the inclusion of private and community-led land conservation in national protected area frameworks; identifying and designating Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures, and more.



STRONG ORGANISATIONS AND FUTURE LEADERS

This area may include topics such as: building sustainable organisations; growing the pipeline of emerging leaders; communicating effectively; engaging and retaining volunteers; developing strong governance mechanisms; creating and adopting national standards and practices for land conservation; the value of networks in advancing private land conservation on a regional or national level; conservation delivered for and by young people; the role of privately protected areas in the global land conservation dialogue; building capacity for collaboration and partnership; data collection, management, and reporting; and more.



CLIMATE CHANGE

This area may include topics such as: climate-adaptive land conservation and stewardship policy and practice; developing nature-based solutions through land conservation, restoration and stewardship initiatives; assessing the contribution of land conservation to climate mitigation and adaptation goals; and more.



LAND, WATER AND LANDSCAPES

This area may include topics such as: regional conservation partnerships and landscape collaboratives; large-scale or connectivity conservation science and planning; transboundary conservation initiatives; multi-ownership and multi-jurisdictional approaches to land stewardship; re-wilding and translocations; and more.



FIRST NATIONS

This area may include topics such as: Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas; Cultural easements; Indigenous and First Nations-led land conservation; Indigenous and First Nations leadership and governance; land return or re-matriation; joint management arrangements; challenges and opportunities in building Indigenous and First Nations access, ownership and management; Traditional Ecological Knowledge; systemic factors for participation and success; and more.

Proposals

Applicants may propose any of the following:



3-hour

Workshops

3-hour intensives on a subject or focus area for which Congress attendees are required to pre-register. They will take place on the first day of the Congress (October 26, 2027). Up to five workshops will take place concurrently.



60-90mins

Sessions

Interactive 60 - 90-minute discussions featuring multiple speakers and presentations. They will take place across the second and third days of the Congress (October 27-28, 2027). While the format is flexible, the objective of each session is to foster an interactive dialogue through which participants work collaboratively to build skills or advance their collective understanding of a particular topic. This could be through a series of presentations; a panel discussion or roundtable; quick-fire oral presentations, video, or storytelling followed by discussion; a conversation around a specific case study; and more. Up to 30 sessions will take place over the course of the Congress, with up to five sessions running concurrently at any one time.



12-15mins

Presentations

Presentations are short, 12-15 minute talks with or without accompanying slides or visuals focused on a specific topic, initiative, innovation, project or case. Selected presentations will be integrated into a session under the appropriate area of focus.

All proposals must include a description, a value proposition on why the workshop, session or presentation would be of interest to participants, and an explanation of its relevance to the Congress theme.

Proposals can be submitted online [here](#). If you prefer to complete your submission through other means, please contact rbeckham@lincolninst.edu.

Selection Criteria

The Planning Committee will review and select proposals using the following set of criteria:

- Relevance to the Congress theme and identified stream(s)
- Transferability of models (can the case be translated into other contexts)
- Potential to stimulate debate and dialogue around current and future trends in the field
- Representation of Indigenous perspectives

- Clarity of proposal description and value to participants
- Appropriate length/amount of material to time allotment
- Level of audience interaction
- Overall balance of program topics
- Broad geographic representation

The ILCN and ALCA may solicit proposals for topics that may not be represented in the applicant pool.

Discounted Speaker Registration Rate

Congress speakers will receive a **20% discounted** Congress registration rate. All speakers must register for the 2027 Congress using the discounted rate and meet their own travel and accommodation costs. Limited travel support is available for speakers who demonstrate need.

If you require travel support, please complete the Travel Support Request Form [here](#).

For additional information on the 2027 Congress, or on the proposal process, please contact Robin Beckham at rbeckham@lincolninst.edu.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.



Image: Jacques Boissinot

