



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Parties Adopt Cancún Agreements



UNFCCC COP 16 President Patricia Espinosa receives a standing ovation

The UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún, Mexico, took place from 29 November-11 December 2010, and included the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 6). Four subsidiary bodies also convened: the 13th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC (AWG-LCA 13); the 15th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 15); and the 33rd sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 33) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 33). These events drew almost 12,000 participants, including almost 5200 government officials, 5400 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and 1270 accredited members of the press.

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Continues; CBD Secretariat Releases Reports on Workshop, Forum; CMS Calls for Applications for Thesis Award *Page 2*
- **International Organizations**
UNEP ACP MEAs Project Newsletter Reviews Activities *Page 3*
- **Sustainable Development**
UNCSD Secretariat Publishes Information Materials *Page 4*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Conventions Convene Caribbean and Central American Workshop; Stockholm Convenes Workshop on New POPs *Pages 4-5*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
World Bank Launches Initiatives; Development Banks Support Renewables *Page 5*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
New Ramsar Sites Designated; UNGA Adopts Oceans Resolutions *Page 5*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
ITTC 46 Opens; Forest Day 4 Highlights Urgency to Act on REDD+; UNFF Celebrates Upcoming IYF; UNCCD Preparing for Subsidiary Body Meetings *Page 6*

GUEST ARTICLE

Environmental Goods and Services Negotiations at the WTO: Lessons from multilateral environmental agreements and ecolabels for breaking the impasse

By Aaron Cosby, Soledad Aguilar, Melanie Ashton and Stefano Ponte

Abstract

The successful outcome of current negotiations under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Doha Mandate could provide market incentives for the dissemination of

Continued on page 3

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Environmental Consequences of Ocean Acidification

(UNEP and GEF, 2010) This report details how rising carbon dioxide emissions are altering the chemical balance of oceans and outlines the wide-ranging consequences of this emerging issue on marine food chains and ecosystems, as well as human activities such as tourism and fishing. It also analyzes the effects of ocean acidification on global food security (http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub_details_search.asp?ID=4167).

Continued on page 4

The *MEA Bulletin* © is a publication of IISD <info@iisd.ca> publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was researched and written by Soledad Aguilar, Asheline Appleton, Melanie Ashton, Alice Bisiaux, Reem Hajjar, Renata Rubian, Elsa Tsioumani, and Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. <lynn@iisd.org>. The Deputy Director of IISD Reporting Services is Chris Spence and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The *MEA Bulletin* is published by IISD in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). Opinions expressed in *MEA Bulletin* are those of the authors and not the publishers. Excerpts from the *MEA Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on IISDRS publications, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11A, New York, NY 10022, United States of America.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Continued from page 1

The focus in Cancún was on a two-track negotiating process aiming to enhance long-term cooperation under the Convention and the Protocol. The original deadline for completing these negotiations was December 2009, but as many issues remained outstanding, the mandates of the two AWGs were extended until Cancún, where they were expected to report their respective outcomes to COP 16 and COP/MOP 6.

In the lead-up to the conference, several matters were widely identified as areas where a balanced “package” of outcomes could be agreed. These issues included mitigation, adaptation, financing, technology, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, including conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) and international consultation

and analysis (ICA). During the second week, ministers from developed and developing countries were “paired” in an attempt to facilitate negotiations on the main issues. These negotiations continued all week, with regular informal “stocktaking” plenary sessions, which were held to maintain a degree of transparency and keep all participants informed about progress. By early Saturday morning, parties had finalized the “Cancún Agreements.” The Agreements include decisions under both the Convention and Protocol negotiating tracks, and contain provisions on adaptation, REDD+, technology, mitigation and finance. While the substantive outcome was viewed by many as far from perfect, and Bolivia opposed the adoption of the Agreements, most participants were satisfied that the outcome restored confidence in the UNFCCC process. However, in spite of the sense of relief felt by many at securing a result, most participants acknowledged that it was a relatively

small step in combating climate change (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/>).



Mexican President Felipe Calderón at the conclusion of the Cancún Climate Change Conference

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, at the Cancún Climate Change Conference

Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Continues from Nagoya to Cancún

Debuted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (18-29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan), and organized by the secretariats of the Rio Conventions – the CBD, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – in partnership with nine national and regional governments, along with the European Commission and a number of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, the Rio Conventions’

Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion was organized on the margins of the Cancún Climate Change Conference from 29 November-10 December 2010. The Pavilion aimed to allow negotiators and other key decision makers, scientists and practitioners to discuss the links between forest biodiversity and adaptation and mitigation, the role of oceans, indigenous peoples and communities, water, the role of protected areas, climate change and biodiversity loss, desertification and land degradation, and financing (<http://www.ecosystemspavilion.org/>).

CBD Secretariat Releases Reports of Cairo Workshop, Private Donor Forum

The CBD Secretariat has released the report of the Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcome, held from 29-30 November 2010, in Cairo, Egypt. Workshop participants agreed to the Arab Regional Statement for Action on the 2020 Biodiversity Targets, Funding Strategies and Innovative Financial Mechanisms, which underlined a list of activities and developments needed at the national and regional levels (<http://www.cbd.int/financial/doc/meetings/rwbf-01/rwbf-01-12-en.pdf>).

The CBD Secretariat has also circulated the summary report of the Second Global Private Donor Forum, held on 26 October 2010, at the margins of CBD COP 10, as well as two reports containing highlights of global celebrations of the International Year of

Biodiversity in October and November 2010 (<http://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-10/doc/private-donor-forum-02-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/prints/iyb-report-2010-10-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/prints/iyb-report-2010-11-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the International Year of Biodiversity won the 2010 Green Award for best Green International Campaign (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-12-03-Greenaward-en.pdf>).

Finally, the Secretariat has circulated a notification including specific requests for input from parties, indigenous and local communities, NGOs and other relevant organizations, arising from COP 10 decisions regarding the programme of work on Article 8(j) (traditional knowledge) (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-210-tk-en.pdf>).

UNEP/CMS Calls for Applications for Thesis Award on Migratory Species Conservation

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn (ZFMK) have announced the call for applications of the third UNEP/CMS Thesis Award on Migratory Species Conservation. The deadline for the online application is 15 April 2011, and the winner will be awarded at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, to be held in November 2011, in Bergen, Norway (http://www.cms.int/thesis_award/).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

climate-friendly technologies through the reduction or elimination of barriers to trade in environmental goods and services (EGS). However, the talks in this area are deadlocked, in part due to disagreements on the definition of environmental goods and the scope of goods to be liberalized. This paper uses the experience from environmental conventions and eco-labeling schemes to derive options for creating and managing a living list of environmental goods.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), for example, requires scientific backing for any proposed additions to the list and has a relatively fast and efficient mechanism to vote on new additions or deletions. A required two-thirds majority to include products in the list, combined with the possibility to make reservations to specific products in the list, could be used in EGS negotiations to provide the flexibility necessary to allow a progressive process for liberalizing trade in environmental goods. To encourage the maximum level of liberalization as an end result, reservations could be: limited in time, restricted to developing countries only and encouraged to be withdrawn at all stages of the process.

Other more recent MEAs, such as the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (dealing with the trade of hazardous chemicals) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants also provide important insights on the management of listed goods for special treatment under the trade regime. The PIC Convention



relies on the submissions of Parties for additions to the list, and has a scientific review body tasked with assessing the submissions against specific criteria, and forwarding recommendations to the Parties. The example of the Convention's Chemical Review Committee might be of use to the WTO in establishing its own such technical advisory body. All such bodies have explicit environmental and social objectives by which to evaluate candidates for the list – another practice from which the WTO could profit.

EGS negotiations can also draw significant lessons from eco-labelling experiences. First, it is of paramount importance to assess the actual environmental merits of a good against its claimed merits. Second, it is important to assess any potential impacts that would discriminate against small and medium-sized producers, or against

exporters from certain regions. Lessons in governance are also important. For example, the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) ecolabel features inclusive governance features, which allow the inclusion of views and influence from developing countries and small producers.

It is also important to regularly update any list, as technological progress will make today's green goods into tomorrow's dinosaurs. The Energy Star ecolabel has a set of criteria that prevent its specifications from becoming outdated and conducts regular reviews of the products it covers, with updates every few years for key products. It also has procedures for sunseting those products that are no longer appropriate for listing. Both of these features would need to be a part of any WTO regime for EGS that included goods based on their *relative* merits.

These recommendations, among others included in the study, would allow the creation of an EGS regime that provides enough policy space for developing countries to develop their own technological alternatives for greener production, while giving a strong push to international trade in those technologies that may pave the way to a low carbon economy.

To read the full article, visit http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2009/bali_2_copenhagen_egs_lessons.pdf

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.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP ACP MEAs Project Newsletter Reviews Activities

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission have released a newsletter on the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries (ACP MEAs) Project. The newsletter contains an article by European Commission EuropeAid Cooperation Office describing the challenges faced by ACP countries in fulfilling their obligations as signatories to MEAs and the importance of the ACP MEAs Project in assisting countries to overcome these challenges. It also contains information on upcoming activities in the ACP project hubs (<http://www.unep.org/AfricanCaribbeanPacific/MEAs/Doc/Dec2010Newsletter.pdf>).



Newsletter cover (image courtesy of UNEP)

In other UNEP news, the agency has announced it is collaborating with GTZ

and the Government of the Maldives to assist the country in becoming carbon neutral by 2020. Assistance will be provided to the Maldives through the implementation of a pilot air-conditioning project, with zero ozone depleting and low global warming potential. Under the initiative, GTZ will fund the demonstration project and UNEP will provide policy and technical assistance. The Government of the Maldives recently announced its Carbon-Neutral Government Program, under which 11 government offices will be made carbon-neutral in an effort towards achieving the country's Carbon-Neutral Pledge. The collaboration with UNEP and GTZ is intended to contribute to this. UNEP aims to replicate the cooperation model in other countries (<http://www.unep.org/ozonaction/News/Features/tabid/6236/Default.aspx>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Waste and Climate Change: Global Trends and Strategy Framework

(UNEP, 2010) This report estimates that the waste sector contributes roughly 3-5% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but it notes that the reliability of calculation methods and data between countries vary. It concludes that the waste sector is well placed to cut its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (<http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/Publications/spc/Waste&ClimateChange/Waste&ClimateChange.pdf>).

Cities and Climate Change: An Urgent Agenda

(World Bank, December 2010) This report addresses why cities should be concerned about climate change and adopt early preventive policies. It underscores that, with over half of the people in the world now living in urban areas, up to 80% of the expected US\$80-100 billion per year in climate change adaptation costs will likely be borne by urban areas. The report outlines a climate-smart way forward for cities, focusing on cooperative efforts, such as the recent Mexico City Pact and the C40 large cities association, and highlights how, through cooperative work, cities are able to move faster and more comprehensively in addressing climate change (<http://go.worldbank.org/FMZQ8HVQJ0>).

Building the Foundations for Sustainable Nutrient Management

(UNEP, 2010) This UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report, which was released in collaboration with the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, concludes that growing demand for food can be met through sustainable production and sustainable use of fertilizers. It underlines that, if managed incorrectly, these fertilizers will have negative impacts on food security as well as water quality and availability, fisheries and biodiversity. The report shows that fertilizers leak into the atmosphere, or leach into groundwater, soil, rivers and coastal waters, creating an excess of nutrients in the environment. Conversely, nearly one billion people are affected by insufficient food production, a major contributing factor to which is a shortage of nutrients due to degraded soils (http://www.unep.org/pdf/Building_the_foundations.pdf).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNCSD Secretariat Publishes Information Materials

The first issue of the biweekly newsletter of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) has been published by the UNCSD Secretariat. Titled "Rio20: Making it Happen," the newsletter lists recent and upcoming intergovernmental meetings related to UNCSD preparations, as well as recently published documents. The first issue also recalls that the Conference Secretary-General (CSG), Sha Zukang, has called on member States, foundations and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Conference, and indicates that each intersessional and preparatory meeting is expected to cost over US\$1 million on average in travel alone to ensure adequate participation from developing countries ([http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/newsletter-pdf/Newsletter-December2010\(Rio20-Making-it-Happen\).pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/newsletter-pdf/Newsletter-December2010(Rio20-Making-it-Happen).pdf)).



CSG Sha Zukang

The UNCSD Secretariat has also produced an information booklet on the preparations for the 2012 Conference, titled "Making it Happen: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, May 2012." On the organization of the preparatory process, the booklet lists the 11 members of the UNCSD Bureau, who are leading the preparatory process. The Bureau is supported by the Secretariat, which is: headed by CSG Sha; housed

in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA); assisted by two Executive Coordinators (Assistant Secretaries-General), Elizabeth Thompson and Brice Lalonde, as well as the Head of the Office of CSG, Tariq Banuri, and three Special Advisors, Adnan Amin, Nikhil Seth, and Juwang Zhu; and staffed by UN-DESA's Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) and other entities, under the leadership of Tariq Banuri. In addition to the coordinating role of the UNCSD Secretariat, the Augmented Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA Plus), chaired by the CSG, allows heads of agencies to oversee coordination. Other existing coordinating bodies, including the UN Development Group and the Environment Management Group, coordinate contributions on their mandated themes ([http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/rio-update/UNCSD-Booklet-Making-it-Happen\(Final-PageFormat\)-3-December-2010.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/rio-update/UNCSD-Booklet-Making-it-Happen(Final-PageFormat)-3-December-2010.pdf)).

In other UNCSD news, CSG Sha and the Minister for Environment of the Republic of Korea, Maanee Lee, signed an agreement to establish a new research and training facility on sustainable development on the sidelines of the Cancún Climate Change Conference. The "UN Office for Sustainable Development" is a joint effort by the UN, the Korean Ministry of Environment, the City of Incheon and Yonsei University (<http://uncsd.iisd.org/news/un-office-for-sustainable-development-established-as-training-and-resource-facility/>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Stockholm Convention Convenes Asia Regional Workshop on New POPs and PCB Elimination Network Meeting

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat convened the Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on New Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the process for reviewing and updating national implementation plans (NIPs), in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23-26 November 2010. Attended by representatives from 20 Asian countries, the workshop familiarized participants with the enhanced version of the online electronic reporting system in preparation for the second Stockholm Convention reporting cycle (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/TechnicalAssistance/TrainingWorkshops/AsiaPacific/BangkokThailand2323November2010/tabid/1035/mctl/ViewDetails/Event-ModID/1007/EventID/104/xmid/3869/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

The Stockholm Convention also convened the second meeting of the Advisory Committee of the PCBs Elimination Network (PEN) in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, from 29 November-1 December 2010. Key outcomes of the meeting included: adoption of the work plans of the PEN; adoption of the terms of reference of the awards function for PEN and a decision to call the award the "Stockholm Convention's PEN Awards"; and a request to the Secretariat to continue its support to the activities of the PEN, including the development of interactive web-based tools for environmentally sound disposal of PCBs, integrating the outputs of the thematic groups including gathered information, experience and knowledge, which could be posted on the information exchange platform for the PEN. The PEN meeting coincided with the release of the first issue of the PEN Magazine (<http://chm.pops.int/tabid/738/Default.aspx>; IISD RS Sources).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions Convene Caribbean and Central American Workshop on Enhanced Cooperation

The chemicals conventions secretariats, together with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), convened the Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the implementa-

tion of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Central America and the Caribbean in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 6-9 December 2010. The objective of the regional workshop was to enhance sharing of good practices and lessons learned, with workshop participants focusing on cross-cutting themes such as legal and institutional frameworks and resource mobilisation

for chemicals and hazardous wastes. Country representatives discussed opportunities to improve coordination in relation to the management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in the sub-region. As a conclusion, countries decided to work in close cooperation with the regional centres in order to identify areas for strategic action (IISD RS Sources).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

World Bank Launches New Initiatives

During the Cancún Climate Change Conference, World Bank Group President Robert Zoellick announced three new initiatives: the establishment of the Partnership for Market Readiness, which is an initiative to share carbon markets information and build market readiness capacity for countries to scale up their climate change mitigation efforts; a Roadmap for Action on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, to undertake concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments and policies with the transition to climate-smart growth; and a Climate Finance Options platform, which allows users to track climate-change related finance by region, focus area, sector or financing mechanism (<http://go.worldbank.org/Q534M6CBIO>; <http://go.worldbank.org/3SYJZL2PN0>; <http://www.climate-financeoptions.org/>).

Development Banks Support Renewables

The Government of Denmark, the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) to support island countries in scaling up their renewable energy efforts and shift to greater energy efficiency (<http://go.worldbank.org/O1XYFW5UR0>).

In related news, the European Investment Bank has announced that it will finance mitigation projects in China, with a maximum of 15 projects in sectors such as: renewable energy based on on-shore wind, biomass, solar (thermal and photovoltaic), geothermal and small hydro; improvements of energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse emissions at industrial sites; district heating contributing to energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies ([http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=BEI/10/218&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

[reference=BEI/10/218&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=BEI/10/218&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)).

In other related news, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) gave a final green light to a series of full-sized projects during the month of November, including on: biodiversity conservation in Venezuela, Lao PDR and Ecuador; climate change in Chile; and removal of HCFCs and energy efficiency of houses in the Russian Federation.



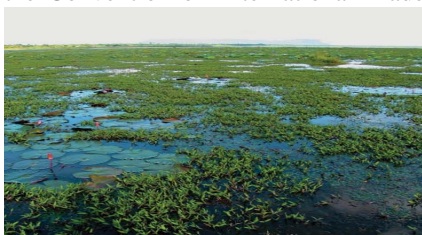
Logo courtesy of the GEF Secretariat

Two projects on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) were also approved: one in Tunisia to demonstrate and promote best techniques and practices for managing healthcare waste and PCBs; and another to dispose of POPs wastes and obsolete pesticides in Mozambique (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/geffsp>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

New Ramsar Sites Designated

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has reported that the Governments of the Republic of Korea, El Salvador and Thailand have designated new sites. The Republic of Korea has designated its 13th Wetland of International Importance, Seocheon Tidal Flat, located in the Chungcheongnam Province (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-korea/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24872_4000_0__). El Salvador has designated Complejo Güija as its fifth Wetland of International Importance. This Ramsar site sustains species that are listed in the IUCN Red List, as well as in appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade



Thailand's Kut Ting Marshland wetland (image courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-salvador/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24856_4000_0__). Thailand has designated Kut Ting Marshland as its 11th Wetland of International Importance (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rsthailand/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24884_4000_0__).

UNGA Adopts Resolutions on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and Sustainable Fisheries

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has informed that, on 7 December 2010, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted two resolutions calling on all States to bolster their support for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The first resolution is the UNGA's 38-page omnibus resolution on oceans and the law of the sea (A/RES/65/37), which reiterates, among other things, the essential need for cooperation, including through capacity building and transfer of marine technology, to ensure that all States, especially develop-

ing countries, small islands and coastal African States, were able to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in all forums and processes dealing with related legal issues. The second is the resolution on Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (A/RES/65/38), which calls on all States that had not done so to apply widely, in accordance with international law, the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks. The resolution further calls on States to commit to urgently reducing the capacity of the world's fishing fleets to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks, through the establishment of target levels and plans or other appropriate mechanisms for ongoing capacity assessments (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga11031.doc.htm>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



L-R: ITTO Executive Director Emmanuel Ze Meka; CEM Chair Clara Boonstra; and ITTC-46 Chair Daniel Birchmeier

ITTC 46 Opens in Yokohama

The 46th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) and Associated Sessions of the Committees opened in Yokohama, Japan on 13 December, and will continue its deliberations until 18 December. On the agenda for this year's session are, *inter alia*: enhancing cooperation between ITTO and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; entry into force of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006; financing of council sessions held outside ITTO headquarters; progress reports on the implementation of ITTO's Biennial Work Programme and Thematic Programmes; and building a voluntary carbon marketing scheme to promote sustainable forest management (<http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/itc46/>).

Forest Day 4 Highlights Urgency to Act on REDD+

Forest Day 4, held on the sidelines of the Cancún Climate Change Conference, addressed the need to press on with a global mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable use of forests and enhance-



Banner courtesy of CIFOR

ment of carbon stocks (REDD+). The event, organized around the theme "Time to Act," highlighted the urgency of ensuring the survival of the world's forests, their biodiversity and the hundreds of millions of people that depend on them. The 1500 people in attendance discussed how to accelerate the integration of forests into climate protection and adaptation schemes from local to global levels. Participants attended several sessions focusing on forest-related issues such as: biodiversity; mitigation and adaptation; forest governance; monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV); optimizing multiple benefits of sustainable forest management and REDD+; agricultural drivers of deforestation; land use, land use change and forestry; and experiences with community-based forest management. The event was hosted by the Government of Mexico, through the National Forestry Commission, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) (<http://www.forestsclimatechange.org/ForestDay-4.html>).

UNFF Celebrates Upcoming International Year of Forests 2011

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), together with IUCN and the Clinton Climate Initiative Forestry Program, organized an event titled "International Year of Forests 2011: Forests for People" at the Cancún Climate Change Conference, celebrating the upcoming International Year of Forests 2011 and its theme of "Forests for People." Two panels were set up to present on forests, carbon and poverty alleviation. In the first panel, hosted by the Clinton Climate Initiative Forestry Program, participants heard presentations on: REDD+ projects that strive for sustainable forest management and poverty elimination; linking community-based natural resource management to carbon markets in Cambodia; and Indonesia's and Mexico's national initiatives on forests and climate change. In the second panel, sponsored by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, participants heard presentations on: the potential for landscape restoration to deliver triple benefits for

climate change by reducing emissions, sequestering carbon, and helping rural people adapt to climate impacts; and a Vietnamese payments for forests initiative. Participants also watched a John Liu short film highlighting ecosystem function, dysfunction and best management practices around the world (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/enbots/8dece.html>).

UNCCD Preparing for February 2011 Subsidiary Body Meetings

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has posted a number of documents related to the February meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), including the provisional agendas for CRIC 9, to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 21-25 February 2011 ([http://www.unccd.int/php/document2.php?ref=ICCD/CRIC\(9\)/1](http://www.unccd.int/php/document2.php?ref=ICCD/CRIC(9)/1)) and for the second special session of the CST, which will convene from 16-18 February 2011 (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/cstdoclist.php>). A progress report on the development of recommendations on the role and responsibilities of the science and technology correspondents and other documents for the CST are also available. A progress report on the preparation of the UNCCD second scientific conference includes the terms of reference for the selection of the lead institution/consortium to organize the conference (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cst-s2/pdf/3eng.pdf>). The agenda and preliminary list of participants for the technical workshop on impact indicators refinement, which is to convene from 16-17 December 2010, in Bonn, Germany, is also online (<http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/ImpactIndicators.php>).

In other desertification news, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has approved a resolution calling for the convening of a one-day high-level meeting on desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, on the eve of the general debate of the 2011 UNGA (<http://www.unccd.int/media/GASsecondCommittee.php>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **UNCCD Technical Workshop on Impact Indicator Refinement:** 16-17 December 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/ImpactIndicators.php>
- **International Year of Forests, 2011:** 1 January-31 December 2011. <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/2011/2011.html>
- **First Intersessional Meeting for UNCCD:** 10-11 January 2011. New York, US. <http://www.unccd2012.org/>
- **CSD Intersessional Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production:** 13-14 January 2011. Panama City, Panama. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml