WORLD TRAILS CONFERENCE
Ottawa 2024

Ottawa | Canada | Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2024

PRIORITY TOPICS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

WELCOME to the World Trails Conference 2024 for speakers!

Following the World Trails Conference's past events of interactive and engaging presentations, we invite you to share your story, best practice or failure turned into a success, expertise, data, innovation, or analysis to reflect upon our main theme and its three subthemes:

Theme: Connecting People, Places and the Planet

The 2024 World Trails Conference will focus on connection – to people, places and the planet. Explore the profound bonds that link humanity to the natural world and develop a new understanding of how our trails impact the environment, communities and each other. This theme encourages a holistic perspective and celebrates the intricate web of connections that shape our trails. Sessions and discussion will seek to inspire collaborative efforts to preserve and nurture these essential connections for sustainable, successful trail networks.

Sub-themes
1. **Climate and Nature:** Delve into the essential intersection of human activity and the environment, addressing the pressing concerns of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the imperative for sustainable practices.
   a. Sustainability: Explore innovative approaches and strategies for sustainable trail management and development, with an emphasis on minimizing environmental impact and preserving natural ecosystems.
   b. Conservation: Highlight the critical need for trail conservation efforts to safeguard our planet's natural treasures and promote responsible stewardship of our environment.

2. **Regenerative Tourism:** Uncover the transformative potential of tourism as a catalyst for positive change, focusing on revitalizing communities, nurturing art and culture, and harnessing technology to enhance the visitor experience.
   a. Tourism: Examine the multifaceted role of tourism in trail destinations, considering economic benefits, responsible travel practices, and the power of

tourism to foster cross-cultural connections.

    b.   Arts and Culture: Celebrate the vibrant intersection of trails, art, and culture, promoting the cultural richness of trail regions and their potential to foster creativity, appreciation, and expression.

    c.   Digitization & Technology: Investigate the evolving landscape of trail management through digital innovation, emphasizing advancements in technology to enhance trail accessibility, safety, and user experience.

3.   Resilient Trails Sector: Explore how diverse participation, community collaboration and innovative operational models contribute to a thriving trail sector, with a strong emphasis on education, inclusion and knowledge sharing.

    a.   Education and Inclusive Engagement: Showcase the importance of educational initiatives and inclusive practices, ensuring that trails are welcoming and accessible to all, and that local communities actively participate in their preservation and growth.

    b.   Knowledge: Emphasize the value of sharing knowledge and best practices within the trails community, promoting collaboration and information exchange to drive innovation, sustainability, and responsible trail management.

These guidelines will provide you with all necessary information on the call for speakers such as the priority topics, programme design, selection process, timeline as well as the submission rules. Make sure you read them carefully before submitting your presentation through our online platform.

This year the Trans Canada Trail and the World Trail Network are especially keen on hearing voices from all over the world. We would be grateful if you could help us spread the word about this call with your contacts from around the globe! Moreover, we would like to encourage you to think about presenting your content in innovative ways such as sharing lessons learned.from failures.

Should any questions arise do not hesitate to get in touch with us, we are here and look forward to hearing from you!

Your conference teams.
conference@worldtrailsnetwork.org

CONFERENCE HOSTS

Conference hosts are defined as the Trans Canada Trail (TCT), who is responsible for hosting the World Trail Conference 2024, a product of the World Trails Network (WTN).

SUBMISSION SELECTION PROCESS

The World Trails Conference programme will be designed by a Program Team composed of selected experts from WTN and the TCT The decision about the inclusion of a speaker will be based on the result of the evaluation done by an peer reviewing. An WTC Steering Committee composed of selected experts advises the Programme Team along the process to ensure alignment with our sector's priorities.
Every speaker will be evaluated and rated by at least three experts against to the following criteria:

● Alignment with the conference theme/subtheme
● Level of innovation and originality (content and format)
● Prospect of transferability
● Focus on process and measurable results

After the review, the Programme Team will build sessions on the topics around the conference theme and subthemes. Selected speakers will be assigned to relevant. sessions paying particular attention to geographical and gender balance to represent the diversity of the sector.

TIMELINE

Submissions due: January 31, 2024
Review period: January 31- March1, 2024
Notice of Acceptance: March 15,2024
Speakers Announced: March 31, 2024

GENERAL

The following Terms & Conditions apply to the World Trails Conference 2024 - Ottawa, Canada, and are concluded between the conference host and the speakers participating in the conference. The term "speaker" or "presenter" refers to all persons participating in the conference by means of a speech or presentation in-person or online.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS SPEAKERS

The Conference Organizing Committee is there to assist speakers by offering assistance to questions or enquiries and by coordinating requirements from both sides in order to deliver a successful conference for all participants. This includes appropriate technology for presenters to address both in-person.

In addition, it includes delivering information regarding the presentations such as time, date, and theme in a timely manner before the conference. It is the responsibility of the organizers and their communications support to offer a media kit, which the selected speakers may use in order to promote the conference and

their participation to their respective communities.

SPEAKER RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS
As a presenter at the World Trails Conference 2024, speakers commit to being present at the conference venue, for the entire time allocated to the panel on the day of their presentation and to be available for a minimum of 25 minutes for a panel discussion session in addition to their presentation, at the end of the thematic session.

Speakers agree that their presentation and the panel discussion they are part of will be recorded and made available after the session for viewing on the World Trails Network channels.

SPEAKER SUBMISSIONS
To submit your proposal please go to WTC24 CALL FOR SPEAKERS Portal.

Please have the following ready for submission prior opening the portal:
- 200-word BIO
- Headshot
- Documents for submission

UNABLE TO ATTEND
Should any speaker be prevented from attending and presenting due to unexpected circumstances, they agree to inform the conference hosts immediately by email: conference@worldtrailsnetwork.org

FEES AND PAYMENTS
Speakers agree to purchase a conference ticket that grants admission to all days of the conference (30 September- 03 OCT), certain meals, coffee break beverages, local trail excursions. The conference cannot reimburse travel or accommodation expenses for speakers. We have deliberately kept attendance fees to an absolute minimum.

Speakers must please secure their place on the programme by paying their attendance registration fee here. Speakers must pay their attendance fee by 1 August 2024, speakers who have not paid by then will be removed from the programme. We thank those speakers who have already paid for their registration.

ACCOMMODATION AND GETTING AROUND
All speakers are responsible for booking their own accommodation. The conference website has a list of hotels that are supporting the conference with special offers. A list of special accommodation deals are listed under Hotel and Travel here.

CONFERENCE PROMOTION
To ensure appropriate promotion of the event and associated individual presenters, speakers agree that both a portrait photo and a short bio and summary of their submitted presentation will be shared on the conference event page and associated

social media channels. Speakers are encouraged to promote the event and their presentation on appropriate channels using the social media kit provided.

RECORDINGS AVAILABILITY AND SPONSOR'S LOGO

Speakers agree that the recordings of their presentations will be distributed and available to network members and conference delegates, snippets of which may be made available on various social media channels. Furthermore, logos and trademarks of the conference's various sponsors may be publicly displayed in connection with the presentations.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All speakers and presenters own all their respective intellectual property in their presentations and nothing in this agreement transfers any intellectual property to the World Trails Network. Speakers warrant that the content is an original work and does not infringe the rights of any third party, including without limitation intellectual property rights.