

November 13, 2009

**Voices of Young Leaders at WILD9 Send a World-Wide Message on the Importance of Inter-generational Connections for Success in Wilderness protection and Climate Change**

Merida, Mexico - - November 13, 2009 – Over 70 youth and young professionals are actively participating in WILD9, the 9<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress this week. These young leaders were welcomed by world-wide leaders to present, discuss and share and learn about wilderness conservation. Young delegates traveled from Malaysia, Canada, Europe, Russia, Argentina, Venezuela, the US and throughout Mexico to participate in WILD9.



Prior to the Congress, youth and young professional delegates participated in a Media Training Day, which featured presentations on writing for new media, photo-journalism using multi-media to convey a conservation message and new communications tools such as blogging, twitter and video. Several young delegates ventured into the wilderness of Sian Ka'an, lead by Outward Bound, Mexico from 1-4 November, learning about the ecosystems of the Yucatan and participating in growth and leadership training in the traditional Outward Bound style.

During the Congress, young delegates used new communication tools to engage in citizen journalism and learn from conservation leaders. Some youth interviewed key conservationists such as Amory Lovins and Rick Asselta, coordinator for the Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots program. Several young delegates engaged in the resolutions process, writing resolutions to influence change on topics and in areas in which they work.

“WILD9 has been so amazing for me so far and I'm extremely grateful that I'm able to be here participating and meeting so many inspiring people,” comments Emilene Ostlind of Wyoming.

The young leaders also sent a world-wide message for the protection of wild-nature by organizing a group photo forming the word “WILD” during an outing to the Mayan ruins at Uxmal, to serve as a powerful communications image to raise awareness of the outcomes of WILD9 and for wild-nature everywhere.

For many of these young leaders, WILD9 serves as a critical starting point for future work in the field. The connections they've made and peer networks established will support their engagement internationally for years to come.

WILD9 is a partnership between The WILD Foundation and Unidos para la Conservación and relies on the support and participation of many partner organizations.

Began in 1977, **The World Wilderness Congress** ([www.wild9.org](http://www.wild9.org)) is the longest-running global public forum and is held approximately every four years. WILD9 runs from Nov. 6 -13, 2009 in Merida Mexico, and incorporates a diverse range of views from academia, government, private sector, science, native peoples, the arts, media and social sciences on the importance and benefits of protecting wild nature and related strategies and success stories.

**The WILD Foundation** ([www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org)) Founded in 1974, WILD is the only international organization dedicated entirely and explicitly to wilderness protection around the world. WILD works to protect the planet's last wild places and the wildlife and people who depend upon them, because wilderness areas provide essential social, spiritual, biological and economic benefits. We believe that intact wilderness areas are an essential core element of a healthy modern society.

**Unidos para la Conservación** ([www.undiosparalaconservacion.org](http://www.undiosparalaconservacion.org)) Founded in 1992, Unidos is a nonprofit Mexican conservation organization that has actively promoted the concept of wilderness conservation in Mexico. Its working strategy combines the establishment of alliances with government, nonprofit and corporate partners with the promotion of a conservation culture through publications and films in a search of conservation solutions through specific action.

**Media Contacts:**

Susan Bruce (Boulder, Colo.)	<a href="mailto:susan@wild9.org">susan@wild9.org</a>	1 (404) 593-6391 In Merida 52 999 900 7443
Elena Torres (México DF, México)	<a href="mailto:elena@wild9.org">elena@wild9.org</a>	(52) 55 5615-9650 In Merida 52 999 900 7448
Silvia Casellas (Barcelona, Spain)	<a href="mailto:silvia@wild9.org">silvia@wild9.org</a>	(34) 934 343 715

###