



## **Press Brief**

### **India to host IUCN Council Meeting**

*14-17 November 2011*

In a major step towards enhanced international cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity, India will host the next Council Meeting of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in New Delhi, from 14th to 17th November 2011. The IUCN Council will meet as a prelude to the Conference of Parties (CoP) of the Convention on Biodiversity, which will be held in Hyderabad in October 2012.

Introducing the event, India's Minister of State (I/C), Environment and Forests, Shri Jairam Ramesh said " The Council meeting will provide IUCN Member Countries an opportunity to discuss the Aichi Biodiversity targets set in Nagoya, Japan in 2010; exchange ideas on the CBD CoP11; and on the Rio+20 Conference (to be held in Brazil). Nationally, the meeting is expected to provide important policy guidance on revising India's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), for the incorporation of biodiversity considerations into other national policy and programme documents."

### **IUCN: Key Functions**

The IUCN, established in 1948, is the "umbrella" organization to address the most pressing environmental and development challenges facing biodiversity and species. IUCN supports cutting edge conservation science, particularly on biodiversity and ecosystems; and brings governments, organisations, scientists, corporations and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practices.

The IUCN Council is the principal governing body of IUCN in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress which is the General Assembly of IUCN's members. It mirrors the functions of an Executive Board of a Corporation in terms of having management and administrative responsibilities. The Council is responsible for the oversight and general control of all the affairs of IUCN, subject to the authority of the World Conservation Congress.

### **India and IUCN**

India's relationship with the IUCN dates back to 1950 when the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) became the first organization in India to join as a member. India was also the first South Asian country to join the IUCN, in 1969. Dr Ashok Khosla, the eminent Indian environmentalist, chairs the IUCN Council.



**Ministry of Environment and Forests**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

India has a long relationship with IUCN dating back to 1950 when the Bombay Natural History Society became the first organization in India to join as a member followed by the Indian Board for Wildlife and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). India was also the first South Asian country to join the IUCN in 1969. It is also the first and the only country in the region to have hosted the General Assembly of IUCN in 1969. At present there are 22 members of IUCN in India including the Ministry of Environment & Forests, National Board for Wildlife, Wildlife Institute of India and Indian Institute of Forest Management. The launch of Project Tiger in India in 1973 was the outcome of the IUCN General Assembly meeting in Delhi.