



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

STATES PARTIES TO UNCLOS CONVENE; ICP-8 CONCLUDES WITHOUT CONSENSUS



L-R: ICP Co-Chairs Cristián Maquieira (Chile) and Lori Ridgeway (Canada)

The eighth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-8) convened from 25-29 June 2007 in New York, US. The meeting organized its discussions around the topic of "Marine genetic resources" (MGRs), as recommended by the General Assembly in resolution 61/222. Co-Chairs Cristián Maquieira (Chile) and Lori Ridgeway (Canada) developed a draft text of elements to be suggested to the General Assembly, drawing on the panel discussions. Delegates were unable to agree on key language referring to the

relevant legal regime for MGRs in areas beyond national jurisdiction, so no consensus text on elements will be forwarded to the General Assembly at its next session. However, the Co-Chairs announced that they would include the draft elements and recommendations within the Co-Chairs' Report of ICP-8 to the General Assembly, including an explanation of the divergence of views (<http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/icp8/>).

The ICP followed the seventeenth meeting of States parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which took place in New York, US, on 14 June and from 18-22 June 2007. At the meeting, parties elected the 21 members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and considered, *inter alia*, the future arrangements regarding the allocation of seats on the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; the future arrangements regarding the equitable geographical distribution of members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS); the report of ITLOS to the meeting of States parties for 2006; information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority; activities of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf; and budgetary matters (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/forthcomingmeetingtatesparties.htm).

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

SUDAN POST-CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

(UNEP, June 2007) This assessment report produced by UNEP argues that environmental degradation is among the root causes of decades of social strife and conflict in Sudan. Investment in environmental management will be a vital part of the peace building effort, says the report, noting that the most serious concerns are land degradation, desertification and deforestation (http://sudanreport.unep.ch/UNEP_Sudan.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Tapping the Potential of Environmental Funds

By Yibin Xiang (CBD Secretariat), Yoko Watanabe (GEF Secretariat) and Alberto Paniagua (RedLAC)

Abstract

Since the early 1990s, many countries, particularly developing countries, have adopted the concept of trust funds for environmental protection.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

RE-THINKING POLICIES TO COPE WITH DESERTIFICATION

(UNU, June 2007) This policy brief is based on the proceedings of "The Joint International Conference: Desertification and the International Policy Imperative," which took place in Algiers, Algeria, from 17-19 December 2006, as part of the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/drylands/Publications/IYDD_Policy_Brief-June_2007.pdf).

GLOBAL TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT 2007

(UNEP, June 2007) Climate change worries together with high oil prices and increasing government support fuel soaring investment rates in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, according to this UNEP study. Noting that renewable energy sectors such as wind, solar and biofuels attract the highest investment levels, the study also stresses that renewable energies are no longer subject to the whims of fluctuating oil prices, but are becoming generating systems of choice for many power companies and countries (http://www.unep.org/pdf/SEFI_report-GlobalTrendsInSustainableEnergyInvestment07.pdf).

UNDP-GEF INTERNATIONAL WATERS PROGRAMME – DELIVERING RESULTS

(UNDP-GEF, June 2007) This publication highlights the results delivered to date by the UN Development Programme-Global Environment Facility's (UNDP-GEF) International Waters programme, which for 15 years has assisted over 100 countries to identify, prioritize and address key transboundary environmental and water resources issues. The publication includes cases on development and implementation of river and lake action plans and water management projects (http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/publications/IW_deliveringresults.pdf).

RESTORING NATURE'S CAPITAL: AN ACTION AGENDA TO SUSTAIN ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

(WRI, June 2007) Arguing that ecosystems must be viewed as huge capital assets affected by nearly all development and investment decisions, this report, issued by the World Resources Institute (WRI), proposes an action agenda for business, governments and civil society to reverse ecosystem degradation (http://pdf.wri.org/restoring_natures_capital.pdf).

▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS



Na Banamini Sandu II (R), Vice President of the National House of Chiefs and a member of Ghana's National Wetlands Committee, presenting the revised Strategy and Action Plan to the Minister. Looking on are the Deputy Minister (L) and the Chief Director (Second from right) of the Ministry of Lands, Forestry & Mines. (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

RAMSAR REPORTS ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported on activities taking place in Austria and Ghana. Austria's National Ramsar Committee met on 13-14 June 2007, in Keutschach am Hafnersee, Austria. National Ramsar Committees are established by parties to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, a broad cross-section of stakeholders. The Committee is one of the oldest in the Ramsar Convention. Committee members provided an update on diverse recent or current international and national Ramsar and other wetland-related matters and

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE

Member States met at UN headquarters, New York, US, from 20-22 June and on 28 June 2007, to continue informal consultations on the recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence. The discussion focused on the cluster areas of humanitarian issues and recovery, gender, governance and institutional reform, and business practices. Delegates were also briefed on the status of the One UN pilots in Tanzania, Albania and Rwanda. Consultation Co-Chairs Hackett (Barbados) and Hoscheit (Luxembourg) announced that, due to the upcoming UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) substantive session in Geneva, consultations on the remaining topics environment, human rights and funding will resume at the end of July 2007 (<http://www.reformtheun.org/index.php/eupdate/3363>; <http://www.centerforunreform.org/node/33>).

UNDP COLLABORATES WITH UNEP AND GM ON DRYLANDS, GEF ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) Drylands Development Centre, in collaboration with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) Global Mechanism (GM) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), convened an international workshop from 18-20 June 2007 in Bamako,

planned future activities (http://www.ramsar.org/outreach_news_austria_nationalramsarcomms.htm). The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that Ghana has revised its National Wetlands Conservation Strategy, which was first adopted in 1999. Further to the revision, a detailed Action Plan with an indicative budget was formulated to enhance its implementation (http://www.ramsar.org/w/w.n.ghana_nwcs2007.htm).

IMO PROJECT ON BALLAST WATER RECEIVES FUNDING

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has announced the approval by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of funding for the second phase of the project entitled "Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water." The project will be implemented by the IMO, in partnership with the GEF and the UN Development Programme, and aims to assist particularly vulnerable countries and regions to enact legal, policy and institutional reforms in compliance with the objectives of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments of 2004 (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1472&doc_id=8167).

Mali, gathering governments, civil society, and bilateral and multilateral partners to discuss how environment, particularly drylands issues, can be integrated into national development frameworks. The objectives of the workshop included: to validate mainstreaming generic guidelines; to promote a common understanding between UNDP and UNEP of the challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming drylands issues into national development frameworks; and to share experiences, lessons and best practices in the mainstreaming process (http://content.undp.org/go/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=1292343).

In related UNDP news, the UNDP-Global Environment Facility's (GEF) project *Biodiversity conservation in coffee*, which seeks to protect coffee farmers and biodiversity in Latin America, is making strides, according to a project report dated 14 June 2007. The project focuses on establishing new, environmentally and socially responsible ways of doing business, and one of the main strategies is to transform productive practices in the coffee sector by increasing market demand for certified sustainable coffee. An early success has been the announcement that 1,200 McDonald's restaurants in the UK and Ireland will exclusively sell Rainforest Alliance certified coffee, one of the most rigorous sustainability standards in the coffee industry (<http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/spotlight/CoffeeProject.pdf>).

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

Most environmental funds are designed to support long-term management of national environmental issues, particularly on biodiversity and protected areas systems. Diverse approaches have been used to set up national environmental funds, but they can normally be classified as endowment funds, sinking funds, revolving funds or a combination of the three.

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) encouraged governments and institutional stakeholders to promote environmental funds and share information and experience through networks and other channels. As a contribution to this discussion, the Latin American and the Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) organized an expert group meeting on the management of environmental funds. RedLAC is a network of 21 Environmental Funds that has financed more than 10000 biodiversity projects in the Latin American region. The May meeting in Lima, Peru, explored critical issues related to environmental fund management, including conceptual frameworks and operational context, and raising and leveraging resources for conservation and sustainable development.

In many countries, national environmental funds have played a larger role than just as a financial institution. They have participated in, and contributed to, national strategy and policy development related to environment and biodiversity, and also have been instrumental in developing public awareness on environmental and biodiversity issues. Many environmental funds have helped collect and disburse finance from diverse revenue sources, including payments for ecosystem services, taxation and fees, and donations from individuals and businesses.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been a pioneer and supporter of more than 60 environmental funds world-wide. According to its draft strategic paper on biodiversity for this current replenishment cycle (FY2007-2010), the GEF plans to continue its support on innovative sustainable financial mechanisms, including environmental funds,

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▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP FI LAUNCHES CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION BY FINANCE SECTOR; UNEP CHEMICALS SETS DATE FOR MERCURY WORKING GROUP

The UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) launched its "Declaration on Climate Change by the Financial Services Sector," signed by over 20 of the UNEP FI member companies, on 5 June 2007. The declaration states, among other things, that: anthropogenic climate change is real; the cost of inaction will be extremely high; financial institutions must take greater action and integrate climate change into their everyday decision-making; and governments need to set ambitious, long-term targets for emissions reduction. The statement will remain open for endorsement in the run-up to the climate change negotiations in Bali,

Indonesia, in December 2007 (http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/statements/cc_statement_jun2007.pdf).

UNEP Chemicals, in response to decision GC24/3 IV taken at the 24th Session of the UNEP Governing Council (GC) that called for the development of an overarching policy framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, intends to host, funding permitting, the first Open-ended Working Group on Mercury (OEWG) from 12-16 November 2007, in Bangkok, Thailand. As called for in Decision GC24/3 IV, the OEWG will consist of representatives from governments, regional economic integration organizations and stakeholder representatives and will review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments on mercury (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>).

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD SBSTTA-12 UNDERWAY, WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION TO FOLLOW

The twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) opened on 2 July 2007, in Paris, France, and will conclude on 6 July 2007. SBSTTA-12 was preceded by the first meeting of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions, which took place on 1 July 2007. This meeting reviewed the processes and approaches of the conventions' scientific bodies in providing scientific advice, and addressed strategic issues for future processes, including cooperation on climate change and biodiversity, and the 2010 biodiversity target.

The agenda of SBSTTA-12 contains strategic issues, including improving SBSTTA's effectiveness; scientific and technical issues relevant to the implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target, including those related to climate change and sustainable use of biodiversity; and biofuels as a new and emerging issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/meetings/sbstta-12/default.shtml>; <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta12/>).

The second meeting of the CBD Working Group on the Review of Implementation will convene in the same venue from 9-13 July 2007. The meeting will focus on an in-depth review of implementation of Goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, which address parties' capacity to implement the Convention and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (<http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgri-02/default.shtml>; <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wgri2/>).

In between the two meetings, from 7-8 July 2007, there will be meetings of the



L-R: Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO; Christian Prip, Chair of SBSTTA; and Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary, at the opening of the poster session on "Emerging issues for biodiversity conservation in a changing climate"

Clearing-House Mechanism Informal Advisory Committee, the Bureau of the eighth Conference of the Parties, and the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, as well as a capacity-building workshop for national focal points.

CMS HOLDS WORKSHOP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

A workshop on practical lessons learned in relation to avian influenza outbreaks in wild birds was held on 26-27 June 2007, in Aviemore, Scotland, UK, organized by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Scottish Natural Heritage. It was the second technical meeting in the series held by the CMS Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds. Gathering members of the Scientific Task Force as well as national experts, the workshop focused on reviewing recent experiences of dealing with outbreaks and on increasing reactivity in the field to future cases, including topics such as scientific evaluation, epidemiology, response strategies and coordination (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2007/06_June/ai_sco.htm).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

to support long-term management of national systems of protected areas.

While most environmental funds possess distinct national characteristics, fundamental elements of an environmental fund remain largely the same. Existing environmental funds are best positioned to provide advice and suggestions on the development and strengthening of new environmental funds. They can work together to address common challenges and issues, such as those related to institutional and financial capacities, laws and regulations, governance and coordination.

Certain issues can also benefit from global consideration. Common standards can be developed, for instance, on the accounting of administrative costs, and monitoring indicators and systems. Even an international certification scheme may be explored to enhance external donors' confidence in individual environmental funds. Regular exchange and sharing of experience and lessons learned in Africa, Asia and Europe, building upon the RedLAC experience, may also be promoted at the international level.

National environmental funds are one of many national financial mechanisms available for supporting the national implementation of the CBD. Establishing a successful environmental fund requires substantial capacity and commitment at the national level. But their potential as an institution to pull together various national and international, public and private resources remains to be fully tapped for effective conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Read the Full Article at:
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle29.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.

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WTO PANEL RULES ON DISPUTE OVER ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF RETREADED TIRE IMPORTS

On 12 June 2007, a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel ruled in favor of the European Community (EC) on a complaint filed in 2005 by the EC against Brazil, challenging the latter's ban on imports of retreaded tires. The environmental component of the dispute revolved around Brazil's argument that its import ban was justified on public health grounds, under GATT Article XX(b) (measures necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health), as growing piles of waste tires provide breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes, increasing the potential for dengue, yellow fever, and malaria and exceeding the country's capacity for environmentally responsible disposal. The Panel upheld Brazil's argument, but ruled that the application of the measure was discriminatory because, due to several court injunctions, Brazil had *de facto* continued to import retreaded tires from other countries. As a consequence, the EU won the case but Brazil may easily ensure its policy is "WTO-friendly" by guaranteeing its application consistently throughout the country. The option for an appeal will remain open for 60 days until WTO Members adopt the panel's report (ICTSD BRIDGES Weekly <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-06-20/story3.htm>; http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds332_e.htm).

WORLD BANK APPROVES PROJECTS ON PLANTATION FORESTS, FISHERIES AND PROTECTED AREAS

The World Bank approved a US\$ 7 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant on 28 June 2007, for a project on Biodiversity Conservation in Productive Forestry Landscapes in Argentina. This project aims to show that plantation forests do not com-

promise biodiversity when properly managed, and will seek to maintain Argentina's competitive market advantage without surrendering globally important habitats and vital biological corridors (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21392578~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>). The World Bank also approved a US\$ 12 million GEF grant for fisheries management in the Southwest Indian Ocean region, which will aid seven countries in managing fisheries with a focus on environmental sustainability, socially equitable distribution, maximum economic returns, and furthering scientific knowledge to preserve biodiversity (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21392082~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>). On the same date, the World Bank approved a supplemental US\$ 7.35 million GEF grant for the Consolidation of the Protected Areas System in Mexico. The project will add four new protected areas to the National Protected Areas System, and aims to conserve globally important biodiversity, promote social co-responsibility for conservation, and support sustainable economic, social and environmental activities in selected areas (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21392579~menuPK:51062075~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

GEF COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY POSTED

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has posted the Chairs' Summary of the June 2007 GEF Council meeting. The summary presents a comprehensive view of the GEF's planned activities and programme of work for the next four-year period ([http://gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Documents/Council_Documents_\(PDF_DOC\)/GEF_31/Joint%20Summary%20of%20the%20Chairs\(1\).pdf](http://gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Documents/Council_Documents_(PDF_DOC)/GEF_31/Joint%20Summary%20of%20the%20Chairs(1).pdf)).

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SAICM INVITES COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORTING INDICATORS

In preparation for the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2), the Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management (SAICM) has developed draft reporting indicators for governments, intergovernmental organizations, industry and non-governmental orga-

nizations. SAICM invites comments from all stakeholders on these drafts, either via steering committee representatives or directly to the SAICM Secretariat by 11 July 2007. The documents will be discussed during the steering committee conference call on 12 July 2007 (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/Reporting/reporting.htm#International%20steering%20committee>).

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO AND CITES TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

At the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP-14) of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), held in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 3-15 June 2007, delegates from 171 member nations agreed to a US proposal to draw up an official memorandum of understanding to strengthen the relationship between CITES and the International Tropi-

cal Timber Organization (ITTO). A side-event at CITES COP-14 detailed ongoing collaboration between the two organizations. CITES and the ITTO have worked together to help build the capacity of range States to conduct sustainable timber management, and to build capacity to implement CITES requirements for listed tropical timber species (<http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop14>; <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayH andler?pagel=223&id=3334>).



Panel members at the ITTO side event at CITES (Photo courtesy of M. Oshima/ITTO)

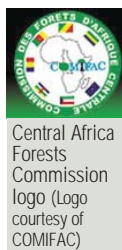
► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD COORDINATES AFRICA-LAC FORUM; GM CO-HOSTS DISCUSSIONS

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) organized the Fifth Latin America–Africa Forum, which convened in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18–21 June 2007. The Forum seeks to reinforce cooperation between African and Latin American and Caribbean countries in the framework of the UNCCD, and has convened every two years since 1998. The 2007 Forum focused on forestry and agroforestry as tools for the enhancement of sustainable agricultural farming systems, with participants exploring opportunities to develop cooperation strategies and create a conceptual framework for combating land degradation based on forestry and agroforestry activities.

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD has recently contributed to discussions on women, the Central African Sub-Regional Action Programme (SRAP), and drylands (see the Intergovernmental Organizations cluster for this story). From 5–7 June 2007, in Bamako, Mali, the GM convened an International

Workshop on Empowering Women to Invest in Sustainable Land Management (SLM). The workshop was organized in response to requests from female delegates and nongovernmental organizations from several francophone countries, and it sought to support economic and social activities undertaken by women that contribute to combating desertification. Participants adopted a short term Action Plan and agreed on the creation of an International Coalition called "Tchém'sou," a multi-actor partnership platform for lobbying, exchanging information and mobilizing resources to benefit North, Central and West African women's networks that are active in natural resource management. The "Tchém'sou" programme and objectives will be presented during COP-8 in September 2007. From 12–13 June 2007, in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African SRAP was validated, following a long, participatory process that was aided by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the GM, the UNCCD Secretariat, national govern-



ments and other intergovernmental institutions (IISD sources; <http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/central-africa-sub-regional-forum-validates-sub-regional-action-programme-srap-to-combat-desertification>).

UNFF HOSTS ECOSOC MINISTERIAL BREAKFAST ON PRO-POOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

On 4 July 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland, the UNFF Secretariat hosted an "ECOSOC Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast" on global realities and regional policy innovations in promoting pro-poor generation of wealth, food security and peace through sustainable forest management (SFM). The ministerial discussion explored the challenges to SFM and the advantages of using regional processes to further the goal of sustainable pro-poor growth, particularly in Africa (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/ECOSOC2007_Issues_Paper.pdf). In other UNFF news, the official report of the UNFF's seventh session, held from 16–27 April 2007, in New York, US, has been released (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2007/42>).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

OZONE SECRETARIAT, MULTILATERAL FUND PREPARE FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS; REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES REPORTED

The Ozone Secretariat has released documents in advance of the 19th Meeting of the Parties (MOP-19), to take place 7–21 September 2007, in Montreal, Canada. The documents released include draft decisions and proposed adjustments to be considered, the provisional agenda, and the Financial Report of the trust funds for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. Issues to be considered at MOP-19 include those on: accelerating the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); preventing illegal trade; and refining the institutional arrangements of the Montreal Protocol, including by considering reducing the number of meetings held annually (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol has released the agenda and other documents for its upcoming 52nd meeting, which will take place 23–27 July 2007, in Montreal, Canada. The Executive Committee will consider, *inter alia*, the 2006 progress of implementing agencies and bilateral cooperation, a study on the management of unwanted ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in developed countries and its relevance to developing countries, and investment projects (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/news/1182905432261.htm>).

In related news, a recent workshop for representatives of Asia-Pacific countries considered illegal trade in ODS. The workshop, which took place from 28–29 June 2007, in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, focused on the role of public-private partnerships in preventing illegal trade in ODS (http://english.people.com.cn/200706/29/eng20070629_388515.html; <http://www.greencustoms.org/news.htm>).

UNFCCC WORKSHOP ADDRESSES CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS, ADAPTATION

A UNFCCC workshop has been held on the subject of climate-related risks and extreme events in the context of adaptation. The workshop, which took place from 18–20 June 2007, in Cairo, Egypt, brought together representatives of governments and a range of organizations to share their experiences in assessing, predicting and managing climate-related risks and extreme events. Participants spent much of their time in breakout groups that considered experiences across a range of sectors, including health, agriculture and food security, and coastal zones. During their discussions, a number of participants stressed the value of regional forums and debated the utility and possible structure of a "centralized adaptation service." Other topics that were considered included the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, gaps in research and in connections to policy making, and linkages to the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UN's Interna-

tional Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The workshop was the first in a series of events that will be held under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. (IISD sources; http://unfccc.int/adaptation/sbsta_agenda_item_adaptation/items/3953.php).

CDM BOARD APPROVES RULES TO HELP "SCALE UP" CDM

The Executive Board of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has approved new procedures that could increase the reach and scale of emissions reductions activities in developing countries. The Board, which met for its 32nd session in Bonn, Germany, from 20–22 June 2007, approved new procedures that would allow for many projects to be approved collectively. Board Chair Hans Jürgen Stehr explained the change, noting that "Until now, we've reg-



CDM Board Chair Hans Jürgen Stehr

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istered single projects, in single locations. With the new procedures and guidance, developed in response to requests from Kyoto Protocol countries, the way is now clear for project developers to submit for registration many projects, covering a wide area, under a single 'programme' umbrella." The CDM facilitates projects in developing countries, with the projects receiving certified emission reduction credits for the greenhouse gas emissions reductions they achieve. These credits can then be used by industrialized countries to help meet their commitments

to cut emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, highlighted that "Programmatic CDM is expected to enormously enhance the chances of small and poor countries getting access to the CDM. In such countries, single projects are often too small to be commercially attractive. As a consequence, many small and poor countries are not benefiting from the CDM at the moment. The programmatic approach could dramatically change this." (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20070628_prog_cdm_release_english.pdf; <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/032/eb32rep.pdf>).

The Board also agreed to call for public inputs on the draft tool for estimating emissions from cultivation of biomass (http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/est_cult_biomass/index.html) and to request inputs on best practice examples of the "demonstration of additionality to assist the development of project design documents, in particular for small-scale project activities" (http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/dev_PDDs/index.html).

egrated waste and resource management; and mechanisms of the Marrakech Process and key elements of the 10YFP. Participants also addressed the next steps in preparing for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD's) 2010/2011 cycle, when the 10YFP will be presented to the CSD. The next international expert meeting on SCP under the Marrakech Process is expected to take place in 2009 (<http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/10year/international.htm>; <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/Marrakech/conprod10Ystockholm.htm>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNDESA AND UNEP ORGANIZE EXPERT MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) organized the Third International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), which convened from 26-29 June 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden. Participants reported on progress on national and regional activities related to sustainable

consumption and production (SCP) and the work of the Marrakech Process on SCP, which was launched at the First International Expert Meeting, in Marrakech, Morocco in June 2003. Discussions addressed, *inter alia*: the role of major groups in the Marrakech Process; regional processes; progress by the Marrakech Task Forces; key SCP issues, including sustainable products and in-



Erik Hammar-skjöld, Environment Ambassador, Sweden, co-chaired the Expert Meeting (Photo courtesy of the UN)

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► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- On 25 June 2007, the Executive Directors of the World Bank confirmed Robert Zoellick's nomination to become **President of the World Bank**. Zoellick took office effective 1 July 2007 (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21385723~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).
- The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has appointed Yannick Glemarec as the **UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator**, where he has most recently served as Deputy Executive Coordinator and, among other things, led the development of the UNDP MDG Carbon Facility (IISD Sources).



Robert Zoellick (Photo courtesy of the World Economic Forum)



Yannick Glemarec

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SBSTTA-12:** 2-6 July 2007. Paris, France. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta12/>
- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) 2007 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION:** 2-27 July 2007. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2007/>
- GLOBAL COMPACT LEADERS SUMMIT:** 5-6 July 2007, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.globalcompactsummit.org/>
- GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:** 9-11 July 2007. Brussels, Belgium. <http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/lang.html>
- CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION:** 9-13 July 2007. Paris, France. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wgri2/>
- AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR UNCCD COP 8:** 11-13 July 2007. Kigali, Rwanda. <http://www.unccd.int>
- MULTILATERAL FUND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 52ND MEETING:** 23-27 July 2007. Montreal, Canada. <http://www.multilateral-fund.org>