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France and IUCN Announce a New Framework Agreement to Tackle New Challenges

Background: In 2005, France and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)¹ signed a Framework Agreement for the protection of nature. At the time of signature, this Agreement was warmly welcomed by the Director General of IUCN, Mr. Achim Steiner, who stated, *“The history of IUCN began in France, in Fontainebleau in 1948. With this new Agreement we are opening up a whole new chapter in this long collaboration.”*

The Agreement was signed for a period of three years. Worth some 7.6 million Euros, it included an unrestricted contribution as well as earmarked funds. The principle objectives of this Agreement included:

- To strengthen IUCN's support for the implementation of multilateral environmental accords (Biodiversity, Climate Change, Desertification, etc.)
- To support the development of IUCN programmes for the conservation of biodiversity in Oceania, the Caribbean as well as European Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs); and the development of a strong technical presence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- To establish an office of the “TRAFFIC” Network to prevent the illegal trade in threatened species in Central Africa

A total of eight (8) experts from France have been seconded to IUCN programmes throughout the world, including to offices in Brussels, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Kinshasa (DRC), Suva (Fiji), the Caribbean, and at IUCN World Headquarters in Switzerland.

Today, on the 60th Anniversary of IUCN, France and IUCN have agreed to continue their relationship and increase their combined efforts to find more effective solutions for the conservation of the global commons. These assets include biodiversity and climate in some important regions of the planet.

Key challenges:

- *Speaking on the renewal of this Agreement, **Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of IUCN**, noted “As the first of our Framework Partners to renew its financial and technical support to IUCN for the 2009-2012 period, France has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen its links with our network of Francophone organizations and institutions, and to strengthen the activities of IUCN in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean, as well as the Mediterranean. This vital support will also enable us to continue our efforts to ensure the integration of the global commons in European and international development policies. I am honoured to celebrate this long-standing partnership on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of our institution which was created with the support of France in 1948.”*
- *According to **Anne Gazeau-Secret, Director General of the DGICD/MAEE**, “Founded in France in 1948, IUCN is today the foremost global environmental network with international status. Like IUCN, France has long been an advocate of the need to conserve the diversity of nature while ensuring that any use of natural resources is both equitable and ecologically sustainable. This is the global challenge of today and tomorrow. This new Framework Agreement between IUCN and France is for us a logical continuation of the previous agreement. With a total value of 8 million Euros over 3 years, including 4 million Euros from the French Development Agency, the secondment of seven experts and contributions from the State Secretariat for Overseas Territories and the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEEDDAT); it will enable us to continue our ongoing work in Africa, the Overseas Countries and Territories, and the Mediterranean.”*
- *Commenting on the Agreement, **Laurent Stefanini, Ambassador for Environment**, noted “Without a doubt, the most innovative aspect of our cooperation with IUCN rests in the secondment of an important number of technical experts – there were a total of eight in the original agreement. It is therefore natural that France should choose to continue to make such expertise available to IUCN. There will be seven experts supporting the implementation of the Programme of Work for the 2009-2012 period.”*
- The second phase of the Framework Agreement between France (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEEDDAT), State Secretariat for Overseas Territories and the French Development Agency) and IUCN will enable the activities initiated in 2005 to continue. It will ensure their inclusion as an integral part of the IUCN Programme, while at the same time highlighting and promoting the efforts of the French Committee for IUCN on behalf of its members. As with the first agreement, in addition to financial provisions, this new agreement also foresees the deployment of seven technical experts who will work with IUCN teams throughout the world and at its Headquarters in Switzerland.

Venue

- **Main media hall, 6 October 2008, from 16h00 to 16h30**

Speakers

- **Ms. Anne Gazeau-Secret, Director General, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs**
- **Mr. Laurent Stefanini, Ambassador for Environment**
- **Mr. Marc-Antoine Martin, Director, French Development Agency**
- **Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN**

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For further information see also:

The IUCN website at: <http://www.iucn.org>; a presentation brochure is also available.

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 over 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, in Switzerland. www.iucn.org