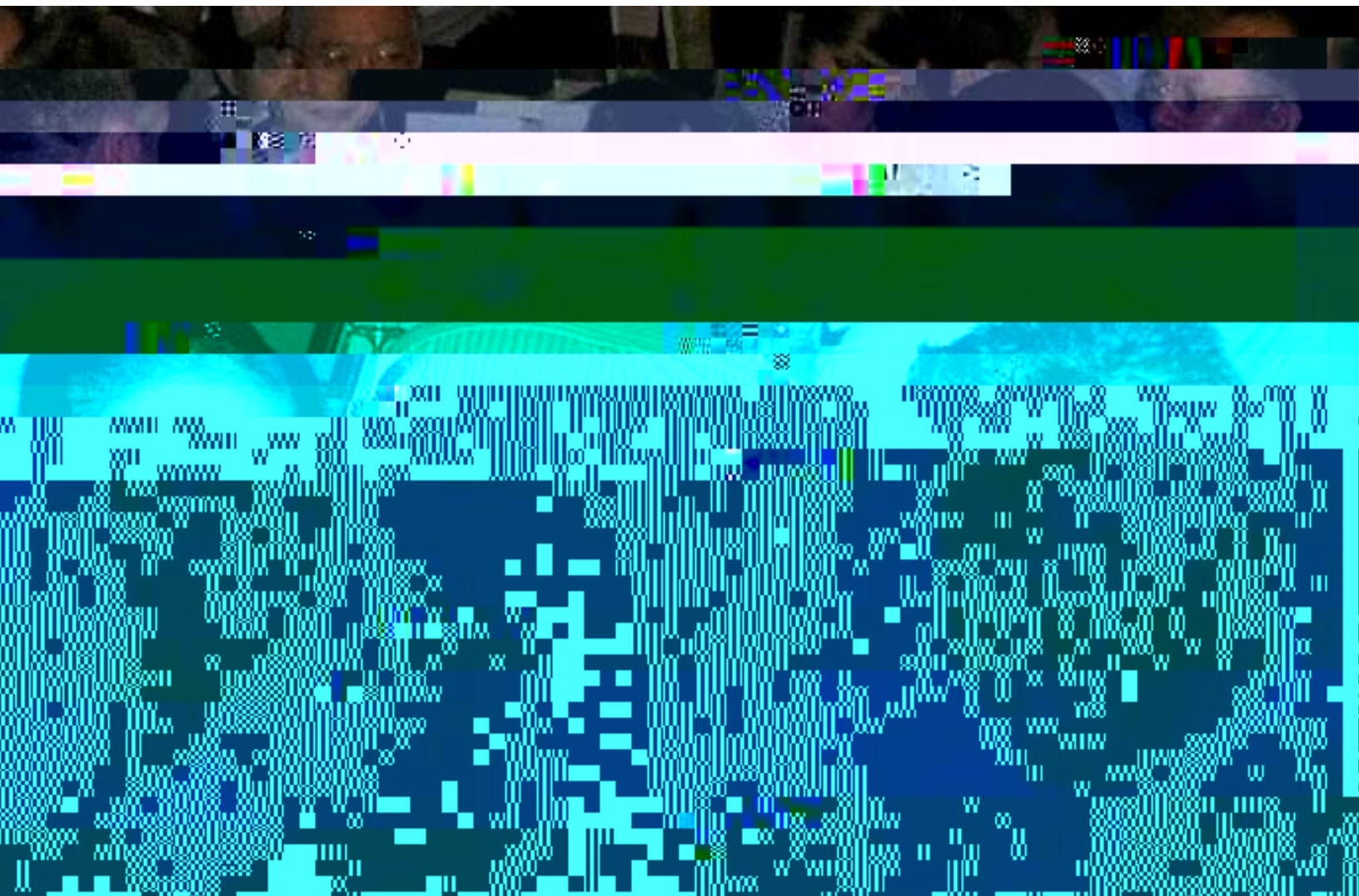




# Talking about water: Water dialogues and the private sector

October 9<sup>th</sup> 11:30-13:00, Room 134



World Conservation Congress

Multi-stakeholder platforms that engage with the private sector are a key tool in reform of water resources governance to build equitability and sustainability. The Water Dialogues workshop at the World Conservation Congress is an opportunity for participants to gain an understanding of the importance of engaging business in dialogue processes across the world.

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## **About the World Conservation Congress**

The World Conservation Congress is organised by the IUCN and will bring together over 8,000 people, including Heads of State and Ministers, and leaders from business and non-governmental organizations. The focus over the 10 days of the Congress will be on bringing together citizens, the public and private sectors around a shared vision of sustainability.

These multi-stakeholder platforms are processes through which various individuals and groups who are affected by issues related to water are able to enter into discussions aimed at fostering collective learning and forging well-informed, participatory decision-making on water governance issues.

## **Workshop on Water Dialogues**

### **What is a multistakeholder platform?**

Dialogues or Multi Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) are a democratic governance approach for participatory water management. The process brings different actors together such as policymakers, donors, NGOs, water managers and water supply companies. The aim is to recognize different perspectives, understand interests, negotiate trade-offs, find win-win solutions, coordinate efforts and integrate different levels.

### **Business and Water Governance**

Multi-stakeholder platforms are a key tool in reform of water resources governance to build equitability and sustainability. Stakeholder engagement in multistakeholder dialogue processes on water management must also involve the private sector. Consequently, there needs to be a collaborative process with the dialogue stakeholders and the private sector incorporating social and environmental aspects of water management into their business plans on water resource development

### **Regional Water Dialogues**

IUCN is taking part in developing a number of dialogues that enable stakeholders to have a platform to negotiate and discuss water issues. These platforms are in the Mekong, Azraq in Jordan, the Pangani Basin in Tanzania, and the Volta Basin in West Africa.