



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTC-41 PLEDGES US\$5.4 MILLION, APPROVES 13 PROJECTS



The dais at the 41st session of the ITTC, from left to right: Manoel Sobral Filho (Executive Director, ITTO), Council Chair Koichi Ito (Japan), Council Chair-elect Ambassador Luis Macchiavello (Peru) and Vice-Chair-elect Katharina Kuehmayer (Austria)

The forty-first session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-41) took place from 6-11 November 2006, in Yokohama, Japan. Delegates discussed issues concerning operational, project and policy work for 2006-2007, including: the International Tropical Timber Organization's (ITTO) Biennial Work Programme for 2006-2007; measures to improve and strengthen the ITTO project cycle; and ITTO Objective 2000. Delegates to ITTC-41 approved 13 new projects and seven pre-projects, pledging US\$5.4 million in project financing. Additional funding from the European Commission was allocated to support capacity building in ITTO member States for the implementation of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) listings of timber species. The Council also adopted a decision on the terms of reference for selecting a new Executive Director, which sets out the terms of the selection panel and allocates up to US\$100,000 from the Working Capital Account for the search process, and a decision to extend ITTA, 1994 until the provisional or definitive entry into force of ITTA, 2006. Delegates also convened in sessions of the Committees on Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Forest Industry, and Reforestation and Forest Management to approve projects and pre-projects, review projects and pre-projects under implementation and ex-post evaluations, and review policy work. The twentieth session of the Committee on Finance and Administration also met to discuss the administrative budget for 2007, the current status of the Administrative Account, and a request by Liberia for the complete waiver of all arrears to the ITTO (www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/ittc41).

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY – THE GAP BETWEEN LAW AND PRACTICE

(Access Initiative, 2006) This report by a global coalition of public interest groups analyzes comparative levels of environmental democracy – understood as access to environmental information, public participation, and justice in environmental decision-making – among Central and East-European countries (http://www.emla.hu/img_upload/Oaa155da39c21509c55c587879f86484/TAI_1.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE

The UNECE Water Convention Shows the Way on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Management

By Francesca Bernardini, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Anantha Duraiappah, UNEP Rainer Enderlein, independent consultant, and Sibylle Vermont, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Abstract

The UNECE Rules on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management are one of the most important products of the last three years

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

of work under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The Rules will be considered for adoption by the Parties to the Convention at their fourth meeting in Bonn on 20–22 November 2006.

While not legally binding, the UNECE Rules indicate the measures to apply to integrate into development policies the value of services provided by water-related ecosystems, and to provide compensation for such services. The Rules are the first example of international guidance for the establishment of payment for ecosystem services (PES), not only at the local and national levels but also at the transboundary level. They help decision makers find efficient, effective and equitable solutions to water management problems while taking into account environmental, economic and social concerns.

PES have the potential to improve the quality of decision making and facilitate the integration of relevant policies at all levels. Experience shows, however, that PES can contribute to more sustainable management of water resources and related ecosystems only if specific conditions are met. Therefore, the UNECE Rules recapitulate all underlying conditions for the successful establishment of PES schemes. They provide step-by-step guidance for the design and implementation of PES, and stress that the process of establishing a PES scheme should involve a wide range of stakeholders to balance all interests.

The Rules are designed to improve the overall framework for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and their services by present and future generations. They are an important contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and more generally the recommendations of Agenda 21. They also contribute to achieving the goals of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, and promote synergies and interlinkages among them.

The Rules themselves are the product of a remarkable participatory process. They were prepared by experts from Switzerland (lead country), Finland, Germany,

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▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Participants during the First International Conference of Parliamentarians on the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems

ITTO CO-FUNDS FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT MEETING, LAUNCHES MULTILINGUAL WEBSITE

At its 40th session, the ITTC decided to contribute US\$200,000 towards convening the First International Conference of Parliamentarians on the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems. This meeting took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 24–27 October 2006, and focused on good forest governance and poverty alleviation, with the objective of further defining the role of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and subregional parliaments regarding sustainable forest management. Participants adopted the Yaoundé Message, which encourages the Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPAR) and the Parliament of Cameroon to organize subregional meetings on good governance of forest resources, as well as an action plan that highlights three priority actions: institutional development of REPAR; enhancement of REPAR's involvement in forest sector monitoring; and combating transboundary forest crime (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/psmcafe1>).

ITTO Executive Director Manoel Sobral Filho has also announced the launch of a new multilingual website for the organization. In addition to providing information and publications in four languages, the site has added a database of all decisions made by the Council since its first meeting in 1986, and country profiles of its 33 producer members (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=217&id=2688>). The newest issue of ITTO's newsletter, Tropical Forest Update, is also now available. This issue's highlights include: government procurement policies; reducing illegality in timber transportation; and rising prices of tropical timber (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=243&id=2710>).

UNFF SECRETARIAT RELEASES TEXTS FOR UPCOMING WORKING GROUP AND COUNTRY-LED INITIATIVE

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, in consultation with the UNFF-7 Bureau, has prepared a non-official document as a suggested draft text to facilitate the work of the

December 2006 *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on the content of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. The document draws from proposals submitted by member States and regional groups (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/nlbi/composite_text_NLBI.pdf). The Secretariat also released a concept paper in preparation for the Country-Led Initiative in support of the UNFF. This meeting on the "Multi-year Programme of Work of the UNFF: Charting the Way Forward to 2015" will take place from 13–16 February 2007, in Bali, Indonesia, and will contribute to the work of the April 2007 UNFF-7 session by elaborating, and developing a broader understanding on elements of, UNFF's new Multi-Year Programme of Work (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/cli/cli_bali-mypow130207.pdf).

UNCCD CO-ORGANIZES SYMPOSIUM ON DESERTIFICATION AND MIGRATION

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the government of Spain organized the "Second Symposium on Desertification and Migration," which recommended a number of steps to address the interrelationship between these issues, including pursuing a new research agenda and initiatives. The 25–27 October 2006 Symposium convened in Almería, Spain. Participants recommended that studies be undertaken on the socio-environmental conditions in areas where emigration and immigration take place along with the broader causes and consequences of migration, to gain a better understanding of possible adjustment measures. Proposed initiatives included proposals to: promote the International Expert Panel to Fight against Desertification; invest in efforts to fight desertification; and invest in renewable energies to eradicate the causes of anthropogenic climate change, particularly by the EU. Participants suggested that Spain create a research body to develop policies on the interrelationship between desertification and migration, and proposed that an initiative between Spain, México and Germany to cooperate on research on climatic change, desertification, migration and renewable energy be undertaken in the framework of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (http://www.sidym2006.org/esp/esp_presentacion.asp).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands, as well as representatives of the UNECE Timber Committee secretariat, UNEP, FAO, the Ramsar Convention secretariat, IUCN, the Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), WWF, and the UNECE Water Convention secretariat.

The Rules are available at <http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2006/wat/ece.mp.wat.2006.5.e.pdf>. The full article is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle16.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, for further information.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD-15 HOLDS FIRST BUREAU MEETING

The Bureau for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) held its first meeting on 3 November 2006 at the UN Office in Geneva. CSD-15 Chair Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah (Qatar) was represented by his senior advisors, but the four Vice-Chairs were present: Frances Lisson (Australia); Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado (Brazil); Alain Edouard Traore (Burkina Faso); and Jirí Hlaváček (Czech Republic). In a message to the meeting, Chair Al-Attiah stressed the importance of the High-level Segment and emphasized that negotiations should be completed before it takes place. JoAnne DiSano, Director of the CSD Secretariat, presented options for the organization of work for CSD-15 and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, and Bureau members discussed their regional consultations regarding preferences for the organization of work. The Secretariat was requested to merge the proposed options based on the discussion. Regarding the preparation of documents for CSD-15, DiSano

drew participants' attention to negotiations in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Second Committee on a resolution regarding sustainable development. Among other things, she said this resolution would provide guidance on the number of Secretary-General's reports to CSD-15, although the resolution is scheduled for adoption in December while conference service has scheduled the submission of documentation for CSD-15 on 4 December 2006. The Secretariat also discussed the scheduling conflict between CSD-15 and the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies and informed the Bureau of communications between the CSD and UNFCCC Secretariats to resolve this matter. The Bureau expressed its hope that the UNFCCC's COP-12 would take a decision on these dates so that member States would be able to attend both events. Finally, the Secretariat was requested to consult Bureau members regarding their attendance at a proposed meeting in Doha at the end of November 2006 (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/bureau_mtg031106.pdf).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



L-R: Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa; Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; and Minister Henri Djombo of the Republic of Congo. Photo courtesy of CBD Secretariat.

CBD AND G-77 ORGANIZE BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, in partnership with the G-77/China and with the support of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and several regional organizations, convened a brainstorming session on South-South cooperation in Montreal, Canada, from 6-8 November 2006. This groundbreaking event, the first to link the G-77 with an MEA on environmental issues, offered an opportunity for developing countries to exchange their experiences and ensure that biodiversity will continue to contribute to their individual and collective long-term development. Participating experts, including Minister Henri Djombo of the Republic of Congo and Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa, chair of the G-77, suggested a preparatory process for the development of a multi-year plan of action that would enhance developing coun-

tries' capacity to implement the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol, the 2010 biodiversity target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss, as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The plan of action is expected to be finalized during an open-ended expert meeting in 2007, and to



L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; and H.E. Ambassador Abdesslem Hetira on behalf of the President of Tunisia, H.E. Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

be submitted for consideration at ninth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-9) in Bonn, Germany, in May 2008 (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/press/2006/pr-2006-11-13-ssc-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the President of Tunisia, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, donated a mosaic reflecting the biological wealth of ancient Tunisia to the Museum of Nature and Culture of the Convention. The mosaic depicts El Jem in the third century AD, and the original can be found at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/press/2006/pr-2006-11-10-tunisia-en.pdf>).

CMS LAUNCHES WEBSITE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA, WELCOMES ACCESSION OF ANGOLA

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), together with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), has launched a new website on Avian Influenza. The website was officially presented at the 11th International Living Lakes Conference (29 October – 3 November 2006, Nanchang City, China) (www.aiweb.info; http://www.cms.int/avianflu/AIWeb_launch.pdf).

CMS has also announced that, as of 1 December 2006, Angola will be the 99th party to the Convention. Angola is a range State for lowland gorillas, and for an ongoing initiative to develop a CMS instrument for the conservation of small cetaceans and sirenians in West and Central Africa. Angola's waters are populated by various threatened marine species listed on Appendix I, including the Blue Whale, the Humpback Whale and five species of marine turtles (<http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/november/angola99thparty.htm>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***STATE OF THE CARBON MARKET REPORT UPDATE**

(World Bank/IETA, October, 2006) This report highlights that, from January–September 2006, the carbon market grew to nearly US\$22 billion, more than doubling the US\$11 billion recorded in 2005. The report highlights increases in energy efficiency projects (nearly 14% of total Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) volumes) and renewable energy (12% of the CDM market), with wind energy leading this sector. Above all, the report shows that clean energy is benefiting from the carbon market and that a change in availability of finance to tap mitigation potential in developing countries is taking place as a result (http://carbonfinance.org/docs/StateandTrendsMarketUpdateJan1_Sept30_2006.pdf).

LINKING TRADE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

(ICTSD, 2006) This collection of issue briefs addresses present challenges in linking trade, climate and energy negotiations, and looks at opportunities for the climate and trade systems to be mutually supportive. Essays analyze how climate-friendly measures – including incentives such as climate standards, strategically targeted subsidies and liberalization in environmental goods and services – within the various trade regimes could make a major contribution toward a sustainable energy transition, and climate change mitigation and adaptation (http://www.trade-environment.org/output/ictsd/resource/Energy_issuebriefs.pdf).

FISHERIES, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(ICTSD, October 2006) This policy discussion paper aims to inform negotiations for multilateral, regional and domestic trade rules and policies in the fisheries sector so that they support sustainable development. It addresses key issues and trade policy tools, such as tariffs, subsidies, standards and eco-labeling, that bear on the sustainability and development of the fisheries sector, assessing their impact on social development, employment and food security (http://www.trade-environment.org/page/ictsd/projects/fish_pp.htm).

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► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

MONTREAL PROTOCOL PARTIES TAKE DECISIONS ON KEY EXEMPTIONS

Over 550 representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations and industries participated in the eighteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP-18) in New Delhi, India, from 30 October–3 November 2006. MOP-18 adopted 37 decisions, including on: essential-use nominations for use of chlorofluorocarbons, and other issues arising out of the 2006 reports of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP); future work following the Secretariat's workshop on the Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the TEAP; nominations for continued use of methyl bromide under the "critical-use" exemption; difficulties faced by developing countries in manufacturing metered-dose inhalers; treatment of stockpiled ozone-depleting substances (ODS) relative to compliance; a feasibility study on developing a system for monitoring the transboundary movement of ODS; and key challenges to be faced by parties in protecting the ozone layer over the next decade. Parties deferred consideration of multi-year methyl bromide critical-use exemptions and options that parties may consider in relation to methyl bromide stocks (<http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop18/>).

**CLIMATE CONFERENCE CONSIDERS BUSY AGENDA**

The "UN Climate Change Conference–Nairobi 2006" has drawn as estimated 6000 delegates to its 6–17 November 2006 meetings. The event has involved a number of parallel official meetings, including the second Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 2) and the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) concluded on 14 November, completing agreements on a range of issues, and forwarding others for further consideration in 2007. At the same time, a third, recently established subsidiary body – the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG) – held its second session. The AWG, which is part of a "multi-track" approach to considering long-term action on climate change once the Protocol's first commitment period expires in 2012, agreed on a work programme. A high-level segment opened on 15 November with a speech by UN Secretary-General Annan calling for major progress on developing country issues. The high-level segment coincided with a Climate Convention "Dialogue," which is another part of the multi-track approach being taken to negotiating long-term action under the Convention and the Protocol (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop12/>).

► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

RAMSAR SMALL GRANT PROJECTS APPROVED, SECOND INFOWETLAND RELEASED

The Ramsar Standing Committee has approved six projects for the 2006 funding cycle of the Small Grants Fund. The projects will take place in Benin and Togo, the Kyrgyz Republic, Vietnam, the Republic of Moldova, Antigua and Barbuda, and Kiribati. Three additional projects were provisionally approved, in Burkina Faso, Nepal and Ecuador, pending the availability of additional funds (http://www.ramsar.org/sgf/key_sgf2006_sc_approvals.pdf).

The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) has released the second issue of its Infowetland newsletter. This issue focuses on the High-Andean Wetlands and contains sections on: international synergy for the Pantanal; spotting Roseate Spoonbills; the Pantanos de Villa Peruvian wildlife reserve; social development in the Abras de Mantequilla wetland in Ecuador; upcoming events and workshops; and World Wetlands Day 2007 (http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho_info2_e.pdf).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also announced that Cameroon has designated the Barombi Mbo Crater Lake as its second Wetland of

International Importance. The site hosts 12 endemic fish species, giving it the distinction of having one of the highest densities of endemic species per area in the world. In addition, the lake hosts endemic species of flora, has a social and cultural value for the Barombi tribe, and is a source of clean water. A management plan will address threats including: over-fishing; the introduction of invasive species; pesticide spraying; and deforestation on the crater rim (http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm).

UNDOALOS ORGANISES AN MPA REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) and the International Ocean Institute's *OceanLearn*, in collaboration with the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), are organising a regional training course on the "Development, Implementation, and Management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)," which will take place in Nadi, Fiji Islands, from 15–20 January 2007. UNDOALOS has invited governments of small island developing States of the Pacific region that are also SOPAC members to nominate participants for the course (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/tsc_new/MPA-train.htm).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***REAPING WHAT WE SOW:
ACTING NOW TO REDUCE THE
NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES OF
AGRICULTURE**

(Comprehensive Assessment on Water Management in Agriculture, 2006) This is the first in a series of issue briefs that are anticipated to summarize the key messages from chapters in the Comprehensive Assessment on Water Management in Agriculture, a five-year project to analyze the past 50 years of water development and management in agriculture (http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Assessment/files_new/publications/Discussion%20Paper/CA_Issue_Brief_1.pdf).

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

**GEF POSTS DOCUMENTS FOR
COUNCIL'S 30TH MEETING**

The documents for the Thirtieth GEF Council meeting, to be held in Washington DC, from 5-8 December 2006, have been posted online and include: a progress report on the results-based management framework and the implementation of the resource allocation framework (RAF); focal area strategies and a business plan for the next four year period; and a strategy for financing Biosafety (http://thegef.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_30/CouncilMeetingDecember2006.html).

**MONTREAL PROTOCOL
MULTILATERAL FUND APPROVES
US\$48 MILLION FOR PROJECTS**

The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol held its fiftieth Meeting from 6-10

November, in New Delhi, India. Among other issues, the Committee evaluated: the status of contributions and disbursements, balances and availability of resources, the 2006 business plan, cases on non-compliance, and the status of the multilateral funds accounts. The Executive Committee approved a total of US\$48 million of funding for projects and activities in 77 developing countries, which is expected to eliminate 3,371 tonnes of ozone depleting substances (ODS) consumption. The Executive Committee also considered challenges that the Montreal Protocol still faces, including the phase out of HCFCs, which have been rapidly expanding in developing countries in recent years, and the need for the environmentally sound destruction of ODS, which would be unrecoverable and unusable (IISD Sources and http://www.multilateralfund.org/show/page/50th_meeting_.htm).

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES



POPRC-2 Secretariat and Chair Arndt thank delegates for a productive meeting

**POPS REVIEW COMMITTEE
ADOPTS 12 DECISIONS**

The second meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-2) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) convened from 6-10 November 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland. The nearly 100 participants at POPRC-2 considered several operational issues, including the treatment of isomers and precursors, confidentiality arrangements, and submission of information specified in Annex F of the Convention (socioeconomic information). Delegates approved a roster of experts to assist the Committee in its work, as well as a standard work plan for the intersessional preparation of a draft risk profile and a draft risk management evaluation. They adopted 12 decisions related to: risk profiles on pentafluorooctane sulphonate, pentabromodiphenyl ether, chlordecone, hexabromobiphenyl and lindane; the newly proposed chemicals alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, pentachlorobenzene, octabromodiphenyl ether and short-chained chlorinated paraffins; confidentiality arrangements; and the treatment of isomers, or groups of isomers, of chemicals

proposed for listing in Annexes A, B or C of the Convention (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc2/10nov.html>).

The Secretariat has also recently posted the agenda and other documents for the Second Meeting of the DDT Expert Group, which will convene in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21-23 November 2006 (http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/egddt/meetingdocs/meeting_docs.htm).

**BASEL SECRETARIAT SIGNS MOU
FOR MOBILE PHONE PILOT
PROJECT, POSTS NEWS BULLETIN
AND DOCUMENTS FOR COP-8**

The Basel Convention Secretariat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South East Asia (SEA) and Dow Eco-System Co. of Japan, to launch a pilot project on the transboundary movement of end-of-life mobile phones in South East Asian countries. The project will seek to establish a scheme for the collection and environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones from Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore (<http://www.basel.int/press/presrel101106.doc>). The Secretariat recently

published the November issue of the Basel Convention Bulletin, which includes news on upcoming events of the Basel Convention, status of ratifications, and information about meetings related to the activities of the Secretariat (<http://www.basel.int/press/bulletin021106.pdf>). The Secretariat has also posted documents in preparation for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8), including "Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes" (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/i35e.pdf>); "Report of the Working Group on Ship Recycling established by the fifty-fifth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization" (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/i34e.pdf>); "Potential links and relationships between the Basel Convention and the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa" (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/i32e.pdf>); and "Cooperation and synergies: Decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting" (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/i11e.pdf>). The Secretariat has also posted the report of the regional workshop aimed at promoting ratification of the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (30 October to 1 November 2006, Cairo, Egypt) (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/i16e.pdf>) as well as a new brochure on the fourteen Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer (BCRCs) (<http://www.basel.int/pub/BCRC-brochure.pdf>).

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN COHERENCE PANEL RECOMMENDS ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE REFORM

On 9 November 2006, the High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment released its report, "Delivering as One," which included recommendations for a unified and coherent UN structure at the country level as well as on UN governance, funding and management. In addition, recommendations were made for advancing gender equality and reforming business practices. The Panel suggested consolidating all UN programme activities at the country level by 2012 (starting with five pilot countries in 2007), through one UN programme, a single budgetary framework, one office where appropriate, and an empowered Resident Coordinator. The Panel also proposed the establishment of a UN Sustainable Development Board to oversee the One UN Country programmes and ensure coherence at the headquarters level, along with the establishment of a Millennium Development Goal funding mechanism to provide multiyear, performance- and result-oriented funding for the country programmes. On the environment, the Panel recommended: "upgrading" UNEP with a renewed mandate and improved funding to have "real authority as the environmental policy pillar of the UN system;" more effective cooperation among UN entities on a thematic basis and through partnerships; and increasing the resources of the Global Environment Facility. The Panel also proposed a clearer mandate and better utilization of the Environmental Management Group; a role for UNDP to support environmental mainstreaming in crisis prevention, post-conflict and post-disaster interventions and early recovery; the establishment of one comprehensive annual national report format for MEAs; the promotion of management ef-



Secretary-General Annan and High-Level Panel presenting Delivering as One. Photo courtesy of UN News Centre.

iciencies among MEAs; and the reduction of the frequency and duration of MEA-related meetings. The Panel further recommended integrating UNEP's environmental expertise in UN country teams, establishing a sustainable development segment in the UN Economic and Social Council, and shifting the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) from assessing single environmental issues to focusing on implementation and integrated decision-making on environment and development. Finally, the Panel suggested an independent assessment of international environmental governance within the UN system for considering further reforms, in parallel with the continued UNGA informal consultative process on international environmental governance (<http://www.un.org/events/panel/resources/pdfs/HLP-SWC-FinalReport.pdf>). UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan will present the Panel's report to UNGA with a preface on suggested ways for member States to consider and implement the Panel's recommendations, and then transmit it to his successor, Ban Ki-moon. Annan has also envisioned an informal dialogue on the report involving national delegations, senior UN officials, country-level practitioners and other experts, allowing for other stakeholders' perspectives to be heard (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2006/sgsm10724.doc.htm>). During an informal meeting of the Panel with NGOs, questions were raised as to the follow-up to the Report and the continued involvement of civil society. WWF praised the Panel's recommendations on environmental integration at the country and headquarter level, and the proposed UN Sustainable Development Board (<http://www.un.org/web-cast/2006.html>).

UNEP WORKS WITH JUDICIARY, RELEASES REPORTS

UNEP has released a series of publications relevant for national judges: "UNEP Global Judges Programme," a report of UNEP's work in engaging national judiciaries in the pursuit of the rule of law in the area of environment

and sustainable development (<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E06281>); "Judicial Handbook on Environmental Law," a reference to increase judges' awareness of environmental issues (<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E06079>); and "Compendium of Summaries of Judicial Decisions in Environment-related Cases," a source of judicial precedents on environmental issues by national and international courts and tribunals (<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E06076>). UNEP has also recently published "Selected Texts of Legal Instruments in International Environmental Law" (<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E06078>); and, in collaboration with Standard and Poor's, the report "Tomorrow's Value" – a biannual benchmarking survey of corporate sustainability reporting (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=485&ArticleID=5419&I=en>). In addition, UNEP circulated the findings of its post-conflict assessment in Lebanon, which covered: asbestos; contaminated land; coastal and marine issues; solid and hazardous waste management; surface and ground water; and weapons and munitions (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=485&ArticleID=5416&I=en>).

UNGA COMMITTEE CONSIDERS ENVIRONMENT-RELATED RESOLUTIONS

On 7 November 2006, the General Assembly Second Committee (Economic and Financial) considered several draft resolutions, including those related to the: oil slicks on Lebanese shores; implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development; protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind; implementation of the UNCCD; International Year of Biodiversity (2010); and Convention on Biological Diversity (<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/7nov06.html>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **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
- **FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER-COURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES:** 20-22 November 2006. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop4/info.htm>
- **SECOND MEETING OF THE DDT EXPERT GROUP:** 21-23 November 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/egddt/meetingdocs/meeting_docs.htm
- **LATIN AMERICAN TROPICAL FOREST INVESTMENT FORUM: ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT IN NATURAL TROPICAL FORESTS:** 23-24 November 2006. Curitiba, Brazil. <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=223&id=1643>
- **EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-8) TO THE BASEL CONVENTION:** 27 November – 1 December 2006. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://cop8.basel.int/>
- **FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 4-5 December 2006. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm_eng_v1.htm
- **GEF COUNCIL MEETING:** 5-8 December 2006. Washington DC, US. http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/council_documents.html