



Advisory

## IUCN and Four Major Rivers Project

**Bangkok, Thailand, 16 March 2010 (IUCN)**

The New Daily, South Korea reported on March 7th, 2010 that Director General of IUCN called South Korea's Four Rivers project "reasonable". The quote was taken out of context. The Director General said that the idea to clean up polluted rivers sounded reasonable, recalling similar operations in Europe which resulted in clean rivers and lakes.

IUCN currently has no official position on the Four Major Rivers Project. IUCN does support integrated approaches to managing whole river basin systems and has done considerable work on this around the world. Most recently this has been through a multi-country Water & Nature Initiative (WANI) which has provided tools and processes to help governments and civil society make more informed decisions about water resources and river basin systems. We welcome the opportunity to work with Korea on these issues as they relate to the Four Rivers Project and believe that the WANI toolkits on issues such as governance, environmental flows, water dialogues and payment for ecosystem services would help refine the approaches.

IUCN has offered to establish an independent scientific panel to examine the issues and to give our views on the matter. The head of IUCN's Asia Regional Water and Wetlands Programme will visit Korea this year to discuss how IUCN can provide practical, science-based support for sustainable management of these important resources.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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### **About IUCN**

IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.

IUCN's work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland. IUCN's Asia Regional Office is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

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