



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

BONN CLIMATE TALKS FOCUS ON POST-2012 PERIOD



The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties Under the Kyoto Protocol

Negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol are drawing to a close in Bonn, Germany. The talks, which began on 2 June and are scheduled to end on 13 June, are focusing in particular on the period after 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires. The meetings include the 28th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for

Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC, taking place from 4-13 June. In addition, the second session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA2) and the resumed fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP5) are being held from 2-12 June. The meeting involved discussions on a wide range of agenda items under all four bodies as well as the beginning of substantive discussions under the AWG-LCA, with workshops on technology, finance and adaptation. The next major round of UNFCCC talks will take place in late August, in Accra, Ghana, when the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP will reconvene (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb28/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Fast and Furious: Early Agreement on Fair and Equitable Financing is Key to Post-2012 Treaty

By Romina Picolotti, Argentina's Minister of Environment*

Abstract

The challenge of climate change is a race towards a climate-safe future. We must run to reach the finish line.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

SAFETY NET: PROTECTED AREAS AND POVERTY REDUCTION

(WWF and Equilibrium, May 2008) Written by Nigel Dudley *et al.*, this report collects examples where well-planned and managed protected areas have helped to bring new wealth and security into under-privileged societies (http://assets.panda.org/downloads/safety_net_final.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

Accelerating feedbacks hold us back, threatening us with irreversible climate change, including the collapse of the Antarctic ice shelf and disintegration of the Greenland Ice Sheet.

Other factors, however, propel us forward towards a clean-energy, climate-friendly future.

Sound law, encompassed in a clear and visionary international regulatory framework can take us far, fast. Global climate agreements and their subsequent national implementation trigger public sector action and send regulatory signals that in turn trigger complimentary private sector responses. At the national level, countries need old-fashioned regulatory measures, including emissions limits on climate forcing agents such as black carbon and greenhouse gas phase-outs. National-level mitigation should continue to include cap-and-trade, with strict compliance.

The other key is application, or implementation. Successful implementation requires a strong financial mechanism (FM) for promoting technology innovation and diffusion to developing countries. Developing countries, on their own accord and assisted by the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism are already contributing significantly to global mitigation. They can and will do more, with the financial and technological support that developed countries have legally committed to provide for this purpose.

The most effective post-2012 climate treaty will include more significant commitments by the developed countries, working from the top down. We also must enhance strong national mitigation measures by all countries, working from the bottom up, so these two spheres of law can merge. A sector-based approach to implementing national measures is a logical place to start and strengthen.

Other features of a successful FM include:

Democratic decision-making, equal representation of developed and developing countries, and double majority for decisions.

Operating as a single facility, based on agreed principles of governance that channels flows from numerous financial sources, including bilateral, private investment, foundations, or others. This approach avoids duplication and ensures available resources are applied according to the goals of the Convention.

Assurance from donors that the FM would meet all agreed incremental costs of developing countries to implement the climate control and adaptation measures or other commitments; otherwise such measures would be suspended.

Indicative lists of agreed incremental costs. Technical options committees could develop lists of incremental costs on a sectoral basis (agriculture and forests, for example, differing considerably from industry and energy) to promote efficiency, prioritization, and cost-effectiveness.

Country focal points, country programmes, networks, and other institutional strengthening financed by FM to develop expertise and spread best practices, with developed countries also joining networks to help promote exchange of knowledge and experience, mutual assistance, and competitive spirit to achieve agreed goals.

Preparation of country programmes (financed by FM) to set both short- and long-term goals to implement control measures based on a country-specific assessment of regulatory, institutional, technological, and financial capacity, consistent with domestic policy priorities.

Assured periodical replenishment of the FM by donors until agreed country goals are achieved, with financial needs assessed every three years by independent technical experts, so Parties can agree on replenishment based on such assessment.

Annual update to Parties based on independent assessment of technology, economics of alternative technologies, and their accessibility, by independent experts with regional representation, and final reports placed before Parties without editing.

A strong FM is key to avoiding tipping points for abrupt climate change, and for developing and diffusing climate friendly technologies to reach mid- and long-term climate goals. We have a proven model in the Montreal Protocol supporting the features outlined above.

There is no reason we could not agree, now, on such a financial mechanism, and begin addressing priority sources, sectors, and sinks immediately. This would yield immediate mitigation, which in turn reduces greater adaptation costs down the line. It also would build critical capacity, provide experience with specific technologies we will need to expand to greater scale, and give us the confidence and strength to win the climate race.

*This essay is adapted from remarks presented at CC8-Technology and Finance in Climate C-operation 5-6 June 2008, Hafslund Manor, Sarpsborg, Norway, sponsored by Club de Madrid.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle49.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.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES MEETING SUMMARY; REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING HELD

The Ozone Secretariat has released an advance copy of the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which took place from 19-21 May 2008. The report summarizes the meeting and includes its recommendations, which

included suggestions calling for: private support for studies; support for laboratory studies and research on the evolution of ozone depleting substances (ODS); and filling data gaps in geographic coverage of surface observations (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/researchmgrs/7orm/7orm-report.pdf).

In ozone implementation news, a Follow-up Meeting of the Caribbean Network of Ozone Officers convened from 26-28 May 2008, in Georgetown, Guyana. The

meeting coincided with the launch of Guyana's Terminal Phase-out Management Plan (TPMP) for hydrofluorocarbons, which is funded by the Multilateral Fund and focuses on training customs officers in controlling ODS. This programme will be implemented by the UN Development Programme and UNEP (http://www.caribbeanetnews.com/guyana/guyana.php?news_id=8135&start=0&category_id=13; <http://www.stabroeknews.com/?p=13890>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING – A GUIDE FOR SITE MANAGERS

(IUCN, WWF, Wetlands International, Ramsar, 2008) This guide is intended to provide a summary of the steps to develop wetland management planning processes and deals with several pragmatic aspects: building trust, participation and capacity; assessing wetlands' values; and setting achievable objectives (http://assets.panda.org/downloads/wetlands_management_guide_2008.pdf).

TYOLOGY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT IN SELECTED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

(FAO, 2008) This interactive map aims to help devise decision-support systems that include monitoring and forecasting and observations of ongoing socio-economic drivers. Such systems can indicate to decision makers the envelope of potential planned action, from timing of new infrastructure to governance and capacity building in the water management sector (<http://www.fao.org/nr/water/art/2008/flash/ccmap/gallery1.html>).

PROMOTION OF WIND ENERGY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND UNDP-GEF PROJECTS

(UNDP, 2008) This report reviews the active UNDP-GEF wind energy portfolio. It looks at the design, costs and efficiency of existing projects, drawing on the experience of 14 wind energy projects that have been financed through UNDP to help national governments implement wind energy public policies (http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/publications/windpower_web.pdf).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM BUREAU PREPARES FOR COP4

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention met on 19-20 May 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland, to review progress in the implementation of decisions taken by the COP. The Bureau also considered preparations for the next COP, which will convene in Geneva from 4-8 May 2009, including the organization of the planned high level segment, aiming at achieving full participation from ministers in the discussions and decisions. The Secretariat reported a significant balance from the previous biennium (2006-2007) and said that, in the current biennium (2008-2009), there is a large shortfall in the general trust fund because many parties have not yet provided their 2008 contributions. The Bureau agreed to add to the COP4 agenda the question of whether the post of Executive Secretary of the Convention should be upgraded from the D-1 to D-2 level (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/COPs/Meetings/COPBureauMeeting2008/tabid/325/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1126/EventID/26/xmid/1164/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

A workshop on regional monitoring reports under the first phase of the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) also convened from 19-23 May 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland. Outputs include the

initial drafts of the regional monitoring reports, work-plans and timetables to



Participants at the workshop (Photo courtesy of POPs)

finalize the regional reports, as well as an agenda proposed for the meeting of the global monitoring

plan coordination group in November 2008 (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/EffectivenessEvaluation/Monitoring/Meetings/EffectivenessEvaluation-Meeting2008/tabid/329/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/24/xmid/1174/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

BASEL CONVENTION PREPARES INFORMATION LEAFLETS

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has prepared information leaflets on: Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres; Illegal Traffic Under the Basel Convention; the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative; National Reporting; the on-line reporting database of the Basel Convention; the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment; the Basel Convention Partnership Programme; PCBs and other POPs in the context of the Basel Convention; and the Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling (<http://www.basel.int/pub/pub.html>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETS, RAMSAR AWARD GRANTED

The 37th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee was held in Gland, Switzerland, from 2-6 June 2008, and brought together some 80 parties and observers. During the week, the Management Working Group and Subgroups on Finance and on COP10 met. Delegates focused on draft Resolutions to be forwarded to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP10), scheduled to take place in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 27 October-4 November 2008 (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/37/key_sc37_agenda_papers.htm). The Committee also announced the winners of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for actions that have significantly contributed to long-term conservation and sustainable use of wet-

lands for 2008. The award was granted to Dave Pritchard, Denis Landenbergue and Sansanee Choowaew in the science, management and education categories, respectively. In addition, the Recognition of Excellence was awarded to Jan Kvě (http://www.ramsar.org/award/key_awards2008_report_e.htm).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has announced the designation of a new US site, as well as of a transboundary site by the governments of Belarus and Ukraine. Belarus has significantly extended the boundaries of the Prostyr Ramsar site and has nominated it as part of a new Transboundary Ramsar Site named "Stokhid-Pripyat-Prostyr." Ukraine notified the Secretariat that the Pripyat River Floodplains and Stokhid River Floodplains sites would be part of this new transboundary site (http://www.ramsar.org/key_trs_instr_belarus1.pdf; http://www.ramsar.org/key_trs_instr_ukraine1.pdf). The US designated it 23rd site, the Francis Beidler Forest (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.usa_beidler.htm).



Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

BIODIVERSITY: DELIVERING RESULTS

(UNDP-GEF, May 2008) This publication features the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) biodiversity work around the world including the results from projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to mainstream biodiversity issues, build institutional capacity, and support the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity (http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/publications/bd_web.pdf).

▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNDOALOS RELEASES ICP9 DOCUMENTS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released a number of documents, including the list of panelists and abstracts, and submissions by participants on the panel topic "maritime security and safety," in preparation for the ninth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which is scheduled to take place in New York, US, from 23-27 June 2008 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm). UNDOALOS has also announced that Oman has acceded to 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).

IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION MEETS

The 16th session of the Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation was held in London, UK, from 2-6 June 2008. Participants discussed, *inter alia*: mandatory reports under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; port reception facilities-related issues; illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; and guidelines on port State control under the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention (http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D20807/1.pdf).

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD ENGAGES IN TICAD IV, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE FORA

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has engaged in several international conferences during the past fortnight. On 29 May 2008, at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in Yokohama, Japan, Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja emphasized the UNCCD's messages to, *inter alia*: create financial incentives for pastoralists and other dryland users to preserve and enhance their land's ecosystem services; accept carbon sequestration to simultaneously combat desertification and climate change; foster alternative and sustainable livelihoods for dryland dwellers; put science at the heart of policy making; and empower communities to take charge of the land on which they depend (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/docs/lgjapan.pdf>).



Luc Gnacadja,
UNCCD
Executive
Secretary

Deputy Executive Secretary Grégoire de Kalbermatten addressed the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) High-Level Conference on Food Security on 5 June 2008, where he emphasized actions to enhance carbon sequestration in soil. He suggested that the climate change negotiations should give increased attention to land and soil, including by expanding the Clean Development Mechanism's coverage of agricultural land use, particularly projects focusing on carbon sequestration in soil. He also: called on the host country of the next UNFCCC COP and like-minded countries to facilitate an initiative that will put land and soil on the mitigation and adaptation agendas; wel-

comed FAO's and the International Fund for Agricultural Development's roles in joining UNEP and the UNCCD "in supporting the efforts of the Environmental Management Group to launch an inter-agency cooperation network on land in which FAO should play a key role;" and highlighted the merits of enhanced cooperation with FAO and concerned institutions in providing an "assessment of the extent to which measures taken under the agriculture sectoral programmes of multilateral financing institutions have taken into account" combating desertification, land degradation and drought and, as appropriate, "to actualize an estimate of the cost of non-action" (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/foodclimate/statements/unccd_kalbermatten.pdf).

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, the UNCCD Secretariat organized a side-event entitled "Sustainable land management and climate change adaptation: synergy between NAPA and NAP implementation," which emphasized the need to facilitate complementarity between UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs) and UNFCCC National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb28/enbots/5.html>).

UNFF HOSTS WEB FORUM ON FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

"Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, including Protected Areas" is the latest in a series of online discussion fora hosted by the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Participants are invited to post comments until 30 June 2008, on their experiences, success stories, lessons learnt and other issues or ideas related to

forests and biodiversity protection. This forum is being organized in part to elicit inputs on one of the themes for discussion at the upcoming eighth session of UNFF (<http://esaconf.un.org/WB/default.asp?BoardID=46&action=0>).

ITTO SPONSORS INDIAN WORKSHOP ON FOREST STATISTICS

India's Ministry of Forests hosted a workshop, sponsored by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), to improve its statistical reporting system for the forestry sector and assist India in meeting its national and international reporting requirements on forestry sector statistics. Participants at the workshop, which convened in New Delhi from 13-16 May 2008, discussed, *inter alia*: the current status of India's forest products statistics; regional, national and international reporting requirements; and how to accommodate new and emerging elements such as non-timber forest products. Participants recommended consolidating forest products statistics and clarifying the roles and responsibilities toward maintaining India's statistical system (http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/4062/May08b.pdf).

In other ITTO news, ITTO co-hosted a tree-planting ceremony in Yokohama, Japan, on 29 May 2008, to mark the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which was taking place in Yokohama. ITTO Executive Director Emmanuel Ze Meka, in opening the ceremony, noted that over 150 ITTO-sponsored projects had been implemented in Africa in the past two decades (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=217&id=4057>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



COP 9 President Sigmar Gabriel gave the meeting to a close at 9:00 pm.

CBD COP9 ADOPTS ABS ROADMAP, CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED DECISIONS

The ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which convened from 19-30 May 2008, in Bonn, Germany, immediately following the fourth Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP4) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adopted 37 decisions on a wide range of items. Among COP9's achievements is the adoption of a roadmap for the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS), ensuring that three ABS Working Group and three expert group meetings will take place before the 2010 deadline for completion of negotiations. The adoption of scientific criteria and guidance for marine areas in need of protection, and of the first-ever Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Convention, were also hailed as major achievements and tools towards reaching the 2010 biodiversity target. A considerable amount of attention focused on issues related to climate change, including reference to mitigation and adaptation activities, ocean fertilization and biofuels. While strong language was agreed cautioning against ocean fertilization, there was no agreement on adopting sustainability criteria for biofuel production and consumption. On genetically modified trees, the COP reaffirmed the need for a precautionary approach and called on parties to autho-

alize the release of genetically modified trees only after completion of studies in containment as well as science-based and transparent risk assessments, a decision that was criticized as insufficient by several parties and observers (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop9/>).

BIODIVERSITY LIAISON GROUP MEETS IN BONN

The sixth meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group took place on 31 May 2008, in Bonn, Germany. The Biodiversity Liaison Group brings together the heads of the six biodiversity-related Conventions: the CBD; the Convention on Migratory Species; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the World Heritage Convention; and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. At the meeting, participants agreed to cooperate actively on the 2009 International Biodiversity Day, to focus on alien species, and the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity; and reviewed implementation of decisions to enhance efficiency of cooperation (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/06_June/nw_060508_blg.htm).

CMS GORILLA AGREEMENT ENTERS INTO FORCE

The first legally binding international agreement for the conservation of gorillas and their habitats entered into force on 1 June 2008. Negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) among the ten range States, and supported by the Great Apes Survival Project Partnership, the Gorilla Agreement provides the framework for the development of action plans to conserve and restore the highly threatened Gorilla populations and their habitats in central Africa, covering education, research and forest protection, capac-

ity building and awareness raising (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/06_June/nw_060108_gorillas.htm).

In other CMS news, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the CMS Secretariat signed a letter of cooperation with a view to enhancing collaboration in the conservation and management of migratory marine species and their habitats. NOAA and CMS will assist each other in the implementation of conservation initiatives and explore the future development of existing agreements and memoranda of understanding related to migratory marine life (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/05_May/nw_270508_NOAA.htm).

CITES POSTS DOCUMENTS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

The CITES Secretariat has started posting the background documents for the 14-18 July 2008 meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/57/index.shtml>).

In implementation news, the third meeting of the Wildlife Enforcement Network of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was hosted in Vientiane by the Lao PDR, gathered police, customs and environment officers from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as observers from the CITES Secretariat, the US, New Zealand and Interpol. The meeting agreed to form a joint Special Investigations Group to bolster cross-border wildlife crime suppression. The Group will link up with Interpol and local law enforcement throughout the region, to ensure seizures are followed by more arrests and prosecutions (<http://www.asean-wen.org/>).

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNDP AND CBD TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY IN DEVELOPMENT; UNDP LAUNCHES NATURAL RESOURCES CONTRACT INITIATIVE

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed, on 27 May 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to better integrate the purposes of the Convention into development programming and substantially reduce biodiversity loss by 2010 and achieve the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs). As part of the agreement, UNDP will use its knowledge network and country presence to train staff from the CBD Secretariat and the Convention's national focal points. A steering committee, comprised of members from both organizations, will monitor implementation and develop a programme of work (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2008/may/undp-and-biodiversity-body-to-promote-sustainability-and-conservation-in-development.en>).

In other UNDP news, UNDP launched a regional African initiative to boost capacity for the negotiation and regulation

of large-scale investment contracts in the natural resources sector. The initiative, which was launched on 22 May 2008, will focus on the capacity of countries to manage pro-poor natural resource revenues, increase financing for achieving the MDGs, and reduce missed business opportunities and integrate African markets into the global supply chain at the most favorable terms. Work is already ongoing in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Tanzania (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2008/may/getting-a-better-deal-for-africa-from-increased-investment-flows.en>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

EBRD ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY

(EBRD, May 2008) The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development approved, on 12 May 2008, its Environmental and Social Policy document, which will set the criteria for the consideration of labor and environmental standards and safeguards within the Bank's investments and technical cooperation activities (<http://www.ebrd.com/about/policies/enviro/policy/2008policy.pdf>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP MARKS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) launched two reports to mark World Environment Day, which was celebrated on 5 June 2008 and focused on climate change with the theme "Kick the CO2 Habit." "Kick the Habit: The UN Guide to Climate Neutrality" offers a "Rough Guide to low carbon living." The other publication, "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Tourism Sector," was produced in collaboration with the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and covers issues including the contribution of tourism to climate change, the financing of adap-



Image courtesy of UNEP

tation, and mitigation opportunities in the airline industry (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=538&ArticleID=5829&l=en>).

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK FUNDS PROGRAMMES; MEMBERS REACH AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

On 29 May 2008, the World Bank announced a new programme to address the impact of tropical glacier retreat in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, including a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) US\$7.49 million grant, out of a total of US\$33 million in co-financing. The programme aims to: integrate the implications of glacier retreat into regional and local development planning, particularly in glacier basins; include glacier retreat impacts in local development projects and programmes; and collect data on glacier dynamics to improve policy decisions. On the same day, the Bank approved a US\$3.4 million GEF grant for the Forest and Mountain Protected Areas Project to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in conserving its globally significant biodiversity in critical forests and mountain ecosystems, and in meeting EU nature and biodiversity policy (Natura 2000) requirements in its path towards EU integration.

On 28 May 2008, the World Bank approved three projects totaling US\$441 million (with a US\$13.5 million GEF grant), for the efficient use of energy and reduction in pollution from power plant emissions in China. These projects account for almost one third of World Bank lending planned for China in fiscal year 2008 (<http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P098248&theSitePK=40941&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=228424&piPK=73230>, <http://go.worldbank.org/UN9Z44PBIO>, <http://go.worldbank.org/MVMY2DL0L0>).

In other World Bank news, representatives from 40 donor and developing countries, meeting from 22-23 May 2008, in Potsdam, Germany, reached an agreement on the creation of two international Climate Investment Funds (CIF): the Clean Technology Fund, designed to foster technological solutions for mitigation; and the Strategic Climate Fund, to help more vulnerable countries adapt their development programmes to the impacts of climate change while also addressing issues of forest management and access to green energy. The

agreement on the CIF will be considered by the World Bank Board for approval (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21778653~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

GEF CO-SPONSORS EVENT FOR GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP

At a GEF co-sponsored event on the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) event, leaders from island nations and nations with islands around the world announced conservation commitments for the future of island biodiversity, including a "Caribbean Challenge" to protect 10% of Caribbean marine resources by 2012 with plans for the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bahamas to protect nearly three million hectares of marine habitat over the next four years. During the event the Government of Italy, IUCN and The Nature Conservancy announced more than US\$1.25 million to strengthen and expand GLISPA including a coordination team hosted by IUCN (<http://gef-web.org/interior.aspx?id=21502>).

▶ COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua) was elected as President of the 63rd Session of the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**, which begins on 16 September 2008. Brockmann is a former Nicaraguan foreign minister, and said he will prioritize topics including climate change, the rights of women and children, and biodiversity. The **Second Committee** (Economic and Financial) elected Uche Joy Ogwu (Nigeria) as Chair, Andrei Metelitsa (Belarus), Troy Torrington (Guyana) and Martin Hoppe (Germany) as Vice-Chairs, and Awsan Al-Aud (Yemen) as Rapporteur (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10714.doc.htm>).



Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (Photo courtesy of the UN)

▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **18th MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO UNCLOS:** 13-20 June 2008, New York, US. http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/eighteenthmeetingstatesparties.htm
- **FFD HEARINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND BUSINESS SECTOR:** 18 June 2008, New York, US. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>
- **ICP9:** 23-27 June 2008, New York, US. http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm
- **IWC60:** 23-27 June 2008, Santiago, Chile. <http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2008.htm>
- **BASEL COP9:** 23-27 June 2008, Bali, Indonesia. <http://www.basel.int/meetings/meetings.html>