

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK AND THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION

ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION ON MATTERS RELATED TO BIODIVERSITY

This Memorandum of Understanding ("Memorandum") represents a statement of intent by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and The World Conservation Union (IUCN), to develop collaboration on matters related to biodiversity aspects of EIB activities and to lay the basis for a productive relationship. The Memorandum sets out the principles on which cooperation shall be based and the framework for such cooperation.

The European Investment Bank's role is to finance capital investment promoting European Union (EU) economic policy objectives. While it finances projects mainly within the European Union, it also supports investment in other regions within the framework of the EU's development aid and cooperation policies. The EIB has published its approach to environmental issues in its "Environmental Statement" (2004)¹ and is a founder signatory of the "European Principles for the Environment"². The EIB's headquarters are in Luxembourg.

The World Conservation Union is the world's largest and most important conservation network. Originally founded in October 1948, its 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 priority of the Union's current Programme (2005–2008) is to build recognition of the many ways in which human lives and livelihoods, especially of the poor, depend on the sustainable management of natural resources.³

Always subject to each party's conditions covering business confidentiality, which conditions shall be specified in writing by each party to the other, as relevant and necessary, the EIB and IUCN anticipate that their cooperation within the framework of this Memorandum will include some or all of the following areas:

- Consultation and advice sought by EIB from IUCN on EIB's initiatives, policies and strategies impacting areas of common interest. Examples could include reviews of guidelines on due diligence, and provision of expert advice on biodiversity issues.
- Assistance to the EIB's in-house training and awareness building on impact assessments and integration of biodiversity concerns, conservation-related concerns and/or mitigation measures into proposed projects.

¹ <http://www.eib.org/publications/publication.asp?publ=19>

² <http://www.eib.org/epe>

³ <http://www.iucn.org/en/about>

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- Assistance to the EIB at the EIB's request to monitor aspects of EIB-financed or potential projects.
- Maintenance of regular contacts to develop joint initiatives and exchange information to strengthen efforts to manage biodiversity issues consistently on a long term basis, including the support of studies and other actions of mutual interest.

The EIB and IUCN will endeavour to meet annually to review progress on collaboration between the two organisations and to define the scope for possible future cooperation actions.

- At the EIB coordination with IUCN will be focused through the Public Information and Relations with Civil Society Division of the Secretariat General. This does not exclude direct contacts between IUCN and other services in the EIB.
- At IUCN coordination will be managed through the IUCN Regional Office for Europe. This does not exclude direct contacts between EIB and other services in IUCN.

In view of the confidential nature of some of the information that may be exchanged pursuant to this Memorandum, and subject to each party identifying in writing to the other, as necessary and appropriate in each case, the information whose confidentiality is sought to be preserved, each party undertakes not to disclose such information to a third party without written consent of the other. This undertaking does not apply to the transmission of information between the European Community institutions or as required by law or by order of any competent jurisdiction.

Neither the EIB nor IUCN will make commitments or take any positions on behalf of each other (including using the other party's name) without specific written consent.

Each organisation maintains the right to express its opinion on and to act individually in respect of issues covered by this Memorandum. However, to the extent feasible, each organisation will strive to notify the other before taking any public position concerning issues covered by this Memorandum.

Save the commitment to preserve confidentiality, this Memorandum does not create legally binding obligations. The EIB and IUCN acknowledge and agree that the performance of the Memorandum shall be subject to the policies and procedures of the two organisations, as they may be amended from time to time.

This Memorandum may be reviewed at the request of either party. Either party has the unconditional right to withdraw from this Memorandum at any time by giving two weeks' written notice.

Paris, 19 September 2006



Simon Brooks, Vice President
European Investment Bank



Ibrahim Thiaw, Acting Director General
The World Conservation Union (IUCN)