



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL ADDRESSES GLOBALIZATION AND UN REFORM, ESTABLISHES WORKING GROUP ON MERCURY



L-R: UNEP Deputy Executive Director Shafqat Kakakhel; UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner; and GC President Roberto Dobles

The 24th session of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-24/GMEF) convened from 5-9 February 2007, in Nairobi, Kenya. Over 1000 participants from 141 countries attended the session, which focused on emerging policy issues of globalization and the environment, and UN reform. GC-24/GMEF adopted 15 decisions on issues pertaining

to, *inter alia*: the global environmental situation; international environmental governance; chemicals; South-South cooperation; waste management; UNEP's updated water policy and strategy; and support to Africa in environmental management and protection. One significant outcome was the establishment of an *ad hoc* open-ended working group to assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new international legal instruments on mercury. At ministerial consultations on globalization and environment, it was suggested that UNEP contribute to the global trade dialogue through collaboration with the World Trade Organization. The consultations on UN reform stressed the need to reform the institutional framework for UN environmental activities and the unique opportunity presented by the ongoing UN reform process, with many supporting the transformation of UNEP into a UN Environment Organization (UNEO) and others noting that the question of the appropriate institutional framework remains open (<http://www.iisd.ca/unepgc/24unepgc/>).

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### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

#### ENERGY [R]EVOLUTION: A SUSTAINABLE WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK

(Greenpeace and European Renewable Energy Council, January 2007) This report analyzes future scenarios of energy use and suggests that half of the world's energy needs in 2050 could be met by renewable energy sources and improved efficiency. It also provides a roadmap for meeting future energy needs without fuelling climate change (<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/international/press/reports/energyrevolutionreport.pdf>).

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### RESOURCE FOCUS

#### New UNEP publications to further negotiation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements

At the occasion of the 24th Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, UNEP launched three new publications that complement UNEP's series on environmental law: *Compliance Mechanisms under Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements*; *Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*; and *Guide for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

**UNEP 2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

(UNEP, 2007) This annual report outlines the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) work and activities during 2006, describing it as "a year of change, a year of reform" ([http://www.unep.org/pdf/annualreport/UNEP\\_AR\\_2006\\_English.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/annualreport/UNEP_AR_2006_English.pdf)).

**GEO YEAR BOOK 2007**

(UNEP, 2007) This year book provides global and regional overviews of significant environmental developments, and contains a special feature section that analyzes the intersection between environment and globalization, outlining options to put globalization on a more environmentally sustainable path (<http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/yb2007/>).

**DEBATE ON UN SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE PANEL REPORT: "DELIVERING AS ONE"**

(Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, January 2007) This conference report, authored by Volker Lehmann, reports on a roundtable discussion between representatives of civil society, government and UN staff on the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence. This December 2006 event was hosted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, in cooperation with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service. Participants emphasized that political trust in the UN, and in particular its development and aid mechanisms, needs to be rebuilt if there is to be a realistic chance of the implementation of the Coherence Panel's recommendations (<http://www.fes-globalization.org/publications/FES%20CR%20NY%20Coherence%20Panel%20-%20Engl1.pdf>).

**ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS FROM COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

(UNDP and GEF, November 2006) This publication reviews 65 sustainable transport community projects funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme, and provides lessons and experiences that demonstrate the role community initiatives play in testing new approaches, raising awareness of new ideas, piloting innovative strategies, and informing and stimulating policy dialogue in a cost-effective way (<http://www.energyandenvironment.undp.org/undp/indexAction.cfm?module=Library&action=GetFile&DocumentAttachmentID=2037>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**SIDE EVENTS AND CONFERENCES CONTRIBUTE TO UNEP GC-24/GMEF**

A number of forums and side events fed into the discussions at the UNEP GC-24/GMEF, and new partnerships and activities were announced that will further UN activities related to sustainable development. These included UNEP's Eighth Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF-8), which gathered more than 160 participants from 65 countries in Nairobi from 3-4 February 2007, to discuss policy issues related to: water and the environment; gender and the environment; chemicals management; and globalization, ecosystem services and human well-being. For the first time in GCSF history, participants engaged in an open dialogue with the UNEP Executive Director. Participants also prepared input into the GC-24/GMEF ministerial roundtables, to which civil society representatives were granted access for the first time (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=499&ArticleID=5509&l=en>; <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol133num1e.pdf>).

During the GC-24/GMEF discussion on UN reform, France reported on the outcomes of the Global Ecological Governance Conference, which met in Paris from 2-3 February 2007. French President Jacques Chirac called for the transformation of UNEP into a UNEO, along the lines of the World Health Organization. The conference concluded with a "Paris Call to Action" advocating the creation of a UNEO and calling for the adoption of a Universal Declaration of Environmental Rights and Duties (<http://www.citoyensdelaterre.fr/conference/?PARIS-CALL-FOR-ACTION>).

On 6 February 2007, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP fortified their

partnership by launching a joint Poverty and Environment Facility at GC-24/GMEF. The facility is one of the first examples of UN reform and will help developing countries integrate sound environment management into their poverty reduction and growth policies (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/february-2007/undp-and-unesp-cement-their-partnership-with-new-poverty-and-environment-facility.en>).

Also launched at GC-24/GMEF, on 7 February 2007, was a UN-backed initiative called the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED), which will seek to bring together civil society and the private sector to solve local and global environmental concerns. AFED's targets include: developing a common market for environmentally-friendly technologies and products; and producing an annual environment progress report (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=499&ArticleID=5515&l=en>).

**UNDG ANNOUNCES UN REFORM PILOT COUNTRIES**

UN Development Group (UNDG) announced on 1 February 2007 that Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Viet Nam will become pilot countries in the UN reform programme "One UN," which will assess how the UN system can deliver in a coordinated approach at the country level. The eight pilot countries host a wide range of UN activities and reflect a broad range of size and level of income. The High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence recommended in November 2006 that this "One UN" approach begin immediately on a pilot basis (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/february-2007/un-pilot-reform-20070201.en?jsessionid=ayR3ynRDlQl6>).

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**CSD PREPARES FOR IPM**

In preparation for the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM), which will take place in New York, US, from 26 February to 2 March 2007, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Secretariat has released guidelines for the Partnership Fair and request forms. Partnership Fair activities will take place during the IPM and the CSD session in April-May 2007 ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/PF/guidelines\\_rev.doc](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/PF/guidelines_rev.doc)).

The CSD Secretariat recently released the first issue of its newsletter series of "Innovation Briefs." These publications will seek to provide insights into recent policy-relevant research on emerging challenges to sustainable development, with particular attention to their relevance to developing countries. The February 2007 issue addresses "CSR and Developing Countries: What Scope for Action?" It identifies options for middle and low-income countries to mitigate the negative impacts of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and to

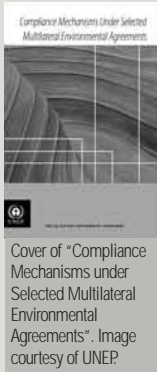


Image courtesy of the CSD Secretariat

harness its potential positive benefits for public policy (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/innovationbriefs/innovationbriefno1.pdf>).

RESOURCE FOCUS (cont.)

*Compliance Mechanisms under Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements* provides a comparative analysis of compliance mechanisms under MEAs. It is directed to stakeholders who deal with the legal aspects of the Agreements. It describes compliance mechanisms for nineteen MEAs, selected on the basis of their being global in scope, widely ratified and representative of treaty arrangements across the following environmental management sectors: nature conservation; hazardous materials; atmosphere; and the marine environment.



The other two new publications, the *Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements* and the *Guide for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*, offer practical guidance for government and civil society actors involved with negotiating and implementing MEAs. The 106-page *Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements* defines terms and acronyms in an effort to provide a support tool not only for those that are frequently engaged in negotiations under various multilateral environmental agreements, but also for those involved in the daily implementation of



such agreements and related decisions. The *Guide for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements* was prepared by the Foundation for International Environmental Law Development (FIELD) in collaboration with UNEP. It addresses issues such as how to prepare for negotiations, the role of country coalitions in negotiations, how the negotiation process works, and how to negotiate draft text.



A further publication, *Negotiating and Implementing MEAs: A training manual for NGOs*, is expected to be released in March.

Continued on page 4

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



The dais at the CLI in support of the multi-year programme of work of the UNFF. L-R: Pekka Patosaari, head of the UNFF Secretariat; Hans Hoogeveen, the Netherlands, Chair of UNFF-7; Mochamed Slamet Hidayat, Director General, Multilateral Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia; M.S. Kaban, Minister of Forestry, Indonesia; Matthias Schwoerer, Head of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany; and Boen Purnama, Secretary General of the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia

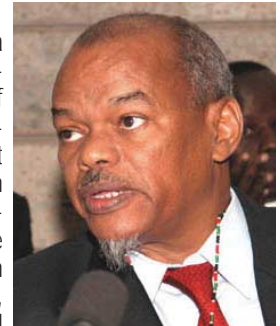
**COUNTRY-LED INITIATIVE ADDRESSES UNFF MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK, UNFF-7 BUREAU MEETS**

The government of Indonesia is hosting a country-led initiative (CLI) in support of the multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) of the UN Forum of Forests (UNFF) this week in Bali, Indonesia. The 13-16 February 2007 meeting will seek to develop a broader understanding of the MYPOW's elements, with a view to facilitating its consideration and adoption at UNFF-7 in April 2007. The meeting will discuss, *inter alia*: how the global objectives on forests will be addressed in the MYPOW; working modalities; reporting requirements and monitoring; and the interface between regional processes and the UNFF sessions. Participants will include experts from UNFF member States, relevant inter-governmental organizations and representatives of major groups (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/mypow/>).

In addition, the UNFF-7 Bureau will hold its sixth meeting during the CLI. At its fifth meeting, held on 31 January 2007, the Bureau considered preparations for UNFF-7, focusing on the draft reports of the MYPOW and the non-legally binding instrument on forests. The Bureau also decided to hold an informal briefing for member States at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 5 March

2007, to discuss the preparations and expected outcomes of UNFF-7. The UNFF Secretariat has released its latest newsletter, reporting on these and other events, including the latest activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-dec06-jan07.html>).

**UNCCD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ADDRESSES AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT**



Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD

Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), addressed the eighth African Union Summit, which convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22-30 January 2007. Diallo addressed combating desertification for mitigation of and adaptation to the negative effects of climate change in Africa and noted that the impact of desertification on climate change has not yet been fully demonstrated and that more authoritative scientific evidence is needed. He underscored that climate and desertification interact at numerous levels through a complex series of feedback loops and noted that, if properly managed, carbon sequestration in dry agroecosystems and soils may counter degradation and may increase the productivity, resilience and sustainability of these agroecosystems, which would in turn increase food security and reduce poverty. He concluded by noting there is an urgent need to assess the impact of desertification on climate change patterns and that efforts should be made to involve African experts and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in such an assessment ([http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/docs/keynote\\_addis\\_ababa.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/docs/keynote_addis_ababa.pdf); <http://www.iisd.ca/africa/aauss/>).

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

**BASEL CONVENTION LAUNCHES REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Basel Convention officially launched the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Central American Sub-region on 9 February 2007. The Centre is located in El Salvador, and the Framework Agreement for the Centre was signed between the Basel Convention Secretariat and the government of El Salvador, in Nairobi, Kenya. The core functions of the Regional Centre are to develop training programmes in the field of the environmen-



tally sound management of hazardous and other wastes and to work on the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes. The Centre is housed by the Central-American Commission for Environment and Development and serves Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama (<http://www.basel.int/press/pr090207.doc>). In other Basel news, the Secretariat has posted the final report of Basel COP-8 (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/16e.pdf>) as well as a list of comments requested by Parties and others by 31 March 2007 (<http://www.basel.int/convention/rfc/rfc-cop8.html>).

RESOURCE FOCUS (*cont.*)

It will add to this collection of resources a tool to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations involved in developing and implementing MEAs. These tools complement UNEP's efforts to strengthen the capacity of governments and stakeholders to better implement and enforce MEAs in order to comply with environmental law. To order, contact UNEP's official online bookshop (<http://www.earthprint.com/>).

*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.*

## ▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

**ROTTERDAM SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR THIRD CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has released documents, including the annotated agenda, for the third session of the Chemical Review Committee, which will meet in Rome, Italy, from 20-23 March 2007 (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=134&sid=18&tid=42>).

**OUTLINE OF SAICM QSP BUSINESS PLAN RELEASED FOR COMMENT**

The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has produced



Logo courtesy of SAICM

an annotated draft outline of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) Business Plan. The business plan aims to ensure the sustainability of the QSP including through the replenishment of the QSP trust fund on a steady and equitable basis by as broad a donor group as possible. The Secretariat's proposal for a QSP business plan was discussed by EU-JUSSCANNZ (Japan, the US, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand) and Central and Eastern European countries at their respective meetings in Barcelona, Spain, in November and in Riga, Latvia, in December 2006. The plan will be drafted in February-March 2007 through a consultative process and submitted to the QSP Executive Board at its meeting on 23-24 April 2007 ([http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp/business\\_plan.htm](http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsp/business_plan.htm)).

## ▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

**BIODIVERSITY EXPERTS DISCUSS CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN; CBD SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES BIOFUEL E-FORUM, SIGNS MOC WITH PORTUGAL AND NEPAD**

The group of technical experts on an internationally recognized certificate of origin/source/legal provenance of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) met from 22-25 January 2007, in Lima, Peru. In the framework of the CBD discussion on access and benefit-sharing (ABS), such a certificate would serve as a mechanism to ensure transparency in the flow of genetic resources. The group discussed different options for the certificate, their feasibility, implementation challenges, and potential costs and benefits. The report of the meeting, which will be made available on the CBD website, will be forwarded to the fifth meeting of the CBD Working Group on ABS, to be held from 8-12 October 2007, in Montreal, Canada (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=ABSSTE-01>; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-02-02/story4.htm>).

In preparation for the 12th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Secretariat has launched an electronic forum to

gather information on the status and trends of biofuel production, its advantages and the known and possible adverse impacts on the CBD objectives. The deadline for participation is 23 February 2007 (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/restricted/biofuel/default.shtml>; login and password: biofuel07).

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghla, Portugal's Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development Francisco Correia, and the Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Firmino Mucavale signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to enhance human and institutional capacities in Africa for the effective implementation of the CBD and its Biosafety Protocol. The 7 February 2007 signing ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya, coincided with the UNEP GC-24/GMEF. The partnership aims to promote: capacity building through a series of training workshops jointly organized by the partners; exchange of experts between Portugal and selected African countries; the establishment of information networks and databases; and dissemination of information to all interested regions (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/press/2007/pr-2007-02-07-nepad-en.pdf>).

**CITES ANNOUNCES SMALL EXPORT QUOTA FOR BELUGA CAVIAR**

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) published, on 5 February 2007, export quotas for beluga and Heilongjiang/Amur River sturgeon caviar. States bordering the Caspian Sea have agreed to reduce the catch quota for beluga by 29% in 2007, in comparison with 2005, the last year for which quotas were approved. A limit on export of 3,761 kg of beluga during the year has been established, according to which the quota

was published by the Secretariat. According to information presented by the Caspian States, populations continue to decline. The Secretariat will refer the matter to the CITES Animals Committee, which has been given the authority by the CITES Parties to undertake reviews of the sustainability of trade authorized under CITES rules (<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2007/Sturgeon2007.pdf>; [http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press\\_release.shtml](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml)).

**CMS HOSTS "YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN" EVENTS, LAUNCHES PUBLICATION**

In the margins of the Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) hosted a Wider Caribbean Launch Event for 2007 - the Year of the Dolphin, in Montego Bay, Jamaica ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/02\\_Feb/yod-Launch\\_AmCar.htm](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/02_Feb/yod-Launch_AmCar.htm)).

In its publication "Wildlife Watching and Tourism," CMS has developed a concept of sustainable use and wildlife watching as an important contribution to conserve migratory animals. Whale and dolphin watching tours are a prominent example of sustainable tourism during the Year of the Dolphin, while a Voluntary Code of Conduct has been agreed upon until more detailed monitoring studies on the effects of whale watching have been completed ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/02\\_Feb/Hanover07.htm](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/02_Feb/Hanover07.htm); [http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/CMS\\_WildlifeWatching.pdf](http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/CMS_WildlifeWatching.pdf)).

In other CMS-related news, Honduras will become the 102nd party to the Convention when it accedes on 1 April 2007 ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/02\\_Feb/prf\\_Honduras.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/02_Feb/prf_Honduras.pdf)).



L-R: Bakary Kante, UNEP; Ahmed Djoghla, CBD; Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, NEPAD; and Francisco Nunes Correia, Portugal, at the signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Cooperation. Photo courtesy of Martin Krebs, UNEP

## ► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

### RAMSAR ENHANCES COLLABORATION WITH GRASP, CELEBRATES WORLD WETLAND DAY

At a lunchtime event on 6 February 2007, during GC-24/GMEF in Nairobi, Kenya, Ramsar Secretary General Peter Bridgewater and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, in the presence of Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) Team Leader Melanie Virtue, signed an exchange of letters to enhance their collaboration. The GRASP Partnership is a World Summit on Sustainable Development Type II Partnership lead by UNEP and UNESCO, intended to lift the imminent threat of extinction faced by gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans across their ranges in equatorial Africa and Southeast Asia. The project partners include: Ramsar; great ape range States and donor governments; the biodiversity-related MEAs; UN institutions; international and national great ape conservation NGOs; the global great ape scientific community; and private sector entities. The letters provide that the Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will, when feasible, cooperate: in the elaboration of management plans for Ramsar sites with great apes; towards the designation of new Ramsar sites with great ape habitats; on projects in or around transboundary sites with great apes habitat; and towards capacity building of Ramsar and GRASP focal points and site managers ([http://www.ramsar.org/wm/w.n.grasp\\_sign.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wm/w.n.grasp_sign.htm)).

The Ramsar Secretariat celebrated World Wetland Day, which takes place each year on 2 February and commemorates the 1971 signing of the Convention on Wetlands, in the city of Ramsar, Iran. Fish for Tomorrow,



Achim Steiner, UNEP and Peter Bridgewater, Ramsar Convention, sign letters of agreement on great ape conservation in wetlands.

the slogan for World Wetlands Day 2007, sought to provide the opportunity to look at local and national fisheries issues and make the link between healthy, well-managed coastal and inland wetlands and the long-term sustainability of fisheries. In addition, a number of States, including France, Gambia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, named new Ramsar sites on the occasion ([http://www.ramsar.org/www/7/wwwd2007\\_reports.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/www/7/wwwd2007_reports.htm)).

Other activities reported by the Ramsar Secretariat include the release by the Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) of the latest issue of "Infowetland." This issue contains pieces on: the threats posed by the rapid expansion of Argentina's new anchovy fishery; prevention and transformation of social environmental conflicts in Latin America; Participation and Dialogue for Conservation in Colombia; the Marine Stewardship Council eco-label for Argentinean scallop fishery; and events and workshops ([http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho\\_info2-1\\_e.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho_info2-1_e.pdf)).

### IMO ANNOUNCES NEW RULES TO ALLOW STORAGE OF CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE SEABED

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has announced the entrance into force of new regulations on the storage of carbon dioxide in the seabed. These new rules were adopted on 2 November 2006 at the first meeting of the contracting parties to the London Protocol as amendments to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972. The amendment adds carbon dioxide streams from carbon dioxide capture processes for sequestration to the list of substances annexed to the 1996 Protocol that are excluded from the prohibition of dumping of wastes at sea. The Parties to the London Protocol will elaborate and adopt guidelines on how to store carbon dioxide in sub-seabed geological formations at their second session in November 2007 ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1472&doc\\_id=7772](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1472&doc_id=7772)).

### UNDOALOS ANNOUNCES ACCESSIONS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has announced two new accessions. On 5 February 2007, Latvia acceded to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. On 6 February 2007, Moldova acceded to UNCLOS and expressed its consent to be bound by the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI on the Area, or the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction ([http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference\\_files/new\\_developments\\_and\\_recent\\_adds.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm)).

### GPA PRESENTS IGR-2 OUTCOMES AT UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL, NEWSLETTER RELEASED

During the UNEP GC-24/GMEF, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) Coordination Office and the Stakeholder Forum hosted an informal panel discussion to explain the major agreements and outcomes resulting from the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, which took place in Beijing, China, in October 2006 (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/news.html#46>). The GPA Coordination Office also announced the release of a special edition of the newsletter *GPA Outreach* produced for GC-24/GMEF with the Stakeholder Forum. The Special Issue includes information on: the Beijing Declaration; implementation of the GPA in the global environment context; the partnership approach; submissions from stakeholders; and the techniques used at IGR-2 to maximize the focus on concrete action outcomes and meaningful involvement of policy-level officials in discussions with their counterparts ([http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents/gpa\\_outreach\\_special\\_edition\\_english.pdf](http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents/gpa_outreach_special_edition_english.pdf)).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### IPCC WORKING GROUP I ADOPTS CLIMATE SCIENCE REPORT

The Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I has adopted its contribution to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), titled "Climate Change 2007: the Physical Science Basis." The Working Group's Summary for Policy Makers was agreed at a meeting held in Paris, France, from 29 January to 1 February 2007. The Group found that there is more than a 90 percent probability that human action has contributed towards recent climate change, up from its estimate of a more than

66 percent probability in 2001 (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ipwg1/>).

### CDM PASSES PROJECT MILESTONE, SIDS DISCUSS ADAPTATION

The Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) has registered its 500th project, a wind farm in India. On the occasion, Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), noted that "The 500th project is an exciting milestone, especially considering that the Kyoto Protocol was ratified just two

years ago and that a year ago less than one hundred projects were registered. It's testament to what can be done when countries come together to find solutions to global problems." CDM projects have now been approved in over 40 countries ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/070212\\_pressrel\\_en.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/070212_pressrel_en.pdf)).

Meanwhile, an expert meeting for small island developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean regions convened in Kingston, Jamaica. The meeting, which took

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place from 5-7 February 2007, focused on adaptation to climate change and is part of a series of regional events on this issue requested by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties. Further meetings are expected for SIDS in the Pacific and Indian Ocean, and countries from Asia. Despite the fact that SIDS are considered to be among those that are most vulnerable to weather-related hazards, they are not well represented in the list of CDM project activities ([http://unfccc.int/adaptation/adverse\\_effects\\_and\\_response\\_measures\\_art\\_48/items/3915.php](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/adverse_effects_and_response_measures_art_48/items/3915.php)).

In other news from the UNFCCC Secretariat, the official reports from the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi, held in November 2006, were recently made available online ([http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop\\_12/items/3754.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_12/items/3754.php)).

### OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ASSESSMENT, INFORMATION ON AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Ozone Secretariat has released an advance copy of the 2006 Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Ozone Depletion and its Interactions with Climate Change. The report says, *inter alia*, that: ozone levels are no longer declining outside polar regions, suggesting that the Montreal Protocol is working; future ozone and UV-B radiation levels are difficult to predict, largely because of the uncertainty of their relationship to climate change; and UV-B radiation has broad effects on human health, plants and animals. The Ozone Secretariat has also notified the public that nominations for the 20th anniversary recognition awards must be submitted by 1

June 2007 (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>; [http://ozone.unep.org/20th\\_Anniversary/](http://ozone.unep.org/20th_Anniversary/)).

### MULTILATERAL FUND CHIEF OFFICER DISCUSSES ITS SUCCESS AT UNEP-GC

Maria Nolan, Chief Officer of the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (the Fund), said in a statement to the 24th Session of the UNEP Governing Council that the Fund is an example of successful international environmental cooperation, but that significant challenges remain in controlling chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons and illegal trade in ozone depleting substances in developing countries (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/news/1170854169948.htm>).

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### WORLD BANK SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

The World Bank's Board of Directors approved on 1 February 2007 a US\$24.3 million loan for the "Ust-Kamenogorsk Environmental Remediation Project" in Kazakhstan. The objective of the project is to address environmental pollution linked to industrial hazardous waste generation in the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk by undertaking clean-up activities to remediate sources of pollution and prevent further contamination of groundwater and rivers in the Irtysh River basin (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21204274~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

### UNCCD GM ORGANIZES DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT, LAUNCHES REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) collaborated with the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) to organize a dialogue on "Building an Enabling Environment for Increasing Investment in Sustainable Land Management through Market Access and Trade," held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 31 January to 1 February 2007. The discussion focused on ways to promote



Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, ICTSD, moderated a discussion on "Opportunities and Constraints under Present Trade Regimes" during the dialogue on increasing investment in sustainable land management through market access and trade.

investment in sustainable land management (SLM) through market access and trade in the context of the new financial architecture and resource allocation patterns for poverty eradication and development.

The dialogue brought together participants from governments, donors, the private sector and civil society organizations with the aim of promoting SLM in dryland regions by creating new market opportunities and/or taking advantage of existing ones ([http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2007-01-31/2007-01-31\\_desc.htm](http://www.ictsd.org/dlogue/2007-01-31/2007-01-31_desc.htm)).

In other news, the GM has posted four Regional Advisors in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, tasked with aiding countries in the promotion of SLM investments as a contribution to sustainable rural development and UNCCD implementation (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/gm-launches-regional-advisory-services-in-latin-america--the-caribbean/>).

### WTO DISCUSSES RELATIONSHIP TO MEAS

World Trade Organization (WTO) Member States met on 23 January 2007 to discuss the relationship between the secretariats of MEAs and the WTO, following Paragraph 31(ii) of the Doha Declaration. The Secretariat presented a paper addressing, *inter alia*: cooperation and information exchange experiences between MEAs and the WTO, such as information sessions in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and WTO side events in MEAs; and technical cooperation activities such as WTO trade and environment regional seminars and the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force. No progress was reported on the issue of MEA observer status in the WTO - where a long-lasting opposition by some countries has prevented, for example, the Convention on Biological Diversity from participating as an observer in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Council - although some indicate that a resolution is more likely than in the other two key issues: the status of MEA trade measures within the WTO, and tariffs for environmental goods and services. (Sources: ICTSD Bridges, 31 January 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-01-31/wto-inbrief.htm#2>; WTO Document, 16 January 2007, TN/TE/S/2/Rev.2, [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/envir\\_negotiations\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_negotiations_e.htm)).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **COUNTRY-LED INITIATIVE IN SUPPORT OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE UNFF: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD 2015:** 13-16 February 2007. Bali, Indonesia. <http://www.iisd.ca/ymbb/mypow/>
- **MEETING OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (POP RC) INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP CHAIRS:** 18-20 February 2007, Geneva, Switzerland. [http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc/sub\\_annexe.htm](http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc/sub_annexe.htm)
- **THIRD MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY:** 19-23 February 2007. Montreal, Canada. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/ltlr3/>
- **SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES:** 1-2 March 2007. Madrid, Spain. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexmic.htm>