

# Barcelona's Big B is all about Biodiversity

Thursday 9 October 2008, Barcelona

**The Latest** Human well-being is suffering as a consequence of the damage being done to the natural world. The growing impacts of climate change, destruction of nature, unsustainable consumption, inequitable access to natural resources, pollution of the environment, and invasive alien species affect us all. The challenges are formidable, but here in Barcelona the solutions are being sought.

**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:

**09:00-10:00** Meet the Press - World Business Council on Sustainable Development

**10:30-11:00** Press Briefing - Recovery plan for threatened species in Catalunya - Departament de Medi Ambient i Habitatge Generalitat de Catalunya.

**11:00-11:30** Press Briefing - State of the World's Birds Report – Bird Life International

**11:30-12:00** Press Briefing - Mangroves for the Future (MFF), investing in coastal ecosystems – MFF

**12:00-12:30** Press Briefing - Spirituality and Conservation – IUCN

**12:30-13:00** Press Briefing – Climate Change in Antarctica – WWF Spain

**13:00-13:30** Press Briefing - Medinat, the sacred garden of garraf - Fundació Per La Preservació Del Valors Interns

**13:30-14:00** Press Briefing - Sumatran Governors and Indonesian Ministry of Environment commit to protecting the remaining natural forest in Sumatra for biodiversity conservation and global climate change mitigation – WWF

**14:30-15:00** Press Briefing - Water dialogues: Engaging with business and private sector – IUCN

**15:00-15:30** Press Briefing - IUCN initiative for the insular Caribbean – IUCN

**15:30-16:00** Press Briefing - Official launch of Global Reef Expedition: Science Without Borders© by The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation.

**16:30-17:00** Meet the Press - IUCN's forest biodiversity guidelines with Jeffrey Sawyer

**17:00-17:30** Press Briefing - Geo-engineering in the oceans: A climate change solution or an unacceptable threat to biodiversity? – IUCN

**18:00-18:30** Press Briefing - Spanish Govt – la Ministra o la Secretaria de Estado de Cambio Climatico

**18:30-19:00** Press Briefing - Forum Closing – William Jackson, IUCN Deputy Director General, Tim Flannery Weathermakers

## 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_press_conferences_schedule.pdf)

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2008\\_congress\\_meet\\_the\\_press\\_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](http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/live/wcc_video.cfm)

Video: [http://iucn.org/news\\_events/events/congress/live/wcc\\_audio.cfm](http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/live/wcc_audio.cfm)

Releases: [http://iucn.org/news\\_events/events/congress/media](http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/media)

Photo: [http://iucn.org/news\\_events/events/congress/live/wcc\\_photo.cfm](http://iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/live/wcc_photo.cfm)

## Media Handling:

- **Carolin Wahnbaeck**, IUCN Media Relations Officer, T +34 600919620, E [carolin.wahnbaeck@iucn.org](mailto:carolin.wahnbaeck@iucn.org)

- **Silvia Casellas**, IUCN Communications Officer, T +34 600906789, E [silvia.casellas@iucn.org](mailto:silvia.casellas@iucn.org)