



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

#### UNCCD SUBSIDIARY BODIES CONSIDER WORK PLANS AND INDICATORS

The first Special Session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S1) and the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC7) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened in



CST Chair William Dar (middle) opened CST S1, highlighting that the special session represents part of the UNCCD reform process

Istanbul, Turkey, from 3-14 November 2008. Delegates reviewed the two-year work programmes and four-year work plans that the Convention's bodies were asked to develop, as well as indicators and reporting guidelines, to set in place the mechanisms through which implementation of the ten-year strategic plan (the Strategy), which was adopted in 2007, would be executed and assessed. The CST S1 session, from 5-6 November, considered preparations for CST9, elements of the Strategy related to the CST, the CST's four-year work plan and two-year costed work programme, and advice to the CRIC on measuring progress on the Strategy's Strategic Objectives. CRIC7, which convened from 7-14 November, considered: the work plans and programmes for the Convention's bodies; the format of future meetings of the CRIC; and indicators and monitoring of the Strategy and principles for improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Delegates also conducted informal consultations to develop a process through which the CST Bureau would work during the coming year to identify a minimum set of indicators to monitor and assess desertification (<http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cric7>).

#### MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Forests, Deserts and Land**  
ITTC44 Creates New Thematic Programmes; UNFF Expert Group Discusses Financing *Pages 2-3*
- **Sustainable Development**  
DSD Co-Hosts Climate Technology Transfer Meeting *Page 3*
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**  
UNEP Co-Sponsors Conference on Military's Role in Climate Change Mitigation *Page 3*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**  
UNEP-Sponsored Meeting Considers Science-Policy Biodiversity Interface; CITES-Supervised Ivory Auctions Finalized; CBD Addresses Consultation on REDD; CMS Discusses Saiga Antelope *Page 4*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**  
Stockholm Reviews DDT Business Plan; UNEP Mercury Report Available *Page 4*
- **Climate and Atmosphere**  
UNFCCC Organizes Workshops; IPCC Releases Climate Change and Water Report; Multilateral Fund and Ozone MOP Convene *Page 5*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**  
London Convention Parties Agree on Ocean Fertilization Moratorium *Page 5*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**  
GEF Council Reelects CEO; Negotiations Continue for FfD; World Bank Creates Green Bond *Page 6*

#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### A Rights-Informed Approach to Tackling Climate Change

By Marc Limon\*

##### Abstract

2007 was a year of important climate change anniversaries.

It saw the 20th anniversary of the first discussion of climate change by Commonwealth leaders, following the 1987 speech of former Maldives President Maumoon Abdul

*Continued on page 2*

#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### NEW PGRFA PORTAL

(FAO, 2008) Launched by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a new portal for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) is now available. Aiming to foster implementation of the Global Plan of Action adopted in 1996, the portal provides access to information, including funding sources, regarding activities in the field of PGRFA (<http://www.globalplanoaction.org/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

Gayoom during which he described how unprecedented waves had caused widespread destruction in the Maldives. A few weeks later, in New York, President Gayoom delivered an address to the UN General Assembly, warning about the growing threat posed by climate change and associated rises in mean sea-levels. This was the first time that the issue of climate change had been raised before world leaders at the UN.

However, last year's 20th anniversary of these events was not a happy one, as the intervening years have been a time of failed promises and missed opportunities. To mark the anniversaries, on 17 July 2007, President Gayoom, in a speech to the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, proposed that *the* key factor holding back progress on climate change – a lack of political will – is in part caused by the incorrect perception that global warming is a scientific issue; a matter of degrees centigrade, millimeters and parts per million.

The President's conclusion was that the world needed to re-conceptualize climate change as a profoundly human issue with human causes and human consequences. In short, the world would need to understand and become convinced of the immediate, compelling and catastrophic "human dimension of global climate change."

The basic premise of this approach is that climate change has massive and widespread implications for a

range of fundamental human rights, and that in a world order built-upon concepts of international law, solidarity and justice, it is surely wrong for the international community to sit idly by while humankind's greatest natural resource - the shared global ecosphere - is critically undermined by the economically-motivated actions of a privileged few at the expense of the rights of the underprivileged many.

In terms of ways forward, the Maldives has proposed two broad categories of possible response.

Firstly, human rights thinking and understanding should be fed into the UNFCCC climate change negotiation process in order to inform, complement, guide and energize those talks. A "rights-informed approach" would play a complementary role to the primarily scientific/environmental law UNFCCC negotiations by informing and helping to guide climate change policy.

By adopting such an approach, the human rights community would be able to undertake small and manageable, yet also practical and useful steps to support the UNFCCC process. Such steps might include: the provision of information on what a 2 degree, 3 degree, or 4 degree rise in global temperatures would mean in practice for vulnerable people and communities around the world; or the development of practical guidelines for promoting and protecting human rights while designing and imple-

menting climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Longer-term, the growing international focus on the relationship between human rights and climate change has interesting implications for the concept of "environmental rights" or "the right to a safe and sustainable environment."

The legal establishment of such a right would have major implications for climate change and other transnational environmental harms, but also for government policy and accountability both domestically and internationally. For this reason the idea is a controversial one, but perhaps the issue of climate change points to the need for a renewed focus on this significant gap in the continuum between international human rights policy and international environmental policy.

\* Marc Limon works as an Advisor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The views expressed in this article are those of the author alone and do not represent nor reflect the official position of any government or organization.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle58.html>

*Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, [lynn@iisd.org](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information.*

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



### UNFF EXPERT GROUP DISCUSSES FINANCING FRAMEWORK

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on Finance convened in Vienna, Austria, from 10-14 November 2008, to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework to support the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM), the achievement of

the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Experts considered a background document prepared by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, with the support of the Programme on Forests (PROFOR) of the World Bank ([http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/AGF\\_Financing\\_Study.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/AGF_Financing_Study.pdf)), and held a panel discussion on mapping the current funding landscape. There was considerable discussion about potential funding through mechanisms



to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). A number of experts expressed support for a facilitative mechanism that would help mobilize existing and emerging funds and facilitate access to other sources of finance to help achieve national and sub-national priorities, while many experts reiterated their support for a distinct fund dedicated or earmarked for SFM and the global objectives. Experts agreed that member States would provide written contributions for further elaboration of the proposals, which the UNFF Secretariat will synthesize in preparation for UNFF8, to be held in late April 2009 ([http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/Adv\\_Unedited\\_ChairsSum\\_AHEG\\_Finance.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/Adv_Unedited_ChairsSum_AHEG_Finance.pdf)).

► **FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**ITTC44 CREATES NEW THEMATIC PROGRAMMES, PLEDGES FUNDS FOR TROPICAL FORESTS**

The 44th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC44) met in Yokohama, Japan, from 3-8 November 2008, and concluded its session by pledging US\$8.6 million in funds for new projects and thematic programmes. The Council adopted the ITTO Action Plan 2008-2011 and decided to establish thematic programmes, on a pilot basis, on: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade; Community Forest Management and Enterprises; Trade and Market Transparency; Industry Development and Efficiency; and Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical For-

ests. Along with financing 11 projects and two pre-projects, ITTC approved additional funding for: studying developments and progress in timber procurement policies; updating and field-testing ITTO's Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests; and national training workshops on the application of criteria and indicators for sustainable tropical forest management. Funds were also pledged to enhance the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to produce and trade legal and sustainable timber, and to assist members in formulating and implementing an integrated forest-sector response to climate change. The Council decided to convene its next session in Yokohama in November 2009, followed by a session in Guatemala in 2010 (<http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/ittc44/>;

<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=217&id=4335>).



Katarina Kuehmayer, ITTC-44 Chair, is presented with a gift of appreciation by incoming Chair Michael Maue, Papua New Guinea

► **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**DSD CO-HOSTS CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER MEETING**

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs co-hosted a high-level conference on "Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer," which took place in Beijing, China, from 7-8 November 2008. The event focused on: the current status and development potential of energy and other climate-related technologies; the current status and trends in technology transfer; barriers to technology transfer; and policy options and possible new mechanisms to enhance international cooperation and technology transfer to developing countries under the UNFCCC. Participants adopted a Beijing High Level

Statement, calling for strengthened international cooperation and improved technology transfer to tackle climate change. A Chair's Summary will be forwarded for input to the 14th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, which will convene in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008 ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/op/beijing\\_climatechange\\_workshop08.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/op/beijing_climatechange_workshop08.htm)).

In other DSD-related news, the North American Workshop on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) took place from 6-7 November 2008, in Washington, DC, US. The meeting sought to define a regional approach to advance SCP in North America. The workshop's discussions and outcomes will feed into the Marrakech Process, which is designed to support the development of a ten-year framework of pro-

grammes (10YFP) on SCP to be considered by the 18th and 19th sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), in 2010-2011 (<http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/sdwc/>).

DSD has also posted a letter from the Chair of CSD17, Gerda Verburg (the Netherlands), in which she identifies a number of areas in which the May 2009 session could act, including: productivity improvement; enabling environment; sustainable value chain development; market access; and food security and safety net mechanisms ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/Message\\_Chairperson.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/Message_Chairperson.pdf)).



Gerda Verburg (the Netherlands)

► **INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**UNEP CO-SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON MILITARY'S ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, RELEASES REPORT**

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) co-sponsored a meeting, which convened from 3-5 November 2008, in Paris, France, on "The Importance of Military Organizations in Protecting the Climate: 2008." The conference sought to, *inter alia*: highlight lessons from the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer; present military and commercial case studies of climate leadership; discuss progress and challenges in the field; and work towards engaging the military community in

mitigating climate change. Among other issues, participants considered the importance of cooperation for climate and security, the role of accurate greenhouse gas accounting, and emission-reduction technologies ([http://igsd.org/docs/Military-Climate\\_meeting\\_3\\_Nov.pdf](http://igsd.org/docs/Military-Climate_meeting_3_Nov.pdf)).

In other UNEP news, in preparation for the 25th Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which will take place in February 2009 at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP's regional offices have organized consultations with civil society during the month of November 2008 ([http://www.unep.org/civil\\_society/GCSF10/regionalconsult-gcsf10.asp](http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF10/regionalconsult-gcsf10.asp)).

UNEP also released a report on Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABCs) on 13 November 2008. The report shows that, in addition to affecting agriculture and human health, this layer of soot and manmade particles can both aggravate, via the absorption of sunlight, and counteract, via the reflection of sunlight and effects on cloud formation, climate change due to greenhouse gases (<http://www.unep.org/pdf/ABCsSummaryFinal.pdf>).



Cover of ABC Summary (image courtesy of UNEP)

## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### UNEP-SPONSORED MEETING CONSIDERS SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

The *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) met from 10-12 November 2008, in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Participants exchanged views on the core mandate and functions, focus areas and governance structure, and proposed work programme and budget of an IPBES, as laid out in a concept note based on the follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and the Consultative Process Towards an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). Participants adopted a Chairs' Summary of the meeting, which highlights areas of agreement and reflects differing views expressed during the meeting. In the document, the meeting recommends that the UNEP Executive Director report the meeting's outcomes to the 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council, and requests him to convene a second meeting. The Summary also indicates that the meeting's Chairs recommend continuing to explore mechanisms to improve the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and that UNEP undertake a preliminary gap analysis to facilitate the discussions, to be made available to the UNEP Governing Council (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/ipbes/>).

### CITES-SUPERVISED IVORY AUCTIONS FINALIZED

Through four auctions, conducted under the supervision of the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Willem Wijnstekers, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe have sold 102

tons of ivory to Chinese and Japanese accredited traders, for a total amount of US\$15,400,000. The sales were agreed during the 14th Conference of the Parties to CITES in June 2007, and no new sales from these four African countries will be allowed for the next nine years. The proceeds are to be used exclusively for elephant conservation and community development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range ([http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press\\_release.shtml](http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml)).

### CBD'S DJOGHLAF ADDRESSES CONSULTATION ON REDD

On the occasion of the Global Indigenous Peoples Consultation on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), held from 12-14 November 2008, in Baguio City, the Philippines, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), highlighted the opportunity for indigenous and local communities to contribute to the formation and implementation of possible solutions to climate change, such as REDD schemes, to ensure that their traditional knowledge, rights and biological diversity are protected and enhanced in the process. The consultation was organized by Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), the UN University Institute of Advanced Studies, the UN REDD Programme and the CBD Secretariat (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-11-12-redd-en.pdf>; [http://www.unutki.org/news.php?news\\_id=43&doc\\_id=6](http://www.unutki.org/news.php?news_id=43&doc_id=6)).

In other CBD news, the third issue of the CBD Secretariat's newsletter on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation has been posted on the CBD website (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/development/news-bd-03>

-en.pdf). The Secretariat has also released the Minutes of the First Meeting of the COP9 Bureau, held on 4 October 2008, in Barcelona, Spain (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop-bureau/cop-bur-2008/cop-bur-2008-10-minutes-en.pdf>). Finally, the list of participants to the expert group on concepts, terms, working definitions and sectoral approaches with regard to access and benefit-sharing has been revised "to ensure better representation of all stakeholders" (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-147-abs-en.pdf>).

### CMS DISCUSSES SAIGA ANTELOPE

A meeting held from 29-31 October 2008, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, focused on implementation issues related to the Saiga Antelope Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was developed in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and entered into force in 2006. The meeting assessed the status of the medium-term work programme 2007-2011, while a workshop assessed how individual saiga populations are currently being monitored, what optimal methodology should be used and how such methods could be practically implemented ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/11\\_Nov/nw0511\\_saiga.htm](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2008/11_Nov/nw0511_saiga.htm)).

In other CMS news, a press release by the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) provides information on the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (Western Palearctic Population), adopted by the fourth Meeting of the Parties to AEWA, held in September 2008, in Antananarivo, Madagascar ([http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news\\_elements/2008/lwfg\\_ssap.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2008/lwfg_ssap.htm)).

## ► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

### STOCKHOLM CONVENTION REVIEWS DDT BUSINESS PLAN

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has convened a meeting to review the interim report for the preparation of a business plan to promote a global partnership for developing and deploying alternatives to DDT. Approx-



The dais during the Stakeholders' meeting (photo courtesy of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat)

imately 80 representatives from 26 governments, industry, research and NGOs, gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, for the 3-5 November 2008 session. The review of the interim report addressed how to fill numerous information gaps on mosquito vector control, increasing capacity in malaria-endemic countries to employ alternative methods, developing new formulations of pesticides and researching new non-chemical alternatives. The Stockholm Convention will use the business plan to promote a global partnership for developing and deploying alternatives to DDT. This plan will be reviewed for endorsement by the fourth Conference of the Par-

ties to the Stockholm Convention at its next meeting in May 2009 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=550&ArticleID=5967&l=en>).

### UNEP MERCURY REPORT AVAILABLE

UNEP Chemicals has made available an advance (English only) version of the report of the Second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG2), which convened in Nairobi, Kenya, during October 2008 ([http://www.chem.unep.ch/MERCURY/OEWG2/documents/113/English/OEWG\\_2\\_13.pdf](http://www.chem.unep.ch/MERCURY/OEWG2/documents/113/English/OEWG_2_13.pdf)).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### IPCC RELEASES TECHNICAL PAPER ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released a technical paper on "Climate Change and Water," that draws together and evaluates the information in the IPCC Assessment and Special Reports concerning the impacts of climate change on hydrological processes and regimes, and on freshwater resources (<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/technical-papers/climate-change-water-en.pdf>).

### UNFCCC ORGANIZES WORKSHOPS ON INDICATORS AND INVESTMENT FLOWS

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat organized, from 6-7 November 2008, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a meeting on experiences in using performance indicators for monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building at the national level, consistent with the capacity-building framework. COP13 requested the Secretariat to convene such a meeting before COP14 ([http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/capacity\\_building/items/4493.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/4493.php)).

The UNFCCC Secretariat also convened a workshop from 10-11 November 2008, in Bonn, Germany, to share the key findings of an update on invest-

ment and financial flows to address climate change. The workshop sought to receive feedback, identify gaps and prioritize needs for further work that can be undertaken on investment and financial flows to address climate change ([http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/financial\\_mechanism/financial\\_mechanism\\_gcf/items/4112.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/financial_mechanism_gcf/items/4112.php)).

In preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released a report on the "National greenhouse gas inventory data for the period 1990-2006" (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/sbi/eng/12.pdf>).

### MULTILATERAL FUND AND OZONE MOP CONVENE

The 56th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was held from 8-12 November 2008, in Doha, Qatar. The Executive Committee considered, *inter alia*: the status of contributions and distributions; business plans; prospects of Article 5 (developing) countries in achieving compliance with the next control measures of the Montreal Protocol; project proposals; the cost structure for determining funding levels for preparation of investment in the accelerated phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs); and monitoring and evalu-

ation. A contact group on HCFCs discussed the need for incentives for early phase-out, the calculation of closure costs, monitoring, and the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism. On HCFCs, the Executive Committee decided to defer decisions on the treatment of swing plants and on the cut-off dates for the production sector (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/files/56/5664.pdf>; <http://www.multilateralfund.org/56thmeeting.htm>).

In other ozone news, in advance of the 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, which convened in Doha, Qatar, from 16-20 November 2008, the Secretariat released additional documents, including on the status of ratification and on compliance. The meeting considered replenishment of the Multilateral Fund and the destruction of ozone-depleting substances, among other items ([http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/mop/20mop/index.shtml](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/index.shtml); <http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop20/>).



The dais during MOP-20/COP-8

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### LONDON CONVENTION PARTIES AGREE ON OCEAN FERTILIZATION MORATORIUM

The 30th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and third meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol thereto (London Protocol) took place at International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters in London, UK, from 27-31 October 2008. Parties adopted a non-binding resolution that provides that



Logo courtesy of IMO

ocean fertilization activities, other than legitimate scientific research, should not be allowed. The resolution follows previous discussions by parties to the two treaties on planned operations for large-scale fertilization of the oceans using micro-nutrients, such as iron, to sequester carbon dioxide. Parties also agreed to consider further a potential legally binding resolution or amendment to the

London Protocol at their next session in 2009.

In other work, parties also completed: the revision of the Generic Guidelines for the Assessment of Wastes and Other Matter, replacing the 1997 Guidelines on the same issue; the revision of the Specific Guidelines for the Assessment of Inert, Inorganic Geological Material, replacing the 2000 Guidelines on the same issue; the finalization of the Guidelines for the Placement of Artificial Reefs, for publication in early 2009; the advice to mariners on how to deal responsibly with spoilt cargoes on board ships; and Guidance on Best Management Practices for Removal of Anti-Fouling Coatings from Ships, including TBT hull paints, which will be forwarded to the Marine Environment Protection Committee for adoption in July 2009. On carbon capture and storage, the meetings noted that, if a carbon dioxide stream injected into a sub-seabed geological formation is expected to cross a jurisdictional boundary between two or more countries, regulators should take special care to notify and

seek input from those countries before issuing a permit in order to ensure compliance with relevant regulations under the London Protocol. Parties agreed to continue this discussion by correspondence on this matter ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1709&doc\\_id=10403](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=10403)).

In other IMO news, the International Maritime Prize for 2007 was presented to Jørgen Rasmussen, who has had a prominent role in developing the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, the International Safety Management Code and the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of IMO, presented the prize during a special ceremony on 12 November 2008, during the 101st session of the IMO Council. The 100th session of the IMO Council in June 2008 took the decision to award the prize to Jørgen Rasmussen in recognition of his contribution to maritime safety and security and prevention of marine pollution from ships ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1709&doc\\_id=10409](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=10409)).

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE FOR FFD

During the month of October 2008, negotiations continued on the draft Outcome Document for the Doha International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha, Qatar, from 29 November-2 December 2008. Countries and regional groups presented their suggestions for the outcome document, which has been compiled by the facilitators, and integrated in proposals for revised draft text. Informal consultations will continue during November ([http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/draftoutcome/revised\\_dod.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/draftoutcome/revised_dod.htm)).

### GEF COUNCIL REELECTS CEO

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council reelected Monique Barbut as CEO during its biannual meeting, which convened from 11-13 November 2008, in Washington DC, US. Countries also accepted an offer by Uruguay to host the Fourth GEF Assembly during the first half of 2010. Among other issues, Council Members approved a "Strategic Program to Scale up the Level of Investment in the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies," which together with funds allocated to the Special Climate Change Fund for technology transfer, will make



Monique Barbut

US\$ 50 million available for the transfer of climate-friendly technologies. Donors and recipients also participated in initial discussions on the fifth GEF replenishment. The GEF Council Meeting was preceded by an NGO consultation on 10 November 2008, and a meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council on 13 November. Council members also approved an approach to monitor performance and outputs, outcomes and impacts of both funds (IISD Sources; [http://gefweb.org/interior\\_right.aspx?id=17146](http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=17146)).

### NEW WTO TUNA-DOLPHIN CONSULTATION REQUESTED

Seventeen years after the original complaint by Mexico to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on US restrictions to imports of tuna, based on environmental standards related to fishing practices, Mexico has filed a new request for WTO consultation. The request filed on 24 October, contests the US' refusal to allow the dolphin-safe label to be used on Mexican tuna products fished using encircling or 'purse-seine' nets. Mexico claims that the trade restrictions are illegal and discriminatory, and have resulted in a loss of over one-third of its tuna fleet due to its hampered ability to effectively market Mexican tuna in the US (<http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/32386/>; [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/dispu\\_e.htm#news](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/dispu_e.htm#news)).

### WORLD BANK CREATES GREEN BOND

The World Bank, in partnership with SEB and Scandinavian institutional investors will raise funds for projects seeking to mitigate climate change or promote adaptation to its effects, through the issue of a "World Bank green bond." A result of its "Strategic Framework for Development and Climate Change," the green bond is an example of innovative approaches to financing. The bonds will be issued for a total amount of Swedish kronor (SEK) 2.325 billion, with an annual interest rate of 0.25 percent above Swedish government bond rates and will have a maturity of six years. SEB will be the lead manager and offer the bonds to investors through its distribution network (<http://go.worldbank.org/UB1GGJLP60>).

The World Bank approved, on 11 November 2008, a US\$50 million loan to support the Renewable Energy in the Rural Market Project (PERMER), which will provide clean energy to rural communities in Argentina (<http://go.worldbank.org/NB62JZX8U0>). The Bank also approved an additional grant of US\$5.44 million from the GEF to assist the Mexican government in its efforts to promote conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity through the consolidation of the Protected Areas System Project (<http://go.worldbank.org/ALTDVYVP20>).

## ► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- On 5 November 2008, Jan McAlpine (US) took up the post of the **Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat**. McAlpine has been part of the UNFF and its predecessor processes for 15 years as the Senior Negotiator and Forest Lead for the US Department of State ([http://www.un.org/esa/forests/director\\_appointmen.html](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/director_appointmen.html)).
- On 13 November 2008, Tariq Banuri (Pakistan) took up the post of **Director of the Division for Sustainable Development**, in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Banuri comes to the UN from the Stockholm Environment Institute. He has also held positions in the Pakistani Government ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/about\\_us/TariqBanuri.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/about_us/TariqBanuri.pdf)).



Jan McAlpine



Tariq Banuri

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- Tenth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans:** 25-27 November 2008. Guayaquil, Ecuador. [http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/default\\_ie.asp](http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/default_ie.asp)
- Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus:** 29 November-2 December 2008. Doha, Qatar. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>
- Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals:** 1-5 December 2008. Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/cms/cop9/>
- UN Climate Change Conference - Poznań:** 1-12 December 2008, Poznań, Poland. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/>
- CBD Expert Group on ABS Concepts, Terms, Working Definitions and Sectoral Approaches:** 2-5 December 2008. Windhoek, Namibia. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>
- Stockholm Convention Expert Meeting to Further Develop the Standardized Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases:** 3-5 December 2008. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://chm.pops.int/Default.aspx>