

**For immediate release: 6 October, 2008**

## **Seven years of making rivers healthy: next stage launched**

### **Background:**

The IUCN Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) was launched in 2001. After seven successful years working in more than 12 river basins across the developing world, WANI has delivered results that have made river basins healthier and improved the lives of people living in them. IUCN is now launching the next phase of the initiative, WANI-2.

### **Key Issues:**

- Building on a wide range of knowledge and experience, lessons and learning, WANI-2 is set to scale up its work in existing demonstration projects, as well as expanding the portfolio into regions such as Oceania and the Middle East.
- IUCN Director General, Julia Marton-Lefèvre, will open this special celebration, and will be joined by Dr Mark Smith, Head of the IUCN Water Programme, together with WANI partners and staff from our regions to officially launch the start of WANI II.
- Participants and press are welcome to come and join the celebrations. Snacks and drinks provided.

### **When:**

- Monday 6 October, 18.00-20.00, in the Water Pavilion, at the World Conservation Congress.

### **Media Team:**

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**Photos (audio/video material)** are available at/from: [www.iucn.org/water](http://www.iucn.org/water) or contact Claire Warmenbol

### **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.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

