



## **The World Water Council Congratulates Hometown Marseille and IUCN Partnership for Playing Central Role in Environment's Future Ahead of 2020 Conference**

- *The City of Marseille and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are both founding members of the World Water Council*
- *Marseille has been named as the host city for the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2020*
- *2020 is the same year the Paris Agreement is set to come in force*

*11<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Marseille* - The World Water Council and its Honorary President, Loïc Fauchon, welcome the agreement signed by the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) last month. The agreement designates the municipality of Marseille, a founding member of the World Water Council, as the host of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2020. The global gathering will take place the same year the Paris Agreement comes into effect, placing France and Marseille at the heart of the planet's efforts to promote sustainable development and promote the conservation of our precious resources.

"With this agreement, faith in the city of Marseille and the department of Bouches-du-Rhône's ability to host world class events has been consolidated, underlining their commitment to environmental conservation. Marseille, home to the World Water Council, demonstrated its hosting capabilities during 2012's 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Eight years on, Marseille is set to welcome over 15,000 guests from more than 160 countries who will attend the World Conservation Congress at Parc Chanot. This is an excellent opportunity for those dedicated to preserving the environment, including companies, NGOs, universities and so many others, to gain visibility," explains Mr Fauchon.

The city of Marseille has harboured the World Water Council since its inception in 1996, after winning a public tender to which any global city could present themselves. Since then, the city and its mayor, Jean-Claude Gaudin, have continued to renew support for the Council. "Marseille became France's first city to voluntarily adopt a strategy coherent with local marine and land biodiversity in compliance with national and international strategies," explains Mr Gaudin.

Equally, IUCN is also one of the Council's founding members, and has been a significant partner since the Council began its work raising awareness on the importance of water security and the need for it to top international political agendas.

As such, the World Water Council welcomes the Congress as it will bring together people from around the world to promote a better tomorrow. This year's water-related theme, "Nature-based solutions", speaks to the importance of transversal efforts and global cooperation needed to deal with a reality exacerbated by climate change, disasters and population growth.

Held every four years, the IUCN Congress is the world's largest conservation event. It brings together leaders from government, civil society, indigenous peoples' organizations, business and academia to determine the world's most pressing environmental and development challenges, and actions to address them. The nine-day conference will include the Nature World Forum with 5,000-7,000 participants and the General Assembly of IUCN gathering 1,200-1,800 participants.

***About the World Water Council:***

The World Water Council (WWC) is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, the founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The World Water Council's mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The Council focuses on the political dimensions of water security, adaptation, and sustainability, and works to position water at the top of the global political agenda. Headquartered in Marseille, France, and created in 1996, the World Water Council brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries. More on [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) @wwatercouncil #wwatercouncil

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