



News Release

For immediate release

Spanish International Cooperation increase support to the World Conservation Union

The Secretary of State for International Cooperation contributes with a million euros to the World Conservation Union

Málaga, Spain, 21 January 2008 (IUCN) –Last Friday, in Madrid, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID in Spanish), signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), represented by director general Julia Marton-Lefèvre.

During the event, Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, director of AECID, announced the 1.000.000€ contribution, approved by the Ministry Council last December. This contribution will allow MAEC and AECID to become a core framework donor to IUCN in conjunction with other countries and development agencies such as Sweden, Switzerland, Holland, Norway, Canada and France. This unprecedented decision means a step forward for the Spanish Cooperation.

IUCN is a fundamental actor for the international cooperation regarding environmental issues. It brings together states, governmental agencies, local entities, more than 800 NGOs and 10.000 scientists and experts, in working programmes which not only influence and encourage societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, but also affects the socio-economic and politic causes of the environmental damage.

Spain has been a Member of IUCN since 1984, and AECID is one of the associates together with other Spanish cooperation agents: autonomic communities, local administrations, research agencies...

IUCN is an important partner for AECID and its environmental programmes, especially Azahar and Araucaria XXI. IUCN is currently contributing in a project in Lebanon funded by AECID and supported by the Spanish Environmental Ministry, in which IUCN monitors biodiversity in Palm Island Reserve and will formulate a management plan for ecotourism development. IUCN also works in a Mediterranean Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve project, which will put together efforts and points of view between Spain and Morocco regarding the conservation of our common natural heritage.

Besides those interventions, IUCN also works, in the framework of the Azahar programme, in the management and empowerment activities linked to nature conservation and sustainable development in national parks in Morocco, and contributes in a NAUTA project for the implementation of the ecosystematic approach in aquaculture.

Notes to editors

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Photographs are available.

About the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Created in 1948, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) brings together 84 States, 108 government agencies, 800 plus NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. The Union's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. The Union is the world's largest environmental knowledge network and has helped over 75 countries to prepare and implement national conservation and biodiversity strategies.

The Union is a multicultural, multilingual organization with 1,100 staff located in 62 countries. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

More information can be found at www.iucn.org

About the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) was created in November 1988 as a management body for Spanish international development cooperation policies.

AECID is an administering body under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation within the Secretary of State for International Cooperation (SECI in Spanish). The Agency is the technical organization responsible for the design, implementation and management of the cooperation projects and programs for the development, through its own resources or the collaboration with other national and international organizations and Non-Government Organizations.

To fulfil its objectives, AECID counts with a wide foreign structure which includes 40 Technical Cooperation Offices, 16 Cultural Centres and 4 Training Centres, located in those countries where the agency is running the main cooperation projects. The priorities areas for the Spanish Cooperation are integrated in the Master Plan 2005-2008.

www.aeci.es

Sobre el Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo de IUCN

This was opened in 2001 near Malaga, Spain. IUCN has 164 members in the Mediterranean region, including governments and NGO. Its mission is to influence, encourage, and assist Mediterranean societies to conserve and use sustainably the natural resources of the region and work with IUCN members and cooperate with all other agencies that share IUCN objectives.

Financial core support to the activities of the IUCN Mediterranean office is provided by the Junta de Andalucía, and the Ministry of Environment, Spain

www.uicnmed.org