



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### UNEP Holds Mercury INC2



L-R: Matthew Gubb, UNEP Chemicals; Per Bakken, UNEP Chemicals; and INC Chair Fernando LUGRIS, Uruguay

The UN Environment Programme Chemicals Branch has convened the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC2). Delegates at this session, which met from 24-28 January 2011, in Chiba, Japan, agreed to negotiate the new treaty based on an elements paper prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.2/3) and to offer initial responses to the paper element-by-element. As of Thursday afternoon, delegates had discussed: the objective; definitions; mercury supply sources; environmentally sound storage, mercury wastes and contaminated sites; artisanal and small scale gold mining; international trade with parties and non-parties in mercury or mercury compounds; measures to reduce intentional use of mercury, with mercury-added products, manufacturing processes in which mercury is used and allowable-use exemptions addressed as a cluster of interlinked issues; and measures to reduce releases of mercury to air, water and land, including atmospheric emissions (<http://www.iisd.ca/mercury/inc2/>).

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#### GUEST ARTICLE I

##### UNEP's Efforts to Support Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs

By Lara Ognibene, Freshwater and Marine Law and Governance Unit, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP

##### Abstract

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are fundamental for supporting countries to work together on global environmental issues. However, the adoption of these instruments is just the beginning of a process: full implementation of their

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#### GUEST ARTICLE II

##### Biodiversity, Adaptation, Food Security – Learning from the Field

By Balakrishna Pisupati, Chief, Biodiversity, Land Law and Governance Unit, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UN Environment Programme

##### Abstract

When the study titled “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB) was launched during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10)

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**GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)**

provisions is the crucial challenge that the international community at all levels still continues to face. As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of Governments, civil society and private sector to implement, comply with, and enforce MEAs and to raise the awareness of the importance of this process, UNEP has supported various capacity building and awareness raising activities, including the development of educational materials focusing on the implementation of MEAs.

From 1999 to 2001, UNEP initiated a process that led to the development and adoption of global “Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.” These Guidelines, adopted in February 2002, provide a set of approaches and considerations for countries to take into account as they negotiate, implement and enforce MEAs. To complement the Guidelines, UNEP published in 2006 a “Manual on Compliance and Enforcement of MEAs,” which provides specific examples from around the world on how governments, NGOs, the private sector, and other institutions have used and learned lessons on the various approaches set forth in the Guidelines. The Manual was followed

by the “Compliance Mechanisms under Select Multilateral Environmental Agreements,” which offers a comparative analysis of compliance mechanisms and regimes under 19 MEAs.

These publications on compliance with and enforcement of MEAs recently have been complemented by a series of negotiation tools, including: “Guide for Negotiators of MEAs;” “Negotiating and Implementing MEAs - A Manual for NGOs;” “Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of MEAs;” and “MEA Negotiator’s Handbook” (this tool was jointly developed with the Government of Canada and the then University of Joensuu, Finland).

As part of this continuing effort to highlight the importance of implementation and enforcement, UNEP has recently launched, in collaboration with the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, a university-level course on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Over the past three years, UNEP has also worked closely with universities in Africa to build a programme for bringing environmental concerns and solutions into higher education. Known as “Mainstreaming Environment and

Sustainability in African Universities (MESA),” this project is currently being considered for replication in Caribbean universities. Similarly in China, UNEP launched an initiative with Tongji University in May 2002 to create the UNEP-Tongji Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD), which seeks to develop educational programmes to build research, technical and managerial skills in developing countries.

In addition, UNEP has organized in partnership with the then University of Joensuu, currently the University of Eastern Finland, a high profile two-week course on international environmental law-making and diplomacy. UNEP is also strengthening its collaboration with sister UN Agencies and partner organizations, such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) to support the implementation and enforcement of MEAs through mainstreaming environmental concerns into the organizations’ respective activities, particularly through the Green Customs Initiative (GCI).

Read the full article at: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle108a.html>

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**



UN-HABITAT and UNEP launch a new regional model initiative to promote the implementation of sustainable urban transport solutions in East African Cities (photo courtesy of UN-HABITAT)

**UNEP Launches Sustainable Urban Transport Initiative, Organizes Climate Change Workshop in Arab Region**

The UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and UNEP have launched a regional model initiative to promote the implementation of sustainable urban transport solutions in East African cities. The project will be carried out in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, and aims to: develop strategies for better public transport services; improve infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists; and implement other measures to reduce the need for motorized travel in metropolitan areas. It will support national and local governments in

providing attractive low-carbon mobility solutions that represent alternatives aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions and mitigating climate change (<http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=9341&catid=5&typeid=6&subMenuId=0>).

The UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA) and the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), with support from the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), organized the first regional training workshop on climate change adaptation planning and financing in the Arab Region, from 20-22 December 2010, at PERSGA headquarters

in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The workshop focused on: adaptation within the global and national local contexts; adaptation project design and development; and adaptation financing. Key recommendations included that: adaptation be given priority attention when designing national climate change policies and plans, considering the Arab region’s vulnerability to climate change in particular with regard to its water resources, land, agriculture and coastal areas; adaptation measures be integrated into development planning especially at the local and ecosystem levels; the Arab region enhance its use of learning opportunities offered within the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation, and the West Asia Climate Change Network; a more focused training on adaptation project development be developed in the region; the number of qualified project developers (in the Arab Region) on environment in general, and on climate change adaptation in particular, should be increased; and a regional approach in vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning and finance mobilization should be established (IISD RS Sources).

**GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)**

to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, one of the critical questions that it addressed was how to translate the value of biodiversity (*read natural capital*), as elaborated in the report, into actual values that could benefit communities and countries. Co-benefits, multiple benefits and synergies currently form the basis of development and economic discourses in preparation for better governance of natural resources and environmental management, and are becoming a focus for lessons in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20) meeting in 2012.

Given the interest in this topic, there is an increasing need to find solutions at different levels to maximize investments as well be benefits from such investments in conservation and development action. In addition to looking at global policy guidance on how to achieve these benefits, one also needs to look to projects on the ground for answers to how communities are realizing benefits through their local action. UNEP focused on identi-

fying such success stories, examining where communities have worked on multiple actions to deal with conservation of biodiversity, dealing with adaptation to climate change along with securing food and livelihoods, through a publication titled *Connecting the Dots: Biodiversity, Adaptation, Food Security and Livelihoods*. The publication was launched during CBD COP 10 (full report can be downloaded at <http://www.unep.org/dec/PDF/publicationconnectingdots.pdf>).

The key messages from the study that form the core of the report include:

- Community based initiatives achieved many co-benefits because of the nature of interventions adopted by the communities, although several of these projects were not designed to deliver on co/multiple benefits;
- The level of local participation in designing the interventions and subsequent implementation was high in the thirteen case studies presented in the report where policy followed practice;
- Almost all of the projects analyzed presented many policy level options

to deal with synergies, mainstreaming and achieving multiple benefits for conservation, adaptation, food security and poverty reduction;

- The sustainability of actions have been high since many of the initiatives were integrated into local decision making processes and action programmes; and
- Global policy making has many lessons to learn through the analysis of these case studies for better development and governance planning.

The case studies presented in the report also allude to the fact that developing policies on conservation, environmental management, governance and development are phase ‘zero’ of a multi-phase approach to securing human well-being. Implementation options need to be the mirror in front of policy making to secure co/multiple benefits.

*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](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information.*

**► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**CSD Intersessional Meeting Considers 10YFP on SCP**

The high-level intersessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) on a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production



A view of Panama City (photo courtesy of UN-DSD)

(SCP) convened from 13-14 January 2011, in Panama City, Panama. The meeting was jointly organized by the Government of Panama, the UN

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Sustainable Development (UNDESA-DSD), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It sought to provide a non-negotiating space for representatives from member States, Major Groups and UN Agencies to discuss potential programmes to be included in the 10YFP on SCP to support regional and national initiatives, the structure the 10YFP could take, and the possible visions and objectives it could serve. With regard to elements of an institutional structure, participants noted that, *inter alia*: local and regional cleaner production centres could serve as knowledge hubs and focal points for

national and regional SCP networks; regional and national civil society focal points on SCP could also foster and support Major Group engagement; better coordination and coherence among different organizations’ work on SCP is necessary; and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and Marrakech Process provide appropriate models for building the 10YFP. On means of implementation, developing countries emphasized that new resource mobilization needs to be given proper attention, while developed countries emphasized better use, leveraging and realignment of existing resources to address new priorities such as SCP (IISD RS Sources; [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_scpp/scpp\\_tenyearframprog.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_scpp/scpp_tenyearframprog.shtml)).

In its role as Secretariat for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), DSD has released the first 2011 issue of “Rio20: Making it Happen.” The newsletter reports that, *inter alia*, UNEP is preparing its “Green Economy Report,” which will be presented at the UNEP Governing Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, and the UN DESA and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) have developed a project proposal to

UNCSD to enable developing countries to participate effectively in formal and informal preparatory meetings of the UNCSD. It also notes that the Alliance of Small Island States has established a working group on Rio+20 led by the Permanent Missions of Grenada and Maldives to the UN (<http://www.unccd2012.org/files/newsletter-pdf/Newsletter-Volume2-Issue1Rio20Making-it-happen-January2010.pdf>).

Cover of the UNCSD 2012 Secretariat “Rio20: Making it Happen” Newsletter

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### Embracing Complexity: Meeting the Challenges of International Forest Governance

(IUFRO, January 2011) The latest Global Forest Expert Panel report assesses international efforts to improve forest governance. It suggests that global efforts have too often ignored local needs and failed to address the fact that deforestation is usually caused by economic pressures outside the forest sector (<http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/forest-regime-panel/report/>).

### UN-REDD Newsletter

(UN-REDD, January 2011) This issue of the UN-REDD Programme newsletter reports on recent activities related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD+), including reflections on progress made at the Cancun Climate Change Conference (<http://www.un-redd.org/Newsletter15/tabid/7063/Default.aspx>).

### The ASEAN Rattans

(ITTO, 2010) This publication presents information on the ten countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), their non-timber forest products and their rattan resources. It showcases information about the rattan taxonomy, distribution, ecology and uses ([http://www.itto.int/field\\_reports/](http://www.itto.int/field_reports/)).

### The Critical Site Network Tool

(Wings Over Wetlands (WOW); December 2010) This new improved version of the Critical Sites Network Tool, which provides comprehensive information on 294 waterbird species from 2,972 sites, includes new features, including: a report functions, which enables the user to query the species and critical site data using a wide range of species and site attributes such as taxonomy; and special reports to support countries in implementing international environment treaties, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (<http://wow.wetlands.org/INFORMATION/FLYWAY/CRITICALSITE-NETWORKTOOL/tabid/1349/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

## CHEMICALS AND WASTES

### Stockholm Secretariat Launches PEN Awards

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has launched the Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) Elimination Network (PEN) Awards and is calling for nominations for the award.



The purpose of the awards is to honor outstanding achievements in the environmentally-sound management of PCBs, under four thematic areas: inventories of PCBs; maintenance, handling and interim storage of equipment containing PCBs; disposal of PCBs; and open application of PCBs. Application should be submitted by 1 March (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/PCBs/PCBsEliminationNetworkPEN/2011PEN AwardsCallforNominations/tabid/1460/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

### Rotterdam Convention Releases PIC Circular

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has released the December 2010 edition of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Circular to provide all parties through their designated national authorities with the information required to be circulated by the Secretariat, in line with articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14. The PIC Circular is published every six months, in June and December. This 518-page Circular contains information related to the period from

1 May-31 October 2010, including details of parties' new import responses to chemicals (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=50&sid=3>).

### SAICM Invites Comments on Emerging Policy Issues

The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has posted submissions received on the nomination of emerging policy issues for consideration by Third International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3). Submissions were submitted by the UN Environment Programme Chemicals Branch proposing to establish an international project on endocrine disrupting chemicals, building on existing activities. A submission was also made by the International Society of Doctors for the Environment on environmental persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=12&pageid=462&submenuheader>).

### Basel Convention Secretariat Invites Comments on Mercury Guidelines

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is inviting comments on the second version of the Sixth Draft Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Elemental Mercury and Waste Containing and Contaminated with Mercury. Comments on the draft should be submitted by 28 February 2011 (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

## CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### CDM CERS Crosses 500 Million Mark

The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has marked the issuance of more than 500 million certified emission reductions (CERs). The CDM was established to contribute to sustainable development and greenhouse gas emission reductions in developing countries, and to give developed countries some flexibility in how they achieve their Kyoto Protocol emission reduction targets. Under the CDM, CERs are issued for emission reductions or removals achieved by registered CDM projects, and one CER represents one ton of carbon dioxide equivalent reduced or removed from the atmosphere. There are now about 2740 CDM projects registered in 70 developing countries, and in total more than 500 million CERs have been issued to 855 projects (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Statistics/index.html>).

In other CDM news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has extended the deadline by which vendors interested in administering a loan scheme over a five-year period in respect of the CDM are re-

quested to submit a written expression of interest. The Secretariat intends to contract an experienced public or private institution to administer the loan scheme, aimed at providing loans to countries with fewer than ten registered CDM project activities, to help them cover some of the costs of registering a CDM project. The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest has been extended to 15 February 2011 ([http://unfccc.int/files/secretariat/procurement/expression\\_of\\_interest/application/pdf/eoiloanchemeextended.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/secretariat/procurement/expression_of_interest/application/pdf/eoiloanchemeextended.pdf)).

### IPCC Appoints New Deputy Secretary

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has appointed Gaetano Leone (Italy) as the new Deputy Secretary of the IPCC. Leone has worked in the UN system since 1988 and has been acting as Secretary of the Committee of the Whole of the UN Environment Programme Governing Council since 2005. He began his work on 1 January 2011 (<http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### Ramsar Reports New Site Designation

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) has reported that the US Government listed its 29th Wetland of International Importance, the Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex. The wetland complex is composed of seasonal and perennial freshwater wetlands such as creeks, ponds, marshes, vernal pools, swales, floodplains, riparian forest and grassland located in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rsus-santarosa/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24918\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rsus-santarosa/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24918_4000_0__)).



Sunrise in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed (photo courtesy of Joe Honton/Ramsar Secretariat)

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### WTO Committee on Trade and Environment Addresses Relationship with MEAs

An informal meeting of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session (CTESS) met on 10-14 January 2011, and WTO members reviewed the various proposals on the table covering the Doha mandate related to the environment.

On the relationship between the WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) (art. 31.1 of the Doha Declaration), discussions focused on national coordination, technical assistance, capacity building, special trade obligations set out in MEAs and principles. On technical assistance and capacity building, an African group proposal gathered strong support but

more clarity would be needed as to the mechanism suggested. Regarding special trade obligations, members highlighted some key features of MEAs that would ensure mutual supportiveness between trade and environment. Members also discussed a proposal underlining the importance of national-level coordination in the negotiation and implementation of special trade obligations in MEAs.

On the collaboration between the WTO and MEA secretariats (art. 31.2 of the Doha Declaration), members are now ready to engage in a drafting exercise. In addition, the EU proposed that observer status be granted to a number of MEAs that already work with the WTO. Members also continued discussions on the tariff reduction on environmental goods and services (art. 31.3

of the Doha Declaration) ([http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news11\\_e/envir\\_10jan11\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news11_e/envir_10jan11_e.htm)).

### World Bank Umbrella Carbon Facility to Buy Post-2012 Carbon Credits

The World Bank announced, on 12 January 2010, that Tranche 2 of its Umbrella Carbon Facility (UCF) is now operational and will provide the opportunity for existing carbon projects to continue selling their carbon credits well beyond 2012. Funding for the tranche, contributed by Deutsche Bank, GDF SUEZ and the Swedish Energy Agency, will benefit investments in wind, waste management, lighting and transport projects across the developing world (<http://go.worldbank.org/96SZEUQSB0>).

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### UNCCD and GEF Staffs Discuss GEF-5, Preparations for Bonn Meetings Ongoing

Staff members from the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) met in Bonn, Germany, on 4 January 2011, to discuss key aspects of the GEF-5 policies and programmes as they relate to supporting the implementation of the UNCCD by affected country parties. Discussions addressed, *inter alia*: procedures of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), which includes the Land Degradation Focal Area and provides GEF resources to all affected country parties to invest in combating desertification and deforestation; partnership between the UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Implementing Agencies of the GEF in support of the implementation of the

Convention by parties; and options and opportunities for strengthening relations between the GEF and the Convention, as well as the potential for enhancing synergies with the other Rio Conventions and the GEF, with the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20) being suggested as a target for showcasing such synergies. Participants developed a Joint Action Plan, including recommendations for strengthening collaboration between the UNCCD and the GEF Secretariats in order to advance the implementation of the Convention and its 10-year Strategy by parties (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/gef/retreat.php>).

In other UNCCD news, preparations for the February 2011 meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) are ongoing, with

advance copies for the CRIC including the preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country parties, UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and the GEF on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cric9/doclist.php>). In addition, the selection panel established by decision 5/COP.9 has reviewed requests from accredited civil society organizations for funding to attend the CST and CRIC sessions, resulting in a recommended shortlist of 18 accredited organizations (<http://www.unccd.int/cso/CSOParticipation.php>). The panel also approved the specific Terms of Reference for the CSO representatives attending the session and the theme for the Open Dialogue Session: "Sustainable Land Management techniques including adaptation and resilience."

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### UNFF 9 Opens at UN Headquarters

The ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 9) opened on 24 January 2011, at UN Headquarters in New York, US, and will run until 4 February under the theme “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication.” It will include sharing of regional perspectives, approaches

and experiences. Taking place during the International Year of Forests 2011, which will be officially launched on 2 February, UNFF 9 will include a high-level ministerial segment, to be held from 2-3 February 2011, as well as four high-level round tables addressing: forests for people; finance for forest-dependent communities; forests +:

a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach; and forests and green economies. Also included on the agenda is a panel discussion on food, energy and economic challenges and opportunities, with a special focus on women and youth, and a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue (<http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/unff9/>).

## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### CITES Secretariat Circulates Selected IYB Highlights, Preparations Continue for Plants Committee Meeting

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has circulated a note including selected highlights from 2010 – the International Year of Biodiversity. These include, among others, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and other meetings such as the first expert workshop on sharks held by the Food and Agriculture Organization and CITES, a meeting of the 37 Range States of the African Elephant and four major regional workshops on capacity building with a focus on non-detriment findings ([http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2011/End\\_of\\_the\\_IYB\\_%20CITES\\_message-en.pdf](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2011/End_of_the_IYB_%20CITES_message-en.pdf)).

In preparation for the 19th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities are invited to provide information on international trade in finished products of *Orchidaceae* (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E003.pdf>).

### CMS Publication on Spoon-billed Sandpiper Launched, WOW Project Concluded

A new report, published by the UN Environment Programme - Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) and BirdLife International, proposes an International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Published as CMS Technical Report Series No. 23, the report includes current data on distribution, threats and recommended activities to prevent the

species from becoming extinct. The conservation measures proposed in the Action Plan aim to ensure legal protection of breeding sites, restore claimed wetlands and stop hunting and trapping at key sites. The Action Plan is designed to further enhance regional cooperation towards ensuring the long-term survival of the species ([http://www.cms.int/publications/TechSeries/ts23\\_spoon\\_billed\\_sandpiper.pdf](http://www.cms.int/publications/TechSeries/ts23_spoon_billed_sandpiper.pdf)).

In related news, Wings Over Wetlands, the UNEP-Global Environment Facility (GEF) African-Eurasian Flyways Project, officially concluded on 31 December 2010. Initiated in 2006, the four-year project was a joint effort between UNEP – GEF, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (UNEP-AEWA), the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the UN Office for Project Services, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and a range of other donors and local partners ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2011/01\\_jan/nw\\_WOW\\_170111.htm](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2011/01_jan/nw_WOW_170111.htm)).

### CBD Secretariat Stresses Focus on NBSAPs and Fifth National Reports

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has initiated preparations for upcoming meetings, including a series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops on updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The CBD Secretariat has invited Southern African parties to nominate representatives for participation in the first such regional workshop,

to be held from 14-18 March 2011, in Kasane, Botswana (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-012-nbsap-en.pdf>).

In NBSAP-related news, the CBD Secretariat has issued a notification encouraging parties to initiate work as early as possible on the updating of their NBSAP and the preparation of the fifth national report, drawing attention to: the fact that the guidelines for the fifth national report are available in all UN languages on the Convention's website; the organization of regional and sub-regional workshops to assist parties in updating their NBSAPs, including development of national targets; and the availability of GEF funding to support both the development and updating of their NBSAP and the preparation of the fifth national report for eligible countries (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-015-nbsap-en.pdf>).

In addition, the CBD Secretariat has invited the nomination of experts for participation in the Expert Meeting on the Modalities of Operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House, to be held from 11-14 April 2011, in Montreal, Canada (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-009-abs-chm-en.pdf>).

Finally, in an effort to enhance synergies with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the CBD Secretariat has prepared a notification identifying invitations for parties to the UNFCCC to submit their views on areas of potential input of biodiversity considerations into the climate change discussions (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-011-climate-en.pdf>).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Ninth Session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 9):** 24 January-4 February 2011. New York, NY. <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/unff9/>
- **Third Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns:** 26-27 January 2011. Cairo, Egypt. <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/events/>
- **29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries:** 31 January-4 February 2011. Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/FAO/cofi/cofi2011/>
- **North American Sustainable Consumption and Production Workshop on Green Building:** 31 January-1 February 2011. Ottawa, Canada. <http://scpgreenbuild.wordpress.com/>
- **ABS Protocol Signing Ceremony:** 2 February 2011. New York, US. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>