



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

Biosafety Negotiators Adopt Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress

The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 5) was held from 11-15 October 2011 in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. The meeting adopted the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and 16 other decisions on biosafety-related issues. The Supplementary Protocol was finalized during the fourth meeting of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held from 6-10 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, which reached agreement on outstanding issues with regard to the draft supplementary protocol on liability and redress, namely financial security, the definition of "LMOs and products thereof." The adoption of the Supplementary Protocol, which fills an important gap in the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol, was hailed as an important success against the background of complex and often protracted negotiations (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/bs-copmop5/>).

Biosafety Protocol COP/MOP 5 was followed by the CBD COP 10, which is being held from 18-29 October 2010. The meeting's agenda includes a series of strategic, substantive, administrative and budgetary issues. Among several items, the meeting is expected to adopt an international protocol on ABS; assess achievement of the target to reduce significantly the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010; adopt a new strategic plan and a multi-year programme of work for the Convention; consider issues related to cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives; and address substantive issues, including on marine and coastal biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change, forest biodiversity, biofuels, and Article 8(j) (traditional knowledge) (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop10>).



L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, CBD; Jimena Nieto (Colombia) and René Lefeber (the Netherlands), Co-Chairs, Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress

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GUEST ARTICLE

Streamlined Reporting by Pacific Island Countries to the Biodiversity-related MEAs

By Melissa Jaques*

Abstract

The Australian Government, in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), has been working on a project to streamline national reporting by Pacific Island countries to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Sampled Red List Index for Plants

(Kew, Natural History Museum London, IUCN, 2010) A global analysis of extinction risk for the world's plants and a major baseline for plant conservation, this study reveals that the world's plants are as threatened as mammals, with one in five of the world's plant species threatened with extinction. It is part of a worldwide effort to create a tool to monitor the changing status of the world's major groups of plants, fungi and animals (<http://threatenedplants.myspecies.info/>).

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► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



Photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat

CITES Extends Controls on High-Value Timber

The Governments of Bolivia, the Russian Federation and Seychelles have requested the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to list seven new species in CITES Appendix III, including high-value timber species. The listing of three species of cedar, the Korean pine, the 'coco de mer' and three species of butterflies in CITES Appendix III means that all cross-border shipments now have to be authorized by the issuance of a document certifying the origin of the products covered by the listing (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml).

In other CITES-related developments, the Secretary-General of CITES has awarded a Certificate of Commendation to the General Directorate of Customs of the Czech Republic and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in recognition of their exemplary efforts to combat illegal trade in parrots. Since 2006, the two agencies have collaborated on a long-term investigation relating to the smuggling of rare parrots, which has required liaison and coordination with other law enforcement bodies around the world and with the INTERPOL General Secretariat. The investigation has uncovered widespread forgery of CITES documents, false declarations of captive breeding, and use of fake marking rings (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=649&ArticleID=6773&l=en&t=long>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD Announces Intersessional on SCP, Calls for Programme Proposals

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has announced that an intersessional meeting on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) will convene in Panama City, Panama, from 13-14 January 2011. This meeting will offer representatives from member States, Major Groups and UN agencies to discuss potential programmes to be included in the 10 Year Framework of Programs on SCP, which is on the agenda for negotiation at the May



CITES-CMS Workshop participants (photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat)

CITES-CMS Workshop Engages Traditional Chinese Medicine Industry in Saiga Antelope Conservation

At a workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of the saiga antelope, representatives of the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) industry, which uses saiga horn in several medical products, confirmed their willingness to do their part in restoring wild saiga populations. The objective of the workshop, convened by the CITES Management Authority of China and the Secretariats of CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, from 27-29 September 2010, was to strengthen international cooperation among consumer and range States and to provide a platform for discussion between those managing *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation activities and the Asian traditional medicine industry. The idea of sharing conservation efforts between consumer and range States is reflected in decisions adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP15, Doha, 2010) and has been envisaged since 2006 under the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on the Saiga Antelope (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2010/saiga.shtml>).

CMS Meeting Adopts Conservation Strategy for Dugongs

Held from 4-6 October 2010, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, the first meeting of the Signatory States of the Memorandum of Understanding on dugongs, developed under the auspices of the CMS, concluded that the species conservation strategy should address the need for greater protection of marine biodiversity by combining different conservation tools. A newly developed innovative toolbox to mitigate threats to dugongs includes incentives to replace harmful gillnets with alternative fishing gear to reduce bycatch and minimize mortality rates. Governments represented at the meeting noted that different conservation tools are necessary for reducing the entanglement in fishing gear of other marine species such as whales and dolphins, turtles and coastal sharks. Pilot projects are expected to be developed, to implement the new incentive based tools. At the meeting, Bahrain, Palau, Seychelles, Vanuatu and Yemen also signed the memorandum, bringing the number of signatories to 18 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=649&ArticleID=6772&l=en&t=long>).

2011 meeting of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In connection with this announcement, DSD has also invited submissions, by 26 November 2010, of potential programmes to be considered during this January meeting (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml). The minutes from the first meeting of the CSD 19 Bureau, on 23 September 2010, indicate that, in addition to the SCP intersessional meeting, other intersessional meetings will discuss waste management (in October in Malaysia; November in Morocco; and January in Japan), and transport (in No-

member in Chile). The Bureau was also informed that DSD is considering organizing an intersessional meeting/seminar for the delegates of the UN General Assembly Second Committee in 2011, prior to CSD 19, to enhance their understanding about the policy options and practical measures to be negotiated; and consideration is being given to how to seek advance comments prior to the start of CSD 19, to save time that is normally spent on the first reading of the Chair's draft negotiating text (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Minutes_of_the_First_Bureau_Meeting.pdf).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The objective of the project is to reduce the burden of national reporting for Pacific Island countries to the biodiversity-related MEAs by reducing duplication, and making the reporting process simpler and less resource-intensive.

The primary achievement of the project has been the development and trial of a consolidated reporting template to five of the biodiversity-related MEAs:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC).

The template represents a practical example of how national reporting can be streamlined. The model streamlines the separate reporting requirements for the five biodiversity-related MEAs into one template. This means that Parties would develop only one national report per reporting period and this re-

port would serve as the national report for any of the five biodiversity-related MEAs to which that country is party.

The primary benefits of this are a reduction in the amount of time spent undertaking national reporting to these MEAs, and a simplified structure that reduces duplication while still communicating progress and achievements in implementing MEAs. This could be particularly useful for countries with resource constraints or with small environment agencies.

The template was developed in early 2008 and trialed in eight countries in the Pacific over 2008–2009 to ‘road-test’ its suitability for use in the Pacific.

The results of the trial were positive. The countries that participated noted the benefits of using a consolidated reporting model, particularly in terms of the reduction in the amount of resources, staffing and funding that would be required to undertake national reporting using this model.

While the template has not been formally endorsed by the governing bodies of the MEAs, the project provides

a valuable case study of a streamlined reporting approach that can be used to guide future discussion and action on this issue. Overall, feedback received on the template and concept from the MEA Secretariats and agencies such as UNEP and UNEP-WCMC has been positive.

All information on this project is now available on-line at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/about/international/reporting/>

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To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle102.html>

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.

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**UNFF, CBD Promote International Year of Forests 2011 at COFO 2010 and World Forest Week**

The 20th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization took place from 4-8 October 2010, at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, in conjunction with World Forest Week. In plenary sessions held throughout the week, participants discussed, *inter alia*: forest biodiversity, fire and water in the context of climate change; the Global Forest Resources Assessment; emerging opportunities and challenges in forest finance and forest governance; and preparations for the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011. During World Forest Week discussions on planned activities for the IYF, Jan McAlpine, Director, UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), said “Forests 2011” should be a celebration of the positive things related to forests and their role for people, highlighting biodiversity, climate and health. She explained that the UNFF, as the focal point for the UN system during IYF, will be working closely with the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and major groups, as well as artists and film-

makers. Tim Christophersen, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), highlighted success stories and lessons learned from the International Year of Biodiversity, noting that national governments play a key role as primary organizers of activities and can, *inter alia*: build national committees, including municipalities, NGOs, and other stakeholders; evaluate the impact of activities at the national level as a basis for overall impact evaluation; and translate and spread information (<http://www.iisd.ca/fao/cof20/>).

UNCCD Invites Views on Subset of Impact Indicators

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has posted two consultancy reports on methodologies and data needs for an effective use of the subset of impact indicators for reporting by affected country parties to the UNCCD beginning in 2012. The impact indicators examined were identified as the minimum required to fulfill this task; the reports address the “proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line” and the “land cover status.” Comments on the reports will be collected through an e-

forum format (<http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/eforum.php>).

In related news, the deadline for submission of reports by civil society organizations for the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) has been extended to 12 November 2010 (<http://www.unccd.int/cso/menu.php?newch=12>). The Secretariat has also announced that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has re-appointed Luc Gnacadja as the UNCCD Executive Secretary, effective 1 October 2010 (http://www.unccd.int/media/pressrel/showpressrel.php?pr=press11_10_10).



Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Using Ecosystems to Address Climate Change – Ecosystem Based Adaptation

(UNEP Regional Seas, 2010) This issue of the Regional Seas Information Series outlines policy recommendations to promote the application of the Ecosystem-based management and restoration of ecosystems. It highlights that Ecosystem-based management offer a valuable, although under-utilized approach for climate change adaptation that can replace or complement other adaptation actions like building expensive “hard” infrastructure such as sea-walls and dykes (<http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/publications/series/unep-rsp-info-series.pdf>).

Tropical Forest Update

(International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), 2010) This issue of Tropical Forest Update focuses on biodiversity, as part of ITTO's contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. The issue was jointly produced with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It includes an article reviewing the priorities and activities of the CBD Forest Programme, focusing on forest biodiversity and climate change and sustainable use of bushmeat. The issue also reviews the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem services in tropical forests, and outlines tools and measures for ensuring REDD+ provides biodiversity benefits. Also included are articles on applying the ITTO IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Tropical Production Forests, and the management and use of wildlife within production forests. Finally, the issue reviews the linkages between biodiversity and forest resilience, and invasive species. The issue closes with a commentary from Ahmed Djoghla (Executive Director, CBD) and Emmanuel Ze Meka (Executive Director, ITTO), highlighting the CBD and ITTO's commitment to collaborating to conserve and sustainably manage tropical forests (<http://www.itto.int/tfu/id=2421>).

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP Launches Climate-Related Initiative, Co-convenes B4E Summit

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced an initiative to inspire action on reducing emissions and making the transition to a global green economy in the lead up to the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16), to take place



Photo courtesy of UNEP

in Cancún, Mexico, at the end of 2010. Under the “30 Ways in 30 Days” initiative, UNEP will be releasing 30 case studies showing that solutions to combat climate change are available, accessible and replicable (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=649&ArticleID=6770&l=en&t=long>).

The UN Global Compact, together with UNEP, the Government of Mexico and WWF, brought together over 300 companies from nearly 30 countries, for the Special Business for Environment (B4E) Summit on Climate Change, from 4-5 October 2010, in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting was convened to provide perspectives and policy recommendations ahead of the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN-

FCCC (COP 16). Participants focused on transformative climate solutions needed to address the mounting climate and inter-related environmental issues, turning crises into opportunity, with a number of companies in the energy, information and communication technologies (ICT), and buildings and construction sectors making commitments to climate action. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a statement titled “B4E Climate Summit 2010 – A Call to Action,” in which business leaders agree that averting a major climate crisis will require the creation of global policy and strong national legal frameworks.

In other UNEP news, the organization, in partnership American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers Inc. (ASHRAE), convened a two-day conference titled “Road to Climate Friendly Chillers - Moving beyond CFCs and HCFCs,” in Cairo, Egypt, from 30 September-1 October 2010. The Conference reviewed technology trends in the air conditioning sector and their impact on the environment, and concluded that renewable energy-powered cooling units are approaching commercial production stage (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=649&ArticleID=6766&l=en&t=long>).

TRADE, FINANCE AND INVEST-

Development Banks Fund Large-Scale Solar Power and Wind Energy Projects

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed, on 12 October 2010, a loan agreement to provide US\$140 million to The Bangchak Petroleum Company Public Company Limited (BCP) to build two solar power plants, for a total of 38MW in central Thailand. The plants will help the Thai Government achieve its target of getting 20.4% of its primary commercial energy from renewable sources by 2022. BCP has kicked off a zero-carbon strategy under which it will neutralize its carbon footprint by developing large-scale solar power projects and reducing carbon emissions across its operation (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13357-thailand-energies-projects/>).

ADB will also provide a US\$2 million technical assistance grant to establish the Asia Solar Energy Forum, a knowledge sharing and communication platform for sector stakeholders to exchange information on how to accelerate and expand the use of solar power (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13360-asian-solar-powers/>).

On other related news, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and African

Development Bank (AfDB) agreed, on 7 October 2010, to provide EUR 45 million to design, build and operate onshore wind farms on four islands in the Cape Verde archipelago. This project will represent the first large scale wind project in Africa and the first renewable energy public private partnership in sub-Saharan Africa (http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_10172_en.htm).

In other news related to development banks, Norway has pledged US\$30 million to the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), entrusted to the World Bank, with the aim of supporting Guyana's policies for limiting greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and its progress in governance-related indicators. Norway's payments to Guyana may amount to approximately US\$250 million over the period to 2015, depending on Guyana's performance according to a methodology set out by the two countries in November 2009. The partnership is based on the concept of “payment for ecosystem services” and aims to contribute to the creation of a global regime to assign economic value to standing forests (<http://go.worldbank.org/MLJB1NN0X0>).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Tianjin Talks Forward Negotiating Texts to Cancún

The 14th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 14) and the 12th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 12) convened in Tianjin, China, from 4-9 October 2010. The AWG-LCA considered the negotiating text circulated in August 2010 (FCCC/AWG-LCA/2010/14), which encompasses key aspects of the Bali Action Plan (BAP) (decision 1/CP.13), namely a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology, as well as capacity building. Parties conducted their work by attempting to find areas of convergence on these issues and to streamline the text. Outputs from the sessions comprise draft texts and notes from the drafting group facilitators and will be incorporated into an information document prepared by the Secretariat. The AWG-LCA negotiation text will still remain the main text for negotiations at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16) to be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November-10 December 2010. The AWG-KP considered the Chair's draft proposal, presented to parties at AWG-KP 13 in August (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/CRP.2). The document contains draft decision text on, *inter alia*, Protocol amendments under Article 3.9 (Annex I parties' further commitments), the flexibility mechanisms and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). Parties focused on narrowing down the options contained in the document and attempting to make progress on substantial issues. A revised Chair's proposal (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/CRP.3) was produced and will be considered further in Cancún (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg12/>).

Looking towards Cancún, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published further submissions under the Subsidiary

Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), which will be considered at their 33rd sessions, scheduled to take place in Cancún, Mexico, from 30 November-4 December 2010. Three submissions, from Belgium, on behalf of the EU, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, on information and views that may be relevant to the completion of the intermediate review, including information on best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 (education, training and public awareness) have been published. Submissions from Belgium, on behalf of the EU, and Malawi on activities to implement the framework for capacity building in developing countries have also been published. Under SBSTA, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published seven submissions from regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations. The submissions are on updated information on emerging scientific findings and research outcomes relevant to the needs of the Convention, in the context of the research dialogue (http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/3594.php?such=j&last_days=60&dat_no=j#beg).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published the fifth annual report of the Compliance Committee to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP). The report covers activities undertaken from 14 October 2009 to 18 September 2010. It provides a summary of the further consideration by the enforcement branch of the two questions of implementation with respect to Croatia and its consideration of the question of implementation with respect to Bulgaria. It also contains information on discussions by the facilitative branch on provisions relating to facilitation, and discussions of the plenary of the Compliance Committee on consistency in the review process and

on conflict of interest (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cmp6/eng/06.pdf>).

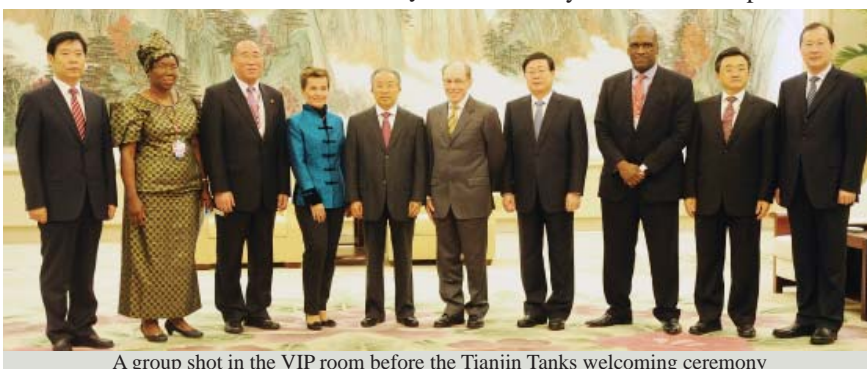
IPCC Adopts Decisions on Panel Processes and Procedures

The 32nd session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was held from 11-14 October 2010, in Busan, Republic of Korea. Approximately 300 participants focused on two primary tasks: revising the scope of the synthesis report (SYR) for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5); and addressing the recommendations of the InterAcademy Council (IAC) Review of the IPCC processes and procedures. The Panel adopted a number of decisions in response to the IAC Review, including on treatment of grey literature and uncertainty, and processes to address errors in previous reports. The Panel also agreed to establish task groups on processes and procedures, communications, conflict of interest policy and management and governance to address recommendations that required further examination. They also accepted a revised outline for the AR5 SYR.

Participants also addressed the communications strategy and replacement of members of the IPCC Bureau. Progress reports were presented on the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN), the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) and the IPCC Peace Prize Scholarship Fund. The Panel observed one minute of silence in memory of Stephen Schneider and Igor Shiklomanov, and IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri announced that the AR5 would be dedicated to Stephen Schneider, who "embodied the IPCC" (<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12486e.pdf>).

Ozone Announces Venue Change, Releases Additional Documents

The Ozone Secretariat has announced the relocation of the 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Originally scheduled to take place in Kampala, Uganda, the event will now take place in Bangkok, Thailand (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/22mop/22mop-venue-change-notification.pdf). The Secretariat has released additional documents in the lead up to MOP-22 including: information on illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances reported by Uzbekistan; and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel Final Report, Evaluation of 2010 Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide and Related Matters.



A group shot in the VIP room before the Tianjin Tanks welcoming ceremony

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES



POPRC-6 delegates finalized their work and review the report of the meeting, which was adopted with just one amendment

SAICM and OECD Continue Work on Perfluorinated Chemicals

The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has announced that the Steering Group on Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFCs) of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is taking forward recommendations of SAICM resolution II/5 on PFCs. Under the OECD initiative, a database on PFCs is being developed for information exchange purposes. In addition, the OECD is continuing to consider the development, facilitation and promotion of national and international product stewardship programmes and regulatory approaches for PFCs with other participating organizations of the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=9&pageid=426&submenuheader=>).

Joint Consultation on Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions Discusses Control of Trade in Hazardous Chemicals

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) convened a joint consultation on the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions with the Basel and Stockholm Regional Centers, from 27 September-1 October 2010, in Barcelona, Spain. The consultative meeting was hosted in Barcelona by the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, a Regional Centre under the Stockholm Convention. The consultation concluded with an agreement to strengthen national coordination for control of international trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. Specifically, experts agreed to establish a structured exchange of information on implementation at the national level and between the regional centers. The clearing house mechanism under the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, cur-

rently being expanded in cooperation with the Basel Convention, will serve as a key component in the strategy to strengthen the exchange of information on the control of international trade in chemicals and wastes and enforcement of the three treaties (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Media/Press%20releases/tabid/462/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

POPRC Agrees Recommendation to List Endosulfan

The sixth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC 6) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) convened from 11-15 October 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. POPRC-6 adopted 12 decisions, including on: support for effective participation in POPRC's work; the work programmes on new POPs; and intersessional work on toxic interactions. POPRC adopted the risk profile for hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) and established an intersessional working group to prepare a draft risk management evaluation on HBCD. POPRC also agreed, by a vote, to adopt the risk management evaluation for endosulfan and recommend listing endosulfan in Annex A, with exemptions. The Committee considered a revised draft risk

profile on short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs), agreeing to convene an intersessional working group to revise the draft risk profile on the basis of an intersessional discussion of the application of the Annex E criteria to SCCPs and of information arising from a proposed study on chlorinated paraffins by the intersessional working group on toxic interactions (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc6/>).

Rotterdam Convention Convenes Consultation on Increasing Capacity for Identification of Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention convened a sub-regional consultation in Damascus, Syria, from 28-30 September 2010. The consultation aimed to strengthen the national capacities of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, in preparing proposals for Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF) under the Rotterdam Convention (Article 6). Participants included representatives from Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Health, as well as local nongovernmental organizations and farmers' associations, who are involved in collecting information on poisoning and intoxications caused by hazardous formulations (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77>).



Participants of the sub-regional consultation in Damascus (photo courtesy of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat)

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO MEPC Revises MARPOL, Addresses Emissions From Ships

The 61st session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which took place from 27 September-1 October 2010, in London, UK, addressed: the mitigation of emissions from maritime transport; revisions to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL); and the implementation of the ballast water and ship recycling conventions.

On the emissions from maritime transport, the Committee noted the desire of some States party to Annex VI (Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships) to MARPOL to request the IMO Secretary-General to circulate proposed amendments to that Annex, to make mandatory, for new ships, the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) and the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP), which have already been disseminated for voluntary use. The Committee also noted, however, that other States did not support the circulation of such amendments. Despite the lack of consensus on how to proceed with the next step of IMO's climate change strategy, the Committee made progress on all three elements of its work, namely technical, operational and market-based measures. The MEPC agreed Terms of Reference for an inter-session meeting of the Working Group on GHG Emissions from Ships, to be held in March 2011, to provide an opinion on the need and purpose of market-based measures as a possible mechanism to reduce GHG emissions from international shipping. A report from the inter-session group will be submitted to the 62nd session of the MEPC in July 2011.

Participants also adopted by consensus the revised MARPOL Annex III Regulations for the prevention of pollution by harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form, which is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2014. In other MARPOL developments, the MEPC approved, with a view to adoption at its next session, amendments to revise and update Annex V of the Convention on Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships.

On ships recycling, the Committee agreed to re-establish the inter-session

Correspondence Group on Ship Recycling to further develop the draft Guidelines for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling, Guidelines for the development of the Ship Recycling Plan and Guidelines for the authorization of Ship Recycling Facilities. The MEPC also encouraged governments to ratify the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, which was adopted in May 2009, and to review the programme for technical assistance aimed at supporting its early implementation (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=13710; http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=13711).

Report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Regular Process Released

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has published the report on the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects (A/65/358). The *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole met at UN Headquarters in New York, US, from 30 August - 3 September 2010, and agreed on recom-

mendations to the 65th session of the UN General Assembly. The meeting was Co-Chaired by Gunnar Pálsson (Iceland) and Ovídio Manuel Barbosa Pequeño (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm).

New Ramsar Site Designated, Regional Information Workshop Held

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that the Government of Costa Rica has designated its 12th Site of International Importance, Humedal Maquenque (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-costarica/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24822_4000_0__).

The Secretariat has also reported on the Second "Information Sharing Workshop and Training on Wetland Management," which was organized by the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia from 13-17 September 2010, in Changwon City, South Korea. The event brought together 29 wetland managers and officials, who addressed, *inter alia*: the cultural value of wetlands; education and awareness activities; incompatible development practices in buffer zones; wetland restoration, creation and enhancement; and economic valuation of wetlands (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-training-rrc-ea/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24812_4000_0__).



Humedal Maquenque (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** 18-29 October 2010. Nagoya, Japan. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop10/>
- **Land Day 3:** 23 October 2010. Nagoya, Japan. <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/2010b/menu.php>
- **Third Lead Authors Meeting on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation:** 25-28 October 2010. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/extremes-sr/index.html>