

**For immediate release: October 8, 2008**

## **Countdown 2010 Readiness Assessment – measuring progress toward the 2010 target!**

### **Background:**

*“The analysis of the reports from biodiversity related conventions shows a medium to low performance of the countries with regard to establishing targets, identifying indicators and undertaking biodiversity monitoring and reporting the results”* is the final result of Countdown 2010 Readiness Assessment. With only two years to go until 2010, it seems unrealistic that the 2010 biodiversity target to halt the rate of biodiversity loss will be achieved in time. Despite a few positive trends and some good exceptions, governments are not doing enough. Countdown 2010 Readiness Assessment reports on the policy responses made in the G8+5 as a complement to other ongoing studies on the subject (2010BIP, the Global Biodiversity Outlook and SEBI2010). Based on the experience with the 2010 biodiversity target, the international community now has to build up momentum in coming closer in achieving the target and start a process for defining on a new commitment for the UN International Year on Biodiversity in 2010.

### **Key Issues:**

- Taking stock of the 2010 biodiversity target: What have governments achieved? What challenges remain for the international community?
- Causes of biodiversity loss: Climate change, habitat loss, overexploitation, invasive alien species, pollution.
- Countdown 2010 Readiness Assessment and other international tools: Measuring and monitoring policy response
- Success stories from Countdown 2010 partners: *“Initiatives such as Countdown 2010 show that huge progress has been made. A strong constituency is now in place: more than 700 Countdown 2010 partners from all walks of life work together for biodiversity. With no time-bound target this would have not been achievable,”* says **Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010**.
- Political processes towards a new biodiversity target and its relationship to the climate change negotiations.

**When:** Wednesday, October 8, at 14:00, in the press conference room adjacent to the Media Centre.

**Materials for the Media:** All press material is available at [www.countdown2010.net](http://www.countdown2010.net)

### **Spokespeople:**

- Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010
- Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
- Gordon Sheppard, Director Global Policy, WWF International

### **Media team:**

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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 by supporting scientific research; managing field projects all over the world; and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN, international conventions and companies together to develop policy, laws

and best practice.

The world's oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 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. IUCN's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland.

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