



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNCSO Dates Announced, Drafting Procedure for Outcome Adopted at PrepCom II

The second session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom II) for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSO, or Rio 2012) took place from 7-8 March 2011, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Participants discussed issues related to the green economy and the institutional framework for sustainable development. At the opening session, the Government of Brazil announced that the UNCSO will take place from 4-6 June 2012, and PrepCom III will take place from 28-30 May 2012. At the end of PrepCom II, delegates adopted a draft decision that outlines the process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the UNCSO. This decision indicates that member States, relevant UN system organizations, and all relevant stakeholders should submit their inputs to the draft outcome document by 1 November 2011, to be included in the “zero-draft” of the outcome document. The decision also indicates that during a three-day meeting in January 2012, and one full week in February, March and April 2012, the zero-draft will be negotiated. During the rest of 2011, regional meetings and country-led initiatives will convene to continue discussions on the UNCSO themes (<http://www.iisd.ca/uncsd/prepcom2/>).



Luis Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil, announcing the dates for Rio 2012

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GUEST ARTICLE

Vision for the Rio+20 Summit

By Mukul Sanwal*

Abstract

Rio+20 should be about big thinking and a re-shaping of current processes if we are to effectively deal with the two greatest challenges: climate change and eradication of poverty.

A vision of the new paradigm that will shape international cooperation for the next 20 years has yet to emerge. Though, there is an emerging consensus that transition to a green low carbon economy is

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Greening Household Behaviour: The Role of Public Policy

(OECD, 2011) This report presents the results of a 10,000 household survey carried out in ten countries, and offers insights into what policy measures really work, where and why, by exploring factors affecting people’s behavior in five areas: water use, energy use, personal transport choices, organic food consumption, and waste generation and recycling (http://www.oecd.org/document/23/0,3746,en_2649_37465_47025303_1_1_1_37465,00.html).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

necessary for achieving sustainable development, and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio 2012) will include agreement on its elements and steps in moving towards that aim. This is an acknowledgement that the current paradigm, shaped twenty years ago, has not been able to deal with the forces unleashed by the industrial revolution.

The expected synergies from multilateral environmental agreements and the program of action agreed at the Rio Summit in 1992 have not been instrumental in changing patterns of consumption and production. The biophysical limit to growth agreed at Cancun means that a green economy, and the global goal to be agreed under the on-going climate negotiations, cannot be considered only in terms of environmental damage. It must give equal emphasis to human well-being.

The deliberations at the multilateral level should be seen as an opportunity to discuss options for making the societal transformation to modify production and consumption patterns. The global community would then ask a very different set of questions, instead of the current narrow focus on mitigation, adaptation and burden sharing, and frame the issue differently in terms of patterns of resource use.

In this paradigm, the building blocks of global sustainability will need to ensure a transformation in the way we use natural resources, in five areas: modifying consumption patterns for ensuring conservation of resources; recognition of the value of ecological and energy services; new market based employment opportunities for the rural poor; networks for “innovation;” and national accounting systems that measure the significant human welfare benefits, or services, that national and global ecosystems provide.

Learning from the evolution of the climate regime, the new paradigm must rebalance the roles of the state, market and the citizen, and focus directly on consumption and production patterns. Consequently, at the multilateral level, the focus will no longer be legally binding decisions that regulate national activities, but rather new cooperative mechanisms to ensure human well being, as well as rules for monitoring progress towards the global goal of moving towards patterns of resource use that are common for all countries.

*Mukul Sanwal has held senior policy positions in the Government of India, UN Environment Programme and in the UN Climate Change Secretariat.

Read the full article at: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/meabulletin111.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.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IPM Prepares for CSD 19

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) for the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 19) took place at UN Headquarters in New York, US, from 28 February-4 March 2011. The IPM's role in the lead up to CSD 19 was to provide a forum to discuss policy options and possible actions to enable the implementation of measures and policies concerning the thematic issues under consideration during the CSD 18/CSD 19 (2010-2011) two year “implementation cycle.” These thematic issues are: transport, chemicals, waste

management, mining, and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Building on CSD 18, which conducted a “review” of these issues in May 2010, CSD 19 will be a “policy” session, during which delegates will negotiate decisions on measures related to the thematic areas. To assist in this process, the IPM considered each thematic area and delegates outlined possible policy options and actions for adoption at CSD 19. Delegates also considered inter-linkages, cross-cutting issues and means of implementation, as well as small island developing states (SIDS). Finally, two multi-stakeholder dia-

logues sought feedback from different groups on the thematic issues, as well as on expectations for CSD 19 within the context of Rio 2012. The IPM's deliberations resulted in a Chair's draft negotiating text, which most delegates felt would provide a good starting point for negotiations. Attention now turns to CSD 19, which is scheduled to take place from 2-13 May 2011 in New York, and what it could and should deliver, with many at the IPM highlighting agreement on the 10-year framework of programmes (10YFP) on SCP as a “crucial” deliverable (<http://www.iisd.ca/csd/ipm19/>).



Panel on Multistakeholder Dialogue on Contributions from CSD-19 to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. L-R: Ernst Ulrich von Weizsacker, International Resource Panel; Kathleen Abdalla, DSD; Chair Silvano Vergara (Panama); Vivian Pliner, DSD; and Helio Mattar, Akatu Institute for Conscientious Consumption, Brazil.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Regional Wetland Action Plan for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories

(Ramsar, SPREP, 2011) This regional plan, which covers the period 2011-2013, outlines activities, responsibilities and targets that seek to promote and strengthen the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the region. It was developed during a regional workshop organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Secretariat) and the Government of New Caledonia, which was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, in August 2010 (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/Regional_Wetlands_Action-Plan_Pacific_2011-2013.pdf).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Basel Executive Secretary Releases Non-Paper on Wastes to Resources

Katharina Kummer, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention Secretariat has released a non-paper titled “Shifting paradigms: from waste to resources,” which is intended to initiate discussions amongst parties and other stakeholders in relation to the Basel Convention’s role in strengthening the waste to resource linkage. The non-paper is the result of a “think-tank” consultation held by the Executive Secretary with an Advisory Group comprising waste experts, from 18-19 January 2011, in Geneva, Switzerland. The non-paper includes over-arching policy level recommendations, as well as practical recommendations using the framework and mechanisms of the Basel Convention, for consideration by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10). COP 10 is scheduled to convene in October 2011, under

the theme of “Prevention, minimization and reuse of wastes” (<http://www.basel.int/convention/shiftparad.html>).



Katharina Kummer, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention Secretariat (photo courtesy of the Basel Convention Secretariat)

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



CRIC 9 participants participated during a dialogue with civil society representatives

UNCCD CRIC 9 Reviews Results of New Reporting System

The second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-2) and the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened in Bonn, Germany, from 16-25 February 2011. Key agenda items in both Committees were reviews of intersessional work to follow-up on decisions taken at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), in October 2009, related to impact indicators and the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS). The CST S-2 session, from 16-18 February, considered the status of work on methodologies and baselines for the effective use of the subset of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (the Strategy), among other issues. CRIC 9, which convened from 21-

25 February, considered: preliminary analyses of information contained in the reports of parties, UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations (CSOs) on implementation of the Convention against performance indicators; best practices in the implementation of the Convention; and improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP. The documents prepared by the Secretariat presenting preliminary analyses of the information contained in national reports, as uploaded into the PRAIS portal, were well received, although delegates highlighted areas for improvement of the reporting system and dissemination of the results. Participants also looked forward to the development of a knowledge-management system, the compilation of the best



Banner courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

practices identified through the PRAIS reports, and the further refinement of the impact indicators, among others. On all of its agenda items, CST S-2 and CRIC 9 adopted reports summarizing delegates’ ideas, suggestions and proposals, leaving the COP with a variety of options to pursue at its next session in October 2011, in the Republic of Korea (<http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cric9/>; <http://www.unccd-prais.com/>).

ITTO Calls for Proposals on Reducing Deforestation and Enhancing Environmental Services

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has released a call for proposals for its Thematic Programme on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services (REDDES). The call for proposals from member countries notes that priority will be given to projects that address the fundamental drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and enhancing environmental services and provide sustainable solutions through: monitoring, assessment, reporting and evaluation of carbon and other environmental services; policy, legal and institutional frameworks and capacity building; studies on market potential of carbon and other environmental services; and demonstration activities on enhancing environmental services and local livelihoods. ITTO invites proposals for projects, small projects and pre-projects, which need to conform with the REDDES deliverables. The deadline for proposal submission is 22 April 2011 (http://www.itto.int/calls_proposals/id=2595).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety opens up for signature

CBD Secretariat Circulates Year in Review 2010, Liability Protocol Opens for Signature

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has made available the electronic version of the publication "The Convention on Biological Diversity Year in Review 2010." The publication includes an introduction by CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlafl on "2010: an historical year for the biodiversity family and the beginning of a new era for living in harmony with nature into the future;" and snapshots of collective action in 2010, including celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity, the launch of Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the COP to the CBD, and the adoption of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/cbd-report-2010-en.pdf>).

The CBD Secretariat has invited nominations for two meetings of relevance to indigenous and local communities (ILCs): the international meeting on Article 10 (Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity) with a focus on Article 10(c) (customary use of biological resources), to be held from 1-3 June 2011, in Montreal, Canada; and the *ad hoc* expert group meeting of local community representatives, to be held from 13-15 July 2011, at the same venue (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-048-tk-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/>

[doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-050-tk-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-050-tk-en.pdf)).

In addition, the CBD Secretariat has invited ILC nominations for the Advisory Selection Committee of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the participation of ILC representatives in the work of the Convention, and has called for contributions by governments and funding institutions to the Voluntary Fund (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-049-tk-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-047-tk-en.pdf>).

Regarding news of relevance to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress opened for signature on 7 March 2011, at UN Headquarters, New York, US, and was signed by Colombia, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2011/pr-2011-03-07-nkl-protocol-en.pdf>). Furthermore, the Secretariat has made available a new training tool for the Biosafety Clearing-House (<http://bch.cbd.int/about/news-post/?postid=101581>).

CITES and CMS Secretariats Hold Virtual Meeting

The Secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) met via video conference on 2 March 2011, to review joint achievements and map out their future collabo-

ration. The Secretariats addressed issues including: individual species; harmonization of listings on the conventions' appendices and nomenclature; preparation for forthcoming meetings of the conventions' governing bodies; and strategic issues related to biodiversity, sustainable development and the interrelationship with other entities and processes. The Secretariats agreed to present a revised list of joint activities to the 61st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, in August 2011, the 38th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CMS, in Bergen, Norway, in November 2011 (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2011/20110304_CITES_CMS.shtml; http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2011/03_mar/nw_040311_cms_cites_summit.htm).

Armenia Joins CMS, Flyways Working Group Meets

The Republic of Armenia became the 115th party to the CMS on 1 March 2011.

In other CMS-related news, the Flyways Working Group, comprising 25 experts from all regions of the world, met in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 20-21 February 2011. Experts discussed threats to migratory birds and policy options, emphasizing the need to build on existing agreements and initiatives to provide an overarching approach to filling the gaps in the coverage of CMS instruments, and to limit impacts from threats to migratory birds. The group's findings will be submitted for the consideration of the Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2011/02_feb/nw_250211_flyways_wg.htm).

The CMS Secretariat is seeking consultants to undertake evaluations of the operation of instruments and projects on species of terrestrial mammals (including bats) (http://www.cms.int/secretariat/vacancies/ToR_reviews_Res_9_2_Terrestrial_mammals_rev250211.pdf) and species of marine turtles (http://www.cms.int/secretariat/vacancies/ToR_reviews_Res_9_2_Turtles_rev250211.pdf). Offers for both consultancies are requested by 13 March 2011.

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

World Bank, DANIDA Establish First Climate Innovation Center

The World Bank will establish the world's first Climate Innovation Center (CIC) in Nairobi, Kenya, an initiative spearheaded by the Royal Danish Embassy (DANIDA) and the Bank's Information for Develop-

ment Program (*infoDev*). The CIC will provide targeted financing and capacity building to entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises to scale up and deploy innovative clean technology solutions that meet local needs and create local jobs. *InfoDev*, a technology and innovation led de-

velopment finance programme of the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, is establishing a global network of CICs to enable the private sector in developing countries to proactively and profitably take part in green growth (<http://go.worldbank.org/X07QR7AOK0>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP GC 26/GMEF Discusses IEG and Green Economy

The 26th session of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment



Banner courtesy of UNEP

Forum (GC 26/GMEF) convened from 21-24 February 2011, in Nairobi, Kenya. On the green economy, delegates noted numerous success stories where a green economy transition is successfully taking place at the national level and that countries can learn from the success of others. On IEG, they highlighted that the challenge for the UNEP GC is about moving the conversation beyond the common diagnosis of the problem and beginning to articulate a forward-looking consensus on reform objectives. The GC-26/GMEF adopted 17 decisions, including on IEG. In the decision on IEG, the GC invites the PrepCom of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) at its second session to initiate a full analysis of the financial, structural and legal implications and comparative advantages of the options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome utilizing the expertise of relevant UN system entities, including UNEP and relevant stakeholders and major groups eligible to participate in the PrepCom (<http://www.iisd.ca/unepegc/26unepegc/>).

UNEP has also announced two projects aimed at conserving forests and promoting sustainable development in remote rural communities in Latin America and Asia, as the 2011 recipients of the Sasakawa Prize. The 2011 theme of the Prize was “Forests for People and for Green Growth,” in support of the 2011 International Year of Forests, and highlighting the central role of forests in the pursuit of a global Green Economy. The co-winners are the “Asociación Forestal Integral San Andrés, Petén” (AFISAP) in Guatemala, and the Manahari Development Institute in Nepal (MDI-Nepal).

In other UNEP news, in celebrations for the ninth Africa Environment Day, the African Union (AU) Commission, in collaboration with UNEP and local partners, highlighted the importance of sustainable forest management (SFM) for sustainable development and addressing climate change. Three-hundred cuttings of local tree species were presented to a reforestation project in the surroundings of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (<http://www.unep.org/roa/InformationMaterial/Events/AfricaEnvironmentDay2011/tabid/51722/Default.aspx>).

In other UNEP-related news, UNEP convened the third meeting in the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, in Pretoria,

South Africa, from 10-11 January 2011. The meeting considered the need for: mainstreaming of sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes; industry involvement, including public-private partnerships and the use of economic instruments at the national and international levels; a new trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund; and establishing safe chemicals and wastes management as a new focal area, expanding the existing persistent organic pollutants focal area under Global Environment Facility (GEF) or establishing a new trust fund under GEF. Delegates requested that UNEP undertake further analysis on: the GEF track in respect of the global benefits of the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes; a new trust fund similar to the Multilateral Fund, including various possible operating structures; the role of industry, including at the national level, in financing the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes; and challenges, practical value, lessons learned and best practices related to mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes in other sectors of the development agenda, including a compendium of positive mainstreaming examples at the national level (http://www.unep.org/gc/gc26/cow_details-docs.asp?DocID=UNEP/GC.26/11/Add.1&CatID=3).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC Receives Submissions from Parties

Parties to the UNFCCC have responded to a call for submissions of information and views reflecting the outcomes of the recent sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). Submissions have been received from: India; Gambia, on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); Belarus; Philippines; Norway; Panama; Ecuador; Turkey; Israel; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; Indonesia; Venezuela; Papua New Guinea; Switzerland; Bangladesh; Bolivia; Colombia; Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Algeria; Pakistan; Malaysia; Saudi Arabia; and Ghana. These submissions relate to, *inter alia*: the composition of the Adaptation Commit-

tee; the establishment of market-based mechanisms; and different elements of the Cancun Agreements (http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/items/4578.php).

In other news, the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has launched four calls for experts for members of the CDM Methodologies Panel, Accreditation Panel, Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group, and Small-Scale Working Group, with a view to replacing the outgoing members at its 60th meeting. Current members of the Panels and Working Groups may submit their applications for automatic inclusion in the short list, should they wish to continue (<http://climate-l.iisd.org/news/cdm-executive-board-launches-calls-for-experts-2/>).

IPCC Posts Documents for 33rd Session

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has posted documents for its 33rd session and the 11th Session of IPCC Working Group III, which are scheduled to take place from 5-13 May 2011, in Abu Dhabi, United

Arab Emirates. Letters of invitation to focal points, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and international and other organizations are posted, as well as provisional agendas for the meetings. The 11th session of Working Group III will include presentations on the writing process, various chapters and the Special Report on “Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation.” The Working Group will also consider the summary for policy makers and the acceptance of the underlying scientific/technical assessment in the Special Report.

IPCC 33 will consider, *inter alia*, a review of the IPCC processes and procedures, activities of the Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and progress on the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis, the development of new scenarios, and the IPCC Scholarship Programme (http://www.ipcc.ch/scripts/_session_template.php?page=_33ipcc.htm).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

Ramsar STRP Holds 16th Meeting, New Sites Designated

The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) met for its 16th session from 14-18 February 2011, in Gland, Switzerland. The session was followed by a workshop on 19 February to develop a draft resolution for the 11th session of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP 11) and supporting materials on wetlands and tourism. Meeting participants worked on: drafting and finalizing scientific and technical draft resolutions and guidance to be transmitted to the Ramsar Standing Committee and COP 11 in June 2012; reviewing progress and products under each of the Panel's 10 Thematic Work Areas; and identifying emerging issues and recommendations for future scientific and technical priorities for the Panel for the 2013-2015 triennium. On 19 February, a follow-up workshop began work on developing a COP 11 draft resolution, as well as supporting materials on wetlands and tourism. Wetlands and Tourism will be the theme of 2012 World Wetlands Day and COP 11 (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-strp14-report/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25049_4000_0__).

In related news, the Ramsar Secretariat has reported that the Governments of Iran, Viet Nam and El Sal-

vador have designated new Wetlands of International Importance. The Government of Iran has designated two wetlands, bringing its total number of Ramsar sites to 24. The latest additions are the Kanibarazan Wetland, and the Choghakhor Wetland (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-iran-kanibarazan/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25051_4000_0__; http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-rs-iran/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25043_4000_2__). Viet Nam's third Ramsar site, the Ba Be national park, supports the only significant natural mountain lake in the country (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-vietnam/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25048_4000_0__). El Salvador has designated the Jaltepeque Complex, which is the second biggest brackish water area and intertidal forested wetland in the country, as its sixth Wetland of International Importance (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-rs-salvador-jaltepeque/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25040_4000_2__).

DOALOS Releases *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole Recommendations

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) has released the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly on the Regular Process for global reporting and

assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects (*Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole) to the 65th session of the General Assembly (UNGA), which were adopted on 18 February 2011, at the conclusion of its meeting held in New York, US. The *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole recommends to the UNGA that, *inter alia*: the Group of Experts explore means of leveraging existing systems to manage the information that comprise the foundation of the global marine assessment and report their findings for the consideration of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole; States be invited to provide comments on the "Possible Outline for the first Global Integrated Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, Including Socioeconomic Aspects," the "draft Criteria for the appointment of Experts" and the "draft Guidelines for Workshops" by 30 April 2011; the Secretary-General be requested to explore the establishment of appropriate means to address the communication requirements of the Regular Process; workshops be recognized as a key mechanism by which the first global marine assessment will be accomplished and States can enhance their assessment capacity; and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole reconvene as soon as possible (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/recommendations_65.pdf).



Kanibarazan Wetland (left) and Choghakhor Wetland (right) (photos courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **ECOSOC High-level Meeting with Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD:** 10-11 March 2011. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/springmeetings/2011/index.htm>
- **Fourth Session of the Governing Body to the ITPGR:** 14-18 March 2011. Bali, Indonesia. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/itpgrgb4/>
- **CBD Regional Workshop for Southern Africa on Updating NBSAPs:** 14-20 March 2011. Botswana. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>
- **CBD Capacity-building Workshop for Latin American and Caribbean ILC:** 16-18 March 2011. Georgetown, Guyana. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/nf-2010-202-tk-en.pdf>
- **UNGA Interactive Dialogue with Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability:** 16 March 2011. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/gsp.shtml>
- **GEF STAP Meeting:** 17-18 March 2011. Vienna, Austria. <http://www.unep.org/stap/Events/STAPMeetings/tabid/3615/Default.aspx>