WWF Side Event:
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Rule of Law and Freshwater Conservation in the Amazon basin

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1. Legal governance of freshwater protected areas

2. Freshwater conservation in international law

3. Role and relevance of global water instruments in the Amazon basin

(Legislative Council Building, Hong Kong)
Transboundary Water Resources: A Case for Multi-level Legal Governance

- UN Watercourses Convention;
- UNECE Water Convention
- Amazon Treaty
- Agreements on the Mekong, Congo
- National laws incorporating concerns with transboundary waters
- Cooperation across border areas between local communities
1. Freshwater Protected Areas

- **The science behind it** – Review of available guidance
  - Landscape relationship
    - Hydrological processes
  - Connectivity: longitudinal, vertical, lateral
    - Exogenous threats
  - Human presence
    - Institutional coordination
1. Freshwater Protected Areas

- **Legal basis** – some examples:
  - **International**: World Heritage Sites, Ramsar sites, Biosphere Reserves
  - **Domestic**: Scenic Rivers (US), Heritage Rivers & Natural Catchment Areas (Victoria state, AUS), Hydrological Reserves (Spain), Protected Rivers (Colombia), inland waters in a PA national policy (Brazil)
2. Freshwater Conservation in International Law

Courtesy of NASA
The Amazon basin and the existing cooperation regime

Madeira Hydropower Complex, EIA 2004
Testing the OTCA regime

Wilson, International Rivers
Room for improvements?
Who would gain?

Lucía Ortiz, FOE Brasil
E-flows in regional instruments

- ASEAN
- SADC
- EU WFD
E-flows in basin agreements

- Mekong
- Sava
- Spain-Portugal
- US-Canada
3. Global instruments:

The UN Watercourses Convention

- Background
- Importance
- Brief overview
The UNECE Water Convention

- Background
- Implementation tools
Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifer

1) Antecedents
2) Content
3) Importance
4) Next steps
Thank you!