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# MEA BULLETIN

A newsletter on the activities of key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their secretariats  
Issue No. 17 | Thursday, 30 November 2006 | Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

#### UNFCCC NAIROBI CONFERENCE ENDS ON HIGH NOTE



View of COP/MOP 2 Plenary

The "UN Climate Change Conference – Nairobi 2006" ended with many delegates expressing satisfaction at progress on a number of issues. The two-week event, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 6-17 November 2006, involved a series of UN meetings, including the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the second Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 2). These events were attended by almost 6000 participants.

At COP/MOP 2, parties took up issues related to the Protocol's flexible mechanisms, particularly the Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation. Delegates adopted decisions on capacity building and made progress on adaptation issues and a number of financial, administrative and other matters. A major outcome from Nairobi was agreement on an historic first amendment to the Protocol, allowing Belarus to take on emissions reduction commitments under Annex B to the Protocol.

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POPs Technical Working Group Report Released; Basel Secretariat Posts Workshop Report; SAICM Secretariat Publishes Newsletter *Page 6*

### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

#### NATIONAL AQUACULTURE LEGISLATION OVERVIEW FACT SHEETS

(FAO, 2006) This website offers access to fact sheets prepared by the FAO Development Law Service, in collaboration with the FAO Fisheries Department, that are organized as individual country reports on aquaculture legislation for the top 40 producing nations ([http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=aquaculture/nalo\\_search.xml](http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=aquaculture/nalo_search.xml)).

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### GUEST ARTICLE

#### The Multilevel Governance of Global Climate Change

*By Michele M. Betsill, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University*

#### Abstract

The politics of climate change challenges the conventional notion that national governments are the principal authority in governing global issues.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE: THE ROLE OF THE FINANCE SECTOR**

(UNEP FI, 2006) To prepare for the economic impacts of climate change, this report by UNEP Finance Initiative's Climate Change Working Group calls on policymakers and financial institutions to mainstream climate change into all levels of decision-making, and to integrate adaptation policies with sustainable economic development and disaster management. The report underlines the need for public-private partnerships to bring new creative financial instruments to help developing countries adapt to climate change ([http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEO\\_briefing\\_adaptation\\_vulnerability\\_2006.pdf](http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEO_briefing_adaptation_vulnerability_2006.pdf)).

**MIGRATORY SPECIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS OF A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT ON WILD ANIMALS**

(UNEP/CMS, November 2006) This report indicates that climate change is and will increasingly have dramatic impacts on migratory species from whales and dolphins to birds and turtles. Changes in the length, timing and location of migration routes are being documented, as well as habitat changes, reduced breeding success and feminization of populations ([http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/CMS\\_CimateChange.pdf](http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/CMS_CimateChange.pdf)).

**BETTER FORESTRY, LESS POVERTY: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE**

(FAO, 2006) This FAO Forestry Paper suggests ways to design and implement forest-based interventions that will have the greatest potential to reduce poverty. The areas for action that it discusses include timber production in both natural and planted forests, non-wood forest products, woodfuel, bushmeat, agroforestry and payment for environmental services (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0645e/a0645e00.pdf>).

**TUNZA**

(UNEP, 2006) The latest issue of UNEP's magazine for youth is devoted to the issue of forests (<http://www.ourplanet.com/tunza/issue0403en/pages/contents.html>).

## CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



View of the High-level Segment

*Continued from page 1*

COP 12 reviewed the implementation of commitments and provisions of the Convention relating to matters such as the financial mechanism, technology transfer, and the adverse effects of climate change on developing and least developed countries (LDCs) and of response measures and the special needs of LDCs (Article 4.8 and 4.9).

The major focus of both COP/MOP 2 and COP 12 was on long-term action on climate change and on developing a framework for action once the Kyoto Protocol's "first commitment period" finishes in 2012. A "multi-track" approach to these issues, agreed at COP 11 and COP/MOP 1, continued in Nairobi. Under the COP a second workshop under the recently convened "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention" was held from 15-16 November 2006. The workshop focused on "advancing development goals in a sustainable way" and "realizing the full potential of market-based opportunities." The Dialogue also considered the newly published Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change.

The COP/MOP considered long-term issues under agenda items on a "review of the treaty," which was mandated for COP/MOP 2 under Article 9 of the Protocol. In addition, discussions were held on a proposal by the Russian Federation on procedures to approve voluntary commitments under the Protocol. Finally, a recently-established subsidiary body under the Protocol – the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG) – held its second session, from 6-14 November 2006. Progress was made on establishing the AWG's principles and work programme, and agreement was reached on holding further discussions on both voluntary commitments and the AWG in May 2007.

The COP and COP/MOP were assisted in their work by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), which convened for their 25th sessions from 6-14 November 2006. These meetings

resulted in the adoption of eight COP decisions and 11 COP/MOP decisions and in the approval of a number of conclusions by the subsidiary bodies.

In parallel with the negotiations, a joint COP and COP/MOP high-level segment was held from 15-17 November 2006, attended by over 100 ministers and other high-level government officials. In addition to these meetings, an estimated 130 "side events" were held on a range of climate change topics (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop12/>).

**IPCC PREPARES FOR 2007 MEETINGS**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is gearing up for a busy 2007, during which it is expected to adopt the Fourth Assessment Report. The IPCC Secretariat recently issued invitations and posted the provisional agenda for the Tenth Session of IPCC Working Group I, which is meeting in Paris from 29 January to 1 February 2007. (<http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/10session.htm>). The full meeting schedule for 2007 has also been updated (<http://www.ipcc.ch/calendar2007.htm>).

**OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

The Ozone Secretariat has released the report of the 18th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP-18), held in early November in New Delhi, India. The report details the proceedings of both the preparatory segment and high-level segment of MOP-18, and contains the text of the 37 decisions taken. The Secretariat has also released: the most recent version of the Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention handbooks; the report of the 37th Meeting of the Implementation Committee, held 25-27 and 30 October 2006, which considered Parties' compliance with their obligations under the protocol and plans to return countries to compliance; and the report of the Bureau of the 17th Meeting of the Parties held 28 October 2006 (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.asp>).



## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

**GUIDANCE FOR PROMOTING SYNERGY AMONG ACTIVITIES ADDRESSING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(CBD, May 2006) This CBD Technical Series report highlights the major biological factors that contribute to ecosystem resilience under the projected impacts of global climate change, assesses the potential consequences for biodiversity of particular adaptation activities under the CBD thematic areas, provides methodological considerations when implementing these activities, and highlights research and knowledge gaps. The report recognizes the potential of, and stresses the need for, synergy in the implementation of activities that interlink biodiversity conservation, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, and land degradation and desertification in the context of the objectives of the three Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf>).

**THE NEW GENERATION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS: A RESOURCE BOOK FOR PRACTITIONERS AND LOCAL DECISION-MAKERS**

(FAO, 2006) This FAO Forestry Paper presents the state of the art in watershed management and proposes new ideas and approaches for future watershed management programmes and projects. It was written primarily for field-level watershed management practitioners and local decision-makers involved in watershed management at the district or municipality level (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0644e/a0644e00.pdf>).

**RAINWATER AND THE MDGs**

(UNEP, 2006) This report, compiled by UNEP and the World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF, emphasizes that all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) depend on the availability of water to meet their targets. The report highlights the potential of rainwater harvesting in Africa to act as a buffer against climate-linked extreme weather events, in addition to improving agriculture and drinking water supplies (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=485&ArticleID=5420&l=en>).

## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

**CITES GREAT APE ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE MEETS**

The CITES Great Ape Enforcement Task Force met from 31 October-2 November 2006, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda participated as range States and Kenya attended to represent transit countries. The International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)-Interpol, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force and the World Customs Organization also participated. A half-day session was allocated for representatives of non-governmental organizations to interact with Task Force members. After exchanging information regarding illicit trade in great apes in each of the countries represented, the Task Force then focused on ways to combat such trade and support range States. It was noted that insufficient information is available regarding the nature of the trade and a country profile form was designed to gather more data. The Task Force also developed the suggested design for a poster to be distributed to customs, police and wildlife offices, especially at ports and other places where

illicit trade occurs, to help raise awareness. Lastly, the Task Force identified the need for training and capacity building for law enforcement personnel. The CITES Secretariat is currently investigating ways in which that might be provided (IISD sources).

**CBD SIGNS MOU WITH GREEN BELT MOVEMENT**

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghflaf and Professor Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate and founder of the Green Belt Movement, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 16 November 2006 to plant trees in Africa "to ensure that the operations of the Secretariat will be carbon neutral and that appropriate measures are taken to offset their environmental impacts" over the next two years. Under the terms of the Memorandum, indigenous trees will be planted in order to maintain or restore habitats and support local livelihoods. The MOU is to be funded through voluntary contributions from bilateral and multilateral donors (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/press/2006/pr-2006-11-16-greenbelt-mou-en.pdf>).

## ► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

**RAMSAR ANNOUNCES NEWLY DESIGNATED WETLANDS, RELEASES ICRI MEETING REPORT**

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced that the Slovak Republic, Cameroon, Comoros, and Republic of Korea have designated new Wetlands of International Importance. The Slovak site is the Caves of the Demanova Valley, a cave system that consists of nine interconnected caves and further associated smaller caves. Hydrological and hydrogeological characteristics of the territory influence the underground wetlands supporting suitable conditions for the existence of rare and endangered water invertebrates as well as terrestrial organisms that are dependent on these water areas ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.slovak\\_demanova.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.slovak_demanova.htm)). The Cameroon site is the Barombi Mbo Crater Lake, which, with three other crater lakes in the Southwest Province of Cameroon, forms the "Afrotropical Cameroon Crater Lakes Ecoregion." This crater is famous for the occurrence of 12 endemic fish species, rendering it one of the places with the highest densities of endemic species per area in the world. The two sites

in Comoros are volcanic mountain wetlands on the largest and second-largest islands: Le Karthala and Le Mont Ntringui. Both sites host endangered and endemic species ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.comores\\_two\\_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.comores_two_e.htm)). The site in the Republic of Korea is a mountain lake called Mulyeongari-oreum on the island of Jeju. The site provides habitat for two endangered species, the giant water bug (*Lethocerus deyrollei*) and Narrow-mouth frog (*Kaloula borealis*) ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.repkorea\\_mulyeon.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.repkorea_mulyeon.htm)).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also announced the release of the Ramsar report to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) meeting, which took place in Cozumel, Mexico, from 22-23 October 2006. The report provides an update on Ramsar's work with coral reefs, as well as with mangroves and seagrass beds, and includes tables and charts showing the distribution of coral reefs and Ramsar sites with coral reefs throughout the world ([http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg\\_icri2006\\_report.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_icri2006_report.pdf)).

**LONDON PROTOCOL PARTIES ADOPT RULES FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION, AIR POLLUTION STANDARDS FOR NORTH SEA ENTER INTO FORCE**

The first Meeting of the Parties to the London Protocol to the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter took place in London, UK, from 30 October to 3 November 2006. During the meeting, delegates adopted amendments to the Protocol allowing, as of February 2007, the sequestration of carbon dioxide in sub-seabed geological forma-



Le Karthala, Comoros. Image courtesy of Ramsar.

*Continued on page 4*

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

**VALUING WETLANDS: GUIDANCE FOR VALUING THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM WETLAND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

(Ramsar and CBD, 2006) This report, published jointly as Ramsar Technical Report No. 3 and CBD Technical Series No. 27, provides guidance and updates on methodologies for wetland economic valuation. Rudolf de Groot and Miska Stiup of Wageningen University and the Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) in the Netherlands led the preparation of the report, which updates Ramsar's 1997 *Economic valuation of wetlands: A guide for policy makers and planners* by Barbier, Acreman, and Knowler ([http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib\\_rtr03.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_rtr03.pdf)).

## ▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

Continued from page 3

tions, to contribute to climate change mitigation and to tackle the challenge of ocean acidification. Delegates also agreed that guidance on carrying out carbon sub-seabed geological sequestration should be developed as soon as possible, and will be considered for adoption at the second meeting of contracting parties in November 2007 ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1320&doc\\_id=7301](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=7301); <http://www.londonconvention.org/>).

New air pollution standards entered into force in the North Sea on 22 November 2006 and will come into effect in one year. The amendments to Annex VI Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78) regulate the sulphur content of oil used onboard ships, which must not exceed 1.50% m/m. Such a SOx Emission Control Area (SECA) already exists for the Baltic Sea

([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1320&doc\\_id=7346](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=7346)).

**UNDOALOS RELEASES ADDENDUM, UNGA LEGAL COMMITTEE CONCLUDES NEGOTIATIONS**

The Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the advance, unedited text of the Addendum to the Report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the law of the sea (to be issued as document A/61/63/Add.1) ([http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general\\_assembly/documents/a61\\_63\\_add\\_1\\_advance.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/documents/a61_63_add_1_advance.pdf)).

The UN General Assembly's (UNGA) legal committee is reported to have concluded its negotiations on 24 November 2006 on the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea. A moratorium on high seas bottom trawling was among the items under discussion, but the draft resolution expected to be approved by UNGA on 7 December reportedly does not include strong language regulating this practice (IISD sources).

## ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**UNGA AND SECOND COMMITTEE APPROVE RESOLUTIONS**

The UN General Assembly adopted a broad resolution on strengthening the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 20 November 2006. In addition to recognizing the need for a more efficient ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy reviews, dialogues and recommendations on economic and social development issues, the resolution also recalls ECOSOC's role in overseeing system-wide coordination of economic, social and environmental aspects of UN policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development. The text reaffirms that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level body responsible for sustainable development within the UN system. The resolution also decides that the biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum will be held in alternate years in the framework of the high-level segment to evaluate trends and progress in international development cooperation and to give policy guidance. General Assembly President Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa said the resolution was an important milestone in realizing the 2005 World Summit outcomes, and emphasized that its adoption confirms the importance of development as a principal pillar of the UN (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/ga10536.doc.htm>). On 17 November, UNGA's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) approved a draft resolution that urges the full implementation of commitments contained in the Mauritius Strategy on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The text calls for UN agencies to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy in their work programmes and to establish a SIDS focal point within their

respective secretariats (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/gaef3169.doc.htm>).

**UNEP POSTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON MEAs AND THE ARCTIC, LAUNCHES TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN**

The outcomes of the Arendal Seminar on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their relevance to the Arctic, held in Norway in late September 2006, were circulated on 17 November 2006. Meeting participants developed recommendations to be submitted to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Arctic Parliamentarians, the Arctic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and governing bodies and secretariats to the MEAs. The recommendations include calls to: cooperate on an audit to assess the effectiveness and relevance of MEAs in the Arctic; evaluate the need for a unified legal regime, such as an Arctic Framework Convention; improve communication among the secretariats

of related MEAs; promote better understanding within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change of the Arctic's importance as a global indicator of climate change; and explore ways of enhancing the participation of Arctic Indigenous Peoples in the MEAs' development, implementation and monitoring ([http://polar.grida.no/\\_documents/mea\\_recommendations.pdf](http://polar.grida.no/_documents/mea_recommendations.pdf)).

A UNEP-coordinated campaign, "The Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign," which aims to plant one billion trees in 2007 to help mitigate the build-up of carbon dioxide, was launched on 8 November 2006. The campaign highlights the importance of voluntary collective action to fight climate change and is backed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Green Belt Movement activist Professor Wangari Maathai, Prince Albert II of Monaco and the World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=485&ArticleID=5417&l=en>).



During the campaign's introduction at UNFCCC COP/MOP 2, Professor Wangari Maathai and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner looked at a *Vitex keniensis* seedling, native to East Africa.



## GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Over the past decade, authority for climate governance has been reallocated upwards, downwards and outwards from national governments. Supra-national organizations and sub-national governments have engaged in climate change policy making and increasingly do so through transnational networks. In the private sphere, companies large and small are taking up the challenge of climate change and developing innovative strategies for controlling emissions. This is not to say that national governments have lost all authority for governing on the issue of climate change. Rather, it demonstrates how authority is being reconfigured in recognition that some governance activities can be performed more efficiently at other scales of social organization and outside the realm of formal government.

Alongside this reconfiguration of climate governance, we see the emergence of new tools for governance. One of the striking features of the emerging multilevel governance system on climate change is the adoption of emissions trading as a policy instrument for mitigating GHG emissions, a particularly interesting development given that emissions trading was one of the most contentious and divisive issues in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol negotiations. Today, there are more than 40 emissions trading systems in operation or under development. The carbon market is one of the world's fastest growing markets, with trade volume increasing from 94 million tons in 2004 to 800 million tons in 2005 and more than 1,000 tons in the first three quarters of 2006. Interest in emissions trading follows the general pattern of multilevel governance, engaging actors operating at a variety of scales, from the local to the global, in both the public and private spheres.

Recognizing the multilevel governance system for climate change has implications for ongoing talks under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. First, in a system of multilevel governance, MEAs play an important role in providing a common vision under which other forms of governance might be united. Second, negotiators should seek to develop rules for the post-2012 period that build upon existing initiatives at the multiple tiers and spheres of governance.

*Continued on page 6*

## ▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### UNCCD GLOBAL MECHANISM LAUNCHES US\$1.4 BILLION INITIATIVE, SECRETARIAT ORGANIZES FILM FESTIVAL

A US\$1.4 billion programme to restore, maintain and enhance the productivity of degraded land, has been launched in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The initiative is part of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) created within the aegis of the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The GM spearheaded the establishment of the Strategic Partnership for UNCCD Implementation in Central Asian Countries (SPA) - a multi-donor consortium designed to enhance collaboration between the Central Asian Countries and their external partners. The project launch comes after several years of work between these countries and partners, which include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the Asian Development Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, the CCD Project of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the World Bank. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is also contributing funding for this project to promote sustainable land management practices to reverse land degradation in Central Asia (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/us14-billion-partnership-launched-to-combat-land-degradation-in-central-asia/>).



Photo courtesy of SPA and the GEF.

The GM's Facilitation Committee (FC) held its 16th session in New York on 31 October 2006. Warren Evans, Director of the World Bank's Environment Department, chaired the session. During the meeting, participants decided that the FC chairmanship, which rotates between IFAD, the World Bank and UNDP, should be extended from one to two year terms, so the World Bank will continue to chair sessions in 2007. The FC also decided that it would present a joint submission of each member's activities relating to the implementation of the UNCCD to the next UNCCD COP in October 2007. The FC will hold its next meeting during the UNCCD's Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) meeting in March 2007 (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/facilitation-committee-meeting-held-in-new-york>).

The UNCCD Secretariat is organizing, with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and under the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Territory and Sea and the City of Rome, an International Film Festival, "Desert Nights: Tales from the Desert," in Rome, Italy, from 1-7 December 2006. The screenings of features, classics and documentaries from across the world, and in particular from those countries most affected by desertification, will take place at La Casa del Cinema in Rome, and will be open to the public and the media (<http://www.desertnightsfestival.org/desertset.htm>).

### ITTO SUPPORTS TROPICAL FOREST INVESTMENT FORUM

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) convened the Latin American Tropical Forest Investment Forum from 23-24 November 2006, in Curitiba, Brazil. The meeting was timed to coincide with the Third International Congress on Solid Wood Products from Plantation Forests, which convened from 20-24 November 2006 at the same location. The Investment Forum brought together senior executives of private and public sector financial institutions, leading forestry and conservation agencies, and representatives of the Latin American tropical forestry sector to focus on: regional investment trends, constraints and opportunities for increased investments in natural tropical forests, methodologies, case studies and legislation that influence investments for revenue generation, including markets for forest services and non-timber forest products. The Solid Wood Products Congress assessed the current situation and perspectives for the solid wood industry based on plantation timber, identifying and discussing problems and opportunities (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=223&id=1643>).

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

Finally, the existence of this multilevel system of climate governance suggests there are multiple venues in which to develop strategies for a global response to climate governance and that there may be more room for developing a common approach than is often acknowledged.

Read the Full Article at:  
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle17.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.*

## ► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**CSD CALLS FOR CASE STUDIES, PREPARES FOR MEETINGS**

The Secretariat of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has invited all stakeholders to make available case studies of lessons learned and best practices in addressing barriers and constraints in the thematic areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. The Secretariat will consider the case studies for inclusion in the CSD Matrix, which identifies barriers and constraints, lessons learned, and key implementation actors and links to relevant case studies for these thematic areas, based on information submitted by Governments, including through national

reports, and by UN agencies and Major Groups ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/matrix\\_cover.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/matrix_cover.htm)).

The Secretariat has also recently posted several items related to upcoming meetings, including: the agenda and list of participants for the 6-8 December 2006 Capacity Building Workshop on Partnerships for Improving the Performance of Water Utilities in the Africa Region ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/workshop\\_africa/workshop\\_africa.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/workshop_africa/workshop_africa.htm)); and a side event request form for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, which will take place from 26 February to 2 March 2007 (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/sideevents.htm>).

## ► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

**POPs TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT RELEASED**

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat recently posted the report of the first meeting of the provisional *ad hoc* Technical Working Group (TWG) on POPs monitoring. This workshop was the result of decision SC-2/13 adopted by the Conference of the Parties on effectiveness evaluation, in which it agreed to implement the elements for the Global Monitoring Plan and to establish a provisional *ad hoc* TWG. The first meeting of the TWG convened in Brno, Czech Republic, from 9-12 October 2006. The TWG discussed and adopted its workplan and the criteria for evaluation of the monitoring programmes, and proposed to amend some elements of the guidance document for the global monitoring plan related to quality procedures in order to obtain comparable data for the first assessment (<http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/gmptwg/meeting-docs/Brno%20TWG1%20Report%20Final%20Edited.pdf>). The TWG will hold its second meeting from 29 January to 2 February 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/gmptwg/twg2/announcement.htm>).

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**BASEL SECRETARIAT POSTS WORKSHOP REPORT**

In addition to preparing for the 27 November-1 December 2006 Conference of the Parties in Nairobi, Kenya, the Basel Secretariat has posted a number of items. The first is the report from a Regional Workshop aimed at Strengthening the Capacity of Customs and Enforcement Officers at the National Level to Prevent, Identify, Monitor and Manage Illegal Traffic of Hazardous Wastes and other Wastes, which convened from 3-5 October 2006, in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Participants at the workshop heard presentations, took part in capacity-building exercises and described cases they had been involved with, including the procedures that were fol-

lowed, the sanctions that were imposed and the lessons learned, related to waste traffic (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/i15e.pdf>). The Basel Secretariat also posted draft revised versions of the forms for the notification document and the movement document and related instructions (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/harmonization/germany-forms-211106.doc>).

**SAICM SECRETARIAT PUBLISHES NEWSLETTER**

The SAICM Secretariat has recently published the third issue of its newsletter, which includes articles on the September SAICM African regional meeting, the first projects approved for SAICM implementation under the Quick Start Program Trust Fund, a note on SAICM National Focal Points, and news regarding reporting on SAICM implementation (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/newsletter/SAICM%20newsletter%203%20Nov%2006.pdf>).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **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](http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm_eng_v1.htm)
- **SAICM REGIONAL MEETING: CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE:** 4-6 December 2006. Riga, Latvia. <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/regionalmeetings.htm>
- **GEF COUNCIL MEETING:** 5-8 December 2006. Washington DC, US. [http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council\\_Documents/council\\_documents.html](http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/council_documents.html)
- **CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF WATER UTILITIES IN THE AFRICA REGION:** 6-8 December 2006. Nairobi, Kenya. [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/workshop\\_africa/workshop\\_africa.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/water/workshop_africa/workshop_africa.htm)
- **UNFF OPEN-ENDED AD HOC EXPERT GROUP:** 11-15 December 2006. New York, NY, US. <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-nlbi.html>
- **ASCOBANS MOP-5 – SECOND SESSION:** 12 December 2006. The Hague, the Netherlands. <http://www.ascobans.org/index0401.html>
- **DESERTIFICATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY IMPERATIVE:** 17-19 December 2006. Algiers, Algeria. <http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/IYDD.htm>