

Forests Forever – the front line for fighting climate change

Wednesday 8 October 2008, Barcelona

The Latest The world's forests have immense potential to lessen the impacts of climate change while also supporting indigenous communities. But if this opportunity is going to be realized, unified global action is now required, according to a remarkable alliance of international forest leaders, which will be announced at IUCN's World Conservation Congress on Wednesday.

Background The IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together 8,000 leaders from the public sector, government, business and non-governmental organizations for what is the premier summit on sustainable development in 2008. Over 10 days they debate the best ways to tackle environmental and development challenges. They share pragmatic solutions to pressing issues. And they commit to collaborative action.

Key Issues

- **Climate change, rapid loss of biodiversity, food security, health hazards, poverty alleviation** are all issues that the IUCN Congress will put on the table, unlike any other sustainable development event.
- **Innovations and solutions** based on traditional and indigenous knowledge, working alongside the latest technologies and emerging multi-sector partnerships, all presented at IUCN's Congress.
- **Congress is the birthplace of ground-breaking environmental conventions, scientific discoveries and global impact international initiatives.** Be there to see how new key agreements, shaping our future are being born.

Today's featured media events:

09:00-09:30 Press Briefing - Beyond REDD: The Role of Forests in Climate Change – IUCN/WBCSD

09:00-10:00 Meet the Press - IUCN Antinea launch of vessel

09:30-10:00 Press Briefing IUCN – Jeffrey McNeely, IUCN Chief Scientist

11:00-13:00 African Ministerial Meeting – 10 ministers from Africa

12:30-13:00 Meet the Press IUCN's Wendy Fodden talks about new report on Species and Climate Change

13:30-14:00 Press Briefing Oriental Wisdom: A new platform for sustainable development – GSEI

14:00-14:30 Press Briefing Meeting the target! – Countdown 2010

14:30-15:00 Press Briefing Water and Climate Change – IUCN Water Programme

16:00-16:30 Press Briefing The World Resources Report Launch – WRI, UNEP, UNDP and World Bank

18:00-18:30 Press Briefing IUCN joins forces with rangers to support widows of rangers killed on the frontline of conservation – International Ranger Federation/IUCN/Thin Green Line

18:30-19:00 Press Briefing Fisheries and Food Security: Industrial fisheries and conservation – can they go hand in hand? – IUCN Marine Programme

Photo Opportunity:

- Make a Wish Stunt outside Congress centre – contact S Casellas +34 600906789.

For a full list of key events at IUCN's World Conservation Congress, please click here:

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2008_congress_press_conferences_schedule.pdf

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2008_congress_meet_the_press_schedule.pdf

Materials for media:

Audio: http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/live/wcc_video.cfm

Video: http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/live/wcc_audio.cfm

Releases: http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/media

Photo: http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/live/wcc_photo.cfm

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