



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### GCSS-10/GMEF ADOPTS DECISION ON UNEP'S MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

More than 800 participants from governments, UN agencies, business and industry, academia and non-governmental organizations gathered for the tenth special session of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GCSS-10/GMEF) in Monaco, from 20-22 February 2008. The meeting adopted decisions on: UNEP's Medium-term Strategy (MTS) 2010-2013; the Global Environmental Outlook; chemicals management, mercury and waste management; sustainable development of the Arctic region; and the International Decade for Combating Climate Change. Approval of the decision that authorizes the Executive Director to use the MTS in formulating UNEP's programme of work and budget was seen by many as a positive step in shaping a regenerated UNEP. In parallel, the GMEF ministerial consultations addressing "Mobilizing for the climate challenge" concluded that, while economic growth is compatible with addressing climate change and capital is available, finance for adaptation remains limited. The need to establish policy frameworks was also emphasized. Discussions on "International Environmental Governance (IEG) and UN reform" highlighted converging views on the need to strengthen UNEP in parallel with a dialogue addressing more far-reaching ideas (<http://www.iisd.ca/unepegc/unepps10/>).



L-R: GC President Roberto Dobles (Costa Rica), His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner

Prior to GCSS-10/GMEF, the ninth Global Civil Society Forum gathered close to 200 participants on 19 February 2008, at the same venue, to address, among other issues: engaging at GCSS-10/GMEF; adoption of the "Guidelines for improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle;" and globalization and the environment, mobilizing finances to meet the climate challenge. Conference participants also heard a panel discussion on the MTS and engaged in a dialogue with UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner ([http://www.unep.org/civil\\_society/GCSF/indexGCSF9.asp](http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF/indexGCSF9.asp)).

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#### GUEST ARTICLE I

##### No time to spare for LDCs in climate-change negotiations

By Saleemul Huq, *International Institute for Environment and Development*

##### Abstract

Last December in Bali, nearly 200 countries agreed to negotiate a new regime under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by December 2009.

*Continued on page 2*

#### GUEST ARTICLE II

##### Global Public Policy Network on Water Management: Ensuring maximum stakeholder input to the water management review at CSD 16

By Hannah Stoddart, *Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future*

##### Abstract

The Global Public Policy Network on Water Management (GPPN) was established by Stakeholder

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**GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)**

There could be grave consequences for the fifty UN-recognised Least Developed Countries (LDCs) if their needs are not addressed. It is critical for LDC governments to understand the UNFCCC process and take steps to overcome their lack of capacity.

A major problem for the LDCs is that they can usually only afford to send one negotiator and one minister. This is a handicap because the UNFCCC negotiations can break up into as many as 20 parallel sessions. But as the nearly fifty LDCs share common interests in the negotiations, they can be a sizeable delegation if they act together as a team. They need to tighten this shared approach to negotiations and seek common ground with other vulnerable countries such as the Small Island Developing States.

Another difficulty is that LDCs rarely send the same non-ministerial lead negotiator to UNFCCC meetings. It is important to select a lead negotiator now and keep them in that position for all forthcoming negotiations.

This person needs expertise not so much in technical aspects of climate change but in international diplomacy. Officials, technical experts and NGO representatives should support the lead negotiator in the delegation to each meeting. This means finding the resources to send a sizeable team, but it is not the quantity of people that matters as much as the quality.

Before the team goes to the negotiations it should also consult and work closely with local nongovernmental organisations (NGOs). In the case of LDCs, the demands of governments and NGOs are virtually identical so it makes sense for them to work together.

Another significant aspect of international negotiations is the role of media, both local and international. Governments should engage the media and encourage them to report widely on climate change and how it will affect their countries.

Any LDC delegation to a climate change summit must have high-level

political support. This means involving key ministers including those of environment, finance and foreign affairs – or better still the head of State. The minister needs to be well briefed about the negotiating process, and understand that the ministers' speeches are some of the least important inputs to a summit.

The climate-change negotiation process can be compared to a big passenger ship with many activities going on in different rooms at the same time, with every one discussing which direction the ship should go. One of these rooms contains the ministers giving their speeches. At the same time, a small number of delegates from a few countries who have been recognised for their skills are invited to the ship's bridge to help decide which way to steer it. If a lead negotiator from an LDC fails to be invited to the bridge, no amount of ministerial speeches will make any difference.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle42a.html>

**► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS****UNGA DEBATE STRESSES LINKS BETWEEN IEG AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The thematic debate entitled "Addressing climate change: the United Nations and the world at work," organized by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and originally intended to convene at UN headquarters in New York, US, from 11-12 February 2008, extended into 13 February, to permit all interested speakers an opportunity to address the forum. During a panel discussion on "Responding to a multifaceted challenge: the UN at work," the Co-Chairs of the UNGA consultations on IEG, Peter Maurer (Switzerland) and Claude Heller (Mexico), noted that besides the debate on scientific knowledge and the policy responses to the climate challenge, the third dimension of IEG is how to organize the international community to respond more efficiently to these challenges. Draw-



L-R: Co-Chairs of the UNGA consultations on IEG, Peter Maurer (Switzerland) and Claude Heller (Mexico)

ing attention to the lack of coherence and coordination among UN agencies dealing with the environment, the Co-Chairs underlined that strengthening IEG would benefit all bodies managing environmental issues, including climate change. Further, the Co-Chairs emphasized the need to move the IEG process forward, and expressed their intention to facilitate a UNGA draft resolution in the near future (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10687.doc.htm>).

**UNESCO EVENT NOTES BIOSPHERE RESERVE ROLE IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Participants at the third World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, convening from 4-9 February 2008, in Madrid, Spain, and organized by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have adopted the Madrid Declaration, which underlines that biosphere reserves can drive efforts "to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to promote the greater use of renewable energy," as well as to tackle challenges relating to loss of traditional knowledge and cultural diversity. Conference participants also adopted the Madrid Action Plan, mapping out the Man and the Biosphere Programme's strategy and actions for 2008-2013 ([http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=41792&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=41792&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)).

**► CHEMICALS AND WASTES****BASEL REQUESTS COMMENTS ON MOBILE PHONE PARTNERSHIP**

The Basel Convention Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative is in the process of testing five technical guidelines and beginning to implement pilot projects

to test them. As a result, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has invited comments on the Chair's paper on issues raised on the guidelines on transboundary movement of used and end-of-life mobile phones, by 31 March 2008 (<http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/080507.pdf>).

In other Basel Convention news, the Secretariat has made available the Report of the 6th session of the Open-ended Working Group (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php?meetingId=3&sessionId=&langId=1>).



**GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)**

Forum for a Sustainable Future and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) at the World Water Week in 2006, in consultation with a wide range of international water management stakeholders, to help enable a successful review of water management at the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 16), in May 2008. The GPPN aims to enhance the review process by providing a space, ahead of CSD 16, where all water management stakeholders can provide their inputs and exchange views on how far CSD 13 commitments on water management have been met.

The GPPN has asked for stakeholders to report back on how far CSD 13 commitments have been met in the following areas: governance and capacity building; stakeholder and major groups engagement; and finance. As a parallel process, the GPPN is also seeking inputs from stakeholders on

water management as a cross-cutting issue in relation to Agriculture and Africa – two of the thematic issues under discussion at CSD 16 for which water management is perhaps most relevant.

Inputs already submitted have permitted the GPPN to develop initial findings and recommendations, some of which are briefly summarized here. Stakeholders have suggested that monitoring on water and sanitation is only meaningful if there is a clear yardstick against which to measure it, and indicators therefore should not only be technical, but should also take into account improvements in health, look at social improvements for both men and women, and assess whether piped water means safe water, among others. They proposed that the CSD should focus more on the water and sanitation technology requirements for rapidly urbanizing low-income areas. Furthermore, the CSD should recommend that funds be earmarked by donors for both the training of small

scale providers, and the setting up of fora where business can share its expertise with local stakeholders (in their own language) to build capacity. For more detailed findings and recommendations, please visit <http://gppn.stakeholderforum.org>.

The GPPN invites readers to consider the findings of the GPPN and to contribute further to the review process by providing their own inputs. Most significantly, the GPPN welcomes any recommendations for improved implementation of water management commitments, building on and complementing the findings thus far.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle42b.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](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information*

**► CHEMICALS AND WASTES**

**SAICM REQUESTS COMMENTS ON MODIFICATIONS TO INFOCAP**

The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was mandated to develop an information clearing-house function. It is working to integrate the existing Information Exchange Network



Logo courtesy of InfoCap

on Capacity-building for the Sound Management of Chemicals (INFOCAP) into it, and has prepared a discussion paper on possible options and modifications to INFOCAP. INFOCAP is a database to enhance effective coordination and cooperation among countries and organizations that

is currently administered by the Inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety. As recommended by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the SAICM Secretariat will modernize and take over the administration of INFOCAP. Comments are requested by 15 March 2008 (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/infocap.htm>).

**► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

**CBD SBSTTA 13 TRANSMITS BRACKETED RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP 9**

The thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has forwarded seven recommendations to the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9), although they contain a number of bracketed, or unresolved, issues. The meeting, which convened from 18-22 February 2008, in Rome, Italy, immediately following the second meeting of the Convention's Working Group on Protected Areas, conducted in-depth reviews of the CBD work programmes on agricultural and forest biodiversity, and addressed scientific and technical issues of relevance to the implementation of the CBD's 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss relating to marine and coastal biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, invasive alien species, and biodiversity and climate change. The meet-



Dais of the Committee of the Whole

ing also considered the *modus operandi* for addressing new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and use of biodiversity. Unresolved issues include: biofuels with regard to agricultural and forest biodiversity; options for the consideration of genetically modified trees; several issues with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity; possible establishment of an expert group on biodiversity and climate change; and references to climate change mitigation measures. Delegates welcomed their progress on invasive alien species, and on biodiversity and climate change, considering the debates these issues have generated in the past, but raised concerns about the

large number of bracketed references that will have to be resolved by the COP (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta13/>).

In other CBD news, on the occasion of SBSTTA 13, the CBD Secretariat posted its newsletter on business and biodiversity, *Business.2010*, which focuses on agribusiness (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/news-biz-2008-02-high-en.pdf>). The CBD Secretariat has launched the website of the International Biodiversity Day, to be celebrated on 22 May 2008, which will focus on biodiversity and agriculture (<http://www.cbd.int/ibd/2008/>). With regard to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Secretariat announced that a fair on experiences with implementation of the Protocol will be held at the margins of the fourth Meeting of the Parties, to be held from 12-16 May 2008, in Bonn, Germany. The fair is jointly organized by the German Government and the CBD Secretariat (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-023-mop-fair-en.pdf>).

**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**TRADE IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS AND SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR WTO NEGOTIATIONS**

(ICTSD, 2007) This report, by Claro, Lucas, Sugathan, Marconini, and Lendo, analyzes the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha negotiations on trade in environmental goods and services (EGS). It describes the status of negotiations, main issues of interest for developing countries, and alternatives for an agreement on the liberalization of EGS. The report seeks to facilitate strengthened engagement of developing countries in the EGS negotiations to enable them to work towards an outcome meaningful for their sustainable development goals and priorities ([http://www.trade-environment.org/page/outputs/egs/compendium\\_dec\\_2007.pdf](http://www.trade-environment.org/page/outputs/egs/compendium_dec_2007.pdf)).

**ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS AND TRENDS OF THE YELLOW SEA**

(GEF/UNDP, 2008) The GEF/UNDP Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project has recently published a set of reports on the environmental status and trends in the Yellow Sea Region. The reports highlight the major factors contributing to environmental change in the Yellow Sea for both countries, China and Republic of Korea, and outline options to address information gaps. Information detailed includes: habitat loss and conversion; biodiversity and vulnerable species; marine pollution loads; the causes and consequences of introduced species; as well as a descriptive analysis of fisheries and mariculture. The data and syntheses reports are published in three separate volumes: Vol. 1 - China National Report; Vol. 2 - Republic of Korea National Report; Vol. 3 - Regional Syntheses. The outcomes produced provide the basis for the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme for the region and its implementation (<http://www.yslme.org/publication.htm>).

**► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

**CITES-RELATED MEETINGS ADDRESS IVORY AND WILDLIFE TRADE**

In news related to the regional implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a meeting of 17 African elephant range States resulted in the creation of a coalition against ivory trade, while eight South Asian countries launched an initiative to control wildlife trade. Meeting from 6-7 February 2008, in Bamako, Mali, delegates from Mali, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, agreed to create a coalition for the conservation of the African elephant and against ivory trade. The meeting was organized by the governments of Mali and Kenya and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), following a decision by the 14th Conference of the Parties to CITES to allow for sales of specific ivory stocks owned by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe before a nine-year trade suspension commenced (<http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw/general/default.aspx?oid=225994>).

The first regional workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative convened in Katmandu, Nepal, from 31 January-1 February 2008, and gathered representatives from all eight South Asian countries: Afghanistan,



Participants at the first regional workshop on the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative (Photo courtesy of Sanjib Chaudhary/WWF Nepal)

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting agreed that the South Asia Wildlife Trade Initiative and its South Asia Regional Strategic Plan on Wildlife Trade will focus on a number of key areas of work, including: co-operation and co-ordination; effective legislation, policies and law enforcement; sharing knowledge and effective dissemination of information; sustainability of legal trade and livelihood security; intelligence networks and early warning systems; and capacity building. The workshop's decisions will be presented for endorsement at the ministerial level at the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), an inter-government organization established in 1982 for promoting regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment (<http://www.traffic.org/home/2008/2/6/south-asia-commits-to-regional-co-operation-in-controlling-w.html>).

**► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**REGION-LED INITIATIVE PROVIDES INPUT TO UNFF, ADVISORY GROUP DISCUSSES FINANCING FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Co-hosted by the Swiss and Australian governments, a region-led initiative in support of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) convened in Geneva, Switzerland from 28-30 January 2008. The first of its kind, the initiative brought together 49 participants from forest-related regional and sub-regional organizations, UNFF 8 Bureau members, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and selected country experts. Participants identified priority areas for regional and sub-regional or-



The Region-Led Initiative was Co-Chaired by Sibylle Vermont (left) and Macarthy Oyebo (right)

ganizations, including implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM), capacity building and mobilization of financing. Participants expressed their views regarding challenges faced in implementing SFM, including: translating high-level policy into action; means of implementation and the need for information exchange; and integrating forestry issues into national development strategies. Participants also discussed the interaction between regional and sub-regional organizations and UNFF ([http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/cli/AUS\\_CH\\_RLI\\_report.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/cli/AUS_CH_RLI_report.pdf)). In other UNFF news, the first meeting of the Advisory Group on Finance for SFM was held at UN headquarters, New York, US, on 18 December 2007, to discuss this issue in the lead-up to UNFF 8. Participants discussed preparations for the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group and the proposed country-led initiative on finance ([http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/AGFmtg\\_181207.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/AGFmtg_181207.pdf)). These and other recent UNFF activities are also outlined in the Secretariat's latest newsletter (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-dec07jan08.html>).



**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**YEAR BOOK 2008: AN OVERVIEW OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT**

(UNEP, February 2008) Launched at the tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (20-22 February 2008, Monaco), this year book argues that the emerging “green” economy is driving invention and innovation to an extent not witnessed since the industrial revolution, noting that climate change is beginning to change the policies and actions of corporations, governments and the UN itself. The year book also highlights that combating climate change is increasingly being perceived as an opportunity rather than a burden ([http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/yb2008/report/UNEP\\_YearBook2008\\_Full\\_EN.pdf](http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/yb2008/report/UNEP_YearBook2008_Full_EN.pdf)).

**ADAPTING TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE: A GUIDANCE MANUAL FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

(USAID Climate Change Program, 2007) This guidance manual looks at how to incorporate climate change adaptation when planning and designing development projects, and outlines a six-step approach for assessing vulnerability and implementing adaptation, including to: screen for vulnerability; identify adaptation options; conduct analysis; select a course of action; implement adaptations; and evaluate adaptations. The manual also gives examples of USAID projects applying this approach in different countries ([http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/environment/climate/docs/reports/cc\\_vamannual.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/climate/docs/reports/cc_vamannual.pdf)).

**▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**UNCCD SECRETARIAT REFORM UNDERWAY**

The Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Luc Gnacadja, has written to focal points, outlining actions he has taken since he assumed his post in October 2007 to “translate The Strategy [adopted at the September 2007 Conference of the Parties] into concrete...actions in forms of a multi-year work plan and a biennial work programme, taking a result-based management (RBM) approach.” The steps taken include the development of an internal work plan, a staff retreat on 29-30 January 2008, and a restructuring of the Secretariat to reflect “knowledge



Luc Gnacadja

management,” “information and policy advocacy” and “monitoring” activities. He has also selected 27 May 2008, in Bonn, Germany, as the date for a High-level Policy Dialogue, during which the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism will receive views and suggestions on the progress made so far in the light of the ten-year Strategy (<http://www.unccd.int/documents/notificationfocal-points.pdf>). At the GCSS-10/GMEF in Monaco, Executive Secretary Gnacadja highlighted that “the implementation of the UNCCD Strategy aims at rallying a global coalition and a call for delivering benefits for people and ecosystems by assisting in reaching sustainable answers to current major international challenges, including the adaptation and mitigation to climate change” (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/docs/lgUNEPMonacoFeb08.pdf>).

**▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**EXPERT GROUP PREPARES FOR CSD 16**

An Expert Group Meeting on Land for Sustainable Urbanization in Africa, which convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 21-22 February 2008, was organized by the Global Land Tool Network to prepare for the thematic reviews on Land and Africa at the upcoming sixteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 16), which will take place at UN headquarters in New York, US, from 5-16 May 2008. Attended by 25 participants, drawn from governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and academia, the Expert Group Meeting



Josué Dioné, Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development, UN Economic Commission for Africa, delivered an opening statement to the Expert Group Meeting

provided an opportunity for African participants that will be attending CSD 16 to highlight and debate urban land issues that can inform decision making in the African context. The meeting identified emerging issues requiring attention, emphasized the need for innovation in Africa’s land management, called for recognition of the dynamic nature of land tenure systems in Africa, proposed off-farm activities to increase Africa’s land productivity in order to alleviate poverty and reduce urban problems, and called for improvement in information management to streamline land administration and attain better governance (<http://www.iisd.ca/africa/lsua/>).

The CSD Secretariat has now released the Secretary-General’s background documents for CSD 16 ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs\\_csd16.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd16.htm)), as well as the draft organization of work for the session ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/documents/org\\_work.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/documents/org_work.pdf)).

**▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

**WORLD BANK TO ANNOUNCE CLEAN TECHNOLOGY FUND, APPROVES COASTAL AND MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT**

The World Bank has confirmed that it will soon announce the creation of a fund to help poor countries cut pollution, save energy and fight global warming. The fund will be established using some of the resources pledged by the US (US \$2 billion) and the UK (US \$1.56 billion) to combat climate change and support publicly and privately fi-

nanced projects that deploy energy efficient technologies to achieve these goals. Japan has recently announced a US \$10 billion package to support developing countries’ fight against climate change, although a letter from the US, UK and Japanese finance ministers did not detail how much of this would be channeled through the World Bank (<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSL08349530>).

In other World Bank news, the Bank approved, on 19 February 2008, a US \$4.3 million Global Environment Fa-

cility (GEF) grant for a Community-Based Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Management Project in Benin. The project aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of the coastal zone and marine resources, while supporting the livelihood and economic development opportunities of communities living in the project areas (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21654623~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,0.html>).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### IN DEAD WATER: MERGING OF CLIMATE CHANGE WITH POLLUTION, OVER-HARVEST, AND INFESTATIONS IN THE WORLD'S FISHING GROUNDS

(UNEP, February 2008) This report, which was compiled by researchers including many from various UNEP offices, suggests that at least three quarters of the world's key fishing grounds may become seriously impacted by changes in circulation as a result of the ocean's natural pumping systems fading and falling. The report draws on a range of new and emerging science including the latest assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Meteorological Organization ([http://www.unep.org/pdf/InDeadWater\\_LR.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/InDeadWater_LR.pdf)).

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### AFDB TO FUND CONGO BASIN FOREST ECOSYSTEM PROJECTS

The African Development Bank (AfDB) hosted a conference on Financing Mechanisms on the Sustainable Management of Congo Basin Forest Ecosystems, held on 21-22 February 2008, in Tunis, Tunisia. During the conference, AfDB Bank Group President Donald Kaberuka said the institution plans to invest US\$ 814 million in 13 operations, including five multilateral projects on natural resources management in Central Africa. The AfDB is also preparing a regional integration programme on the conservation of biodiversity and the improvement of ecotourism in the Great Lakes region worth US\$ 65 million, and the AfDB's African Water Facility allocated a €2 million grant during 2007 for the preparation of a strategic action plan



Logo courtesy of AfDB

for the sustainable management of the basin's water resources ([http://www.afdb.org/portal/page?\\_pageid=293,174339&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&press\\_item=29230391&press\\_lang=us](http://www.afdb.org/portal/page?_pageid=293,174339&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&press_item=29230391&press_lang=us)).

### EBRD APPROVES GRANT FOR WINDFARM IN POLAND

The EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) will provide a €30 million long-term debt financing package for the construction and operation of the 50MW Tychowo Windfarm in Poland. The project is to contribute to the development of renewable energy in Poland and substantially increase the Polish wind generation capacity, which currently totals approx. 230MW (<http://www.ebrd.com/projects/psd/psd2008/38798.htm>).



European Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development  
Logo courtesy of EBRD

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### UNFCCC HEAD PUSHES TALKS ON TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE; JI COMMITTEE CONVENES

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer has proposed a focus on finance and technology for climate change negotiators in the coming months. In his presentation to the UNEP Governing Council session in Monaco on 20 February 2008, de Boer continued to elaborate on his ideas for how talks could conclude successfully in late 2009 – the deadline set under the “roadmap” that was agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007. He advocated using the negotiating sessions in 2008 to focus on finance and technology,



Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, during a GCSS-10/GMEF panel discussion on “Mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge”. He stressed that a key challenge for the upcoming climate regime negotiations is finding the appropriate mix of financial tools to support green growth worldwide, especially in the developing world.

which he described as the “linking pin” between developing country engagement and industrialized country action. He urged a comprehensive approach to financing that made use of the growing carbon market, and encouraged negotiators at the first meeting of the new *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC, which meets from 31 March-4 April 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand, to set a work programme for the next two years and to begin advancing its substantive work ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/statements/application/pdf/080220\\_speech\\_monaco.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/statements/application/pdf/080220_speech_monaco.pdf)).

In other news, the Joint Implementation (JI) Supervisory Committee held its tenth meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 21-22 February 2008. The Committee, which oversees activities under the JI mechanism established under the Kyoto Protocol, focused on its work plan, including accreditation of independent entities, project design documents, verification reports, and the Committee's management plan and financial resources to carry out its work. The Committee also discussed collaboration with other groups (webcast: [http://unfccc.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/jisc\\_10/templ/ovw\\_unfccc.php?id\\_kongressmain=24](http://unfccc.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/jisc_10/templ/ovw_unfccc.php?id_kongressmain=24)).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has recently published a number of new documents, including the official report of the resumed fourth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the

Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali from 3-15 December 2007. This session resulted in agreement on an annex listing activities and actions for the next two years (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/awg4/eng/05.pdf>).

The Secretariat has also released documents reviewing the initial reports of the European Community, the Russian Federation and a number of other countries. The reports relate to commitments and reporting under the Kyoto Protocol (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/irr/ec.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/irr/rus.pdf>).

### OZONE SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR RESEARCH MANAGERS MEETING

The Ozone Secretariat has posted documents on its website relevant to the Seventh Meeting of Ozone Research Managers of the Vienna Convention, which will take place 19-21 May 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting of ozone and atmospheric scientists, including members of the Scientific Assessment Panel, the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, and the World Meteorological Organization Scientific Advisory Group on Ozone, will review research monitoring programmes to ensure coordination and identify gaps, with a particular focus on atmospheric satellite monitoring and ground-based satellite data validation ([http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/research-mgrs/7orm/index.shtml](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/research-mgrs/7orm/index.shtml)).



## ▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that Hungary has designated two new Wetlands of International Importance. The first site, Borsodi-Mezoség, is a Landscape Protection Area and Natura 2000 site. The second, Hortobágy, was designated in 1979 and has been extended by over 8,000 hectares ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.hungary\\_names\\_two.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.hungary_names_two.htm)). The Ramsar Secretariat has also announced that Turkey has completed the revision and updating of the Ramsar Information Sheets for its 12 Wetlands of International Importance ([http://www.ramsar.org/index\\_bulletin.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm)).

In related news, the 36th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee is currently underway in Gland, Switzerland, and will conclude on 29 Febru-

ary 2008. Over 80 representatives from member States and observers are attending ([http://www.ramsar.org/sc/36/key\\_sc36\\_agenda\\_papers.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/sc/36/key_sc36_agenda_papers.htm)).

### BLG SUB-COMMITTEE AGREES ON PROPOSED SHIP AIR POLLUTION REGULATIONS

The International Maritime Organization's Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) held its 12th session from 4-8 February 2008, in London, UK. The Committee agreed on a draft revised Annex VI on the prevention of air pollution from ships to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and amendments to the NOx Technical Code. These will be submitted to the Marine Environment Protection Committee, which is scheduled to hold its 57th session from 31 March to 4 April 2008 (<http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/>

[mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1709&doc\\_id=9015](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=9015)).

### UNDOALOS RELEASES MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY DOCUMENT

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released advance, unedited material on "Maritime Security and Safety," the theme that will be the focus of the discussions to be held during the ninth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, scheduled to take place from 23-27 June 2008 in New York, US. This material will be integrated into the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea to the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly ([http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative\\_process/documents/maritime\\_security\\_and\\_safety.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/documents/maritime_security_and_safety.pdf)).

## ▶ COMINGS AND GOINGS

- The **World Trade Organization** has appointed new Chairs for its committees and negotiating bodies. Ambassador Gail Marie Mathurin (Jamaica) will chair the Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); Ambassador Wieslaw Karsz (Poland) will chair the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE); and Ambassador Manuel Teehankee (Philippines) will chair the Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment until the next Ministerial Conference, which has not been scheduled. The chairs of the eight Doha-Round negotiating bodies will remain unchanged ([http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres08\\_e/pr512\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres08_e/pr512_e.htm)).
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Philippe Douste-Blazy (France) as his **Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development** with the rank of Under-Secretary-General (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sga1119.doc.htm>).
- The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** has reported that Programme Officer Elena Patricia Hanashiro passed away on 10 February 2008 (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=217&id=3892>).
- The **UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)** has reported Jorge Illueca's retirement. He joined the UNFF Secretariat on secondment from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2002, prior to which he had served as Assistant Executive Director of UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-dec07jan08.html>).



Jorge Illueca

## ▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **UN SYSTEM-WIDE COHERENCE: THE NEXT STEPS:** 4-5 March 2008, Vienna, Austria. <http://www.unido.org/doc/85360>
- **UNFCCC EXPERT MEETINGS ON METHODS AND TOOLS, AND ON DATA AND OBSERVATIONS, UNDER THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME:** 4-7 March 2008, Mexico City, Mexico. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/wnwp/>
- **2ND SIGNATORY MEETING OF THE CMS MOU ON WEST AFRICAN MARINE TURTLES:** 5-7 March 2008, Dakar, Senegal. <http://www.cms.int>
- **IWC INTERSESSIONAL MEETING:** 6-8 March 2008, London, UK. <http://www.iwcoffice.org>
- **UNFCCC EXPERT MEETING ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFORMATION UNDER THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME:** 10-12 March 2008, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/seinwp/>
- **FFD REVIEW SESSION ON CHAPTERS V AND VI:** 10-12 March 2008, New York, NY. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>
- **FOURTH MEETING OF THE CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION:** 10-13 March 2008, Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=195&sid=18>
- **SEVENTH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF STATES PARTIES TO THE FISH STOCKS AGREEMENT:** 11-12 March 2008, New York, US. [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention\\_agreements/convention\\_overview\\_fish\\_stocks.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_fish_stocks.htm)
- **FIFTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL:** 12-19 March 2008, Cartagena, Colombia. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/default.shtml>