



eFlowNews - Volume 5 Issue 4

September 2008

## The IUCN World Conservation Congress is approaching!



*Barcelona, 5-14 October 2008 - More than 8,000 of the world's leading decision makers in sustainable development: from governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia. Together in one place for 10 days: to debate, share, network, learn, commit, vote and decide. The objective: ideas, action and solutions for a diverse and sustainable world.*

The Water Pavilion forms one of the seven theme Pavilions that will be available at the World Conservation Congress. All Pavilions are situated in the exhibition space at the Congress venue and are designed to provide a high profile platform for communications, networking and hospitality.

The Water Pavilion provides a unique opportunity to present and discuss innovative work around water-related issues. IUCN members and partners, as well as colleagues from regional offices and thematic programmes, will benefit from an open platform, plasma screens, and meeting area to communicate their work. Each day, the Pavilion programme highlights a different region and/or theme

to ensure opportunities for engagement with key players involved in water resource management.

If you would like to showcase your work and products as well as use space for networking and building new partnerships, there is still room to do so on the 10th, 11th and/or 13th October. For more information about this prime location at the IUCN World Conservation Congress during the Business Meeting days, please contact [katharine.cross@iucn.org](mailto:katharine.cross@iucn.org)

For more information on the Congress click [here](#)

## Eflows at IUCN World Conservation Congress



*The IUCN Water Programme would like to invite you to the eflow events in the Water Pavilion at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona.*

Tuesday 7th October 2008

- 14:30-16:00 Environmental Flows in the Panagni Basin - IUCN East and Southern Africa Programme
- 16:00-17:00 Environmental Flows and Human Well-Being - WWF, Swedish Water House, eFlowNet

Wednesday 8th October 2008

- 10:00-10:30 Freshwater Biodiversity and Environmental Flows - IUCN Freshwater Species
- 11:00-12:00 Information session on the Environmental Flows Network and demonstration of the eFlowNet

website in English and Spanish

## Environmental Flows and Human Well-being



*During World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, EflowNet and partners convened a seminar on Environmental Flows and Human Well-Being.*

This seminar explored the linkages between environmental flows and human well-being through research reports and case studies, and proposed new actions applying cutting-edge scientific and political approaches. An environmental flow is the quantity, timing, and quality of water flows required to sustain aquatic ecosystems and the human livelihoods dependent upon them. Case studies from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, and multiple African nations were used to illustrate how human health and well-being are inextricably linked to the ecological health of aquatic systems. Human communities depend directly on goods and services of aquatic ecosystems, including food to meet nutritional requirements, clean fresh water from springs, rivers, and lakes, and natural controls on pathogens. These ecosystem services underpin all subsequent interventions promoted by health, sanitation and hygiene programs, either supporting or counteracting them. They also strongly influence efforts to combat disease, prepare for climate change, and achieve Millennium Development Goals.

Among the key findings to emerge from the presentations and subsequent discussion are: 1) an environmental flow is not an unproductive allocation of water but an allocation to support key elements of human well-being and achieve the goals of integrated water resources management; 2) environmental flows can reduce the prevalence of flow-related diseases like malaria and, through the preservation of aquatic biodiversity, epidemic diseases like schistosomiasis (bilharzia); 3) establishment of environmental flows must be tackled at regional scales and be strategically incorporated into development programs; and 4) climate change poses daunting challenges to future water supply and allocations for instream uses, so action should be taken now to reduce the most obvious non-climate and climate threats to sustaining water and freshwater ecosystems. More information on these and other priorities can be found on the web pages of the convenors.



Also view the summary of the online discussion for the seminar [here](#)

**We need environmental flows information from your region or basin**



*Share your knowledge and experiences on environmental flows policies and practices from your country or basin.*

A recent article on **environmental flow research in China** has identified that there is a need for surveying progress made by different assessment methods around the world. We would like our members to contribute to the Network's base of knowledge with as much information as possible on eflow activities and the degree of implementation in your country or basin.

The aim is to collate all information on environmental flows policies and practices from across the globe. To participate in this important activity, we invite you to provide input at the eFlowNet **discussion forum**.

