



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE CONCLUDES IN POZNAŃ



A view of the dais during the opening of the high-level segment

The UN Climate Change Conference, which convened in Poznań, Poland, from 1-12 December 2008, involved a series of events, including the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and fourth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP4). Four subsidiary bodies also convened: the fourth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA4); the resumed sixth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP6); and the 29th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

These meetings resulted in the adoption of nine COP decisions, ten COP/MOP decisions and a number of conclusions by the subsidiary bodies. These outcomes covered a wide range of topics, including the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol, the 2009 work programmes of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP, and outcomes on technology transfer, the Clean Development Mechanism, capacity building, national communications, financial and administrative matters, and various methodological issues. The main focus in Poznań, however, was on long-term cooperation and the post-2012 period, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires. In December 2007, negotiators meeting in Bali had approved the Bali Action Plan and Roadmap setting COP15 in December 2009 as the deadline for agreeing on a framework for action after 2012. Poznań therefore marked the halfway mark towards the December 2009 deadline (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/>).

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Climate and Atmosphere**
Ozone Secretariat Releases MOP/COP Report *Page 2*
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UNGA Approves Resolution on Climate; UNEP Moving UN Green Economy Initiative and Geothermal Energy Project Forward *Page 3*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Basel COP9 Report Available *Page 4*
- **Sustainable Development**
CSD17 Bureau Prepares for IPM *Page 4*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
US\$120 Million World Bank Loan Approved for Eco Farming; LDC Fund Supports Adaptation; EIB Funds Mitigation Investments *Page 4*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNFF Requests Inputs on Financing Mechanism; Forest Day 2 Convenes; CPF Launches Strategic Framework; UNCCD Participates in Parliamentarians' Forum Event *Page 5*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
UNGA Adopts Resolutions on Oceans; Ramsar Posts COP10 Presentations, SGF Portfolio *Pages 5-6*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CMS COP9 and Associated Meetings Conclude, Sharks and Cheetah Listed on Appendices; CBD Expert Group Addresses ABS; CITES Posts PC18 Provisional Agenda *Page 6*

GUEST ARTICLE I

International Energy Agency's Databases of Policies and Measures

By Sara Moarif, IEA

Abstract

The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) has for many years been doing more than crunching numbers about oil production and greenhouse gas emissions. The IEA undertakes policy analysis on a wide variety of subjects, and engages in outreach and cooperation activities with many countries.

Continued on page 2

GUEST ARTICLE II

Streamlined Reporting for Pacific Island Countries to the Biodiversity-Related MEAs: Development of a Consolidated Reporting Template

By Melissa Jaques*

Abstract

National reporting is an important and necessary requirement for most multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). For some countries, however, particularly those with small environment agencies - as is the case for many Pacific Island countries (PICs) -

Continued on page 3

The *MEA Bulletin* © is a publication of IISD <info@iisd.ca> publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was researched and written by Soledad Aguilar, Asheline Appleton, Melanie Ashton, Alice Bisiaux, Reem Hajjar, Amber Moreen, Ph.D., Renata Rubian, Elsa Tsioumani, and Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. <lynn@iisd.org>. The Deputy Director of IISD Reporting Services is Chris Spence and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The *MEA Bulletin* is published by IISD in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). Opinions expressed in *MEA Bulletin* are those of the authors and not the publishers. Excerpts from the *MEA Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on IISDRS publications, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11A, New York, NY 10022, United States of America.

GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

Sharing information on issues, policies and best practices aimed at ensuring a sustainable energy future are a core part of the IEA's mandate.

Forming part of the IEA's continued effort to support decision-makers, policy experts, researchers, the business community and the general public, are its policies and measures databases. Since 1999, the IEA has collaborated with its member country delegates to collect and classify energy-related policies and measures designed to mitigate climate change, to promote energy efficiency, and to stimulate renewable energy. Starting in 2003, these book-form collections were converted into three online databases – the Addressing Climate Change Policies and Measures database, the Global Renewable Energy Policies and Measures database and the Energy Efficiency Policies and Measures database. This online service, which is available free of charge, allows users to search for policy instruments according to various criteria.

A key and unique feature of the IEA's policies and measures databases is that entries are generally reviewed by IEA member country delegates. This

review process allows the databases to contain information not easily accessible by the wider public, either because such information is not easily available online or is not available in English. Information on the results or impact of policy is included in the database whenever possible and available. With the assistance of government representatives from member countries, the IEA has recently updated these databases. Reflecting the increasing amount of activity in this policy area, nearly 200 new entries were created since the databases were last updated in June and July 2008, and many other, older policy records were amended.

Another useful feature of the databases is that they are "historical." Policies that are no longer in force are kept in the databases. Should a policy or measure be ended or superseded, this information is included in the database with links to more recent policies. This allows for comparisons of policies across different time periods, as well as insights into which types of policies were abandoned, and which were further strengthened.

The databases are designed to allow users to search using a combination of different criteria including coun-

try, year, policy status, policy type and policy target. They are most often consulted by users for examples of policies targeting certain sectors or technologies, examples of what can be considered best-policy practice, as well as to get a sense of what policies a specific country has implemented. The databases can thus help the user identify trends in policy development, both in the types of instruments used as well as evolving priority areas for countries.

A long-running IEA project, the policies and measures databases are continually evolving, always aiming to be more comprehensive, to cover more countries, and to be increasingly pertinent for users. At a time when climate change is high on the political agenda, and there is increasing pressure on governments to act, sharing information on what has been and is being done remains essential.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle60a.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

An overhead view of the *Business Day* event

Continued from page 1

On the sidelines of the Conference, the UNFCCC helped organize a number of side events and informal discussions, including "Business Day at COP14," which took place on 9 December 2008, and was organized by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Chamber of

Commerce, in close cooperation with the UNFCCC. Participants explored regional, national and sectoral perspectives on the private sector's role in climate change activities, and sought to deliver clear business insights and ideas to help government delegations make progress toward a workable climate policy framework. It aimed to provide

coherent messages in an effort to contribute to the negotiation process by interrelating the themes of the Bali Action Plan with the four main areas of business capability and initiative: energy efficiency and demand-side management; technology development and deployment; carbon markets and financing; and sectoral approaches (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/bd/html/ymb-vol160num1e.html>).

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES MOP/COP REPORT

The Ozone Secretariat has released the report of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the 20th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. In related news, the Multilateral Fund has released a summary of the report of its Executive Committee's 56th meeting (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/20mop/MOP-20-9E.pdf; http://www.multilateralfund.org/summaries_of_executive_committ.htm).

GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

fulfilling national reporting requirements can be difficult and resource-intensive.

The Australian Government, with funding provided by the Australian Agency for International Development, is working in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to streamline national reporting for PICs to the biodiversity-related MEAs. A consolidated reporting template for use by PICs to five of the biodiversity-related MEAs was developed and trialled in 2008. The template is designed to facilitate reporting by reducing duplication and by making the process simpler and less resource-intensive.

The following biodiversity-related MEAs are covered by the template:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);

- Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar); and
- World Heritage Convention (WHC).

The template represents a practical example of how national reporting can be streamlined and is consistent with requests made by Contracting Parties to the Secretariats of these MEAs to explore options to harmonise national reporting.

The template was successfully trialled in 2008 in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa. The objective of the trial was to ‘road-test’ the template to determine its suitability for use in the Pacific.

Implementation of this project across the region could present a major step forward in improving biodiversity outcomes and reporting compliance in the Pacific. It could improve PICs’ capacity to undertake reporting, improve their national biodiversity knowledge and data management, and provide a mechanism to disseminate biodiversity information more broadly across the Pacific.

PICs have expressed their strong support for the project and have called for the trial of the template to be extended to more countries in the region. There is also an increasing level of interest in the project beyond the region, particularly from Asia and Africa.

The template will be made available for comment to the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related MEAs in early 2009.

* Melissa Jaques works as a policy officer in the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in Canberra. 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 organisation.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle60b.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.

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP MOVING UN GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVE AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PROJECT FORWARD

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) convened economists, academics and leaders of private and public institutions at an “International Workshop to take forward the Global Initiative on the Green Economy” in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1-3 December 2008. Meeting attendees considered and shared ideas on: a sustainable green economy; the role of socially and environmentally responsible investments in such an economy; the institutions needed to enable the transition to a green economy; and relevant analytical challenges, including in modeling. The six areas of focus considered by break-out groups were: environmental infrastructure; biodi-

versity-based business; clean and efficient technologies; renewable energy; chemicals and waste management; and green cities, buildings and transport (http://www.unep.org/ecalendar/e_details_view_new.asp?EventID=1938).

In other UNEP news, UNEP announced the completion of the nearly US\$1 million Joint Geophysical Imaging project in Kenya, which tested new seismic and drilling techniques to tap steam from hot underground rocks, and demonstrated that using geothermal energy is both cost-effective and technologically feasible. Based on these results, the Africa Rift Valley Geothermal Development Facility will proceed (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=553&ArticleID=6017&l=en>).

UNGA APPROVES RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), at its 63rd session on 24 November 2008, approved by consensus a draft resolution calling for urgent global action to address climate change, and including language stressing the seriousness of climate change, calling for full implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and recognizing the need to provide financial and technical resources. The UNGA took up the draft report of the Second Committee on 26 November 2008, and adopted by consensus the draft resolution entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind” (A/63/414/Add.4) (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10791.doc.htm>).



Photos of the Launch Meeting of the Green Economy Initiative (photos courtesy of UNEP)

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM, AND THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

(UNEP, 2008) This report suggests that the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, which governs the main international carbon market, should be revised to tap into the power of the building and construction industry (<http://www.unep.fr/scp/bc/publications/>).

YEAR END SNAPSHOT OF THE CDM

(UNEP Risø Centre, 2008) This report discusses the geographical and sector makeup of current Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects and reveals that over 4,200 CDM projects have been developed or are in operation (<http://www.unep.org/pdf/Year-End-Snapshot-CDM.pdf>).

CD-ROM ON THE APPLICATION OF THE ADDIS ABABA PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

(Biodiversity Liaison Group, 2008) The Biodiversity Liaison Group (CBD, CITES, CMS, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ramsar and the World Heritage Convention) is launching a CD-ROM on the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the sustainable use of biodiversity within the biodiversity-related conventions. Composed of four sections, it contains information on the application of the Principles and Guidelines by the six biodiversity-related conventions, their full text, relevant decisions, recommendations and resolutions, background documents, as well as other materials, including links to relevant websites. Copies are available from the convention secretariats upon request. In due course, information will also be made available through the web.

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL COP9 REPORT AVAILABLE

The Basel Convention Secretariat has made available the final report of the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of

Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (UNEP/CHW.9/39), which took place from 23-27 June 2008 (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD17 BUREAU PREPARES FOR IPM

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has posted the minutes of the first CSD17 Bureau meeting, which took place on 1 December 2008, in New York, US. Among other activities, the Bureau reviewed the proposed organization of work for CSD17 and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM), which will take place from 23-27 February 2009. The Bureau approved the IPM organization of work, and learned that two intersessional meetings were

scheduled to take place before it. From 28-30 January 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, a "Capacity Development Workshop on Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Strengthening Rural Livelihoods" is scheduled. The arrangements for the 9-10 February 2009 meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, have not been finalized. Registration has opened for major groups attending the IPM and CSD17 (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/bure_meet1.pdf; http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/csd17_ipm_pow.pdf; <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/registration.htm>; IISDRS Sources).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

US\$120 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN APPROVED FOR ECO FARMING IN CHINA

On 2 December 2008, the World Bank approved a US\$120 million loan to support the Chinese Government's efforts to integrate biogas into agricultural production and farmers' households. This project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through methane combustion and reduced burning of coal and firewood, while also reducing indoor air pollution and improving households' sanitary conditions. The project will integrate eco-farming systems, and strengthen and expand existing rural energy and agricultural extension services for sustainable operation by providing equipment, training, material, and support to farmers and farmer technicians (<http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P096556&Type=Overview&theSitePK=40941&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=64282134&piPK=64290415>).

LDC FUND SUPPORTS ADAPTATION IN ERITREA AND SAMOA

At a side event held during the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznań, Poland, on 9 December 2008, examples of programmes funded by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) in Eritrea and Samoa were presented. The LDCF was created under the auspices of the UNFCCC and is administered by the Global Environment Facility.

Samoa explained how LDCF resources were used to enhance the technical and organizational capacities of the Samoa Meteorological Division. Eritrea described an LDCF project to test options for more climate-resilient livestock management systems at the local level. More than 40 countries use LDCF to finance adaptation action on the ground through preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=23466).

EIB FUNDS MITIGATION INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

The European Investment Bank (EIB) will provide around EUR 100 million to the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) to partially finance investments that will contribute to the mitigation of climate change. The EXIM Bank will make available the proceeds of the loan to final beneficiaries carrying out investments that contribute to climate change mitigation, through projects in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2008/2008-126-inde-un-prêt-de-la-bei-pour-atténuer-les-changements-climatiques--et-soutenir-la-présence-de-lue.htm>).



EXIM INDIA

Logo courtesy of the EXIM Bank of India

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNFF REQUESTS INPUTS ON FINANCING MECHANISM

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) has issued a notice to parties, requesting input on proposals for financing sustainable forest management (SFM) and the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests. Following a meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Expert Group on financing, which took place in November 2008, two proposals for financing were tabled: creation of a distinct fund dedicated or earmarked; and development of a facilitative mechanism to help mobilize existing and emerging funds. To help elaborate these two concepts, experts recommended that member States and major groups be requested to provide written contributions on their views regarding these two proposals, in preparation for the Forum's eighth session, in April 2009 (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>).

FOREST DAY 2 ADDRESSES FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The second Forest Day event, held in Poznań, Poland, on 6 December 2008, brought together nearly 900 participants to facilitate discussions on the potential to incorporate forests into climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies at both the global and national levels. Taking place in parallel with the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Forest Day 2 was co-hosted by the Centre for International Forest Research, the Government of Poland and the Collaborative



The dais during the *Forest Day 2* event

Partnership on Forests (CPF), a partnership of 14 forest-related international organizations, chaired by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and including the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and UNFF. Participants considered cross-cutting themes such as: adaptation of forests to climate change; addressing forest degradation through SFM; capacity building for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD); and options for integrating REDD into the global climate regime. A drafting committee representing members of the CPF produced a summary of key messages that emerged from discussions, to be forwarded to the UNFCCC Secretariat. Key messages included: that climate change adaptation and mitigation are linked, particularly in the context of forests; that it is important to involve women, the poor and indigenous peoples in the design and operation of forest-related climate change policies; and that forests provide significant co-benefits beyond carbon storage. Differing views were expressed on whether and how these benefits should be monetized and included in a potential regime for REDD (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/fd/>; http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/COP14-ForestDay/forest_day2008.htm).

CPF LAUNCHES STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On 5 December 2008, the CPF launched a Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change during a side event at the UN Climate Change Conference in Poznań, Poland. Since April 2008, the members of the CPF, which include UNFF and ITTO, have worked to develop a strategic framework for forests and climate change. The Framework proposes a coordinated forest-sector response to the global climate change

agenda. It puts forward a case for a tactical role of SFM in achieving long-term climate change mitigation and as a robust framework for effective adaptation. It also emphasizes urgent action for adaptation and more focus on combating forest degradation through SFM, including forest conservation, rehabilitation and restoration (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-climatechange/en/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/enbots/>).

UNCCD PARTICIPATES IN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM EVENT

UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja participated in the two-day meeting of the Steering Committee of the Seventh UNCCD Parliamentarians' Forum, which convened on 1-2 December 2008, in Praia, Cape Verde. The Steering Committee sought greater commitments on the part of parliaments and members of parliament to: place desertification issues on government agendas; create specific line items in budgets to combat desertification and land degradation as well as mitigate the effects of drought (DLDD); and build more partnerships with policy-makers, scientists, the private sector and NGOs, as well as community-based organizations. The meeting ended with an agreement on measures that lawmaking bodies could take to help combat DLDD (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/pressrel/showpressrel.php?pr=press04_12_08).

The UNCCD organized a side event during the UN Climate Change Conference, at which panelists advanced the concept of mobilizing rural households to help reduce emissions from inefficient biomass-burning stoves and halt soil degradation by using biochar, a by-product of high-efficiency stoves (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/poznanclimatetalks/menu.php>; <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/enbots/dec11.html>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNGA ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA, SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

On 5 December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted, by vote, the draft resolution A/63/L.42 on "Oceans and the Law of the Sea," as resolution 63/111. It contains sections on, *inter alia*: implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related agreements and instruments; capacity-building; the continental shelf and the work of the Commission; maritime safety and security and flag State imple-

mentation; marine environment and marine resources; marine biodiversity; the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects; and the Open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/63/L.42>). UNGA also adopted, without vote, draft resolution A/63/L.43 "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks

and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement), and related instruments," as resolution 63/112. It contains sections on, *inter alia*: achieving sustainable fisheries; implementation of the Fish Stocks Agreement; related fisheries instruments; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; monitoring, control and surveillance, and compliance and enforcement; fishing overcapacity; large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing; fisheries by-catch and discards; responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem; and capacity building (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/63/L.43>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR POSTS COP10 PRESENTATIONS, SGF PORTFOLIO

The Ramsar Secretariat has made available the PowerPoint presentations from Ramsar COP10 plenary sessions (http://www.ramsar.org/cop10/cop10_presentations.htm). In relation to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF), which was established in 1990

as a mechanism to assist developing countries and those with economies in transition in implementing the Convention, and to enable the conservation and wise use of wetland resources, the Secretariat has released the SGF Portfolio 2008. The Portfolio describes 18 projects that were favorably evaluated, but for which financial support has not yet been found (http://www.ramsar.org/sgf/sgf_portfolio_2008.pdf). The Secretariat has also released background reports from the NGOs participating in the "Les Ecoles de protection de l'eau" programme, on the three projects that were initiated on Ramsar sites in July 2008. The programme was set up in 2007 between the Ramsar Secretariat and Danone-Evian (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.evian_ecoles_rpt1.htm).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CMS COP9 AND ASSOCIATED MEETINGS CONCLUDE, SHARKS AND CHEETAH LISTED ON THE APPENDICES

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was held from 1-5 December 2008, in Rome, Italy. It was followed by the second Meeting to Identify and Elaborate an Option for International Cooperation on Migratory Sharks, held from 6-8 December at the same venue.

CMS COP9 listed 11 species on Appendix I of the Convention, including three dolphin species and the West African manatee, as well as the cheetah, with the exception of the populations of Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia for which quotas are in place under the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Species listed in Appendix II include the African wild dog, saiga antelope and several dolphin populations. Following intense negotiations, mako sharks, the porbeagle shark and the northern hemisphere population of the spiny dogfish were also listed on Appendix II. The proposal to list the saker falcon on Appendix I was eventually withdrawn, but a resolution was adopted that sets out the direction for future work on this species, and proposes listing it at COP10 unless its conservation status improves significantly. Other highlights of the meeting included: the adoption of a core budget for the next triennium representing a 3.3% increase compared to the 2006-2008 budget; resolutions on climate change impacts on migratory species, ocean noise, by-catch and marine species; and the establishment of an intersessional process on the future shape of CMS, aiming to address a series of institutional issues.

The sharks meeting agreed on a non-legally binding instrument in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for migratory shark conservation and adopted a "Statement on the Outcome of the Meeting." The meeting revised the draft MoU and informally considered draft el-

ements for the plan of action that will be developed further by July 2009 by an intersessional drafting group. It agreed that the MoU will apply to the basking, great white and whale sharks, but the decision to include the spiny dogfish, porbeagle and mako sharks was deferred to a third meeting, which is expected to finalize and adopt the MoU and action plan (<http://www.iisd.ca/cms/cop9/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/cms/sdcms/>).

In other CMS-related news, the CMS together with its Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) have facilitated the International Summit on the Marine Environment, held from 9-11 December 2008, in Heraklion, Greece. Part of the Year of the Dolphin, participants agreed on first steps for urgent measures to stop the further degradation of marine ecosystems caused by overfishing in Greek waters. Draft recommendations will be submitted to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs for implementation (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=553&ArticleID=6022&l=en>).

CBD EXPERT GROUP ADDRESSES ABS, SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES PUBLICATIONS ON REDD

The group of technical and legal experts on concepts, terms, working definitions and sectoral approaches in the context of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS), negotiated in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), met from 2-5 December 2008, in Windhoek, Namibia. According to its terms of reference, the expert group addressed: the different ways of understanding biological resources, genetic resources, derivatives and products, and the implications of each understanding for the main components of the international regime; different forms of utilization of genetic resources in relation to sectoral and sub-sectoral activities; sector-specific characteristics of ABS arrangements; and the range of options and approaches for taking these different characteristics into account that

may bring coherence to ABS-related practices in different sectors (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSGTLE-01>).

As part of the meeting's documentation, the CBD Secretariat has released "Access and Benefit-Sharing in Practice: Trends in Partnerships across Sectors." Authored by Sarah Laird and Rachel Wynberg and part of the CBD Technical Series, the study fills gaps in current understanding of ABS partnerships, collaborations and contractual agreements in the range of sectors using genetic resources. It looks at the nature of these relationships, and whether and how they achieve the objectives of sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing. Also examined are the characteristics and procedures common to different sectors seeking access, and sharing benefits. (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-38-en.pdf>).

In other CBD news, the Secretariat has recently published material regarding the relevance of the protected areas work programme gap analysis, which guides parties in identifying gaps in protected area systems and in indigenous and local community participation, in relation to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). The publication outlines four case studies in which the gap analysis revealed sites that not only require protection but also have REDD potential, and concludes that it can be a helpful tool for enhancing the synergies between the Rio Conventions (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/programmes/cro-cut/pa/pa-redd-2008-12-01-en.pdf>).

Finally, the CBD Secretariat has published the second volume of the REDD and Biodiversity e-Newsletter (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/redd/redd-2008-12-en.pdf>).

CITES SECRETARIAT POSTS PC18 PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The CITES Secretariat has posted the provisional agenda for the 18th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, to be held from 17-21 March 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/18/index.shtml>;<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2008/E066.pdf>).