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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

30 May 2008

Dear Ms. Marton-Lefèvre,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your letter received on 22 April 2008, in which you invited him to deliver a keynote address at the opening of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in Barcelona from 5 to 14 October 2008.

The Secretary-General appreciates your kind invitation. Regrettably, I must inform you that the multiple demands on his schedule during the period of the congress will preclude his participation. Nevertheless, let me take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

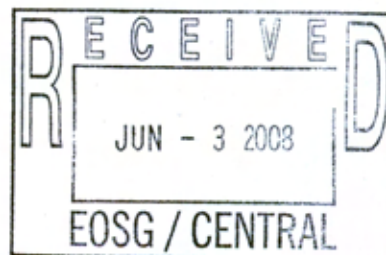
With thanks for your kind understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Yeocheol Yoon

Special Assistant to the Secretary-General
& Chief, Scheduling Office

Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Director General
The World Conservation Union
Gland



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World Headquarters

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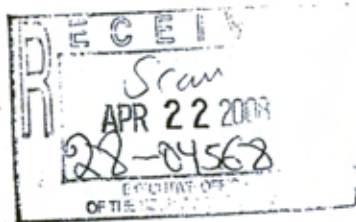
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IUCN

The World Conservation Union

H.E. Ban Ki Moon
Secretary-General
The United Nations
First Avenue at 46th Street
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USA

19 January 2008

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Invitation to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008 ✓

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, co-hosted by the Governments of Spain and Catalonia, from 5-14 October, 2008.

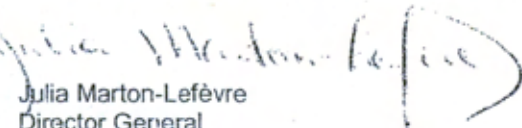
The Congress, held every four years, brings together the global sustainable development community from governments, civil society, business and academia. From global environmental conventions to scientific breakthroughs and green initiatives, many of the policies and standards we have in place today were born at IUCN congresses over previous decades. The Congress, one of the world's most important environmental events, consists of a 4-day Forum run by our members and partners discussing cutting edge ideas, thinking and practice. The Forum leads into the 4-day IUCN Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs.

The Congress in 2008 will be particularly special. More than 8,000 people will celebrate IUCN's 60th anniversary, looking back on 60 years of achievement and forward to the future. Under the theme of "*A diverse and sustainable world*", senior figures from government, civil society, business and science will share experiences, develop creative solutions, create new partnerships and make commitments to take us forward on a sustainable path for the next 20 years and beyond.

We would be honoured if you would join us in this celebration and hold a keynote address in the Congress Opening on 5 October. Your visionary thinking and action toward the sustainable future of our planet makes your contribution to the Congress essential to the achievement of our shared goal of a sustainable future.

I would be grateful to know if you are available on the late afternoon of October 5 or, in case this is not possible, if you would be able to join us on any other day of the Forum (5-9 October, 2008). If your response is affirmative, we will contact you immediately to work out details.

Please accept Mr. Secretary-General the assurances of my highest consideration.


Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Director General