



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

ITPGR Governing Body Adopts Compliance and Financial Provisions



The dais during the opening of the meeting

The fourth session of the Governing Body (GB 4) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR) convened from 14-18 March 2011, in Bali, Indonesia. Marked by streamlined processes and a focus on substantive debates, the session was successful in tackling its diverse agenda and adopting significant outcomes. In particular, the Governing Body adopted procedures and mechanisms on compliance, and reached consensus on the long-standing item of the financial rules of the Governing Body. It also adopted a work programme and budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, including a moderate budget increase, and resolutions on a number of items, including farmers' rights, sustainable use and implementation of the Funding Strategy (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/itpgrgb4/>).

The session was preceded by a High-Level Ministerial Conference, organized by the Government of Indonesia on 11 March 2011, which adopted the Bali Ministerial Declaration on the ITPGR. The Declaration reflects participants' commitment to engage in further enhancing implementation of the Treaty, in order to help meet the challenges of agricultural biodiversity erosion, food insecurity, extreme poverty and the effects of climate change (<http://www.itpgrfa.net/International/content/ministers-commit-review-world-crop-gene-pool>; http://www.itpgrfa.net/International/sites/default/files/Ministerial_Declaration_Bali.pdf).

GUEST ARTICLE I

Migratory Species and Ecological Networks

By Borja Heredia, CMS Scientific and Technical Officer

Migratory species move across long distances from breeding to wintering areas or from areas with limited food supplies to others where food is abundant. Migration has evolved as a means to adapt and exploit seasonal changes and to make optimal use of available resources. We can find migration patterns across a wide range of taxonomic groups of animals including birds, terrestrial

Continued on page 3

GUEST ARTICLE II

'Taking The Lead' to Reduce GHG Emissions: The Transformative Impact of the Rise of China

By Mukul Sanwal*

Abstract

Recent analysis establishes that market mechanisms will not lead to the required technological transformation for a sustainability transition; a combination of technology development, market mechanisms and government policies will be needed to influence the actions of millions of energy consumers, from large factories to individual households.

Continued on page 4

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Calls for Nomination for ABS Co-Chair; SPREP, CMS Launch Pacific Action Plan for Year of Dugong *Page 2*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD and WMO Discuss Action Plans *Page 2*
- **International Organizations**
UNEP Launches ACP/MEAs Website *Page 3*
- **Sustainable Development**
CSD 19 and UNCCD Bureaus Prepare for Upcoming Events *Page 4*
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC Establishes Portal for Parties' Submissions; Ozone Secretariat Releases Technical Options Committee Reports *Page 5*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm Reports on DDT Meeting *Page 5*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
New Ramsar Sites Designated; IMO, WMO Expand Ocean Monitoring System into the Arctic; DOALOS Holds Informal Preparatory Meeting for ICP *Pages 5-6*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
Meeting Addresses Financial Crisis, MDGs; Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Organizes South-South Meeting *Page 6*

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

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD Secretariat Calls for WEOG Nomination for ABS Co-Chair Position

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has circulated a number of notifications of relevance to the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS), including one noting that Timothy Hodges (Canada) is no longer in a position to assume the role of Co-Chair of the intergovernmental process. As a result, the representatives of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) in the Bureau of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the CBD have been invited to inform the Secretariat of their recommended candidate no later than 1 June 2011. In addition, the Secretariat announced that the first meeting of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS (6-10 June 2011, Montreal, Canada) will be preceded by a short meeting to elect the Committee's Bureau and one of its Co-Chairs, and agree on organizational matters, to be held on 5 June 2011.

The Secretariat has circulated the list of selected experts and observers to participate in the expert meeting on the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House, to be held from 11-14 April 2011, in Montreal, Canada (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-053-abs-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-056-abs-icnp-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-055-abs-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the Secretariat has circulated the Monthly Bulletin of Activities for February 2011 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-059-mba-en.pdf>).

With regard to cooperation with other organizations, the CBD Secretariat has issued: a notification inviting nominations of country-designated experts for participation in a joint meeting of the CBD's Bushmeat Liaison Group and

the Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held from 6-10 June 2011, in Nairobi, Kenya; and a joint notification with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) inviting CBD National Focal Points and focal points for the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to contribute to and review chapters of the IPCC Working Group reports and the synthesis report of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report related to biodiversity and climate change (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-058-bushmeat-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2011/ntf-2011-057-ipcc-en.pdf>).

In addition, the CBD Secretariat and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) have recently published "Biodiversity and Livelihoods: REDD-Plus Benefits,"

Biodiversity and Livelihoods



REDD-plus Benefits



Cover of "Biodiversity and Livelihoods: REDD-Plus Benefits" (image courtesy of the CBD Secretariat)

which demonstrates how measures and policies for REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, including conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of carbon stocks) can simultaneously address climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty. The booklet points to market interest in multiple benefits of forests beyond carbon, noting that a financial compensation mechanism should aim to achieve multiple benefits simultaneously and remunerate their mutual promotion (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/for-redd-en.pdf>).

SPREP and CMS Launch Pacific Action Plan for Year of Dugong

A new pilot project using financial incentives to address direct hunting and accidental capture of dugongs was launched in Palau under the 2011 Year of the Dugong campaign, led by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The project aims to foster sustainable and long-term dugong protection by improving the economic livelihoods of local communities, thereby increasing community participation in environmental stewardship and changing their practices. The initiative falls under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)/CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=664&ArticleID=8662&l=en&t=long>).

In other CMS-related news, Australia has signed the CMS MOU on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks raising the number of signatories to 14 (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2011/03_mar/nw_170311_Australia_Shark_moU.htm).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD and WMO Discuss Action Plans

Representatives from the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) met on 15 March 2011, in Bonn, Germany, to review the WMO-UNCCD partnership and to further strengthen their cooperation in common areas of interest. Participants designed draft action plans in the areas of drought policy, scientific and technical knowledge



Representatives from the UNCCD and WMO Secretariats (photo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat)

management, Global Framework on Climate Services, integrated drought

management programme, communication and outreach, and UNCCD impact indicators, among others (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/wmo/wmo-meeting.php>).

In other UNCCD news, among recent staff changes, Louise Baker has taken on the new position as Senior Adviser on Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization, and Marcos Montoiro is now the NGO and Civil Society Liaison Officer (<http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/menu.php?newch=113>).

GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

mammals, marine mammals, fish, insects, marine turtles and others. Bird migration is probably the biological phenomenon that fascinates most. It is very diverse ranging from the spectacular mass migration of large soaring species such as storks to the nearly indiscernible movements of aquatic warblers and other small songbirds that travel huge distances individually at night.

Migratory species have different ecological requirements during their annual cycle: In particular they depend on habitats that are well conserved to provide food and shelter. Habitat destruction and alteration is recognized as the first cause of biodiversity loss worldwide. This also applies to migratory species. Landscapes have undergone serious degradation as a result of urban development and expanding infrastructure that disrupt natural ecosystems.

Human pressure on the environment can result in the overall loss of habitat, but also in reduced areas of available habitat made more isolated. As a result, populations of migratory species cannot cross the areas of degraded land. They become increasingly isolated both geographically and genetically, a process that considerably increases the risk of species extinction. Habitat fragmentation generates species loss as decreased areas of habitat can support fewer individuals than larger areas of the same vegetation. Isolation impedes migration opportunities for many populations across vital habitats.

Ecological connectivity thus emerges as a key issue for the conservation of migratory species. It can be achieved

by establishing well managed ecological networks comprising biodiversity hotspots, corridors or stepping stones. The ecological network approach promotes connectivity among areas of high biodiversity value and between habitats used by species for different purposes. These corridors or linking areas are essential for migratory species. Corridors can be linear as in the case of a river and associated vegetation, contrary to habitats comprising a variety of vegetation types, or stepping stones for species.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is an international policy instrument that provides a unique opportunity to promote ecological networks for migratory species worldwide. By doing so, it facilitates the process of migration and thus a better implementation of its conservation instruments on all continents. Its definition of migratory species is broad enough to cover those undertaking journeys of thousands of kilometers each year such as storks, but also many other species that make small scale movements across national boundaries in a cyclical way such as gorillas. Species listed under Appendix I require habitat protection; those included in Appendix II need regional cooperation to ensure their migrations across borders.

Efforts to conserve the Siberian Crane, a flagship species, demonstrate how a network of critical sites can be established along the flyway to ensure that the key habitats are maintained. The UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane Project was a collaborative initiative of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan and the Russian

Federation to develop a coordinated approach towards the conservation of a chain of internationally important wetlands along the two flyways used by this critically endangered species. Its main achievement has been the sustained ecological integrity of a network of globally important wetlands in Asia and the migratory waterbirds that depend on them.

In the case of terrestrial mammals, uncontrolled development and other obstacles such as fences or road construction are barriers that block traditional pathways and impede migratory movements. Increased poaching is usually another consequence.

CMS is deeply involved in the conservation of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes, which undertake extensive movements in search of water and pasture. Corridors are essential to make these movements happen. CMS is currently collaborating with the Sahara Conservation Fund and other partners to ensure that the last strongholds of species such as the Addax are protected and that habitat fragmentation does not affect the last remaining populations in the wild. Efforts now concentrate on designating a protected area in Termit-Tin Toumma in Niger, which is supported by the *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM) and the EU.

The theme of the next session of the CMS Conference of the Parties (COP), "Networking for Migratory Species," highlights ecological networks as a priority. A specific resolution is expected to provide guidance for the future of CMS. CMS COP 10 will take place in Bergen (Norway) from 20-25 November 2011.

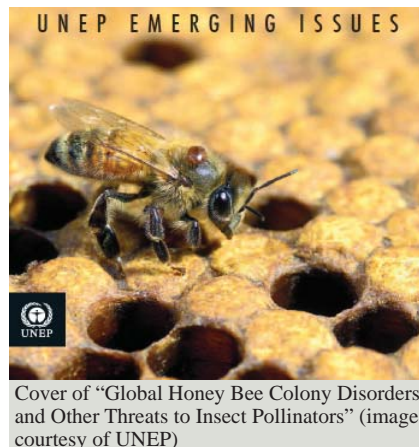
► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP Launches ACP/MEAs Website

The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) Project, managed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has launched a dedicated project website that features links to regional hubs, updates on project activities, information on upcoming events and related publications. The specific objective of the ACP MEAs project is to enhance the capacity of ACP countries to implement MEAs and honor related commitments (<http://www.acp-meas.info/>).

In other UNEP news, UNEP has released a report titled "Global Honey Bee Colony Disorders and Other

Threats to Insect Pollinators," which shows that bee colonies worldwide are



Cover of "Global Honey Bee Colony Disorders and Other Threats to Insect Pollinators" (image courtesy of UNEP)

under threat, with serious consequences for biodiversity and food security (http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Global_Bee_Colony_Disorder_and_Threats_insect_pollinators.pdf).

UNEP, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Ecological Society for Eastern Africa, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory and others have partnered to organize "African Climate Teach-in Day," a day devoted to lectures and lessons around the issue of climate change in Africa, to be held in universities and secondary schools across the continent. The Day's events take place on 3 June 2011 (<http://african.climateday.net/en/start>).

GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

In industrialized countries, when policies focused on economic growth have confronted policies focused on emission reduction, it is economic growth that wins out every time. At the same time, China's fundamental shift in growth pathways will make it the first country in the world to decouple economic growth from energy use even while having large numbers of poor.

China has begun to take the first steps for an alternate policy framework for sustainable development, and in this manner re-defining the nature and scope of national actions away from a narrow focus on percentage reductions in emissions to transition to a low carbon green economy and society. The 11th Five-year Plan of China (2006-2010), in which it set a target to reduce energy use per unit of GDP by 20 per cent by 2010 compared to 2005, has been achieved. China has also pledged to reduce its carbon intensity by 40 to 45 percent by 2020 compared to 2005, and the Government is likely to include the target in its 12th five-year plan from 2011 to 2015. Further steps to promote the burgeoning clean-tech sector are possible under a US\$1.5 trillion plan to boost strategic sectors.

China has more efficient coal fired plants than the United States and is becoming the major world market for such plants, as well as for renewable energy. In 2009, the Chinese Government approved a national target for increasing the use of renewable sources to 15% of energy use, and US\$36.4 billion was invested in renewable energy in 2009. China has in the past five years become the undisputed global leader in renewable energy. It has more than twice as much solar thermal capacity as the rest of the world combined; it is the global leader in solar photovoltaic manufacturing; and it has both the world's largest wind energy market and total installed capacity. Renewable energy installed capacity, including hydro electricity, will increase to 47% of total capacity by 2020. China will install 10 million charge stations for electric cars by 2020. China will invest €7 billion in grid infrastructure allocated to ultra high voltage (UHV) transmission lines by 2015, and more than €460 billion in "smart grids" in the next decade.

Green growth has been officially adopted by China to be part of the core strategy for the coming decade. The transformative impact of the rise of

China, now the second largest economy, in decoupling emissions from economic growth, has largely been ignored. A recent comparison of Copenhagen emission pledges concludes that China would contribute over 40% of total abatement by all countries, more than the total abatement by all developed countries combined, and more than 2.5 times the amount of abatement undertaken by the United States and over five times the European Union's Kyoto commitment, driven by concerns for energy security and industrial policy. China is now taking responsibility for climate change corresponding to the development level of the country.

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

Read the full article at: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle112b.html>

Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**CSD 19 and UNCSO Bureaus Prepare for Upcoming Events**

The minutes for recent meetings of the Bureaus of the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 19) and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSO, also referred to as Rio+20) have been posted. The CSD 19 Bureau met on 28 February and 4 March, before and after the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) for the CSD. At the 28 February meeting, the Bureau discussed, *inter alia*, the template to be used for the preparation of Chair's negotiating document to be distributed by the Chair on the last day of the IPM (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Minutes-4th-Bureau-Meeting.pdf). At the 4 March meeting, the Bureau discussed the IPM and preparations for CSD 19. They agreed that negotiations would take place in two parallel working groups, with the first to cover the

themes of transport, chemicals, mining and interlinkages, cross-cutting issues and means of implementation, and the second to cover the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and waste management (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Minutes-5th-Bureau-Meeting.pdf).

The UNCSO Bureau met on 7 and 9 March. On 7 March, Bureau members discussed the draft decision text that would be presented to the concurrent second Preparatory Committee (PrepCom II), to secure a mandate on the process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for UNCSO (<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/Minutes-13th-Bureau-Meeting.pdf>). At the Bureau meeting after PrepCom II, on 9 March, some Bureau members highlighted the concern during the adoption of this decision regarding the text indicating that the preparation process would

take place "within existing resources," noting that this could take away resources from other processes or activities. They noted that both the Second and Fifth Committees of the 66th session of the General Assembly might revisit this point, and Bureau Members were advised to discuss this matter within their constituencies, to help avoid disruptions to the preparatory process. The Bureau also discussed the UNEP Governing Council decision to invite the PrepCom to initiate a full analysis of the financial, structural and legal implications and comparative advantages of the options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome, and considered options for moving forward with this proposal. The representative of Brazil indicated that her country preferred calling the event "Rio+20" rather than "Rio 2012," as the UN had recently proposed to do (<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/Minutes-14th-Bureau-Meeting.pdf>).



Banner courtesy of UNCSO Secretariat

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC Establishes Portal for Parties' Submissions

The Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has created a common portal from which submissions from parties can be viewed. The creation of the portal follows on from requests from parties and is in line with the practice already used for the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group for Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). The common portal will house submissions from parties in 2011 to the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the

Subsidiary Body for Implementation, the AWG-KP and the AWG-LCA (http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_parties_in_2011/items/5900.php).

In other UNFCCC news, the Secretariat has published a compilation of economy-wide emission reduction targets to be implemented by Parties in Annex I to the Convention. The document presents information communicated by Annex I Parties on the economy-wide emission reduction targets for 2020, and where available, beyond that date, as well as associated context, conditions and considerations provided by parties when they communicated their quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. The document includes a short textual description of the targets, as well as a summary table with quantitative information on these economy-wide

emission reduction targets. Targets are provided for: Australia, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, the EU, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine and the US (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sb/eng/inf01.pdf>).

Ozone Secretariat Releases 2010 Technical Options Committee Reports

The Ozone Secretariat has released the 2010 Technical Option Committee (TOC) assessment reports including the: Technology and Economic Assessment Panel; the Chemicals TOC; Halons TOC; Medical TOC; Methyl bromide TOC; and the Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps TOC (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Stockholm Convention Reports on DDT Meeting

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has released the February edition of its Technical Assistance newsletter. The newsletter includes articles on: the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN) in Panama; the 2011 PEN Awards; training on Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs) contaminated sites; and proposals received by the Secretariat under its small grants programme (SGP). According to the newsletter, the Secretariat has decided to fund two activities under the SGP. The first activity, submitted by the regional centre for capacity building and the transfer of technology, located

in Beijing, China, involves a regional workshop to build capacity in the minimization of brominated flame retardant emissions from e-waste. The second activity, submitted by the Nominated Stockholm Convention centre in Kenya, involves a regional training workshop on integrated vector management as an alternative to DDT for malaria control. The workshop will involve representatives from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Media/Newsletters/tabid/778/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

In other Stockholm news, the Interim Steering Committee of the Global Alli-

ance for alternatives to DDT convened its third meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 15-16 March.

The meeting reviewed progress on the establishment of five thematic groups proposed for the implementation of its activities and finalized arrangements for the first meeting of the Global Alliance Assembly scheduled to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26 April 2011, during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/DDT/Meetings/GlobalAllianceISC32011/tabid/1666/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1421/EventID/131/xmid/5600/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

New Ramsar Sites Designated

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Secretariat) has reported that the Governments of Kyrgyz Republic, Iran and Viet Nam have designated new Wetlands of International Importance. The Son-Kol Lake is the third Wetland of International Importance for the Ramsar List of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is part of the Karatal-Japyryk State Nature Reserve, and is the largest high-altitude freshwater lake in central Kyrgyzstan (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2011-son-kol-lake/main/ramsar/1-26-45-489%5E25068_4000_0__).

Iran's 24th Ramsar site, the Kanibarazan Wetland, consists of a freshwater lake surrounded by diverse plant communities (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-iran-kanibarazan/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25051_4000_0__).

Viet Nam's third Ramsar site, the Ba Be national park, is an ASEAN Heritage Park. It supports the only significant natural mountain lake in Viet Nam and is the most important wetland in the country's protected area system (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-vietnam/main/ramsar/1-26%5E25048_4000_0__).

DOALOS Holds Informal Preparatory Meeting for the ICP

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) held an informal preparatory meeting for the 12th meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP 12) on 9 March 2011, in New York, US. ICP 12 will be held at UN Headquarters in New York, US, from 20-24 June 2011, and will focus its discussions on "Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference

on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges."

Participants at the informal preparatory meeting considered the draft format and draft agenda for ICP 12, as well as draft areas of concentration for the discussion panel. In particular, it is proposed that the panel segment on the overview of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development concentrate its discussions on progress in specific relevant sectors such as sustainable fisheries, shipping, conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, control of marine pollution, and marine science and transfer of marine technology (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO, WMO Expand Ocean Monitoring System into the Arctic

Through the joint efforts of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO),



Logo courtesy of the IMO Secretariat

the World-Wide Navigational Warning System has been expanded to the Arctic regions.

The IMO, IHO and WMO have been working to strengthen early warning systems for ships in the Arctic regions over the past decade, as Arctic waters have become more accessible. As part of this work, the IMO delineated five new Arctic navigational areas, and the

WMO delineated five new meteorological areas in June 2010. A ceremony to mark these new delineations was held in London, UK, in March 2011. The responsibility for the navigational and meteorological areas will be divided between Canada, Norway and the Russian Federation (<http://www.imo.org/Media-Centre/PressBriefings/Pages/11-arctic.aspx>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Organizes South-South Meeting

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), with the help of the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation, the Office National des Forêts International and a grant from the Global Environment Facility, organized a 10-day South-South exchange on community forestry and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, including conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of carbon stocks). The event took place in Brazil with participants from six African countries (Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Madagascar and the Republic of Congo) and various Brazilian counterparts, including representatives of federal and state governments, the private sector, civil society and indigenous peoples organizations. It sought to provide a platform for sharing experiences and knowledge on the role that community forestry can play in national REDD+ strategies. Brazilian authorities described their experience with the Amazon Fund, which is currently the largest national REDD initiative in the world and has created an innovative model for managing and disbursing funds for activities that contribute to REDD objectives. Brazilian participants also discussed creating a payment for ecosystem services programme called "Bolsa Floresta," which, through payments, rewards households and communities that support forest conservation (<http://go.worldbank.org/45R0F5CZA0>).

ECOSOC Meeting with Finance and Trade Organizations Addresses Financial Crisis, MDGs

A two-day High-Level Meeting of ECOSOC with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN Conference on

Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was held in New York, US, from 10-11 March 2011, and addressed pressing issues related to the global financial crisis and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The meeting included informal thematic debates on: the follow-up to the 2010 MDG Summit outcome; the role of the UN system in global economic governance; financial support for development efforts of Least Developed Countries; and financial support for development efforts of Middle-Income Countries. Opening the meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon encouraged participants to make the most of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), and to take an integrated approach to the challenges of recovering from the financial and economic crisis, devastating natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, underlining that they continue to jeopardize development gains. He called for increased investments in job creation, food security, health, clean energy, infrastructure and climate adaptation. Ban also underscored that the world's poorest countries continue to confront significant levels of poverty and hunger, and that they are among the most vulnerable to climate impacts.

These discussions are expected to feed into the Development Committee Discussions to take place during the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings in April 2011 (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ecosoc/springmeetings/2011/index.htm>).

Projects on Disaster Risk Reduction and Increasing Resilience Approved

The Adaptation Fund Board has approved funding for projects in Eritrea, Ecuador and the Solomon Islands totaling US\$19.5 million. The decisions were taken during the Board's 13th meeting, in Bonn, Germany, on 17-18 March 2011.

The Eritrean project will support the development of sub-surface and micro-dams to increase resilience of rural communities to climate change. The project in the Solomon Islands will assist in informed decision making on climate-related pressures on food production. In Ecuador, the Adaptation Fund Project will target climate-induced vulnerability and food insecurity in the vulnerable cantons of Pichincha Province (<http://www.unccd.int/live/gef/index.php>).

On related news, the World Bank approved a US\$15 million zero-interest credit to help Saint Lucia rehabilitate key infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Tomas and improve its capacity to manage disaster risk. The project will support the improvement of government capacities to work with geo-referenced information in order to evaluate natural hazards and climate change risks and to improve disaster management capacity (<http://go.worldbank.org/1J4QFBKE60>). Another US\$15 million loan was also approved to support an energy efficiency and security project in Jamaica, expected to result in detailed policies and plans on renewable energy, to reduce the country's high dependence on imported petroleum products and move to cleaner fuels (<http://go.worldbank.org/G78MY-IJSA0>).

Finally the World Bank also approved loans for US\$5 million for Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and US\$5 million for the Republic of Serbia to help increase local access to financial protection from the losses caused by climate change and disasters. Through this arrangement, homeowners, farmers, private companies, and government agencies will be able to purchase dependable catastrophe insurance coverage and/or weather risk insurance contracts at competitive prices (<http://go.worldbank.org/EYA2WL5110>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Ninth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region:** 28 March-1 April 2011. Accra, Ghana. http://www.unep.org/AbidjanConvention/Meetings_and_Events/COP9/
- **First Meeting of Technical Committee to the CMS Gorilla Agreement:** 29-30 March 2011. Kigali, Rwanda. <http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>
- **UN Climate Change Conference Bangkok - April 2011:** 3-8 April 2011. Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg14/>
- **First Session of the Assembly of IRENA:** 4-5 April 2011. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. <http://www.iisd.ca/irena/irenaa1/>