



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY CONVENE, FOURTH REPLENISHMENT APPROVED

A Special Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council convened on 28 August 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa, immediately prior to the Third GEF Assembly, and approved the Fourth GEF Replenishment of



Dais at the Third Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

US\$3.1 billion for 2006-2009. The Council also approved the work programme and agreed on the governance of the climate change funds, specifying, inter alia, that decisions of the Council concerning the operations of the Adaptation Fund be taken by consensus among all Council members representing participants that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Finally, the Council agreed that the operational and financial implications of an amendment to the GEF Instrument to reflect the designation of the GEF as the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) financing mechanism will be considered by the Council at its 4-8 December 2006 meeting, during which it is also expected to decide on rules for project selection and management of the project-pipeline, including a policy for cancellation of projects (http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_29/CouncilMeetingAugust2006.html).

Following the GEF Council, the Third GEF Assembly met in Cape Town, South Africa, from 29-30 August 2006. Representatives of 176 countries that are currently members of the GEF reviewed its policies and operations, and considered reports on the GEF Trust Fund and its Fourth Replenishment and the third Overall Performance Study of the GEF. The Assembly also discussed the report of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/gefassembly3/>).

The Assembly was preceded by two Forums: Sustainable Land and Water Management: Combating Environmental Degradation and Reviving Ecosystem Productivity; and an NGO Forum on Turning Policy into Reality: From the Ground Up (http://www.gefweb.org/3rd_assembly/). *Continued on page 2.*

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
IDB Supports Protected Area, Clean Energy Markets and Watershed Management *Page 2*
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UN Launches Environment Centers, Organizes Global Events *Page 2*
- **Sustainable Development**
CSD-15 Chair Highlights Goals for Session; UNDSO Prepares for Expert Meetings *Page 3*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
Asian and Pacific Region Prepares for UNCCD CRIC-5; UNFF Online Discussion Addresses Forest Governance; ITTO Prepares for Workshop and Council Meeting *Page 3*
- **Water, Wetlands and Coasts**
New Ramsar Sites Named, Technical Reports Series Launched; New GPA Outreach Released; UNDOALOS Announces Accession and Ratification to Fish Stocks Agreement; IMO and UNEP Announce Lebanese Coastal Clean-Up Strategy *Page 4*
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
Montreal Protocol Produces Assessment of Ozone Depletion; UNFCCC Awards Trading System Contract, Reports on Workshops and COP-12 Agenda Items *Page 5*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm Prepares for Review Committee and Workshops; Basel Requests Comments; Rotterdam to Relaunch Website; SAICM Prepares for Regional Meetings *Page 6*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD SBSTTA Chairs Discuss SBSTTA Effectiveness; CITES Prepares for Standing Committee Meeting; CMS Prepares for Discussion on Work Programme Priorities *Pages 6-7*

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

IMPLEMENTING THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH IN OPEN OCEAN AND DEEP SEA ENVIRONMENTS: AN ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS, THEIR INTERESTS, AND EXISTING APPROACHES

(United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, June 2006) This study offers a first step towards a comprehensive survey and dialogue on mapping stakeholders' interests in open ocean and deep sea environments, with the ultimate goal of improved conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from ocean spaces and their resources (http://www.ias.unu.edu/binaries2/DeepSea_Stakeholders.pdf).

Continued on page 4

GUEST ARTICLE

New treaty on conservation and sustainable development of Caspian Sea enters into force

By Michael Williams, UNEP/DEC

Abstract

The Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea – the first legally binding agreement on any subject to be adopted by the five Caspian neighbors – entered into force on 12 August 2006.

Continued on page 2

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The Convention will coordinate efforts by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan to reverse an environmental crisis brought about by habitat destruction, industrial pollution, the over-exploitation of fish and other marine life, climate extremes and economic and political challenges.

With an area of some 370,886 sq km (143,200 sq mi), the mildly salty Caspian Sea is the world's largest lake. It is fed by some 130 tributary rivers, most importantly the Volga River, which alone accounts for 75% of the total inflow. As a result of the region's current boom in oil and gas exploration, the Caspian is now criss-crossed by a growing network of oil and gas pipelines and transport routes. Nevertheless, it has great potential for eco-tourism and for sustainable fisheries and agriculture.

Also known as the Tehran Convention after the city where it was adopted, the new treaty commits its member governments to prevent and reduce pollution, restore the environment, use the Sea's resources in a sustainable and reasonable manner, and cooperate with one another and with international organizations to protect the environment.

More specifically, under the Convention the five governments will:

- Reduce industrial pollution. The Parties are to prevent and reduce pollution from seabed activities, land-based activities, ships and dumping.
- Protect marine living resources. Relying on both the precautionary principle and the best available scientific evidence, the five governments are to improve coastal management systems and protect, preserve and restore the Caspian's marine living resources and use them in a rational manner.
- Address the problem of fluctuating water levels. The Convention stresses the importance of ensuring that any efforts to manage water levels, which fluctuate for reasons that are not fully understood, do not harm the human or natural environment.
- Collaborate on emergency response. The Convention's members commit to cooperate on protecting human beings and the marine environment against the consequences of natural or man-made emergencies.

Continued on Page 3

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Continued from page 1.

The forum on Sustainable Land and Water Management addressed the GEF agenda for combating environmental degradation and promoting sustainable livelihoods, the GEF's sustainable land and water management project experience, mobilizing science and communities to combat land degradation, and resource generation and utilization in policies, institutions and partnerships to benefit rural people and the global environment. The NGO Forum discussed the impact of land degradation on people's livelihoods and the environment, the climate change and energy challenge, and biodiversity (<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/yimbvol14num8e.pdf>).

IDB SUPPORTS PROTECTED AREA, CLEAN ENERGY MARKETS AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

On 4 August 2006, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a project for the initial implementation of an Integrated Management Plan for a Protected Area on the borders of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The project, financed with a GEF

US\$3.5 million grant to be administered by IDB, will contribute to conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articledetail.cfm?Language=En&parid=2&artType=PR&artid=3219>). On 16 August 2006, the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund approved a US\$975,000 grant to Fundación Chile to expand the access of small and medium-sized companies to clean energy markets. This project will provide finance to small and medium-sized agro-industry and agricultural producers; firms involved in commercial and residential air-conditioning; energy engineering; hospitals, public schools and hotels; and refrigeration and freezer service companies (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articledetail.cfm?artid=3235&language=En>). On 16 August 2006, the IDB approved a US\$1.2 million grant for watershed management in the upper Uruguay River region in Brazil. The project will improve environmental management and protection particularly to protect the Uruguay River's role in recharging the Guarani aquifer, the largest single body of groundwater in the world (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articledetail.cfm?artid=3236&language=En>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENT CENTERS, ORGANIZES GLOBAL EVENTS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), along with several other organizations, has launched two new environmental centers in Asia and South Pacific. In cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, Asian Institute of Technology and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP has launched a new think tank on technology, good practices, policy strategy and management promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental efficiency, which will be located at the Asian Institute (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=19424&Cr=UNEP&Cr1>). UNEP also recently launched a new center—The Eco-Peace Leadership Center—to strengthen civil society networks in Asia and the Pacific and enhance leadership skills for the conservation and restoration of the environment in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The new initiative was launched jointly with the Eco-Peace Leadership Center Foundation, a collaborative effort of Asian Pacific universities, civil society organizations, government and enterprises. The new center will develop and provide environmental education programmes to strengthen research, technical and managerial skills of civil society in the region (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=484&ArticleID=5333&I=en>).

In addition, UNEP organized, together with other partners, the 2006 International Children's Conference for the Environment, with the theme "Save a Tree, Save our Lungs." Two hundred children from more than sixty countries attended the 26-30 August meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia, to share their concerns and ideas on the world's envi-



Photo courtesy of UNEP

ronment (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=484&ArticleID=5339&I=en>). UNEP is also participating in the organization of this year's "Clean Up the World," the global community-led environmental campaign that started in the late 1980s to involve volunteers in cleaning up local streets, waterways, parks and beaches, tree planting and water recycling. The "Clean Up the World Weekend" is scheduled from 15-17 September and is expected to attract more than 30 million volunteers in over 100 countries (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=484&ArticleID=5319&I=en>).

Among the anticipated activities for UNEP in the September-December period figure its preparations for the 24th session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (5-9 February 2007, Nairobi, Kenya). Meanwhile, discussions on UN reforms and the environment are drawing to a close for 2006. The High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian affairs and the environment is in the process of finalizing its report with a last meeting at the end of August. The Panel's report will be presented to the Secretary-General during the 61st session of the UN General Assembly (<http://www.un.org/events/panel/html/page3.html>), which will also consider the Co-Chairs' summary report of the UN General Assembly consultations on international environmental governance under the agenda item of Follow-up to the World Summit.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

• Monitor and assess the environment. The Caspian Sea governments will cooperate on scientific research, environmental impact assessments and information exchange.

With the Convention now in force, the Parties will meet regularly to assess progress and consider the need for additional action or for new legal protocols. Their first meeting will likely be held in early 2007.



Image courtesy of Caspian Environment Programme

Read the Full Article at:

<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle11.htm>

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 Research Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD-15 CHAIR HIGHLIGHTS GOALS FOR SESSION; UNDSO PREPARES FOR EXPERT MEETING

The UN Division for Sustainable Development (UNDSO) has posted a message from the Chair of the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), Abdullah Hamad Al-Attiyah, Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar. In his message, the Chair highlights that "Increasing transparency, predictability and stability of the global energy markets, improving the investment climate in the energy sector including energy infrastructure development, promoting energy efficiency and energy saving, diversifying energy mix and reducing energy poverty will contribute in the construction of the pathway for sustainable development" (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/message_chair.pdf).

UNDSO is also preparing for the Expert Meeting on Institutionalizing Sustainable Development, which it is organizing with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (31 August-1 September 2006, Stockholm, Sweden). The meeting will provide input to the OECD and UNCSO work programmes on national sustainable development strategies, specifically the identification of effective governance structures and implementation measures in developed and developing countries (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/workshopSweden/index.htm>).

Additional anticipated UNDSO activities for the September-December period include an Expert Group Meeting on Indicators of Sustainable Development (3-4 October, New York), which is expected to feed into the preparation and release of the second revision of "Indicators of Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies" by the end of 2006. "Priorities for Action," a document identifying the major groups' recommendations for policy actions related to the current cycle, is expected to be released in November and the Secretary-General's reports for CSD-15 are expected by the end of 2006.



Abdullah Hamad Al-Attiyah, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar, CSD-15 Chair

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION PREPARES FOR UNCCD CRIC-5

Representatives from 38 countries attended the Seventh Regional Meeting of Asian and Pacific Focal Points on National Report Preparation from 7-11 August 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. Thirty-three countries presented findings from their respective national reports during the meeting, following which participants developed their regional inputs to ongoing institutional processes under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), including the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group (IIWG), the Ad Hoc Working Group on national reporting (AHWG), and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8). The Parties highlighted their particular heterogeneity in regard to land degradation issues. Among other topics, participants pointed out the need for an improved and enhanced methodology to review implementation and expressed concern that the mobilization of resources for UNCCD implementation is inadequate, although some of the sub-regions reported success stories, in particular Central Asia. Participants also noted challenges with exploring possible synergies between the UNCCD and various frameworks under other MEAs to enhance UNCCD implementation in the region and exchanged

information on best practices. At the close of the meeting, participants selected their representatives to the CRIC-5 panels and then adopted a final report.

During the September-December period, the UNCCD Secretariat will contribute to many of the scheduled events marking the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (<http://www.iydd.org/>). CRIC-5, originally scheduled for 4-13 October 2006, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has been postponed until March 2007 at the request of the Argentinean government (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric5/cric5reschedule.php>).

UNFF ONLINE DISCUSSION ADDRESSES FOREST GOVERNANCE, PROPOSALS FOR NON-LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON FORESTS PUBLISHED

An online discussion forum hosted by the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat is focusing on the question "how should a country balance authority to ensure sustainable forest management?" The discussion began on 11 August 2006 and follows an earlier online forum on "the root causes of deforestation." In the latest forum, two polarized viewpoints are presented: one favoring a strong central governance regime and the other supporting a strong local governance regime. A discus-

sion analysis will be available in UNFF's next newsletter (<http://esaconf.un.org/WB/?boardID=unff>).

The UNFF Secretariat has also made available a compilation of country proposals, submitted at or after UNFF-6 in early 2006, on the indicative elements of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-nlbi.html>). In December 2006, an open-ended ad hoc expert group will convene and draw from this compilation as it considers the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forest, in preparation for the instrument's negotiation at UNFF-7 in April 2007.

ITTO PREPARES FOR WORKSHOP AND COUNCIL MEETING

The Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is preparing for a workshop and a Council meeting during the September-December period. A workshop on potential CDM projects in Sub-Saharan tropical Africa will convene from 1-4 October in Accra, Ghana, and will follow up on a similar workshop that met in the Asia-Pacific region earlier in the year. The 41st session of the ITTC will meet from 6-11 November in Yokohama, Japan, where it is expected that the Council will approve the terms of reference for selecting a new ITTO Executive Director.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

ONE PLANET, MANY PEOPLE: ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

(UNEP, 2006) This publication offers a collection of 405 Powerpoint slides that use remote sensing technology to present a visual presentation of scientifically verifiable information about changes in the global environment (<http://www.na.unep.net/OnePlanetManyPeople/index.php>).

GOVERNING COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE: ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES BY IMPROVING PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

(Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative—Harvard University, 2006) This paper, authored by Simon Zadek and Sasha Radovich, examines accountability and governance aspects of public-private partnerships. It proposes a Partnership Governance and Accountability (PGA) Framework for advancing a more systematized approach to the effective governance and accountability of multi-stakeholder or public-private partnerships (<http://www.accountability.org.uk/uploadstore/cms/docs/GCG%20-%20Harvard%20-%20May.pdf>).

BUSINESS IN THE WORLD OF WATER

(WBSCD, 2006) This report by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBSCD) explores three future scenarios to understand how businesses can contribute to sustainable water management, including an analysis of innovation in water efficiency, security of water supply and water rights (<http://www.wbcsd.org/DocRoot/KGVwmEknBw2x-Q1YcXpsB/h20-scenarios.pdf>).

RICH COUNTRIES, POOR WATER

(WWF, 2006) This report offers one of the first comprehensive overviews of water issues in the developed world, highlighting the impacts of water problems in countries such as Australia, Spain, Japan, the UK, and the US (http://assets.panda.org/downloads/rich_countries_poor_water_final_170706.pdf).

ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY IN DEEP WATERS AND HIGH SEAS

(UNEP, 2006) This study, which was issued jointly by UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), argues that lessons learned on conserving coastal waters should be adapted and applied across the marine world, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction (http://www.unep.org/pdf/EcosystemBiodiversity_DeepWaters_20060616.pdf).

▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

NEW RAMSAR SITES NAMED, TECHNICAL REPORTS SERIES LAUNCHED

The Ramsar Secretariat announced that, on 24 August 2006, Liberia added four new Wetlands of International Importance to its previously designated site. The new sites are: Gbedin Wetlands, which is mainly a swamp but also has a man-made wetland with an irrigation system; Kpatawee Wetlands, waterfalls within the rainforest zone of Liberia; Marshall Wetlands, which comprises three small rivers; and Mesurado Wetlands, an important site for the protection of three mangrove species that are threatened by intense charcoal burning and fuel wood collection (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.liberia_four_new.htm). The Ramsar Secretariat has also reported that, effective 23 September 2006, Peru has designated Humedal Lucre - Huacarpay as its eleventh Wetland of International Importance. The new site comprises four permanent and one temporary lagoons, two swamps and two rivers, and is part of the Pikillaqta Archaeological Park and the National Tourist Reserve (http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_peru_huacarpay.htm).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also launched the Ramsar Technical Reports (RTR) series, which is designed to publish, mainly through electronic media, technical notes, reviews and reports on wetland ecology, conservation, wise use and management. The first RTR report, "Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity," was published in May 2006 jointly with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_rtr01.pdf). The second RTR report, "Low-cost GIS software and data for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring," is now available (http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_rtr02.pdf; http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_rtr_index.htm).

The Ramsar Secretariat has granted a subvention to the Congolese government to reactivate the Convention's implementation and prepare an outline for its National Wetlands Policy (NWP). The subvention was granted in the framework of the Ramsar Swiss Grant for Africa and will also help finance a National Action Plan to facilitate the NWP's implementation (http://www.ramsar.org/swiss/sga_congo_nwp.htm).

Anticipated Ramsar activities for the September-December period include organizing, with the European Space Agency, the Globwetland Symposium, which will focus on "Looking at Wetlands from Space" (19-20 October, Frascati, Italy).

UNDOALOS ANNOUNCES NEW ACCESSION AND RATIFICATION TO FISH STOCKS AGREEMENT

The UN Division on Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) announced that, on 7 August 2006, Estonia acceded to and Japan ratified the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ([\[www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm\]\(http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm\); \[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_agreements.htm\]\(http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_agreements.htm\)\). In addition, UNDOALOS has released the report on the work of the seventh meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and the presentations in the discussion panel on ecosystem approaches and oceans \(12-16 June 2006\) as well as the report of the sixteenth Meeting of States Parties \(19-23 June 2006\) \(\[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm#A/61/156\]\(http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm#A/61/156\); \[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/SPLOS_documents.htm#SPLOS/148\]\(http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/SPLOS_documents.htm#SPLOS/148\)\). The UN General Assembly is expected to consider these inputs to its discussion of oceans and the law of the seas in November.](http://</p>
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AUGUST EDITION OF GPA OUTREACH RELEASED

GPA Outreach, published by the Stakeholder Forum, supports the preparatory work for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) (16-20 October, Beijing, China). The August edition includes details of GPA-related events at World Water Week (21-25 August 2006, Stockholm, Sweden) (http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPA_Outreach_August.pdf; <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa.html>).

IMO AND UNEP ANNOUNCE LEBANESE COASTAL CLEAN-UP STRATEGY

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and UNEP agreed, on 17 August, to an action plan to assist the Lebanese authorities with the clean-up of coastal oil pollution and to prevent damage to neighboring countries. The IMO's involvement is based in international law through the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation.

UN officials and experts, along with countries in the region and the European Commission, backed a plan aimed at dealing with an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 tonnes of fuel oil that seeped into the Mediterranean Sea from a power utility located 30 km south of Beirut that was damaged by bombs between 13 and 15 July. One hundred fifty km of coastline is estimated to be affected, with some oil reaching as far north as Syria (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=6619).



Photo courtesy of UNEP

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

**MONTREAL PROTOCOL
PRODUCES ASSESSMENT OF
OZONE DEPLETION**

The Scientific Assessment Panel to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer produced its "Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006," which reports that while the ozone layer continues to recover, it will not be fully restored over Antarctica until 2060-2075, an extension of 10-25 years over previous estimates. The report's more technical findings include that: controls implemented under the Montreal Protocol appear to be decreasing the atmospheric concentrations of ozone-depleting substances (ODS); in the stratosphere, the decline in concentrations is due primarily to chlorofluorocarbon and methyl bromide reductions; and polar ozone fluctuations have been driven by meteorological variations. In addition, the report finds that the effects of emissions of methyl bromide from humans appear to be greater than previously thought, as decreases in anthropogenic emissions of methyl bromide appear to lead to greater decreases in atmospheric abundance of methyl bromide than expected. These findings suggest that fumigation-related emissions accounted for 30%, rather than the previously estimated 20%, of atmospheric methyl bromide prior to 1998. As a result, the report estimates the methyl bromide results in 60 times more ozone depletion than an equivalent amount of chlorofluorocarbons, over 30% higher than the previous estimate. The report further discusses the relationship between ozone depletion and global warming, finding that: ODS decreases will drive ozone recovery, but climate change will influence the timing, speed and extent of that recovery; as the ozone layer is repaired, surface UV radiation levels will be driven largely by factors related to climate change; and, stratospheric cooling is predominantly driven by ozone depletion but greenhouse gas increases will contribute to stratospheric cooling in the future (http://ozone.unep.org/Publications/Assessment_Reports/2006/Scientific_Assessment_2006_Exec_Summary.pdf). Upcoming Montreal Protocol activities include the 28 August-2 September meeting of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee in Yokohama, Japan, in preparation for the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depletion (30 October-3 November, New Delhi, India).

**UNFCCC AWARDS TRADING
SYSTEM CONTRACT, REPORTS
ON RECENT WORKSHOPS AND
COP-12 AGENDA ITEMS**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat has awarded Trasys SA, a Belgian company, the contract to build the electronic infrastructure re-



Logo courtesy Trasys SA

quired for settling trades in greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. The "International Transaction Log" will help operationalize the international carbon trading system agreed under the Kyoto Protocol, and will be connected to the emissions trading registries of all industrialized countries that are parties to the Protocol (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060814_itl_contract.pdf).



Logo courtesy of UNFCCC

The UNFCCC Secretariat has issued reports on a number of recent workshops and other events covering issues such as carbon capture and storage, economic diversification, adaptation, response measures, and education and outreach. It has also published several papers on topics that will feature at the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP-12, 6-17 November, Nairobi, Kenya), as well as updated agendas for the key official bodies that will convene at the same time (http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_12/items/3754.php).

Reports recently issued include a report on the workshop on carbon dioxide capture and storage as clean development mechanism (CDM) project activities (22 May 2006, Bonn, Germany), which notes discussions on issues such as project boundary matters, leakage and permanence, and a report that compiles parties' submissions on this issue (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/cmp2/eng/03.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/cmp2/eng/misc02.pdf>). A report on the expert meeting on economic diversification (16-17 May 2006, Bonn, Germany) notes a focus on developing countries, technical support for structural and institutional capacity building, investments and partnerships (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/18.pdf>). A report on the Latin American regional workshop on adaptation (18-20 April 2006, Lima, Peru) notes a focus on vulnerability and adaptation assessments, planning and implementation, and regional and international cooperation (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/19.pdf>). The Secretariat has also just released

two reports on the Adaptation Fund outlining the views of parties and international institutions (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/misc13.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/misc16.pdf>). A report on the expert meeting on response measures (23-24 November 2005, Montreal, Canada) notes discussions on tools and methodologies, financial risk management strategies, and modeling for socio-economic impacts (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/13.pdf>). The synthesis report on regional workshops on Convention Article 6 (education, training and public awareness) reflects on four meetings held between 2003 and 2005, includes lessons learned and possible elements for a new strategic approach to the issue. A second relevant report, on the prototype information clearinghouse for Article 6, has also just been released (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/17.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/misc15.pdf>).

Other new reports that will be discussed at COP-12 deal with hydrofluorocarbon-23 (HFC-23) and hydrochlorofluorocarbon-22 (HCFC-22) in the context of certified emission reductions, the upcoming review of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer, privileges and immunities, and the distribution of Clean Development Mechanism projects (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbsta/eng/misc11.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbsta/eng/misc10.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/20.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/20.pdf>).

In addition to preparations for COP-12 and the second meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP-2), the Secretariat is preparing for a number of official preparatory events, including UNFCCC events on least developed countries, compliance, technology transfer, adaptation and the Kyoto Protocol's market-based mechanisms (http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php).

Meanwhile, the IPCC will continue its preparations for completing the Fourth Assessment Report in 2007, including meetings in September and October relating to Working Groups II (impacts, adaptation and vulnerability) and III (mitigation). The Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis will also continue its work in early October (<http://www.ipcc.ch/calendar.htm>).



Nairobi, Kenya. Images courtesy of UNFCCC.

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION PREPARES FOR REVIEW COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOPS

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has recently posted the announcement, documents and meeting agenda for the Second Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC), which will convene in Geneva, Switzerland from 6-10 November 2006 (http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc_2/default.htm). Additional activities during the September-December period will include regional awareness raising workshops on the Guidelines on BAT and BEP for: the CEE and West Asian regions in Brno, Czech Republic from 2-4 October; Africa in Nairobi, Kenya from 18-20 October; Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City, Mexico, tentatively from 31 October to 2 November; and East Asia and South Pacific in a venue to be confirmed from 14-16 November. The first meeting of the ad hoc technical working group on Effectiveness Evaluation will convene in Brno, Czech Republic, from 9-13 October and the second meeting of the Expert Group on BAT and BEP will convene in Beijing, China, from 4-9 December. All Stockholm Convention Parties are supposed to submit their National Implementation Plan, according to article 15, by 31 December 2006.

BASEL CONVENTION REQUESTS COMMENTS

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has recently posted a request for comments on the 2nd draft on Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead Acid Batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States from parties involved in the project. The deadline for submitting comments is 8 September 2006 (<http://www.basel.int/convention/rfc/rfc.html>).

For the September-December period, a number of workshops are being organized, including: the third meeting of the Steering Committee on the Finalization of the Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of Lead Acid Batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States (27-28 September, Trinidad and Tobago); Illegal Traffic of Hazardous and other Wastes (3-5 October 2006, Bratislava, Slovakia); and the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation (30 October-1 November, Cairo, Egypt). The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (27 November-1 December, Nairobi, Kenya) will take the theme "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes" (<http://cop8.basel.int/>).

SAICM SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR REGIONAL MEETINGS

The SAICM Secretariat has created a new logo and is preparing for the SAICM African regional meeting (12-14 September, Cairo, Egypt) (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/africaregionalmeeting.htm>). The August issue of the SAICM Newsletter contains information on the African Regional Meeting, the newly designated focal points, and UNITAR's thematic workshop on SAICM, among other items (http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/SAICM_newsletter2_august06.pdf).

Other regional meetings that will take place during the September-December period include EU-JUSSCANNZ (20-22 November, Barcelona, Spain) and Central and Eastern Europe (4-6 December, Riga, Latvia). The dates and venues for regional meetings for GRULAC and Asia-Pacific have not yet been confirmed. The SAICM Secretariat will facilitate an event on South-South cooperation at the upcoming V Forum of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemicals Safety (IFCS) (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>).



New Rotterdam Convention logo. Image courtesy of the Rotterdam Convention.

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION SECRETARIAT TO RELAUNCH WEBSITE

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has also created a new logo and is working on relaunching its website (<http://www.pic.int/>). It is also preparing for COP-3, which will convene in Geneva, Switzerland, from 9-13 October (<http://www.pic.int/en/View-Page.asp?id=420>).



New SAICM logo. Image courtesy of SAICM.

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD SBSTTA CHAIRS, BUREAU DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE SBSTTA EFFECTIVENESS

For the first time in the history of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), past, present and future Chairs of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) convened to review the experience gained by the scientific body of the convention since its first meeting held in Paris in September 1994, with a view to enhancing its effectiveness. With financial support provided by UNEP, the meeting took place at the Musée national d'histoire naturelle in Paris from 24-25 July 2006. By reviewing past achievements of SBSTTA and considering the scientific and technical bodies of other conventions and agreements, the meeting aimed to strengthen the scien-

tific underpinnings of SBSTTA and to make concrete proposals on how to operationalize the requests contained in decision VIII/10 on the Operations of the Convention. Operational issues discussed included: the profile of SBSTTA focal points; the large number of agenda items; the means of conducting inter-sessional work; the length and quantity of pre-session documents as well as translation costs; the periodicity of meetings; and the form in which SBSTTA's conclusions are presented to the Conference of the Parties. A number of proposals were identified to equip SBSTTA to meet the challenges of the new enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention, including addressing emerging scientific issues and the convening of scientific panel discussions. The recommendations were discussed at a joint meeting with

the Bureau of SBSTTA 12, which adopted at its meeting on 26 July 2006 a series of operational measures aimed at enhancing the efficiency of SBSTTA. The Bureau also considered preparations for SBSTTA 12, to be held in July 2007 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and SBSTTA 13, to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome in 2008. The report of the SBSTTA chairs will be submitted to SBSTTA 12 and to COP 9, which will meet in Germany in 2008.

The CBD Secretariat has circulated a quarterly report on the administration of the Convention, containing a summary of key activities implementing the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and other relevant matters from 1 January to 30 June 2006

Continued on Page 7.

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

Continued from Page 6.

(<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/quarterly/qr-32-33-en.pdf>). The Secretariat is also preparing for the Asia and Pacific regional workshop on communication, education and public awareness, which will meet in November, and the African regional workshop on sustainable use, which will meet from 11-15 December in Nairobi, Kenya (<http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/default.aspx>).

CITES SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has announced that the deadline for registration to the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee (2-6 October 2006, Geneva, Switzerland) is 2 September 2006 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/SC54.shtml>). Additional upcoming CITES-related activities include the first meeting of the Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Saiga Antelope, a cooperative initiative between CITES and the Convention on Migratory Species (25-26 September, Almaty, Kazakhstan) (http://www.cms.int/species/saiga/1st_saiga_range_states_meeting.htm) and the European regional CITES Plants meeting (18-21 October, Perugia, Italy) (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar/06europlant.pdf>).

CMS PREPARES FOR DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE WORK PROGRAMME, MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) will meet on 27 September 2006 in Bonn, Germany, to discuss priorities in implementing the programme of work 2007-2008. The meeting will address, inter alia, the CMS contribution to the 2010 biodiversity target, the avian influenza task force,



The harbour porpoise: the only native cetacean species inhabiting the Baltic Sea



Image courtesy of BirdFish Internet & Multimedia.

the CMS small grant programme, CMS membership, the CMS projects portfolio for donors and parties, and public information and partnerships. The Secretariat is also planning for the 31st meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (28-29 September, Bonn, Germany) (http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/31st_stc_meeting/31st_stc_documents.htm), the 5th session of the meeting of the parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EUROBATS) (4-6 September, Ljubljana, Slovenia) (http://www.eurobats.org/documents/List_of_documents_MoP5.htm), and the 5th meeting of the parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) (18-22 September, Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands) (http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/body0401.html#2006).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Yvo de Boer has been appointed as the new **Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat**. Most recently, he was Director of International Affairs at the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and a Vice-Chair at the fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. He will take up his new post on 4 September 2006 (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060810_new_es_yvo_de_boer.pdf).



New UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer

- Kathleen Abdalla began her new position as **Chief of the Programme Coordination, Major Groups and Partnerships Branch, UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)** in August 2006. Previously, she was in the DSD's Energy and Transport Branch.

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **OECD/UNSD EXPERT MEETING ON INSTITUTIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 31 August – 1 September 2006. Stockholm, Sweden. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/workshopSweden/index.htm>
- **FIFTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO EUROBATS:** 4-6 September 2006. Ljubljana, Slovenia. http://www.eurobats.org/news_events/bat_events.htm
- **AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING ON SAICM:** 11-14 September 2006. Cairo, Egypt. <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/africaregional-meeting.htm>
- **ASCOBANS MOP-5:** 18-22 September 2006. Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands. <http://www.ascobans.org/index0401.html>
- **2006 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP:** 19-20 September 2006. Singapore. <http://www.singapore2006.org/>
- **HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND THEIR RELEVANCE IN THE ARCTIC:** 21-22 September 2006. Arendal, Norway. <http://www.grida.no/newsroom.cfm?pressReleaseItemID=1011>