

**For immediate release: 9 October, 2008**

## Logging rainforests: problem or solution for biodiversity?

### **Background:**

Logging is widely seen as a major threat for forest biodiversity – but IUCN studies have shown that well-logged forests conserve most of their wildlife and they also provide far more benefits to local people than parks and reserves. IUCN and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) are releasing Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests and initiating a campaign to promote biodiversity conservation in logged forests.

### **Key Issues:**

- *“Better a logged forest than no forest at all,”* says **Doug Sheil, Director of the Bwindi forest Research Centre in Uganda.**
- *“Well logged forests are a better option than parks and reserves in many poor countries,”* says **Jeff Sayer, Senior Scientific Advisor for IUCN’s Forest Conservation Programme.**

### **Where:**

- Thursday, October 9, 14:30-16:30 in the Forest Pavilion at the World Conservation Congress.

### **Spokespersons:**

- Jeff Sayer, Science Adviser to the IUCN Forest Programme
- Eduardo Mansur – International Tropical Timber Organisation
- Zacharie Nzoo – WWF researcher, Cameroon
- Petrus Gunarso – TROPENBOS, Kalimantan, Indonesia

### **Materials for the Media:**

The Guidelines can be downloaded from <http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/forest/index.cfm>

### **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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