



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CITES COMMITTEES CONCLUDE, ESTABLISH INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS



AC Chair Thomas Althaus and PC Chair Margarita Clemente Muñoz

The 17th meeting of the Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the 23rd meeting of the CITES Animals Committee were held in Geneva, Switzerland from 15-19 and 19-23 April 2008, respectively. On 19 April, the two Committees held a joint meeting. The Plants Committee discussed topics including: the review of significant

trade (RST) in Appendix II species; the periodic review of plant species included in CITES appendices; timber issues; strategic planning; non-detriment findings (NDFs); transport of live plants; and the definitions of hybrids and cultivars. Delegates agreed to include bigleaf mahogany in the RST, recommending that the review be limited to parties with implementation problems. The joint session of the Plants and Animals Committees addressed the revision of the terms of reference of the Committees; cooperation with advisory bodies of other biodiversity-related multilateral agreements; RST in specimens of Appendix II species; an international expert workshop on NDFs; and transport of live animals and plants. The Animals Committee addressed 21 agenda items, including: the RST in Appendix II species; production systems for specimens of CITES-listed species; conservation and management of sharks; the periodic review of animal species included in the Convention's appendices; and a proposal to transfer the Mexican population of *Crocodylus moreletii* from Appendix I to Appendix II. Discussions will continue within intersessional working groups set up by the Committees, as well as during the next round of meetings scheduled for early 2009, where recommendations will be further developed for consideration at CITES COP 15, to be held in 2010 in Doha, Qatar (<http://www.iisd.ca/cites/ac23pc17/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

The Downside Risk to Developing Countries of Drought, Land Degradation, and Desertification

By Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Abstract

The focus of the 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, meeting in New York, US, from 5-16 May 2008, on the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought,

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCE

WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

(IMF, April 2008) In this year's World Economic Outlook, the IMF recommends, to minimize the costs of mitigation policies: long term and credible carbon-pricing policies; a multilateral policy framework that equitably distributes costs of mitigation across countries while engaging all groups of economies in pricing their emissions; and policies that aim for a common world price for emissions (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2008/01/index.htm>).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)



Luc Gnacadja,
UNCCD Executive
Secretary (Photo
courtesy of UNCCD)

desertification and Africa is timely, given indications that food supplies have declined sharply because production has not kept up with demand.

In developing countries, the main downside risk is that drought, land degradation, and desertification can disrupt subsistence food production and economic development, triggering unprecedented social upheavals. Higher food prices have particularly adverse effects on the poor, and projections show several developing countries suffering food price shocks. Moreover, a rise in food prices may undermine gains the international community has made in reducing poverty.

This situation calls for concerted responses at the international level. Recent developments point toward the unforgiving consequences of failing to sustainably manage and use land resources, thus demanding a fundamental change in the “business as usual” methods of addressing the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought. In this context, the newly adopted Ten Year Strategic Plan

and framework to enhance the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – September 2007 – could contribute to providing a lasting solution as degraded arable lands are restored and the expansion of domestic agricultural production is enhanced.

On the occasion of CSD 16, the UNCCD Secretariat is collaborating with other actors to organize a number of side events that will focus on areas of particular concern to the successful implementation of the Convention. These events will address:

- Reducing the Risks of Desertification and Drought: Building Partnerships for Combating Climate Change, organized in collaboration with UN/ISDR;

- The Right to Food and Water Implies the Duty to Conserve the Land, organized with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, and the Government of Italy; and

- Enhancing the Economic Value of Dryland Areas through Sustainable Agricultural Practices: An Efficient Way to Fight Desertification, organized in collaboration with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

The impacts of land degradation, drought and desertification are most severe in developing countries, where agricultural production can decline drastically and higher international food prices tend to put upward pressure on inflation, both directly and through their impact on nonfood prices, resulting in food riots such as those the world is currently witnessing.

The international community should urgently seize the opportunity to propel an expansion of domestic agricultural production through effectively reversing the processes of land degradation and desertification and returning degraded arable land to crop production, improving local level infrastructure and distribution and storage systems, and removing policy distortions that discourage food production. Stakeholders should pool their resources and synergize their activities to address drought, land degradation and desertification issues if the already tight global supplies of arable land and water are to be alleviated.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle46.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

CMS SIGNS MOU WITH ALLIANCE OF MARINE MAMMAL PARKS AND AQUARIUMS, OPENS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

At the annual conference of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and AMMPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation on marine mammal conservation and public education. The MoU partnership is part of the CMS goal to conserve marine life by joining forces between the private sector, the NGO community and the UN. Joint activities between AMMPA and CMS will be discussed in the near future (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/04_Apr/nw_170408_CMS_AMMPA.htm).

With the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of International Conservation, the CMS Secretariat opened a new office in Washington DC, US, with Elaine Yu being appointed as the regional office representa-

tive (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/04_Apr/nw_140408_US.htm).

AFRICAN MEETING PREPARES FOR CBD HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT; TRAINING WORKSHOPS PLANNED FOR CBD COP 9

In the run-up to the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a meeting of African leaders on access and benefit-sharing was held from 10-12 April 2008, in Mahé, Seychelles, in preparation for the COP's high-level segment. In his statement to the meeting, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaflaf underlined that “access and benefit-sharing is a corner stone of the Convention and we are at a pivotal stage in the negotiations of the International Regime. The success of these negotiations depends on the involvement, at the highest level, of decision makers, who have the ability to pull their leverage together to influence the final outcomes

of this important process” (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-04-10-seychelles-en.pdf>).

The CBD Secretariat has announced a programme of four training workshops to be held on Sunday, 25 May 2008, during COP 9, on: plant conservation in botanic gardens; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; the UN Environment Programme/IUCN Issue-based Module for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions; and the Barcoding of Life. The deadline for registration is 1 May 2008 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-053-cop-en.pdf>). An African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the fourth meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP/MOP 4) (12-16 May 2008, Bonn, Germany) has been announced. It will convene from 10-11 May 2008, with the financial support of the Government of Germany (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-045-bs-en.pdf>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT 2008: MDGs AND THE ENVIRONMENT – AGENDA FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(World Bank and IMF, April 2008)

This joint report prepared by the World Bank and IMF contains two main parts: monitoring the MDGs and a special focus on climate change. The report monitors the achievement of goals and policies, and proposes a policy agenda to expedite progress toward the MDGs. For developing countries, it suggests that the best way to reduce their vulnerability to the impact of climate change is to diversify their economies, strengthen infrastructure, and develop health systems (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2008/Resources/4737994-1207342962709/8944_Web_PDF.pdf).

FRAMEWORK FOR A POST-KYOTO CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT

(Sustainable Development Law and Policy, Volume VII, Issue II, 2008) In this article, former GEF CEO Mohamed El-Ashry considers the elements of a global climate change agreement for the post-2012 period. He suggests the need for a long-term target on greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and argues that a future deal will need to be perceived to be equitable by developing countries. He urges building trust between North and South and “no more broken promises” in efforts to secure agreement. Other articles in this issue consider the Clean Development Mechanism, trade law, conservation, carbon sequestration, the carbon market, and a carbon tax (<http://www.wcl.american.edu/org/sustainabledevelopment/2008/winter08.pdf?rd=1>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Logo courtesy of FAO

INTERAGENCY MEETING DISCUSSES FOREST SECTOR RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted a meeting of senior representatives of the three Rio Conventions, UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and all other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to initiate the elaboration of a strategic framework that would describe a coherent inter-agency response to the climate change agenda. At the meeting, which was held in Rome, Italy on 17 April 2008, CPF members outlined that the strategic framework would facilitate countries' preparations for the post-2012 climate regime through information; contribute to the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNFF and other relevant agreements; and enhance coordinated action on the ground, including integration of relevant climate change aspects into sustainable forest management (SFM) in a cross-sectoral and coherent manner. The strategy would give particular attention to specific needs related to REDD, and would bring together the collective knowledge and experiences of the CPF members in dealing with complex issues such as forest law compliance, support to livelihoods, and integrating conservation aspects into land use planning (IISD RS sources).

ITTO MEETINGS ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AFROFORMOSIA

The ITTO is hosting an international expert meeting on the role of tropical forests and their sustainable management in climate change mitigation and adaptation, from 30 April-2 May 2008, in Yokohama, Japan. The meeting is focusing on the sustainable management of tropical forests for reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, managing existing carbon stocks and sequestering additional carbon, as well as the scientific and technological issues related to forest mitigation options, with a particular focus

on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD), carbon sequestration and the development of pilot projects. Participants are expected to develop practical proposals on how to include REDD and carbon sequestration in implementing sustainable management of tropical forests, and to propose to the International Tropical Timber Council on integrating forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation in its policy and operational work (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3845>).

In other news, ITTO, along with the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), convened a regional workshop on afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*), a tropical hardwood listed in CITES Appendix II, in Kribi, Cameroon, from 2-4 April 2008. Over 30 participants from the main range states in central and west Africa, as well as importing countries, NGOs, timber trade representatives and international organizations, developed a participatory action plan to help ensure that international trade in afrormosia is consistent with its sustainable management and conservation in Africa. The action plan includes: building capacity of exporting and importing countries to implement CITES and manage afrormosia sustainably; improving ecological and silvicultural knowledge of the species; promoting support programmes for its regeneration; and relevant governance and marketing issues (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3960>).

UNCCD CO-ORGANIZING SIDE EVENTS AT CSD 16

As highlighted in the Guest Article of this issue, the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification is collaborating with other actors to convene several side events during CSD 16 (5-16 May 2008, New York, US): “Reducing the Risks of Desertification and Drought: Building Partnerships for Combating Climate Change,” organized in collaboration with UN/ISDR; “The Right to Food and Water Implies the Duty to Conserve the Land,” organized in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, and the Government of Italy; and “Enhancing the Economic Value of Dryland Areas through Sustainable Agricultural Practices: An Efficient Way to Fight Desertification,” organized in collaboration with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL PEOPLES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(IUCN, March 2008) This study seeks to better understand the potential impacts of climate change on the livelihoods and cultures of indigenous and traditional communities, and recommends: formulating policies that actively involve indigenous and traditional communities in the international, regional and local climate change discourse; recognizing and actively promoting indigenous adaptation strategies; and monitoring the implications of mitigation efforts including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries (REDD) on indigenous and traditional peoples (http://cms-data.iucn.org/downloads/indigenous_peoples_climate_change.pdf).

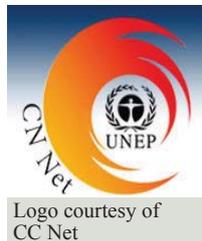
CLIMATE CHANGE—INDUCED WATER STRESS AND ITS IMPACT ON NATURAL AND MANAGED ECOSYSTEMS

(The European Parliament, 2008) This study, prepared by Ecologic, the Institute for European Environmental Policies (IEEP) and the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), explores what ecosystems will be most impacted by the adverse effects of climate change, including increasing water scarcity and flood risk, as well as decline in water quality. It also provides insight into the interaction between deforestation, climate change and water availability, in addition to analyzing how the effects of climate change act as causes of additional emissions, thereby reinforcing global warming in a positive feedback loop (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/studies/download.do?file=19073>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

NEW PARTICIPANTS JOIN UNEP CLIMATE NETWORK; ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS HONORED

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that ten new participants joined the Climate Neutral Network (CN Net) during the Global Business for the Environment Summit in Singapore from 22-23 April 2008. The Summit was jointly organized by UNEP and the UN Global Compact to discuss business-driven solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change. The CN Net is an online forum set up by UNEP, in cooperation with the UN Environment Management Group, to tackle the challenge of increasing greenhouse gases. The initiative was launched in February 2008 during UNEP's Governing Council in Monaco (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=531&ArticleID=5776&l=en>).



Logo courtesy of CC Net

On 22 April, in conjunction with the Business for the Environment Summit, UNEP's 2008 Champion of the Earth awards were presented. The seven winners – Prince Albert II of Monaco; Timothy E. Wirth, former US Senator; Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies; Liz Thompson, former Energy and Environment Minister of Barbados;

Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Secretary-General of the Yemen People's General Congress; and Balgis Osman-Elasha, a climate researcher from Sudan – were awarded for taking responsibility and demonstrating leadership across a wide range of environmental sustainability issues, including more intelligent and creative management of natural and nature-based resources from waste and water to biodiversity and agriculture (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=531&ArticleID=5773&l=en>).

In other UNEP-related news, the International Conference on Resource Efficiency, jointly organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and UNEP, was held in Paris, France, from 23-25 April 2008. More than 300 participants from governments, industry and non-governmental organizations heard presentations on and discussed issues relating to: indicators for measuring resource efficiency; sustainable mining and recycling; policies on transforming waste to resources; sustainable manufacturing and distributions; and technology and innovation. Among other things, the key conclusions of the conference included: the need to set up monitoring systems for measuring resource efficiency; the importance of supporting the UNEP/UNIDO network of National Cleaner Production Centers; and the need for efforts on waste management and recycling to be strengthened (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/5/10/39813376.pdf>).

▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR PARTICIPATES IN CASPIAN SEA REGION WORKSHOP, REPORTS NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

The Ramsar Secretariat participated in a workshop on the Caspian Sea organized by the Environment Pole of the University of Geneva (Switzerland). During the workshop, which met from 10-11 April 2008, representatives of the UN Environment Programme and the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) team and the Ramsar Secretariat presented projects and the current or potential future implications of their organization in the region (http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm).

In addition, the Ramsar Secretariat has reported a number of national implementation activities carried out by the governments of Ghana and Mali. Ghana has published a new national

wetlands conservation strategy and action plan (2007-2026) and Mali has launched the new work programme for 2008-2009 of its national Ramsar Committee. Both projects are being carried out with the support of the Convention's Swiss Grant for Africa (http://www.ramsar.org/swiss/sga_ghana_actionplan2.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/swiss/sga_mali_nrc.htm).



New Ghana wetlands conservation strategy and action plan (2007-2026) (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

GENERATING CARBON FINANCE THROUGH AVOIDED DEFORESTATION AND ITS POTENTIAL TO CREATE CLIMATIC, CONSERVATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS

(Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, February 2008, Vol. 363, pp. 1917–1924) In this article, Johannes Ebeling of Eco-Securities and Maï Yasué of the University of British Columbia consider recent proposals to compensate developing countries for REDD as part of a future climate change mitigation agreement. The authors argue that, if credits for such actions were traded on the carbon market, “even moderate decreases in deforestation could generate billions of Euros annual for tropical forest conservation.” They consider the challenges in establishing a framework for rewarding reduced emissions from deforestation, including issues of “additionality” and going beyond business-as-usual, carbon leakage, and other governance-related issues (<http://journals.royalsociety.org/content/kq13503333tqv62/fulltext.pdf>).

TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF COUNCIL ENDORSES PRINCIPLES FOR PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council convened in Washington DC, US, from 22-25 April 2008. Among other decisions, the Council “endorsed the objectives and basic principles for programmatic approaches and considered programmatic approaches as an option to support more effectively the sustainable development agenda of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.” The Council also approved the procedures for developing specific programmes using a programmatic approach, approved the work programme comprising 48 project concepts, and endorsed the concepts and objectives of ten programmatic approaches, subject to comments.

On the agenda item related to a Strategic Program to Scale-up the Level of Investment in the Transfer of Environmentally-friendly Technologies, the Council agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a report describing its work to date on financing technology transfer along with current financing options for technology transfer. It also noted the need for further guidance “regarding its mandate in respect of decision 4/CP.13” of the December 2007 Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which asked the GEF to “elaborate a strategic programme to scale up

the level of investment for technology transfer to help developing countries address their needs for environmentally sound technologies, specifically considering how such a strategic programme might be implemented along with its relationship to existing and emerging activities and initiatives regarding technology transfer and to report on its findings to the twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation for consideration by Parties.”

On the follow-up to the 2007 Joint Evaluation of the Small Grants Program, the Council agreed to “reallocate an additional 3.817 million dollars to management costs to be re-assigned from the approved grant resources to support the rapid development of 23 new SGP country programmes.” The Council approved the proposal to reconstitute the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) with six (rather than 15) members and to appoint Thomas Lovejoy as the Chair for a two-year term, with the possibility of renewal for a further two years. The Council also reviewed a “Progress Report on the Implementation of the RAF” (Regional Allocation Framework), which indicated that, with the approval of the April 2008 work programme, about 28% of the resources available in the biodiversity and climate change focal areas will have been utilized. The November 2008 Council meeting will consider a mid-term review of the RAF (<http://www.gefweb.org/interior.aspx?id=17146>).

CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM POPRC INVITES COMMENTS ON NEW CHEMICALS

The Stockholm Convention’s Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC) has compiled documents and prepared draft Risk Management Evaluations and Risk

Profiles for: commercial octabromodiphenyl ether; pentachlorobenzene; alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; beta hexachlorocyclohexane; and short-chained chlorinated paraffins. The Secretariat invites comments from parties and observers before 18 May 2008. The Risk Management Evalu-

ations will be used together with the Risk Profiles by the Committee as the basis for its recommendation to the COP on whether the chemical should be considered for listing in Annex A, B, and/or C (<http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc/request.htm>).

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES DOCUMENTS ON UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Ozone Secretariat has released the provisional agenda for the Seventh Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, to take place 18-21 May 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland. Among other items, participants will consider interactions between ozone layer depletion and climate change, international monitoring programmes, satellite research and monitoring, capacity building and systematic observations (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/research-mgrs/7orm/7orm-1-e.pdf).

The Secretariat has also placed other documents, including a pre-registration form and an information note, on its website in preparation for the 28th Open-Ended Working Group Meeting of the Parties to take place 7-11 July 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/28oewg/index.shtml).

In implementation news, the US has released new data on the methyl bromide inventories it held as of the end of 2007. Inventories, which stood at 6.458 metric tonnes, were nearly 16 percent lower than reported inventories as of

the end of 2006 (<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/mbr/otherreginfo.html>).

MULTILATERAL FUND AGREES TO SUPPORT HCFC PHASE-OUT PLANS

The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund agreed at its 54th meeting, which took place from 7-11 April 2008, in Montreal, Canada, on guidelines and seed funding to assist developing countries’ in their preparation of plans to phase-out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/news/1208549863544.htm>).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

KYOTO COMMITTEE RULES ON NON-COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Committee of the Kyoto Protocol has ruled for the first time that a country is in non-compliance with the treaty. In a meeting held from 16-17 April 2008, in Bonn, Germany, the Enforcement Branch of the Compliance Committee found that Greece was in non-compliance with regard to Kyoto requirements for national accounting systems. The finding means that Greece will be required to submit a plan to address its non-compliance within three months. It will also be restricted from buying or selling emissions credits under the Protocol's market mechanisms. In a second case, questions relating to Canada's national registry are also being reviewed, with a decision on compliance expected in early May (http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/compliance/background/application/pdf/informal_information_note_on_recent_and_current_cases_.pdf, http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/compliance/enforcement_branch/application/pdf/cc-2007-1-8_greece_eb_final_decision.pdf).

In other news from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer has prepared a paper outlining possible arrangements and agendas for the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the UNFCCC, the

Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 4), and other relevant meetings taking place in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008. The document also includes information on preliminary preparations for COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 in Denmark, Copenhagen, in late 2009. The document will be taken up the Subsidiary Body for Implementation when it meets in Bonn in June 2008 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbi/eng/04.pdf>).

The Secretariat has also released documents containing submissions on the emission reduction targets of Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol and on means of achieving Annex I mitigation objectives – issues that are being considered under the *Ad Hoc* Working Group (AWG) on Further Commitments for Annex I parties. The AWG meets again in June 2008, in Bonn (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/awg5/eng/misc03.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/awg5/eng/misc02a01.pdf>).

Also, the Secretariat has published online two documents relating to the second review of the Kyoto Protocol under Article 9. These documents will be considered by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in June (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbi/eng/inf01.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbi/eng/misc02a01.pdf>).

The UNFCCC Secretariat held meetings on technologies for adaptation to climate change and on the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, in Bangkok, Thailand shortly after the first session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action and the fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The meeting on technologies for adaptation was held on 5 April, and involved members of the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. It included discussions on technologies in a range of sectors, including agriculture and water resources, as well as discussions on particular needs for adaptation technologies. The meeting was followed by a workshop from 7-9 April, to consider the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi Work Programme. Participants suggested a range of activities to build on work already carried out, including broader engagement of relevant organizations at all levels, enhanced planning and practices, and an increased focus on economic diversification. Delegates will consider these activities at the June 2008 meetings of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (http://unfccc.int/press/news_room/newsletter/in_focus/items/4361.php).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD MAKES FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR CSD 16

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, has released a number of documents in preparation for CSD 16, which will take place from 5-16 May 2008 in New York, US. The CSD 16 Matrix, which presents barriers and constraints, case studies, lessons learned and key implementation

actors, based on information provided by governments, was prepared as an information tool at the request of the CSD 16 Bureau. A preliminary list of side events and updated organization of work are also available. Minutes from the 10 April 2008 Bureau meeting have also been posted. CSD 16 Bureau Chair Nhema (Zimbabwe) was unable to attend the meeting, but in a note he sent he emphasized the timeliness of the CSD-16 discussions, given the recent

price increases in food and agricultural commodities and supply challenges. He also proposed chairing and shepherding assignments to the Bureau. Bureau members were informed that, among many other planned activities, Major Groups will launch a "Woman as the Voice for the Agriculture Network" (WAVA) during the High-level Segment (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm>; http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/bureau_meetings.htm).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Tamara Curll has left the **Ozone Secretariat**, where she served as the Monitoring and Compliance Officer, and has rejoined the government of Australia as the Assistant Director of Multilateral Affairs in the Department of Climate Change.

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **SIXTH EUROPEAN RAMSAR REGIONAL MEETING:** 3-7 May 2008. Stockholm, Sweden. http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_reg_europe2008_index.htm
- **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD 16):** 5-16 May 2008. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd16/>
- **INTERNATIONAL GEF WORKSHOP ON EVALUATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT: RESULTS, METHODS AND CAPACITIES:** 10-13 May 2008. Alexandria, Egypt. <http://www.esevaluation.org>
- **CBD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (COP-MOP 4):** 12-16 May 2008. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/bs-copmop4/>