

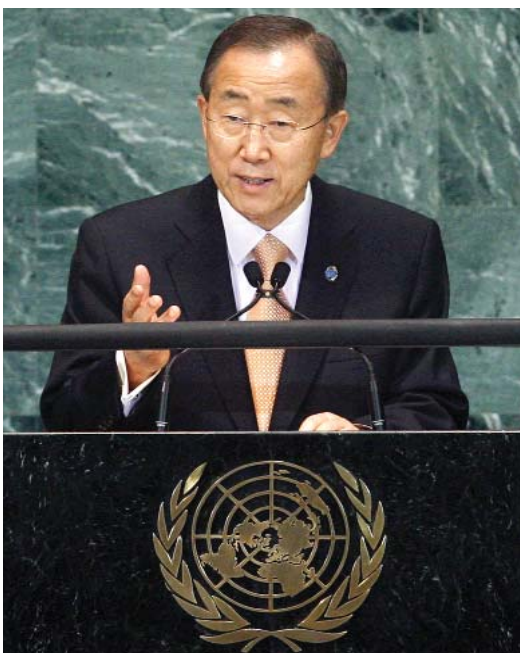


RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

UNGA Holds High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity

A high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) was held on 22 September 2010, in New York, US, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. Following a general discussion, thematic panels were held on the way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets. Participants highlighted, among others: the need for political impetus and flexibility in the negotiations on a draft protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS); the opportunity to adopt an ambitious post-2010 strategic plan; and the importance of creating an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that conserving the planet's species and habitats was central to sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. A summary of discussions will be transmitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, to be held from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga10992.doc.htm>; <http://www.un.org/en/ga/65/meetings/biodiversity.shtml>).



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the UNGA High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity (photo courtesy of the UN/Aliza Eliazarov)

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GUEST ARTICLE I

Lake Tanganyika Authority and FAO Sign Technical Assistance Agreement

By Henry Mwima, Executive Director of the Lake Tanganyika Authority, and Kaitira Ibrahim Katonda, Director of Fisheries of the Lake Tanganyika Authority

Abstract

On 10 September 2010, the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) signed the Technical Assistance

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GUEST ARTICLE II

The DESIRE Project and Sustainable Land Management

By Simone Verzandvoort, on behalf of the DESIRE consortium

Abstract

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is increasingly observed to improve the environment and livelihoods in rural dryland areas. The DESIRE project (www.desire-project.eu) seeks to develop and test strategies for SLM in such areas, and is working in 11 countries with land degradation problems in dryland areas.

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► **BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

CBD ING on ABS to Resume during Biosafety COP/MOP-5

As recently announced by the CBD Secretariat, following consultations held at the Ministerial breakfast convened in conjunction with UNGA's high-level meeting on biodiversity, the Interregional Negotiating Group (ING) on ABS will reconvene from 13-15 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, to further negotiate the text of the draft protocol on ABS. The meeting's outcome will be forwarded to the second resumed session of the ninth meeting of the ABS Working Group, which will be held on 16 October 2010, in Nagoya, with the aim of finalizing the international regime for consideration and adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-181-abs-en.pdf>).

In addition, the CBD Secretariat is making final preparations for several meetings to be held in October 2010, in Nagoya: the fourth meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (6-8 October), which is expected to finalize negotiations on a supplementary protocol on liability by agreeing on the remaining two pending provisions; the Biosafety Clearing-House training workshop (8-9 October 2010); the joint Aarhus Convention-Biosafety Protocol workshop on public awareness, access to information and public participation regarding living/genetically modified organisms (8-9 October 2010); the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP/MOP-5) (11-15 October 2010), which is expected to adopt a supplementary protocol on liability and redress; the South-South Cooperation Forum on biodiversity for development (17 October 2010); CBD COP 10 (18-29 October 2010), which will consider and possibly adopt an international protocol on ABS, assess achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, and adopt a new strategic plan for the Convention; the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 (24-26 October 2010); the meeting on Parlia-

mentarians and biodiversity (25-26 October 2010); and the COP 10 High-level segment (27-29 October 2010) (<http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>).

OAS Dialogue Focuses on Implementation of CITES Priorities

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) convened a dialogue on 23 September 2010, at OAS headquarters in Washington DC, US, to discuss concrete legal and financial measures in support of activities for the conservation and sustainable use of the species of wild animals and plants protected by CITES. Discussions focused on the following CITES core priorities: targeted legislative support to streamline wildlife trade that is sustainable and traceable; and policy tools and guidelines that protect the livelihoods of the rural poor depending on wildlife resources. During the meeting, participants identified synergies and opportunities for cooperation, with the aim to strengthen countries' capacity to effectively enforce CITES (<http://www.oas.org/DSD/EnvironmentLaw/Wild%20Fauna%20and%20Flora%20CITES.htm>).

EUROBATS MOP-6 Launches Year of the Bat

The sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS), concluded under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), convened from 20-22 September 2010, in Prague, Czech Republic. During the meeting, the Year of the Bat 2011-2012 was launched. This joint campaign is led by CMS and EUROBATS, and is backed by UNEP. It seeks to promote conservation, research and education on the world's only flying mammals, with focus on the ecological benefits that bats provide (<http://www.yearofthebat.org/>; http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/09_sep/Press_Release_Year_of_the_Bat.pdf).

Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions Convenes

The tenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (CBD, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)) convened in New York, US, on 23 September 2010. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, chaired this meeting on the margins of the high-level meeting on biodiversity. The Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions discussed ways in which to support the efforts of parties towards achieving synergies, especially with regard to national planning processes. The Heads agreed that joint activities between CBD and UNCCD, with the support of UNFCCC, would be promoted during the 2011-2012 revision of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans as well as the alignment of national plans of action under UNCCD. The meeting also considered joint outreach and awareness-raising activities including the Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion. Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, took the chairmanship for the 11th meeting of the Joint Liaison Group, which is tentatively planned for January 2011 (<http://www.cbd.int/press-releases/>).



The Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions meeting in New York. L-R: Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary; Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary; and Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary.

► **TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

Adaptation Fund Board Approves Financing for Two Projects

The Adaptation Fund Board approved, on 20 September 2010, two projects in Senegal and Honduras for US\$14 million. The Senegalese project represents the first time that the Adaptation Board has approved funding through its Direct Access Modal-



ADAPTATION FUND
Logo courtesy of the Adaptation Fund

The project of the Senegalese entity "Centre de Suivi Ecologique" seeks to

combat coastal erosion exacerbated by climate change and rising sea levels in the country. The Honduras project on improved water management was put forward by the Government of Honduras through the UN Development Programme, a Multilateral Implementing Entity (<http://www.adaptation-fund.org/node/794>).

ity, which allows recipient countries to have direct access to its funds through National Implementing Entities.

GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

Agreement for the Project to Support the Lake Tanganyika Integrated Regional Development Programme (PRODAP). The Technical Assistance Agreement was signed by the two parties and endorsed by three Lake Tanganyika riparian Governments of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania at a brief ceremony held at the Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation in Bujumbura, Burundi. The Government of the Republic of Zambia is expected to endorse the Agreement through the Ambassador based in Tanzania but also accredited to Burundi.

PRODAP, which aims at rationalizing the exploitation of the fishery resources, protecting the lake environment in a sustainable manner, and reducing the poverty of the Lake Tanganyika Basin communities, is a multinational project supported by the

African Development Bank, Nordic Development Fund and co-financed by the four riparian governments. The LTA, after consultations with the four riparian countries and the African Development Bank, has decided to use the proceeds of the African Development Fund Grant to finance the FAO technical assistance services for PRODAP.

The LTA/FAO Technical Assistance Agreement will, over the 18-month period, address the lack of sustainable and responsible fisheries management on Lake Tanganyika as well as the preservation of the quality of the aquatic ecosystems of the lake. The envisaged outputs/benefits include: training of stakeholders within the fisheries and environmental management sub-sectors; baseline information on the fisheries resources and establishment of Fisheries Information System; improved and sustainable

fisheries management; improved environmental management; harmonized fisheries policies and legislation; harmonized data collection system for catch assessments; updating the Framework Fisheries Management Plan; development of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance system; reduction of post-harvest losses; development of a co-management system; and improved landing sites.

To view the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle100a.html>

For more information, visit <http://www.lta.iwlearn.org/>

Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Photo of the winners of the Equator Prize 2010 (photo courtesy of the GEF Secretariat)

SGP Announces Global Partnership on Community-Based Adaptation, Receives Equator Prizes

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) announced a Global Partnership on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change on the occasion of the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Review Summit of the UN General Assembly. The Global Partnership will build on a pilot programme implemented by the SGP during the past two years, to help poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities adapt to climate change (IISDRS Sources).

In related news, nine SGP projects were among the winners of the Equator Prize 2010, which this year celebrated the work of 25 local indigenous peoples and communities that have developed

innovative biodiversity conservation projects (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3610>).

AfDB Organizes Roundtable on Climate Change Financing, Development Banks Fund Green Energy Projects

The African Development Bank (AfDB) organized a roundtable on African Perspectives on the issues before the UN High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, in Tunis, Tunisia, from 21-22 September 2010. At the roundtable, participants highlighted that, for most African nations, the overwhelming challenge posed by climate change is how to adapt to its adverse impacts (<http://www.afdb.org/en/news-events/article/afdb-round-table-on-climate-change-importance-of-environment-in-development-7210/>).

On 15 September, the Inter-American Development Bank approved a US\$45 million loan to boost the use of renewable energy sources in Barbados and improve its energy efficiency. The loan is expected to reduce over 4.5 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, through energy efficiency and support for energy co-generation through: biomass, photovoltaic panels, waste-to-energy systems, and wind farms (<http://www.iadb.org/news-releases/2010-09/english/barbados-to-boost-renewable-energy-use-reduce-fossil-fuel-dependence-with-idb-he-7907.html>).

The European Investment Bank (EIB) approved, on 20 September, a credit line of EUR 200 million to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Italy. The loans will be administered by UniCredit and benefit small and medium-sized enterprises (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-145-eib-and-unicredit-lend-eur-550-million-for-smes-and-environmental-projects.htm>).

Also, the Multilateral Carbon Credit Fund, a joint activity by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and EIB, has agreed to buy carbon credits from a group of ten small hydro-power plants in Armenia, bundled into a single project under the Clean Development Mechanism framework (<http://www.eib.org/about/press/2010/2010-154-new-multilateral-carbon-credit-fund-transaction-in-armenia-for-ten-hydro-power-plants.htm>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Manual for Refrigeration Servicing Technicians

(UNEP, 2010) The UN Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Ozon-Action Branch produced this manual, which provides new approaches to prevent emissions of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) during the operation and servicing of equipment. It catalogues steps to recycle the CFCs and retrofit the equipment (<http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/ebooks/refrigeration-manual/>).

National Capacity Self-Assessments: Results and Lessons Learned for Global Environmental Sustainability

(UNDP, 2010) This report by Jean-Joseph Bellamy and Kevin Hill synthesizes the results of the National Capacity Self-Assessment programme, launched in January 2000, to deepen knowledge on countries' foundational capacities to meet global environmental objectives. The programme focused on assessing the key individual, organizational and systemic capacities needed to sustain achievements that satisfy the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, collectively known as the Rio Conventions, and other multilateral environmental agreements. The exercise also sought to develop an understanding of the key drivers of, and barriers to, sustained environmental protection and conservation, with particular reference to meeting and sustaining objectives codified within the Rio Conventions (<http://thegef.org/gef/pubs/NCSA>).

Tropical Forest Update: Assessing Achievements

(ITTO, September 2010) The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has published the latest issue of its newsletter to promote the conservation and sustainable development of tropical forests. This issue highlights ITTO projects on: reviewing of 20 ITTO diagnostic missions; providing incentives for communities to support forest restoration; rubberwood and Thailand's furniture industry; improving community capacity in processing and marketing of forest products; promoting rattan use in forest-based communities; and Guyana's shift towards sustainable forest management (http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2402&no=0).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Rotterdam Convention Convenes Asbestos Workshop

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention convened an awareness-raising workshop on the sound management of industrial chemicals, with special emphasis on asbestos, for the Asia-Pacific Region. The workshop, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 31 August-2 September 2010, sought to assist in increasing capacity in the Asia-Pacific region to manage industrial chemicals (especially asbestos) through all stages of their lifecycle (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=409>).

Basel Convention Invites Comments on Transboundary Movement of e-Waste Guidelines

The Basel Convention Secretariat has released draft guidelines on the transboundary movement of e-waste. The document, dated 22 September 2010, focuses on the distinction between waste and non-waste, and includes recommended procedures to follow in case of transboundary movement of used equipment suitable for direct reuse without repair or refurbishment, as well as for cases in which the used equipment is destined for repair or refurbishment. Comments from parties and stakeholders are invited and should be submitted by 30 October 2010 (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

Stockholm Convention Issues Technical Assistance Newsletter

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has issued the September 2010 edition of its Technical Assistance newsletter. The September issue includes: summaries of outcomes of recent regional workshops; news from the Pesticide Elimination Network; and

a summary of recent customs training activities (<http://chm.pops.int/default.aspx>).

SAICM Announces Deadline for Nominating New and Emerging Policy Issues

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat has announced a 30 November 2010 deadline for the nomination of emerging policy issues for consideration at the third International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 3). Once nominated, these submissions will be reviewed and published, and then they will be prioritized by regions. The Open-ended Working Group will review and prioritize proposals in preparation for ICCM 3, which is scheduled to take place in 2012 (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=9&pageid=392&submenuheader=>).

Basel Convention Effectiveness Meeting Convenes

The Third meeting to Improve the Effectiveness of the Basel Convention convened from 24-28 September 2010, in Hilterfingen, Switzerland. Part of the Indonesian-Swiss Country-Led Initiative, the meeting focused on the identification of key elements for a draft proposal to the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 10), scheduled to convene in 2012. The draft proposal addressed: the development of an environmentally sound management standard; the entry into force of the Ban Amendment; support for Basel Convention Regional Centers; capacity building; providing further legal clarity; combating illegal traffic; and assisting vulnerable countries (IISD RS Sources).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD Prepares for Land Day 3, GM Signs MoU with NEPAD

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is organizing "Land Day 3," which will convene on 23 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, in parallel to CBD COP 10. Land Day 3 will seek to: highlight the benefits of fostering synergy at the national level in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions; illustrate the relevance of (agro)biodiversity in the drylands for food security, climate change adaptation and poverty reduction; and examine the role of science in biodiversity conservation and combating desertifica-



Banner courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

tion (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/2010b/menu.php>).

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in support of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), promising a harmonized response to promoting finance for sustainable land management (SLM). The MoU commits the institutions to, *inter alia*, support the improvement of enabling conditions for resource mobilization in core areas of cooperation, such as the integration of SLM into national development and budgetary frameworks (<http://global-mechanism.org/news-events/news/investing-in-africas-future-mou-signed-between-gm-and-nepad/>).

GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

The project has assessed what type of land degradation is actually happening in the study sites and why, and what SLM measures have been applied, using a mapping methodology jointly developed by WOCAT, LADA and DESIRE (<http://tinyurl.com/WOCAT-QM>). The drivers of land degradation in the areas and related policies have been inventoried based on information from researchers and stakeholders in the areas. Scientists and stakeholders together identified and assessed options for SLM in a structured participatory process at the local level that examined cases from initiation to final decision on SLM strategies.

Stakeholders are more confident to promote or try new ideas if they see evidence of success demonstrated in scientific experiments. Therefore, 22 SLM technologies were selected for implementation and monitoring in 57 on-farm field experiments. The field-based experiments investigated whether or not the selected technologies are helping to combat desertification and improving the livelihoods of stakeholders. The monitoring is

currently done in collaboration with stakeholders, and will comprise 1-3 growing seasons for each site. The evaluation of the SLM technologies is at two levels: within each of the study sites, through comparison with reference field experiments without SLM technologies, and between sites, by comparing production impacts, socio-economic impacts and ecological impacts.

To support decision making on the regional level, on where land degradation needs to be addressed, and which SLM technologies should be spread, DESIRE will make regional scale analyses of the physical impact and economic viability of SLM technologies. For this purpose, a combined biophysical and economic model was developed to analyze the effect of policy options on the potential uptake of mitigation measures at the regional scale, and can be used to analyze where the cost-effectiveness of investment is highest. Stakeholders will be involved in a workshop in each study area, where the model results will be jointly evaluated in order to agree on recommendations for agricultural ex-

tension and national/district policy. These results will be disseminated to a wider audience to promote cross-site learning. DESIRE uses the Harmonized Information System (www.desire-his.eu) to communicate the project results to policy makers and other stakeholders.

The DESIRE consortium soon will gather in Xi'an, China, for its fourth plenary meeting. Parallel to the meeting, the project will contribute to the International Conference on Combating Land Degradation in Agricultural Areas (LANDCON 1010) (<http://tinyurl.com/Landcon1010>), which is taking place from 11-15 October 2010. Subjects to be discussed include mapping and field-based assessment of SLM, assessment of SLM in the Euro-Mediterranean region, participatory appraisal and selection of SLM strategies, SLM modeling, and collaboration between and the role of CSOs in the communication of science to policy makers and other stakeholders.

The full article can be viewed at: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle100b.html>

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**UNFF and UNEP Launch Follow-Up Project on Forest Financing for SIDS and LFCCs**

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have launched a project on further identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in forest financing in small island developing States (SIDS) and low forest cover countries (LFCCs). The project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is a follow-up to the SIDS/LFCC project launched in 2009 as part of the facilitative process to assist countries to mobilize funding from all sources. Drafts of studies from the initial project are now

available online (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html>).

The GEF-funded project will be taking the initial studies further by discussing the data obtained in a series of inter-regional workshops in SIDS and LFCCs. The project will have a cross-sectoral perspective that will involve stakeholders in all the sectors that impact forest financing, including finance, agriculture, energy and transport, as well as donors, experts, academia, NGOs and the private sector. It will produce a range of papers and information products on forest financing targeted at different audiences (IISD RS Sources).



L-R: Shakira Khawaja, UNEP; Jan McAlpine, Director, UNFF Secretariat; Maryam Niamir-Fuller, UNEP; and Benjamin Singer, UNFF

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**MSI+5 Adopts Political Declaration**

The High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI+5) was held from 24-25 September 2010 at UN Headquarters in New York, US. MSI+5, which took place as part of the 65th session of the UN General Assembly, provided delegates with the opportunity to review the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation

of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The major outcome of the meeting was a political declaration that elaborates new and renewed commitments to SIDS to implement the BPOA and the Mauritius Strategy (<http://www.iisd.ca/sids/msi+5/>; http://www.sidsnet.org/msi_5/).

In support of MSI+5, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) released a report titled "Trends in Sustainable Development in Small

Island Developing States, 2010." It highlights progress in SIDS in a number of areas, but acknowledges significant further efforts are required to advance implementation of the goals of the Mauritius Strategy. The publication includes sections on: demographic trends; climate change; natural disaster management; trade and finance; tourism; energy; natural resources; social development; and progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_publtrends_2010_sids.shtml).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC Prepares for Tianjin Talks

In preparation for the last round of climate change talks before the Cancun Climate Change Conference at the end of 2010, the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has published the provisional agenda (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/12) and the scenario note (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/13) for the 12th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWGLCA 12). This session will be held in conjunction with the 14th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 14), in Tianjin, China, from 4-9 October 2010. The agenda includes the preparation of an outcome to be presented to the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) for adoption to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action now, up

to and beyond 2012. The agenda also indicates that the Working Group will be invited to accelerate its efforts to resolve outstanding issues with a view to reaching agreement on an outcome to be presented to COP 16 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca12/eng/13.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca12/eng/12.pdf>).

The September issue of the UNFCCC Newsletter focuses on the Tianjin round of negotiations. It includes a video message from Patricia Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and incoming President of COP 16, and an article by Han Seung-soo KBE, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Board of Directors, and Lord Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics, and Vice-Chair of the GGGI Board of Directors, on supporting green growth in

developing countries (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=2ybdxllj&s=hc8pkj4xl6iwc0fo>).

Ozone Secretariat Releases Draft Report on Banks

The Ozone Secretariat has released the draft report of the seminar on the environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), which convened on 14 June 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The report focuses on: the pressure to act quickly to address banks; options for financing and the participation of the private sector; strategies for destruction and other strategies; synergies with regard to disposal of different chemicals; the challenges faced by low-volume-consuming countries; and the importance of the sustainability of projects. Parties to the Montreal Protocol are expected to consider this issue further at the 22nd Meeting of the Parties in Uganda, in November (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/Seminars/Seminar-1-2E.pdf).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNDOALOS Releases Report of the Fish Stocks Review Conference

The UN Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the report of the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which convened from 24-28 May 2010, in New York, US (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/review_conf_fish_stocks.htm).

New Ramsar Site Designated

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that Madagascar has designated its



View of Nosivolo River (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

seventh Site of International Importance, the Nosivolo River and affluents (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-ram-madagascar/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24802_4000_0__).

Regional Seas Global Meeting Discusses GPA Implementation

During the 12th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, which took place from 20-22 September 2010, in Bergen, Norway, partic-

ipants discussed the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) and the Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs). After hearing keynote presentations on the GPA workplan and implementation, including wastewater, marine litter, nutrients and mainstreaming, participants broke into four groups to tackle: the implementation of the GPA and the potential role of the RSPs; the mechanisms to facilitate/enhance cooperation between the RSPs and the GPA Coordination Office; RSPs' expected outcomes from the third Intergovernmental Review; and RSPs' facilitation of national reporting to GPA (http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/default_ns.asp; IISD RS Sources).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **UNEP GEO-5 Regional Consultation:** 4-5 October 2010. Bahrain. http://www.unep.org/geo/GEO_Meetings.asp
- **First Meeting of Signatories to the Dugong MoU:** 4-6 October 2010. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. <http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>
- **Twentieth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 2010) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):** 4-8 October 2010, Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/fao/cof20/>
- **Tianjin Climate Change Talks - October 2010:** 4-9 October 2010, Tianjin, China. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg12/>
- **UNCTAD Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the Green Economy: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications:** 7-8 October 2010. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=20265>
- **Thirty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:** 11-14 October 2010, Busan, Republic of Korea. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ipcc32/>
- **Fifth Meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Meeting of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 5):** 11-15 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/bs-copmop5/>
- **Sixth Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC6) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs):** 11-15 October 2010, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc6/>