



Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port Development IUCN Statement

25 April 2012

The IUCN World Conservation Congress will take place on Jeju Island, in the Republic of Korea, from 6-15 September this year. Construction has recently begun on a naval port development on the southern coast of Jeju, near the village of Gangjeong, for military and civilian use. Some IUCN Members, along with other NGOs, have expressed concern at this development on social and environmental grounds.

The IUCN Congress, which takes place every four years, is organized by IUCN and hosted by a national state Member of IUCN, in this case the Republic of Korea (represented by the Ministry of Environment and the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province).

The Congress host is selected through a transparent bidding and technical assessment process which starts four years before each Congress. The final Congress host, and their proposed venue, is ultimately decided by a vote of the IUCN Council.

IUCN, and in particular its Congress, is a forum for discussing a wide range of issues related to the environment. Balancing environmental, economic, social, political and security considerations in government decision-making is often a complex process.

IUCN recognizes that the Republic of Korea has a responsibility for its own national security, particularly given geopolitical sensitivities in its region. In addition it is accountable for steering its own economic and social development, as well as safeguarding its own natural environment.

We trust that the Korean government has complied with all relevant domestic laws in planning and developing this port, as well as international conventions that it has signed. IUCN stands ready to offer technical assistance to the Korean government to help ensure the development is as environmentally sustainable as possible.

For more information, please visit this Korean government website:

http://jejunavybase.korea.kr/newsWeb/pages/special/jejunavy/news/newsView.do?newsDataId=148731476§ionId=jejunavy_01

For questions relating to the Congress programme, please visit www.iucn.org/congress