

## **IUCN Statement at the Opening Session of the First Session of a Plenary Meeting to Determine Modalities and Institutional Arrangements for IPBES**

**3 October 2011, Nairobi, Kenya**

Thank you Mr Chairman,

IUCN is pleased to take part in this first session and wishes to thank UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP for the organization of this meeting, and the Kenyan government for their ever gracious hospitality. We express our sincere condolences for the loss of Prof. Wangari Maathai to her family and her friends in Kenya and all over the world.

IUCN welcomes the considerable progress already achieved to establish the platform including the Busan Outcome which is fully recognized by governments as the basic principles for the future operationalization of the platform and congratulate all efforts already done by governments and other relevant stakeholders.

IUCN strongly supports the operational establishment in 2012 of IPBES designed as a global mechanism to further strengthen science-policy interface, through enhancing the credibility, legitimacy and saliency of the information on which policy makers and other relevant stakeholders depend for decisions on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing. IUCN urges governments and other relevant stakeholders to provide the platform with a strong set of operational modalities including an ambitious and robust interlinked work programme for the first years of implementation of IPBES with adequate funding.

IPBES will be of interest to the wide range of stakeholders involved in the fields of biodiversity conservation, natural resources management and development, at all levels.