



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP MEETS IN ROME

The second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is being held from 11-15 February 2008, in Rome, Italy. The Working Group will review the implementation of the CBD programme of work for protected areas and explore options for mobilizing adequate and timely financial resources for its implementation. The meeting will be immediately followed by the thirteenth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-13), to be held from 18-22 February 2008. SBSTTA-13 will perform in-depth reviews of the CBD work programmes on agricultural and forest biodiversity, and address scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 in the areas of marine biodiversity, inland water biodiversity and invasive alien species. The meeting will also consider options for mutually supportive actions to address climate change within the three Rio conventions and a procedure for considering new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wgpa2/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta13/>).



L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary; José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho, WGPA 2 Chair; and Jo Mulongoy, Secretary of the Meeting

In preparation for the ninth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP 9), to be held from 19-30 May 2008, in Bonn, Germany, the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development and the German League for Nature Conservation organized an international dialogue forum from 7-8 February 2008, in Berlin. Organized 100 days before CBD COP 9, the forum focused on: achieving a legally binding regime on access and benefit-sharing by 2010; establishing and financing a global network of terrestrial protected areas by 2010 and marine protected areas by 2012; and the impacts of bioenergy and biofuels on forests, agricultural biodiversity, indigenous people and local communities (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-cop-09-forum-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-02-08-cop9-en.pdf>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Sharing Power. A Global Guide to Collaborative Management of Natural Resources

By Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Michel Pimbert, M. Taghi Farvar, Ashish Kothari and Yves Renard (2007, Published by Earthscan, IUCN and IIED, London, UK)

Abstract

In recent decades, a form of governance called "co-management" has increasingly become an effective option for the local adaptive management of fisheries, forests,

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

THE WORLD'S MANGROVES 1980-2005

(FAO, 2007) According to this mangrove assessment by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world has lost around 3.6 million hectares of mangroves since 1980, equivalent to a 20% loss of this habitat globally. The report however indicates that there has been a slowdown in the rate of mangrove loss, which reflects an increased awareness of the value of these ecosystems (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1427e/a1427e00.htm>).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

rangelands, wetlands, migratory wildlife and protected areas. It implies a process of negotiating specific agreements and setting up multi-party organizations that involve indigenous peoples and local communities and, in general, actors that are comparatively weaker. In this sense, but also because it openly fosters transparency and accountability, co-management is an explicit way of improving the governance of natural resources.

Co-management of natural resources and ecosystems is fast gaining respect as the fairest and most effective way for those resources and environments to be both used and protected for future generations. This substantial volume offers a detailed framework for such co-management, based on lessons learned from every part of the globe.

At the heart of 'co-management' of natural resources is a process of collective understanding and action by local communities and other social actors. The process brings about negotiated agreements on management roles,

rights and responsibilities, making explicit the conditions and institutions of sound decentralized governance. *De facto*, co-management is about sharing power. When successful, it spells out the peaceful and intelligent ways by which communities overcome environmental challenges, take best advantage of nature's gifts and share those in fairness and solidarity. When it fails, it ushers conflicts, human misery and environmental damages.

The authors designed this book to support professionals and citizens at large who both wish to better understand collaborative management processes and develop and enhance them in practice. 'Sharing Power' is constructed in four parts. The first part explores natural resource management at the historical interface between traditional and 'modern' societies. The second part analyzes the co-management process. The third part covers the form and functioning of co-management plans, agreements and organizations. Finally, the fourth part is concerned with policy processes, contents and instruments. It discusses how a sup-

portive and coherent policy environment can be built by concurrent actors at various levels, from the concrete initiatives of local citizens and leaders to the shaping of text in global conventions and national legislation. The emphasis is on ways to build and improve policy, with particular attention to social inclusion mechanisms within participatory democracy.

Finding fairer and more effective ways of sharing power is indeed at the heart of what needs to be done to eradicate poverty, respect human rights, conserve biological diversity and deal with climate change in this century. As such, this book is a call for collective action and a source of hope for both people and planet.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle41.html>

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.

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2008 FOCUSES ON BIODIVERSITY

To kick-off the countdown for World Migratory Bird Day 2008, to be held from 10-11 May 2008, the Secretariats of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) announced that the theme for this year's celebration is "Migratory Birds – Ambassadors for Biodiversity." The organizers of this awareness-raising campaign will seek to spread the idea of migratory birds as messengers for the conservation of biodi-

Migratory Birds - Ambassadors for Biodiversity



Image courtesy of the World Migratory Bird Day

versity worldwide (http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2008/wmbd2008_announcement.htm; <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>).

In other CMS-related news, the extension of the geographic coverage of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas entered into force on 3 February 2008, following acceptance of the Amendment to the Agreement by France, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland. The Agreement's name also changes to reflect its extended coverage: Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/02_Feb/ascobans.htm).

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE DISCUSSIONS RESUME

An informal meeting of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) consultations on System-wide Coherence took place on 7 February 2008 in New York, US, aiming to take stock of recent developments and the report of the previous Co-Chairs during the 61st UNGA session. The new Co-Chairs, Augustine Mahiga (Tanzania) and Paul Kavanagh (Ireland), proposed using a bottom-up approach in exploring ways for the

UN to work more coherently and effectively. UNGA President Srgjan Kerim cited recent encouraging developments, including the adoption of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which contains many elements that will promote better coherence across the UN's operational activities for development, and the annual board meeting of the UN Development Programme/UN Fund for Population Activities, where India and Sweden made a strong statement in support of great-

er coherence based on the experience of the pilot countries. He also stressed the importance of system-wide coherence within the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. To deliver as one, the EU emphasized that UN country teams must be able to provide a coherent approach on cross-cutting issues, such as sustainable development, gender equality and human rights (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/statements/meeting-swc70208.shtml>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

ACCESS TO WATER - THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SMALL MUNICIPALITIES

(Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town, 2007) This case study emphasizes that, despite uncertainties around quantitative assessments of climate change impact and water resource management, climate change will have an effect on water resources. Focusing on the economic consequences of water resource scarcity on poor and small municipalities, the study aims to assist municipal planners to develop appropriate strategies to ensure the sustainability and affordability of long term water supplies (<http://www.erc.uct.ac.za/publications/Access%20to%20water%20and%20CC.pdf>).

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND THE EMERGENCE OF FOREST-BASED SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

(CIFOR, 2008) Written by Peter Cronkleton and others, this paper is based on the results of a three-year project examining the emergence of forest-based grassroots movements in Latin America. The case studies, in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Brazil, suggest that local communities can become effective stewards when acquired rights are duly recognized, avenues exist for meaningful participation, costs and benefits are distributed fairly, and appropriate external support is provided (http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/OccPapers/OP-49.pdf).

INVESTMENT IN THE LIBERIAN FOREST SECTOR: A ROAD MAP TO LEGAL FOREST OPERATIONS IN LIBERIA

(Forest Trends, January 2008) Written by John Woods, Arthur G. Blundell and Robert Simpson, this document reviews the past abuse of forest resources in Liberia and the re-opening of the Liberian forest sector, including sector reforms and the lifting of UN sanctions. It presents guidelines for new forest operations that are required by current laws (<http://www.forest-trends.org/documents/publications/LiberiaGuidelinesEng.pdf>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



L-R: Champion of the Earth award; Liz Thompson, former Energy and Environment Minister of Barbados; Prince Albert II of Monaco; Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies; Balgis Osman-Elasha, Senior Researcher at Sudan's Higher Council for Environment & Natural Resources; Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Secretary-General of the Yemen People's General Congress; Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand; and Timothy E. Wirth, former US Senator (Image courtesy of UNEP)

UNEP ANNOUNCES 2008 CHAMPION OF THE EARTH WINNERS, BUSINESS FOR ENVIRONMENT MEETING

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced the winners of the 2008 Champion of the Earth award, which recognizes individuals for showing extraordinary leadership on environmental issues, ranging from protecting the biodiversity of Yemen's islands to managing climate-proofing strategies in Sudan and boosting conservation in Barbados. The seven winners from each region of the world include: Atiq Rahman, the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies; Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand; Prince Albert II of Monaco; Timothy E. Wirth, former US Senator; Balgis Osman-Elasha, senior researcher at Sudan's Higher Council for Environment & Natural Resources; Liz Thompson, former Energy and Environment Minister of Barbados; and Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Secretary-General of the Yemen People's General Congress. The prize will be formally awarded at a ceremony in Singapore on 22 April 2008 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=525&ArticleID=5738&l=en>).

org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=525&ArticleID=5738&l=en).

In conjunction with this event, UNEP and the UN Global Compact will organize the second B4E-Business for Environment Global Summit in Singapore from 22-23 April. The B4E Summit will focus on the global economic and financial impact on environmental concerns in the areas of resource efficiencies, renewable energies, new business models and climate strategies, in addition to discussing best practices for identifying and managing the risks posed by climate change, and exploring practical solutions for enterprises to adopt greener corporate practices (http://www.roap.unep.org/press/NR08-B4E_2008.pdf).

UNDP AND CADBURY TEAM UP FOR SUSTAINABLE COCOA FARMING

On 28 January 2008, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Cadbury announced the establishment of the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership, together with the Ghanaian Government. The Partnership will aim to secure the sustainable livelihoods of a million farmers in cocoa-growing communities across Ghana, India, Indonesia and the Caribbean. Cadbury is expected to invest US\$ 2 million in 2008 to establish the Partnership, with annual funding levels rising to US\$ 10 million by 2010. The majority of the funds will be invested in Ghana, where the Partnership is designed to help cocoa farmers increase their cocoa yields, as well as introducing new sources of rural income through microfinance and investing in community-led development ranging from schools to biodiversity protection projects (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2008/january/cadbury-undp-ghana-20080128.en>; <http://www.microcapital.org/?p=1678>).

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL CONVENTION SIGNS MOU WITH IMPEL

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the European Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 6 February 2008. The aim of the MOU is to strengthen cooperation and increase the sharing of expertise between IMPEL and the Basel Convention. Activities under the arrangement



Logo courtesy of the Basel Convention Secretariat

will include inspections, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the Basel Convention's provisions. Training activities for parties to the Basel Convention that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition on legislation, regulation and best practices are also planned under the arrangement. The first area of further cooperation will be related to monitoring shipments of electrical and electronic waste from Europe to developing countries and the environmentally sound management of such wastes (<http://www.basel.int/press/pr060208.doc>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

PARTICIPATORY FORESTRY IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS: CURRENT LEGAL TRENDS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

(FAO, 2008) The FAO's Legal Paper Online #70, authored by Elisa Morgera, identifies current legal trends in participatory forestry in the Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). It finds that few countries in the region have already started to fulfill their international obligation under the Aarhus Convention in the forest sector and identifies some avenues for reform (<http://www.fao.org/legal/prs-ol/lpo70.pdf>).

WATER AND ENERGY FUTURES IN AN URBANISED ASIA: SUSTAINING THE TIGER

(Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2007) This paper addresses the problems of water shortages in Asia, noting that, in spite of Asia's bleak environment picture, there are opportunities for actualizing sustainable development in the region, especially in the fields of technology and governance. The paper also proposes new approaches to environmental governance that can be implemented in China and neighboring developing countries (http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/071231_peterson-waterenergy-web.pdf).

NIGHT TIME SPINACH: CONSERVATION AND LIVELIHOOD IMPLICATIONS OF WILD MEAT USE IN REFUGEE SITUATIONS IN NORTH WESTERN TANZANIA

(TRAFFIC, 2007) Authored by George Jambiya, Simon Milledge and Nangena Mtango, this report outlines why enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations cannot address the drivers of unsustainable wild meat use in refugee hosting areas. It argues that positive incentives, whether via equitable market frameworks for wild meat or through provision of alternative sources of protein or livelihoods, may better reconcile refugee needs, local development imperatives and wildlife management objectives (<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/1/22/lack-of-meat-for-refugees-causing-large-scale-poaching.html>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR CELEBRATES WORLD WETLANDS DAY, POSTS SC 36 DOCUMENTS; NEW SITES DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2008, the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. The event was organized around the theme "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People," which will also be the theme for Ramsar's 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October-November 2008 in the Republic of Korea. During the day, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and groups of citizens undertook actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular (http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/8/wwd2008_index.htm).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has posted all the pre-meeting documentation for the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC 36), scheduled to take place in Gland, Switzerland, from 25-29 February 2008 (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/36/key_sc36_agenda_papers.htm).

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced that Yemen has deposited the instrument of accession to the Ramsar Convention, and therefore the Convention will come into force for this country on 8 February 2008. Yemen's first Ramsar site is the Detwah Lagoon (http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_yemen.htm). The Governments of Congo, Cameroon, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mauritius, Serbia and Mexico have announced the designation of new Wetlands of International Importance. The four Congolese sites are intended to be part of a series of new Ramsar designations throughout the Congo Basin, leading up to the creation of the CongoWet regional initiative (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.congo_4new.htm). Cameroon's site is the "Partie camerounaise du fleuve Sangha," also designated in preparation for the CongoWet initiative (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.cameroon_sangha.htm). The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's site is Dojran Lake, a lake that it shares with Greece (http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_macedonia.htm). The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries of Mauritius has designated Blue Bay Marine Park, a coastal wetland recog-



Cameroon's third Wetland of International Importance (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

nized for its exceptional underwater seascape. The two Serbian sites are Gornje Podunavlje and Vlasina (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.serbia_2new_e.htm). Finally, the Government of Mexico designated 45 new sites for World Wetlands Day (http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/8/wwd2008_rpts_mexico_semarnat.htm).

KOREA ACCEDES TO FISH STOCKS AGREEMENT, CONTINENTAL SHELF COMMISSION HOLDS SESSION

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has announced that, on 1 February 2008, the Republic of Korea ratified the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_agreements.htm).

UNDOALOS has also reported that the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held its 20th session from 21 January-8 February 2008, in New York, US, to carry out the technical examination of submissions at the Geographic Information System laboratories and other technical facilities of the Division. The Commission's sessions are closed (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/cles_new/commission_documents.htm#Statements%20by%20the%20Chairman%20of%20the%20Commission).

BAHAMAS ACCEDES TO TWO MAJOR IMO CONVENTIONS

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has reported that the Bahamas has acceded to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, and the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709).

In related IMO news, the Organization's Sub-Committee on Liquids and Gases held its 12th session from 4-8 February 2008, in London, UK. The Committee, *inter alia*: evaluated safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments; and reviewed the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex VI, the NOx Technical Code, and amendments to MARPOL Annex I for the prevention of marine pollution during oil transfer operations between ships at sea (http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D20802/1-Rev-2.pdf).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN POSTED, GM PARTICIPATES IN MINISTER FORUM

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has posted its 2008 Secretariat Work Plan, which includes listings for, among other meetings, a Second Meeting on Establishing a Drought Management Centre in Central Asia in the context of the UNCCD (26-27 May 2008, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and the Fifth Asia-Africa Forum on the Implementation of the UNCCD (tentatively scheduled to be held in November, in Beijing, China) (<http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/docs/workplan/workplan2008-eng.pdf>).

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD participated in the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (27 January-1 February 2008, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic). The meeting was organized by the Government of the Dominican Republic through the State Secretariat for the Environment and Natural Resources and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP/ROLAC), in its capacity of Secretariat of the Forum. Among the decisions adopted by ministers was an agreement to request the Interagency Technical Committee and the Secretariat of the Forum to, in co-

ordination with the Global Mechanism: prepare a regional proposal, including specific actions and modalities to facilitate and increase the flow of financial resources for UNCCD implementation at national, subregional and regional levels, consistent with the UNCCD's ten-year Strategy; and to strengthen the interaction with other international cooperation agencies, particularly multilateral development banks and international financial facilities, for the establishment of programmes and budgetary provisions to support actions to combat desertification and sustainable land management (<http://www.pnuma.org/forumofministers/16-dominican-rep/html/documents.htm>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FINAL RIM PREPARES FOR CSD 16; MAJOR GROUPS DISCUSSION PAPERS RELEASED

The final Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) in preparation for the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 16) took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 28-29 January 2008. Over 200 delegates from the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) member States, intergovernmental and international organizations, as well as major groups, attended the two-day session. A Chair's Summary, which identifies obstacles and breakthroughs related to the CSD



Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the UNECE, opened the final CSD 16 RIM

16 agenda items of agriculture and rural development, land management, desertification and drought and Africa, as well as ways to improve the effectiveness of implementation in the UNECE region and globally, is expected to be made available soon (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/rim.htm>).

The CSD Bureau held its second meeting on 23 January 2008, in Beijing, China, on the margins of the International Conference on Combating Desertification. Among other items, Bureau members considered the revised proposed organization of work for CSD 16, as prepared by the Secretariat, and agreed to bring to the attention of UN member States the current lack of funding support for CSD 16, given the Trust Fund's role in supporting the participation of experts and Major Group representatives from least developed coun-

tries (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/bureau_mtg230108.pdf).

Also in preparation for CSD 16, the Secretariat has posted the first available documents for the CSD 16 session: the major groups discussion papers are available in all UN languages (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd16.htm).

The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), is organizing a moderated discussion on *Achieving Sustainable Development*. The discussion, which is taking place from 4 February to 14 March 2008, is part of a larger global consultation process for the UN Economic and Social Council's 2008 Annual Ministerial Review, which will take place in July 2008 (<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/amredis.shtml>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF SUPPORTS BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING AND PROTECTION IN BRAZIL

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved, on 31 January 2008, a US\$ 22 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the Government of Brazil for the "National Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Institutional Consolidation Project." The project seeks to provide support for the country's efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity protection within key government policy decisions at the national level and private sector planning strategies and practices. The project will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment and the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund, as well as other partners, with an estimated US\$ 75 million in co-finance

funds (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21633700~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

IDB PROMOTES BIOFUELS IN COLOMBIA AND GUATEMALA

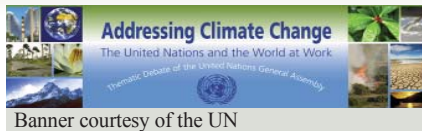
The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved two grants to fund biofuel promotion in Colombia: a US\$ 1.5 million grant to promote investment in sustainable energy and biofuel projects; and a US\$ 830,000 grant to expand innovation, science and technology in bioenergy. The Bank also approved a US\$ 400,000 grant to fund technical studies for the implementation of a programme to produce and promote biofuels in Guatemala. (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articleDetail.cfm?Language=En&parid=2&artType=PR&artid=4410>; <http://www.iadb.org/>

<http://www.iadb.org/news/articleDetail.cfm?Language=En&parid=2&artType=PR&artid=4368>; <http://www.iadb.org/news/articleDetail.cfm?Language=En&parid=2&artType=PR&artid=4376>).

ADB PLANS TO SUPPORT INCANDESCENT BULB PHASE OUT IN THE PHILIPPINES

In support of the Philippines' plan to phase out inefficient incandescent bulbs in favor of more energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) by January 2010, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is preparing a US\$ 30 million loan to help this country fund a range of programmes on energy efficiency, including pilot programmes (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2008/12390-philippines-energies-efficiencies/default.asp>).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



UN CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT FOCUSES ON POST-BALI TALKS, PARTNERSHIPS

The UN General Assembly held a two-day thematic debate on “Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the world at work” in New York, US, from 11-12 February 2008. Speakers focused on the need for a global agreement on climate change for the post-2012 period, the importance of collaborative partnerships, and the role of the UN system. The meeting opened with statements from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Ban stressed the priority of reaching a global agreement by the end of 2009 to limit greenhouse gas emissions (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2008/ga10689.doc.htm>).

UNFCCC ANNOUNCES DATES AND VENUE FOR FIRST MEETING OF NEW SUBSIDIARY BODY; CDM EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTS NEW CHAIR

The Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has confirmed that the first session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, and the fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG), will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 31 March-4 April 2008 (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/awg/application/pdf/un_climate_change_talks_bangkok_web.pdf).

In other UNFCCC news, the Executive Board of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) held its 37th meeting from 30 January-1 February 2008, in Bonn, Germany. The Board elected Rajesh Kumar Sethi (India) as the new Chair. Lex de Jonge (the Netherlands) will become the Vice-Chair. Both positions are for a one-year term. The Board also appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs for its Accreditation Panel, Methodologies Panel, Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group, and Small-Scale Working Group.

In terms of its substantive agenda, the Board considered the accreditation of operational entities, and methodologies for baselines and monitoring plans. It approved revised, simplified methodologies in relation to small-scale CDM project activities, reviewed the registration of CDM project activities, and took note of the fact that 909 project activities had been registered as of 1 February 2008. The Board also reviewed a number of requests for project registration. In addition, the Board discussed recent guidance given to it by the Third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali in December 2007 (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/037/eb37rep.pdf>).

IPCC POSTS AGENDA, OTHER DETAILS OF NEXT SESSION

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat has posted the draft agenda for its upcoming 28th session. In letters addressed to IPCC focal points and to relevant organizations, dated 5 February 2008, IPCC Secretary Renate Christ, on behalf of IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri, provides details of the venue and focus of the session, which is scheduled for 9-10 April 2008, in Budapest, Hungary. The meet-

ing will focus on the future of the IPCC, including key aspects of the IPCC's work programme and the future structure of the Bureau and of the Task Force Bureau on the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme (<http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/session28.htm>).

ADJUSTMENTS TO HCFC PHASE-OUT TO ENTER INTO FORCE IN MAY 2008

The UN Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, has advised parties that the adjustments made to the Montreal Protocol at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (17-21 September 2007), accelerating the phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), will enter into force on 14 May 2008 (http://ozone.unep.org/Ratification_status/hcfc_adjustments_entry_to_force_notice.shtml).

In implementation news, as a part of its efforts to comply with its obligations under the Protocol, Kenya has formed a new unit to regulate the import of ozone-depleting substances (<http://allafrica.com/stories/200802051175.html>). In addition, the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) held its Fourth Partners' Meeting from 23-24 January 2008, in Paris, France. Representatives from the Montreal Protocol, Basel, Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Chemical Weapons Conventions Secretariats, as well as from the UN Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization, met to assess and develop GCI activities, and cited their cooperation as a model for the cooperation encouraged by the “One UN” initiative (<http://www.greencustoms.org/news.htm>).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Neil Ellis, former Director of the Management Authority of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of the Australian Government, was appointed timber officer at the CITES Secretariat (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml).
- On 30 January 2008, the Special Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea elected Gao Zhiguo (China) as member of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea** (http://www.itlos.org/news/press_release/2008/press_release_119_en.pdf).



Neil Ellis

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA 13) OF THE CBD:** 18-22 February 2008. Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta13/>
- **TENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM OF UNEP:** 20-22 February 2008. Monaco. <http://www.iisd.ca/unepegc/unepps10/>
- **EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON LAND FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IN AFRICA:** 21-22 February 2008. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. <http://www.iisd.ca/africa/lsua/>
- **RAMSAR'S 36TH STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING:** 25-29 February 2008. Gland, Switzerland. http://www.ramsar.org/sc/36/key_sc36_doc01_e.htm