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# MEA BULLETIN

A newsletter on the activities of key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their secretariats  
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## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

#### GPA IGR-2 ADOPTS BEIJING DECLARATION



GPA IGR-2 High-Level Segment Dias. L-R: Veerle Vandeweerd, Coordinator, UNEP/GPA Coordination Office; IGR-2 Vice-Chair Lucia Ana Varga, Romania; Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director; IGR-2 Vice-Chair Ferguson Theophilus John; and Yue Ruisheng, China.

The Second Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) (16-20 October 2006, Beijing, China) was attended by over 400 participants representing governments, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The goals of IGR-2 were to: strengthen the implementation of the GPA at national, regional and global levels; contribute to the achievement of specific targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as they relate to the GPA, the ecosystem approach, and sanitation; and provide guidance on the programme of work for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GPA Coordination Office for the period 2007-2011. The outcomes of the meeting included: a Chair's summary of the high-level discussions; a report of the meeting; and the Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the GPA. The Declaration will be submitted for endorsement to the next UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2007. The meeting's outcomes included the approval of the Coordination Office's new programme of work, and the meeting's strong emphasis on new ideas for the further implementation of the GPA (<http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/igr2/>).

### MEA Clusters In This Issue

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UNFF Hosts Online Discussions for Major Groups, ITTO Co-Organizes Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction, UNCCD Reports on IYDD *Page 6*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**  
CBD Launches Newsletters, CMS Signs Partnership Agreement with World Zoos *Page 6*

#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### DESERTIFICATION AND GLOBAL WARMING: COMMON ACTION FOR COMMON CHALLENGES

(Tiempo Climate Newswatch, October 2006) In this short piece, members of the CCD Secretariat present their perspectives on the "problems and opportunities that exist in the urgent need to combat desertification" and climate change, and opportunities for cooperation between the CCD and UNFCCC processes (<http://www.tiempocycleclimate.org/news-watch/comment060818.htm>).

*Continued on page 2*

#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### Ramsar's unique "Partners" system keeps pace with the times

*By Dave Pritchard, BirdLife International*

##### Abstract

When the town of Ramsar in Iran gave its name to the Convention on Wetlands in 1971, it witnessed an MEA being born effectively out of a cooperative initiative by NGOs.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

**STERN REVIEW ON THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

(HM Treasury/University of Cambridge Press, October 2006) This report by Sir Nicholas Stern was commissioned by the UK Chancellor in July 2005 and was presented to the UK Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 30 October 2006. It calculates that the costs of unabated climate change range from 5-20 percent of GDP or more, depending on the scientific assessments considered, while the costs of action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change can be limited to approximately one percent of global GDP per year. The review will be considered during an official UNFCCC dialogue on long-term action during the UN Climate Conference – Nairobi 2006 ([http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent\\_reviews/stern\\_review\\_economics\\_climate\\_change/sternreview\\_index.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm)).

**CGIAR VIRTUAL LIBRARY**

(CGIAR, 2006) The recently launched Virtual Library of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is an internet gateway allowing users to search the on-line libraries of the CGIAR centers. It provides access to over 4,000 e-journals and thousands of publications on agriculture, hunger, poverty and the environment (<http://vlibrary.cgiar.org>).

**AVIAN INFLUENZA AND WILD BIRDS - WHAT IS THEIR ACTUAL ROLE IN THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS?**

(The International Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, 2006) This eight-page brochure seeks to educate the public about the state of scientific information about the spread of avian flu, particularly with regard to wild birds and wetland habitats. It addresses the following themes: risks of misinformation and adverse policies; known causes of the spread of avian influenza; the role of wild birds; direct action to reduce the risk of further spread and infection, including elements of an early warning system for wild bird avian influenza; reduction of the role of wild birds in the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; current efforts by conservation scientists; areas for further scientific research on the role of migratory waterbirds; and recommendations to Governments ([http://www.ramsar.org/features/features\\_avianflu.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/features/features_avianflu.pdf)).

► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

**UNEP REGIONAL SEAS MEETING EXCHANGES EXPERIENCES**

The 8th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans took place from 13-14 October 2006, in Beijing, China. Participants contributed to fine tuning the agenda of the Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, also taking place in Beijing in October 2006. Participants exchanged experiences on implementing the GPA and addressed cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species (IISD sources; [http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/RS\\_Global\\_Meetings/default3.asp](http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/RS_Global_Meetings/default3.asp)).

**RAMSAR ORGANIZES MEETINGS, RELEASES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) and the Panamanian Marine Authority recently organized a workshop on “Coastal Wetlands and Environmental Impact Assessment in the Ramsar Convention’s framework and its Applications for Hydrocarbon Fuel Spills” (25-27 September 2006, Panama City, Panama). Participants analyzed the Ramsar Convention’s resolutions and guidelines related to wetlands, environmental impact assessments, guidelines for rapid ecological assessment, and actions for control of oil spills in coastal zones and cleaning techniques ([http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho\\_marineworkshop2006\\_e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho_marineworkshop2006_e.pdf)).

The Ramsar Secretariat also organized, with the European Space Agency, the “Global wetland symposium - looking at wetlands from space” (19-20 October 2006, Rome, Italy). The symposium included a presentation of the work of the MedWet project - MedWet

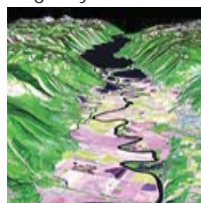


Image courtesy of European Space Agency

information and knowledge network for the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems, and addressed new earth observation technologies that can meet global and local needs in wetlands inventorying, assessment, and monitoring (<http://www.congrex.nl/06A11/>).



Image courtesy of European Space Agency

The Ramsar Secretariat has released the draft agenda for the 35th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, which will take place in Switzerland on 14-16 February 2007, with meetings of Subgroups on Finance, COP-10, the Strategic Plan, and the Management Working Group ([http://www.ramsar.org/sc/35/key\\_sc35\\_doc01\\_e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/sc/35/key_sc35_doc01_e.pdf)).

**IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETS**

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held its 55th session from 9-13 October 2006, in London, UK. The MEPC designated the waters off Southern South Africa as a Special Area under the MARPOL Convention for the prevention of pollution by ships. The Committee made progress on the text of the draft Convention providing globally applicable ship recycling regulations for international shipping and for recycling activities, and agreed to request the IMO Council, at its 98th session in June 2007, to consider calling for an international conference in the 2008-2009 biennium to adopt it. Other issues on its agenda included: ballast water management; air pollution from ships; sulfur monitoring; inadequacy of shoreside reception facilities; the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships as well as by harmful substances carried by sea in packaged form; sewage standards; transport of bio-fuels and bio-fuel blends; technical cooperation; and the oil spill in Lebanon ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1320&doc\\_id=7262](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=7262)).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**PREPARATIONS FOR CSD-15 UNDERWAY**

Two members of the Bureau of the 15th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15), along with representatives from the government of Qatar, the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development (CSD Secretariat), and CSD Secretariat staff, gathered on 1 October 2006 in Doha, Qatar, for an informal consultation on the prepara-



CSD-15 Chair Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attayah (Qatar). Photo courtesy of UN ESA.

tions for CSD-15. Bureau members have been asked to forward comments on the draft agenda to the Secretariat. Participants also discussed efforts related to the high-level segment, thematic issues to be discussed and documentation preparations. The first meeting of the Bureau is expected to take place in mid-November ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/meeting\\_1006.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/meeting_1006.pdf)). The CSD Secretariat has also released the guidelines for major groups’ participation in CSD-15 and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/participation.htm>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***LIVING PLANET REPORT 2006**

(WWF and Global Footprint Network, October 2006) This year's Living Planet Report explores the overall impact of humankind on the planet, and indicates that humanity is using the planet's resources faster than they can be renewed and that populations of vertebrate species have declined by about one third since 1970. The report details the strain on the world's natural resources and the declining numbers of the animal species that depend on them, and offers solutions to reverse downward trends in both these areas ([www.panda.org/livingplanet](http://www.panda.org/livingplanet)).

**TRADE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: ASSESSING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE GATS**

(ICTSD, 2006) This paper by Colin Kirkpatrick aims to assist developing countries in preparing their environmental services commitments within WTO negotiations, and specifically in the context of Paragraph 31 (iii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration. It looks at the current "defensive" approach by many developing countries, and concludes that the realization of the potential benefits for sustainable development from environmental services liberalization requires countries to identify sectors and modes of supply where liberalization is compatible with national development goals, and to take necessary mitigation measures to safeguard the public interest ([http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/ictsd\\_series/env/EGSKirkpatrick.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/ictsd_series/env/EGSKirkpatrick.pdf)).

**AT LOGGERHEADS? AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION, POVERTY REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE TROPICAL FORESTS**

(World Bank, October 2006) This report reviews the obstacles impeding the use of global carbon finance to reduce deforestation and offers solutions. The report proposes different approaches for three forest types – farm and forest mosaic lands, forest frontiers and areas currently beyond agriculture pressures – and collates geographic and economic information for each type to help formulate poverty-reducing forest policy ([http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTROPICALFOREST/Resources/2463822-1161184206155/3060670-1161608416166/PRR-AL\\_SAOoverviewwebnonembargo.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTROPICALFOREST/Resources/2463822-1161184206155/3060670-1161608416166/PRR-AL_SAOoverviewwebnonembargo.pdf)).

## CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



The dais during the eighteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP-18)

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL CONVENES**

The 18th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) began on 30 October and continued until 3 November 2006 in New Delhi, India. Among other issues, the parties considered the recent report of the Scientific Assessment Panel, illegal trade in ODS, and exemptions for methyl bromide and the relevance of existing stockpiles to these exemptions. In advance of the meeting, UNEP put out a press release emphasizing that despite the success of the Montreal Protocol, there is continued need to reduce the remaining uses of, and safely dispose of stocks of, ozone-depleting substances (ODS) (<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/4830-e-18MOP.pdf>). The Ozone Secretariat released a variety of additional documents, including: information on illegal trade in ODS; TEAP's final evaluation of methyl bromide critical use nominations; a report from the Task Force on emissions discrepancies; draft decisions on methyl bromide; a feasibility study on monitoring the transboundary movement of ozone-depleting substances; and a revised proposal on the disclosure of interest guidelines for the Protocol's technical bodies. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Protocol released pre-session documents for the meeting of the Executive Committee, which will convene from 6-10 November 2006 in New Delhi (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.asp>; <http://www.multilateralfund.org/news/1160670187532.htm>).

**UNFCCC MAKES FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR CLIMATE CONFERENCE**

Final Preparations have been made for the 6-17 November 2006 "UN Climate Conference: Nairobi 2006." The meeting will include the 12th COP to the UNFCCC,



Image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

second meeting of Parties serving as the COP to the Kyoto Protocol, talks under a number of subsidiary bodies, and multiple side events and parallel events. In this regard, the UNFCCC

Secretariat released *Greenhouse Gas Data 2006* on 30 October, which shows a 2.9 percent increase in emissions from 2000-2004 among industrialized countries and countries of eastern and central Europe with economies in transition (known collectively as UNFCCC "Annex I" Parties) ([http://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/background\\_publications\\_htmlpdf/application/pdf/ghg\\_table\\_06.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/ghg_table_06.pdf); [http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/20061027\\_ghg\\_press\\_release\\_final\\_english.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20061027_ghg_press_release_final_english.pdf)).

The Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee took a decision at its 26-27 October 2006 meeting in Bonn, Germany, to launch the Kyoto Protocol's "joint implementation" mechanism's verification procedure, which means that projects can be approved to receive credits for emissions reductions. The joint implementation mechanism is designed to allow industrialized countries to carry out projects in other industrialized or emerging economies, particularly in central and eastern Europe. The Supervisory Committee also discussed its work plan and its report to the November meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol ([http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup\\_Committee/Meetings](http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup_Committee/Meetings); [http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/20061026\\_kyoto\\_protocol\\_set\\_to\\_help\\_green\\_economies-english.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20061026_kyoto_protocol_set_to_help_green_economies-english.pdf)).

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

That founding ethos persisted, and the relationship with those NGOs (nowadays named BirdLife International, IUCN – the World Conservation Union, Wetlands International and the World Wide Fund for Nature) became formalized as the “International Organization Partners” (IOPs).

These organizations assist with official, semi-official or delegated functions under the Convention, as well as playing more typical NGO roles. Each is a permanent observer on the Standing Committee, and a full member of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP). The IOPs are cited in the Strategic Plan as responsible for delivering specified actions.

No decision was taken formally to define the Partner concept and how it should operate until 1999, when COP Resolution VII.3 confirmed the status of the four Partners and set out how other organizations could apply. The International Water Management Institute became the fifth IOP in 2005. Each IOP signs a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Convention, citing areas of shared interest and activity. Many areas of Ramsar’s agenda in wetland policy, legislation, advocacy, cooperation, planning, finance, site management, casework, research, capacity-building and outreach are covered.

Cooperation mechanisms are varied, including contracted services, secondments, delegated responsibility for leading working groups, project funding and delivery, championing the Convention in external fora, day-to-day advice and assistance to the Secretariat and the Parties. The IOPs can also act as a voice for wider communities to evaluate the Convention’s impact, challenge it to perform at its best, and bring forward visionary ideas for future strategies.

Overall, the system offers an interesting model of cooperation through a mixed formula of government, non-government and intergovernmental contributions, on both an individual and a consortium basis. An explicit harmony of missions, a high volume of real action and a rich foundation of trust and understanding have probably been key to its effectiveness. The IOP system continues to adapt to change; the addition of IWMI, for example, brought needed expertise on water issues.

Some might question the desirability of so much non-Party resourcing going into implementation of a treaty: for others, this is too narrow a view.

*Continued on page 5*

## ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**UNEP CONVENES CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS**

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has convened regional consultations with civil society, in the lead up to UNEP’s Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) in February 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. Representatives from business and industry, farmers, workers and trade unions, youth, women, indigenous peoples groups as well as local authorities and the scientific community have gathered to identify regional priorities and perspectives on: gender and the environment; water; chemicals management; poverty and the environment; and globalization, ecosystem services and human well-being. Each regional consultation will develop a regional statement, which will be further discussed during the GCSF and UNEP’s Governing Council, to be held from 5-9 February 2007 following the GCSF at the same venue (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=392&ArticleID=5394&l=en>). The European Regional Consultations took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23-25 October 2006 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=392&ArticleID=5396&l=en>). The draft regional statement developed during this meeting recommended, among other things, using the ongoing UN reform process on international environmental governance to “promote the demands for a strong environmental agency, at a minimum on agency level, possibly as a UN Environment Organization or World Environment Organization,” and “to shed new light on the need to develop enforcement of compliance and dispute settlement and liability mechanisms under the MEAs as well as to reintroduce voting mechanisms on environmental decisions so as not to allow non-complying countries to direct progress” (<http://www.unep.ch/roe/images/csimages/day3/DraftStatement2006.pdf>). The European statements on the Bali Strategic Plan and on international environmental governance will be posted soon at [http://www.unep.ch/roe/cso\\_meeting\\_day3.htm](http://www.unep.ch/roe/cso_meeting_day3.htm).

Approximately 40 representatives of the African Civil Society gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26-27 October 2006, and the consultation outcome will be posted on [http://www.unep.org/roa/Projects\\_Programmes/Civil\\_Society/Reg\\_Consult2006/indexupdate.asp](http://www.unep.org/roa/Projects_Programmes/Civil_Society/Reg_Consult2006/indexupdate.asp).

Additional regional consultations convened in: West Asia (31 October-1 November, Manama, Bahrain); Latin America and the Caribbean (1-2 November, Bogotá, Colombia); Asia and the Pacific (2-3 November, Seoul, Korea); and North America (2-3 November, Washington DC, US).

**UNGA ADDRESSES ENVIRONMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION, FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION PLANNED**

On 23 October, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a series of resolutions on

closer cooperation with regional organizations in an effort to attain global development goals and better monitor the environment (<http://www.un.org/ga/61/news/news.asp?NewsID=20339>).

On 25 October 2006, the UNGA Second Committee discussed implementation of: Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, protection of global climate, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and Convention on Biological Diversity. The UNGA also discussed the report of UNEP’s Governing Council on its ninth special session. Discussions focused on climate change, energy security and small island developing States. On governance, Pakistan supported the strengthening of UNEP as the lead UN environmental protection agency, while the US reiterated its opposition to a new environment institution, fearing a divisive and time-consuming debate (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/gaef3159.doc.htm>). The Group of 77 and China highlighted the importance of developing specific approaches to technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation to address the prioritized needs of countries in energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air/atmospheric pollution and climate change. Developing countries also called for financial support and intergovernmental cooperation to implement the Bali Strategic Plan on Capacity Building, including in its pilot phase in developing countries of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (<http://www.g77.org/Speeches/102506.html>).

The Group of 77 and China has presented a draft resolution for approval by the UNGA on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002. The resolution was drafted following discussions by the Second Committee from 9-10 October 2006. The proposed resolution schedules a follow up meeting for the 2002 Conference, to be held in Qatar in 2008, and requests UNGA to hold, starting in January 2007, open consultations with all Member States on all issues related to the review conference including progress made, lessons learned and obstacles and constraints encountered. It also proposes to hold the 2007 High-level Dialogue back-to-back with the spring meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Document A/C.2/61/L.5, <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>).



*Continued on page 5*

## GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

In the future, greater visibility for what is done in the Partners' name, and further imaginative use of collective actions, may extend the impact of this unique arrangement. It remains to be seen whether other MEAs will develop anything equivalent, despite their different origins!

Read the Full Article at:  
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle15.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 Editor, [lynn@iisd.org](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information.*

## ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**UN-WIDE COHERENCE REPORT  
CLOSE TO RELEASE**

The High-Level Panel on System Wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment is expected to release its report, also called the "Oslo Consensus," on 9 November 2006. The Panel's expected recommendations include one concerning the current UN "gender architecture," with a proposal to form a higher-level, better-resourced entity focused on women that would co-exist with the other agencies' current gender-related work. The report is also expected to make recommendations on civil society interaction with the UN (<http://www.reformtheun.org/index.php/eupdate/2575>). On environment, the report is expected to support:

upgrading UNEP with a renewed mandate and improved funding; improving cooperation among UN agencies, programmes and funds with responsibilities in the area of the environment on a thematic basis; and strengthening the GEF. On sustainable development, recommendations are expected to address the relationship between UNEP and the UN Development Programme, and the role of the UN Economic and Social Council in the area of sustainable development (IISD sources). Following its launch, the report will be formally presented to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, then transmitted together with Annan's own recommendations to the General Assembly for discussion in 2007.

## ▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

**ROTTERDAM COP-3 ADOPTS 16  
DECISIONS**

The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-3) to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade met from 9-13 October 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 520 participants, representing more than 140 governments, UN agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attended the meeting. Delegates did not reach agreement on the mechanisms and procedures for non-compliance and deferred the decision on including chrysotile asbestos in Annex III (Chemicals subject to the PIC procedure) of the Convention to COP-4, but the meeting did make progress on policy and operational issues including sustainable financing and capacity building, and cooperation and coordination between the chemicals and waste conventions. Among the 16 decisions adopted by COP-3 were the programme of work and the budget for 2007-2008 and implementation of the Convention. COP-4 is scheduled to take place in Rome in October 2008 (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pic/cop3/>).

The Secretariat has also announced that the Third Meeting of the Chemical Review Committee will convene in Rome from 19-23 March 2007 ([http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id\\_Cat=143&mTitre=WHAT%60S+NEW](http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id_Cat=143&mTitre=WHAT%60S+NEW)) and has posted the new interactive submission forms to facilitate the implementation of Article 5 and Article 10 of the Convention ([http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id\\_Cat=104&mTitre=FORMS+%26+GUIDANCE](http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id_Cat=104&mTitre=FORMS+%26+GUIDANCE)).

**STOCKHOLM SECRETARIAT  
RELEASES UPCOMING MEETING  
DOCUMENTS**

In preparation for the Second Meeting of the Expert Group on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (19-24 November, Geneva, Switzerland),

the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has recently published the list of designated members of the Expert Group on BAT and BEP and invited non-members ([http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat\\_bep/EG-BATBEP2/Designated%20Members%20and%20Non-members%20of%20the%20Expert%20Group\\_OCT2006\\_rev1.pdf](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat_bep/EG-BATBEP2/Designated%20Members%20and%20Non-members%20of%20the%20Expert%20Group_OCT2006_rev1.pdf)). Also for this meeting, the Secretariat has published the revised edited draft guidelines on best available techniques and guidance on best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Convention ([http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat\\_bep/EG-BATBEP2/meetingdocs/EGBATBEP2\\_3.pdf](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat_bep/EG-BATBEP2/meetingdocs/EGBATBEP2_3.pdf)). All of the documents for the upcoming Second meeting of the POPs Review Committee have also been published ([http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc\\_2/meeting\\_docs.htm](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc_2/meeting_docs.htm)).

**SAICM SECRETARIAT ORGANIZES  
QSP MEETING, PREPARES FOR  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING**

The Second meeting of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund Implementation Committee took place in Paris, France, on 18 October 2006. The Committee reviewed and discussed the applications to the first round of the QSP Trust Fund, approved three projects, and conditionally approved another five. The eight approved or conditionally approved projects relate to seven government applications and one civil society application and involve activities in 20 countries, including eight least developed countries. In addition, the Committee further developed guidance and requirements for the next round of applications to the Trust Fund ([http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp/qsp\\_tf2/TF2%20report%20final%2026%20Oct%2006.doc](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp/qsp_tf2/TF2%20report%20final%2026%20Oct%2006.doc)).

The SAICM Secretariat is also preparing for the second SAICM regional meeting, which is the EU-JUSSCANNZ meeting on SAICM (20-22 November 2006, Barcelona, Spain), and has published the provisional agenda (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/>

[EU\\_Jusscannz/nov\\_06/meeting\\_docs/EUJ%201%20prov%20agenda%204%20Oct%2006.pdf](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/docs/EUJ%201%20prov%20agenda%204%20Oct%2006.pdf)).

The Secretariat has also posted a draft proposal submitted by Canada for a project on reporting on SAICM implementation to develop guidance for the secretariat in consultation with stakeholders. It is intended that the guidance would address the preparation of a baseline report, indicators for subsequent progress reports and arrangements for gathering information from stakeholders, which would be considered by the ICCM at its second session. Comments will be solicited at regional meetings taking place before 15 December 2006 and the Secretariat will also compile submitted comments (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/Reporting/reporting.htm>).

**BASEL CONVENTION  
SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR COP**

In preparation for the eighth meeting of the COP to the Basel Convention, the Secretariat has posted documents that address: the supplementary report prepared by the President of the Stockholm Convention pursuant to decision SC-2/15 of the second Stockholm Convention COP; the recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies, prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention; the study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, prepared by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention; bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements in force; illegal traffic: report on workshops; transmission of information, including implementation of decision II/12; separate identification in the World Customs Organization; and the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of certain wastes in Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php?meetingId=1&sessionId=33&languageId=1>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

**UNFF HOSTS ONLINE DISCUSSIONS FOR MAJOR GROUPS**

The UN Forum on Forests Secretariat has developed discussion boards for four major groups (scientific and technological community, women, youth and workers and trade unions) to facilitate the consultative process within these groups in the preparation of discussion papers for UNFF-7. Each discussion board is moderated by focal points for the respective major group (<http://esaconf.un.org/WB/?boardID=unff>).

**ITTO CO-ORGANIZES CONFERENCE ON MANAGING FORESTS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION**

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), together with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the Nether-

lands Development Organization and others, organized the International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction, which met from 3-6 October 2006 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The meeting highlighted realistic options for forest management and income generation by local and poor people, drawing on case studies from Latin America, Northern America, Africa and Asia. It also provided insights into policies and legislation that can benefit both forests and the poor. Conference delegates issued a statement calling for forestry policy makers, forest-related development organizations, donors, the private sector and local communities to work together in ensuring that forests are also managed for the benefits of the poor, by improving access and rights of the poor to forest resources and by simplifying forest laws and regulations (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelD=223&id=2070>).

**UNCCD REPORTS ON IYDD**

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Executive Secretary Hama Arba Diallo presented the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of UN environmental conventions to the UNGA's Second Committee on 30 October 2006. The report on the UNCCD focused in part on events related to the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD), which has provided an opportunity to raise global awareness of desertification. Diallo highlighted that sustainable development would not occur unless full attention was paid to the UNCCD. He also called attention to the 1-2 November 2006 round-table discussion the UNCCD Secretariat organized at UN headquarters for "Assessing the UNCCD process and identifying challenges ahead" (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/gaef3161.doc.htm>; <http://www.unccd.int/convention/NYroundtable/menu.php>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

**CBD SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES TWO NEWSLETTERS**

The CBD Secretariat has launched two newsletters, on biosafety and on business and biodiversity. The first issue of the *Biosafety Protocol News* includes messages from CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif and GEF Chief Executive Officer Monique Barbut, articles on COP/MOP-3 outcomes and follow-up actions, capacity building for effective implementation, and unique identification of living



Front Page of Biosafety Protocol News



Front Page of Business.2010

modified organisms, and information on the work of the GEF and its implementing agencies (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/newsletters/bpn/bpn-issue01.pdf>). *Business.2010* is an informal platform primarily dedicated to helping the "business and biodiversity" community better prepare for CBD meetings. The first issue looks back at CBD COP-8 and includes articles as well as a list of COP-8 events, papers and statements, publications and upcoming meetings (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/newsletters/news-biz-2006-10-low-en.pdf>).

**CMS SIGNS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH WORLD ZOOS**

In the margins of the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (28-29 September 2006, Bonn, Germany), the Convention signed a partnership agreement with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) aimed at strengthening cooperation with the only body that coordinates zoos and aquariums at the global level. The agreement recognizes that the two organizations pursue common goals in conserving ecosystems and migratory species, and calls for information exchange and coordination of activities in research, training and public awareness (<http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/October/waza.htm>).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- A number of changes have been reported for the now former **Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL) of UNEP**. Effective 1 October 2006, Kilaparti Ramakrishna moved to the Executive Director's office in the position of Policy Advisor. The units and branches of DPDL have been merged into other UNEP divisions. The Urban Environment, Health and Environment, and Environmental Education and Training Units moved to the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI). The Poverty and Environment Unit and Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch moved to the Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC), with the exception of the gender functions in the latter. A new senior position in the Executive Director's office is anticipated to coordinate the Gender Action Plan, with Ramakrishna coordinating implementation in the interim. In addition, the Poverty and Environment Unit will be strengthened to become the UNEP/UNDP centre for Poverty and Environment. The Environmental Law Branch of DPDL moved to the Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC), with this Division's name changing to the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC).



Kilaparti Ramakrishna

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **SECOND MEETING OF THE PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE:** 6-10 November 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. [http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc\\_2/default.htm](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc_2/default.htm)
- **FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL (ITTC):** 6-11 November 2006. Yokohama, Japan. <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelD=179&id=1637>
- **TWELFTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC AND SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL:** 6-17 November 2006. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.unfccc.int>
- **UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE (UNEP FI) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** 8-9 November 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.unepfi.org/>
- **SECOND MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES (BAT/BEP):** 19-24 November 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. [http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat\\_bep/EGBATBEP2/default.htm](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/bat_bep/EGBATBEP2/default.htm)