

Written Message of Support from HRH Prince of Wales to the Delegates of the International Land Conservation Network and European Land Conservation Network Global Congress



22 April 2020



CLARENCE HOUSE

Ladies and gentlemen,

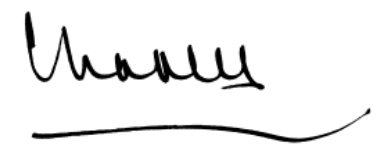
I am very glad to be able to contribute this message of encouragement and support to the delegates of the Global Congress of the International Land Conservation Network and the European Land Conservation Network. Although you may be separated physically due to the Coronavirus, you are nonetheless all present and united in a virtual internet gathering – not to give up, but to find another way; this is human endeavour at its best.

For more than four decades, the conservation of Nature and other matters relating to our collective relationship with the Earth have been at the top of my concerns. As we continue to face the growing challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, there is an increasingly urgent need for voluntary private and civil society conservation action that works across boundaries to protect the various physical resources and living things upon which we all depend and which, in their own right, are unique.

I have long admired the remarkable dedication and innovation of the individuals, families, communities and private and civil society organizations across the globe who play a vital role in protecting land and biodiversity for present and future generations. No single sector of society – be it public, private or NGO – can face, alone, the conservation challenges all of us face in the twenty-first century. As land-users, owners or guardians, your work to protect and steward land is critical to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and increasing the resilience of our planet.

In order to achieve our shared goals, it is of the greatest importance to learn from the experiences of those who are advancing and accelerating the pace and quality of public, private and civic land conservation around the world. I am delighted that this virtual Congress and its series of webinars will connect private and civil society land conservation practitioners, policymakers and experts from six continents to exchange experience and best practice on key topics related to enabling and financing conservation, restoring large landscapes, stewarding and managing land and water resources and building and strengthening the capacity of organizations large and small.

I warmly congratulate the International Land Conservation Network and the European Land Conservation Network for bringing together this extraordinary group of individuals and organizations who are bridging sectors, disciplines, and jurisdictions – and who are united in their commitment to conservation. I can only wish you an inspiring and productive time together, and cheer you on as you accomplish great things in your many and diverse efforts throughout the world.



HRH The Prince of Wales