



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

AEWA MOP4 ADOPTS AFRICAN INITIATIVE

The fourth Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) met from 15-19 September 2008, in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Among the meeting's main achievements was the adoption of a budget that will allow the Secretariat to maintain its current level of staff and activities, with additional costs for interpretation and meeting travel cost support covered by funds from increased minimum annual contributions; and the adoption of a resolution on an African



L-R: Executive Secretary **Bert Lenten** shaking hands with **Harison Edmond Randriarimanana**, Madagascar's Minister of Environment, Forests and Tourism, who expressed hope that AEWA would "keep flying at its high altitude"

Initiative for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in Africa, which illustrates the Agreement's increasing focus on Africa. The meeting also adopted: the Strategic Plan 2009-2017 and an enhanced national report format; conservation guidelines concerning impacts of infrastructure development-related disturbance and measures needed to help waterbirds adapt to climate change; and international single species action plans on the maccoa duck, Madagascar pond heron, white-winged flufftail, lesser flamingo, black-tailed godwit, Eurasian spoonbill and lesser white-fronted goose, the latter with a note that it will be kept under review and updated when new information becomes available. A Mauritian proposal to include 20 additional seabird species in Annex 2 of the Agreement was agreed. Other resolutions addressed: phasing out lead shot in wetlands; avian influenza; climate change and migratory waterbirds; hunting and trade legislation; re-establishment projects; and non-native species (<http://www.iisd.ca/cms/aewa-mop4/>).

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CMS SC Holds Teleconference; CBD Celebrates Biosafety Protocol Anniversary; CITES Updates Trade Suspension Information *Page 2*
- **Sustainable Development**
DSD Updates Matrix *Page 3*
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UNEP Launches Collaboration on Chemical Safety *Page 3*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
Ramsar Sites Designated; New IMO Convention Enters into Force *Pages 3-4*
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC Adaptation Fund Board Meets; Ozone Secretariat Releases Newsletter *Page 4*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNFF Initiative Discusses Forest Financing; ITTO Workshop Focuses on Forest Law Compliance; UNCCD and GM Organize Financial Resource Mobilization Workshop *Page 5*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
World Bank Convenes Forest Dialogue; FFD Negotiations Launched; IDB Launches Aqua Fund *Pages 5-6*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm Begins Needs Assessment; Rotterdam Country Profiles Available; IFCS VI Recommends Integrating IFCS into ICCM *Page 6*

GUEST ARTICLE

Safeguarding Natural Value and Building Responsible Markets

By Susan Steinhagen, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services/Asia Pacific Task Force, UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative

Abstract

The UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) started its biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) work stream in early 2007, in recognition of the evolution of new markets for BES,

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT

(IISD, 2008) This synthesis report and policy makers' summary present the findings of a project that looked at barriers and opportunities to encourage investment flows for clean energy infrastructure and technologies, with concluding remarks about the direction and deficiencies of existing efforts at clean energy investment and technology transfer (<http://www.iisd.org/energy/investment.asp>).

Continued on page 3

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

such as conservation banking, green fiscal funds, ecosecuritisation, and payments for ecosystem services, as well as a growing interest from progressive leaders in the financial services sector to make these markets work for the planet's good as well as profit. The development of this work stream also follows the explicit mandate given at the 8th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006, at which parties invited "businesses and relevant organisations and partnerships, such as the Finance Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, to develop and promote the business case for biodiversity..."

The work of this Group, driven by fourteen UNEP FI member institutions with ten leading environmental NGOs supporting in an advisory capacity, is based on the need to engage the global financial services sector in identifying and addressing the risks and opportunities associated with biodiversity loss, the degradation of ecosystem services and the sustainable use of ecosystems and the services associated with them. The lead institutions and civil society partners will explore regulatory frameworks, business operations and stakeholder concerns as the work stream unfolds.

In 2007, the BES work stream produced a CEO Briefing and the report "Bloom or Bust." The publication analyzes financial linkages between banks and investors and various industry sectors by exploring the risks faced by financial institutions, as well as opportunities for financial products and services that support sustainable use of BES.

Practical next steps for the financial sector listed in this report include developing and promoting benchmarking of performance across the financial sector. UNEP FI is already addressing this issue through the Natural Value Initiative (NVI), a benchmarking tool focused on the food, beverage and tobacco sectors. The tool will focus on sustainable land management and agriculture, with a modular approach for different levels of value chain to identify current good practice/leadership. The NVI ultimately hopes to achieve greater awareness within the finance sector of the business case for managing BES, the risks associated with mismanagement, and understanding of best practice and capacity to effectively manage biodiversity risk.

In the past few years, there has been a significant shift in the way the financial sector has addressed environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. At the G8 environment meet-

ing in Potsdam in March 2007, the environment ministers of the G8 countries together with their counterparts from Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa agreed on a "Potsdam Initiative" to estimate the economic costs of global biodiversity loss. The UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), an investor initiative in partnership with UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact, launched in April 2006 by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, is a clear signal that many investors are beginning to embed ESG issues into policy-making and decision-making. Through its support of the NVI, the PRI is proving to be a significant entry point for many financial institutions into the biodiversity space.

Indeed, the financial sector's greatest environmental and social challenges – especially in these current turbulent times – are also its most promising opportunities.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle54.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 SC HOLDS TELECONFERENCE

The Standing Committee (SC) of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) held an additional meeting on 22 September 2008, convened by its Chair Andrew McNeen (Australia), to consider preparations for the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held from 1-5 December 2008, in Rome, Italy. Most regional representatives participated by teleconference link (http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/33rd_stc_meeting/33_stc_documents.htm; http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/09_Sep/nw_2209_33_StC.htm).



CBD CELEBRATES BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, celebrated on 11 September 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-

moon said that the Biosafety Protocol is among the world's key international environmental instruments, congratulated parties for their achievements and urged other countries to ratify it without delay (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-09-11-cp-unsq-en.pdf>).

In related news, during the 16th session of the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific, held on 13 September 2008, in Nagoya, Japan, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Testuo Saito, Minister of the Environment of Japan, held a meeting with the promotion committee for the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10), to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya. The 16th session of the Environment Congress focused on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-09-16-eco-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-09-14-nagoya-en.pdf>).

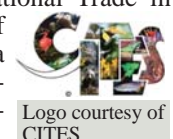


Testuo Saito, Minister of the Environment of Japan (photo courtesy of the Ministry of Environment of Japan)

The CBD Secretariat has invited parties and relevant organizations to provide inputs into the review of implementation of the work programme of inland water biodiversity by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, no later than 28 February 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-119-water-en.pdf>).

CITES UPDATES INFORMATION ON TRADE SUSPENSIONS

The complete list of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that are currently subject to a recommendation to suspend trade has been updated on the CITES website (<http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/ref/suspend.shtml>).



RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

GPA OUTREACH

(Stakeholder Forum, 2008) The August issue of GPA Outreach focuses on Stockholm World Water Week, which took place from 17-23 August 2008, and was organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute. The Week focused on “Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World with Special Focus on Sanitation.” The issue features articles by: IW:LEARN and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, both of which highlight the need to bring together freshwater and ocean communities; the UN Economic Commission for Europe, which describes two MEAs for the protection of transboundary watercourses that take into account coastal ecosystems; and Roberto Escalante, Vice-minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, who outlines national legislative efforts to limit freshwater pollution for the health of the marine environment (http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPA_Outreach/GPA_August_Edition.pdf).

TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(IISD, 2008) In June 2008, IISD collaborated with the Government of Denmark, the German Marshall Fund and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development to convene a major seminar on trade and climate change in Copenhagen. The event’s background papers have been revised and finalized, and offer summaries of the key issues in each of the six areas covered: Liberalization of Trade in Environmental Goods for Climate Change Mitigation; Border Carbon Adjustment; Embodied Carbon in Traded Goods; Climate Change, Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Rights; Clean Energy Investment; and Standards, Labeling and Certification (<http://www.iisd.org/climate/markets/trade.asp>).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD UPDATES MATRIX

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has updated the matrix for the 16th and 17th sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). The now seventy-page document presents

barriers and constraints, case studies, lessons learned, and key implementation actors for the thematic issues discussed during the CSD16/17 cycle: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNGA BEGINS 63rd SESSION

On 16 September 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) began its 63rd session, the work programme for which contains over 150 items. Incoming UNGA President Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann opened the session with a message indicating his focus will be to increase the solidarity within, and to democratize, the UN. He went on to say that various global crises are converging in the world food crisis, and that, in the context of climate change, member States must focus on protecting small island States and finance adaptation efforts in the most vulnerable countries (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/>



Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, UNGA President (photo courtesy of the UN)

statements/160908opening63.shtml; http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/BUR/63/1).

UNEP LAUNCHES COLLABORATION ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

On 16 September 2008, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection and Dow Chemical of China launched a partnership on emergency preparedness and safety in the Chinese chemical industry. The collaborative project, in line with UNEP’s Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity Building, will build capacity in China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection and the chemical industry (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=545&ArticleID=5925&l=en>).

WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED, INITIATIVE PREPARES FOR COP 10

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced the designation of new sites by the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mexico. Bosnia and Herzegovina has designated “Livanjsko Polje (Livno karst field)” in Hercegbosanska canton as its third Wetland of International Importance. The three Mexican sites are Humedales de Montaña La Kisst in Chiapas; Playa de Colola on the Pacific coast in Michoacán state; and El Estero La Manzanilla on the Jalisco coast (http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.mexico_3new.htm).

In addition, the Secretariat has reported on the sixth meeting of the Himalayan Wetland Initiative, which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 1-3 September 2008. The meeting aimed to complete the draft of a strategy for the Himalayan Wetland Initiative for consideration and endorsement by contracting parties in the Himalayan region during COP10 at the end of October 2008. During the meeting, participants successfully agreed on a text



Meeting’s participants (photo courtesy of Ramsar)

for the ‘Himalayan Wetland Initiative Strategy’ and welcomed the statements from the representatives of the Government of Bhutan on their imminent accession to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_himalaya_6th.htm).



L-R: G. Karma Chhopel, Director, National Environment Commission, the Royal Government of Bhutan; Hua Ouyang, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), and Eklabya Sharma (ICIMOD) (photo courtesy of Ramsar)

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

BUILDING RESILIENCE: A HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK FOR WORLD FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

(Human Rights Council, 2008)
This report follows the May 2008 request of the Human Rights Council for the Special Rapporteur to invite comments on the impact of the global food crisis on the protection of the right to food and the required remedies from a human rights perspective (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/9session/A.HRC.9.23.doc>).

▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

NEW IMO CONVENTION ENTERS INTO FORCE

The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships (AFS Convention) was adopted on 5 October 2001, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and entered into force on 17 September 2008. To date, the Convention has been ratified by 34 States, with a combined 52.81% of world merchant shipping tonnage. The AFS Convention bans the use of organotins and other harmful substances in anti-fouling paints applied on ships' hulls. The Convention also establishes a mechanism to evaluate and assess other anti-fouling systems and prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in these systems. In the



Logo courtesy of IMO

early days of shipping, lime and later arsenic were used to coat ships' hulls, which slowly leached and persisted in the sea water, and killed marine life that attached to the ship (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=10131).

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC PUBLISHES POZNAN PAPERS; ADAPTATION FUND BOARD MEETS

The UNFCCC Secretariat has posted online a series of new documents in preparation for the climate change negotiations taking place in December in Poznan, Poland.

These include: a document on implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change; a report on a recent workshop on the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report; and another report on a workshop on "methodological issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries" (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/12.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/08.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbsta/eng/11.pdf>). The Secretariat has also posted provisional annotated agendas for all the major bodies meeting in Poznan, including the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, the fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP/MOP) to the Kyoto Protocol, and the four subsidiary bodies that support the COP and COP/MOP in their work (http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_14/items/4481.php).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has recently announced that it is re-launching its technology transfer information clearinghouse. Known as "TT:CLEAR," this web resource was

first developed and launched in 2002 with the aim of providing a gateway for "fast access to up-to-date information on the latest technology transfer projects and case studies of successful technology transfer, environmentally sound technologies and know-how" (<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/index.jsp>).

Meanwhile, the Adaptation Fund Board has held its third meeting, which took place in Bonn, Germany, from 15-18 September. The Board continued its efforts to establish the "institutional infrastructure" needed to make the Fund ready for operations in 2009. Issues taken up include the roles, responsibilities and legal arrangements for the Adaptation Fund Trustee, rules of procedure for the Board, and various other operational, budgetary, legal and strategic issues (<http://www.adaptation-fund.org/afbb3documents.html>).



Logo courtesy of UNEP

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES NEW NEWSLETTER

The Ozone Secretariat released the first issue of its new biannual e-newsletter, *Centrum*, on 16 September 2008, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. In the newsletter, Achim Steiner, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director, emphasizes the importance of the choices that remain to implement the 2007 historic decision on hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). Marco Gonzalez, Ozone Secretariat Executive Secretary, indicates that the newsletter seeks to enable the identification of linkages that arise between MEAs. Also includ-

ed is the UN Secretary-General's message recognizing the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, in which he encourages governments to look for synergies among MEAs as the Parties to the Protocol did when deciding to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs (<http://ozone.unep.org/Publications/centrum-sept2008.pdf>).

In related news, the Ozone Secretariat has released an advance copy of the Recommendation of the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and an advance copy of a Note by the Secretariat of the Issues for discussion by and information of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention at its eighth meeting and the 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The note highlights its efforts to reduce the use of paper for Montreal Protocol meetings, including the initiative to hold a virtually paperless Meeting of the Parties in November 2008, as well as the Task Force on replenishment's work on estimating the costs for the acceleration of HCFC phase-out schedule and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel's recommendations on essential uses, particularly with regard to stocks (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/COP-8-6E.pdf; http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/MOP-20-2E-Advance.pdf).

In addition, a new interactive multimedia ozone education pack for secondary schools has been launched (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=545&ArticleID=5921&l=en>).



Logo courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNFF COUNTRY-LED INITIATIVE DISCUSSES FOREST FINANCING

The Country-Led Initiative on Financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Support of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF): The Paramaribo Dialogue met from 8-12 September 2008 in Paramaribo, Suriname. The conference, organized by the governments of Suriname, the Netherlands and the US, sought to provide a forum for participants to share experiences with mobilizing forest funding and generating revenues, identify emerging and existing public and private financing sources, and examine the relationship between forest financing and forest-related governance. Throughout the week, participants discussed: producer, consumer and community perspectives on financing SFM; financing from ecosystem services; and institutional and governance strategies at the national and international levels for increasing SFM financing. A Co-Chair's Summary Report was produced, which aims to inform discussions at the meeting of the UNFF *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Finance, to be held from 10-14 November 2008 in Vienna, Austria, and at UNFF8's deliberations on adopting a



L-R: Nirmala Hindori-Badrising, CLI Suriname Secretariat; Co-Chair Hans Hoozeveen (the Netherlands); and Co-Chair Cornelis Pigot (Suriname)

decision on SFM financing, which will take place from 20 April-1 May 2009, in New York, US (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/sdfms/>).

ITTO WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON FOREST LAW COMPLIANCE

A regional workshop on improving forest law compliance and governance in tropical West Africa convened in Accra, Ghana, from 15-17 July 2008. Participants at the workshop, which was co-sponsored by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and hosted by the Ghana Forestry Commission, analyzed problems and possible solutions related to illegal extraction of forest resources and governance in the management of forest ecosystems in the region. The meeting produced an "Accra Declaration," which contains the workshop's findings and recommendations (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3970>).

UNCCD AND GM ORGANIZE WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Global Mechanism (GM) and the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic organized an expert consultation and workshop on financial resource mobilization for strengthening the implementation of the UNCCD in the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, from 10-12 September 2008, in Brno, Czech Republic. Participants sought to identify challenges and opportunities in resource mobilization from internal, external and innovative

sources of funding for sustainable land management (SLM) in the region. The GM's Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) was used as the central guiding document for structuring the meeting. National Focal Points and finance experts from 13 CEE countries participated, and called for the establishment of a capacity-building programme to assist focal points in the preparation and implementation of national financial strategies. As a first step in the implementation of the initiative, the Government of the Czech Republic has offered to support a pilot training for resource mobilization in Southern European countries, to be held in Serbia at the beginning of 2010. The international community was invited to provide technical and financial support to the initiative, and a meeting for the CEE countries and donor parties is expected to convene at the 3-14 November 2008 meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/annexvfund-raiser/menu.php>).

In related news, the GM and the Minister of Environment and Nature Conservation (MINEP) of Cameroon signed a cooperation agreement on 22 August 2008. The agreement outlines a three-year country programme to support MINEP and other stakeholders in mainstreaming SLM into the overall policy framework, assess public expenditure designated to SLM, evaluate the economic and social costs of land degradation for Cameroon, and identify internal, external and innovative sources of finance that can be utilized for SLM (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/cameroon-and-gm-sign-cooperation-agreement/>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK CONVENES FOREST DIALOGUE

Forest leaders gathered at the World Bank in Washington, DC, US, on 17-18 September 2008, following a seven-month global dialogue, to highlight the central role of sustainable forest management (SFM) in combating climate change. Participants at the meeting, which was held under the auspices of the World Bank and The Forests Dialogue, agreed on a set of principles for SFM that will be presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain, in October 2008, and to the 14th session of the UNFCCC in Poznan, Poland, in December (http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/climate_dc2_materials.html; <http://go.worldbank.org/TVOKBCJ210>).

IDB LAUNCHES AQUA FUND AND BIOFUELS SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched "Aqua Fund," a fast-disbursing vehicle intended to help accelerate the development of projects in the water, sanitation and solid waste disposal sectors. Aqua Fund will finance project preparation and technical assistance for projects that address water and sanitation problems. The IDB's Water and Sanitation Division has set the goal of financing projects with 100 of the region's cities and 3000 of its rural communities by 2011 (<http://www.iadb.org/news/articledetail.cfm?artid=4768&language=En>).

In addition, the IDB released the Biofuels Sustainability Scorecard during the Fourth Annual Western Hemisphere Energy Security and Cooperation Forum, held on 9 September 2008, in Washington DC, US. The scorecard is a tool based on the sustainability criteria of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) and addresses 23 key environmental and social issues such as food security, greenhouse gas emissions, water management, land use change, biodiversity or poverty reduction. The IDB is inviting comments and suggestions regarding the Scorecard, during a six month public consultation period that will end in March 2009 (<http://www.iadb.org/scorecard/scorecard.cfm>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

UN LAUNCHES FfD NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations on the Outcome Document for the Financing for Development (FfD) Review Conference, to be held from 29 November-2 December 2008, in Doha, Qatar, were officially launched at UN Headquarters on 8 September 2008. Outgoing UNGA President Srgjan Kerim presented a draft outcome document and addressed participants, who underscored the importance of “renewing and retooling” the international financial architecture in light of ongoing turmoil in interna-

tional financial markets, high food and fuel prices, and stagnant growth. The draft outcome document includes calls for an international conference to redefine the purpose of the Bretton Woods Institutions and for the creation of an *ad hoc* commission to identify innovative solutions on debt. Other proposals that have been discussed in the lead-up to the meeting, but that were not included in the draft, include the introduction of a currency transaction tax to generate revenues for development, specific commitments in the section on emerging challenges such as climate change

and food security, and debt cancellation. The developing countries have reportedly agreed to use the proposed document as a basis for negotiations, but requested stronger language in terms of specific commitments on financing for development, while developed countries have reportedly insisted that the review conference should not prescribe any new commitments but be limited to assessing progress in implementation. Informal negotiations on the text of the outcome document will continue (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/consultations/index.htm#fourth>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION BEGINS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has initiated an assessment of the funding needs of developing country and countries with economies in transition parties to implement the Stockholm Convention (decision SC-3/15). Three independent experts met from 18-19 September 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland, to review data sources and the methodology of the study. The study is expected to be completed by December 2008. Parties and stakeholders are invited to submit information on their experiences to the Secretariat by 30 September 2008 (<http://chm.pops.int/>).

REPORT AVAILABLE ON AFRICAN REGIONAL SAICM MEETING; IFCS VI RECOMMENDS INTEGRATING IFCS INTO ICCM

The report from the Second African Regional Meeting on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which convened from 16-17 July 2008, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, is now available. The meeting reviewed progress in the

African Core Group work programme, and undertook preparation for the first meeting of the Open-ended Legal and Technical Working Group (OELTWG), the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) and the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS VI) (http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/meeting/afreg/Dar%20es%20Salaam_08/Documents/SAICM%20Dar%20report%20final%202%20Sep%2008.pdf).

In related news, IFCS VI convened from 15-19 September 2008 in Dakar, Senegal. The main agenda item for the meeting was consideration of the future of the IFCS. Discussions were based on three options identified by the Working Group on the Future of the IFCS, created by IFCS V in light of agreement on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in 2006. Delegates agreed to invite the ICCM to integrate the Forum into the ICCM as an advisory body. The future of the IFCS will be determined by the ICCM at its second meeting in



IFCS President
Zoltán Szabó

May 2009. Delegates also decided that IFCSs' role is to provide an open, transparent and inclusive Forum for considering new and emerging issues related to sound chemicals management. Regarding nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, delegates agreed on a statement limited to manufactured nanomaterials. IFCS VI also considered international transport of lead and cadmium via trade but was unable to reach consensus on this issue (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/ifcs6/>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION COUNTRY PROFILES AVAILABLE

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has introduced dedicated internet pages for each party. Each page contains a summary of implementation elements, including: date of ratification; designated national authority and contact details; official contact point contact details; import country responses details (Annex III); notifications of final regulatory actions for all chemicals; and meetings and technical assistance activities (<http://www.pic.int/reports/countryprofiles.asp>).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- The **Ozone Secretariat** has announced two new appointments. Maria Saldanha will serve as the Information and Communications Officer, and Sophia Mylona has assumed the new post of Monitoring and Compliance Officer, within the newly created Legal Affairs and Compliance Unit (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/MOP-20-2E-Advance.pdf).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Workshop on Local Development and Natural Resource Management in Arid Zones:** 30 September 2008. Paris, France. <http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/workshop-on-local-development-and-natural-resource-management-in-arid-zones>
- **Workshop on Financial Resource Mobilization for SLM in Central Africa:** 30 September-1 October 2008. Douala, Cameroon. <http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/workshop-on-financial-resource-mobilization-for-sustainable-land-management-in-central-africa>
- **Ad Hoc OEWG to Review and Assess Measures to Address the Global Issue of Mercury:** 6-10 October 2008. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/merc2/>
- **IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee:** 6-10 October 2008. London, UK. <http://www.imo.org/>