

## **Laurent Stefanini, French Ambassador for Environment**

I am very happy to be with you here tonight. I will not take the floor for very long because Julia Marton-Lefevre has already mentioned the Conference that we are organizing together with IUCN in the island of La Reunion, which is an overseas department of France in the Indian Ocean.

The Conference will take place July 7-11 and is called "The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies To Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss." The objective of this conference is to use the experience of the very different entities of the EU to see how they can provide an example in order to influence the EU Strategy on islands.

You are all invited and I hope that as many people as possible will attend the conference because for us and the French Presidency of the EU it is very important to use that specific example of the difficulties faced by the overseas entities to help the other islands in the world to learn more and take better action.

Thank you.