



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### UN CO-SPONSORS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

UN officials and representatives of international agencies belonging to the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, ministers and several Heads of State convened from 26-27 January 2009, in Madrid, Spain, for the “High-Level Meeting on Food Security for All.” Hosted by the Spanish Government and co-sponsored by the UN, the meeting reviewed progress since the “High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy,” held in June 2008, during which 181 States and the European Community pledged to alleviate the suffering caused by soaring food prices, stimulate agricultural development and food production, and address obstacles to food access. The Madrid meeting, which was co-chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, gathered representatives from over 126 countries. At the conclusion of the meeting, a Statement of the Madrid High-Level Meeting on Food Security for All was issued, based on the Chair’s summary of the proceedings. It notes that participants “agreed on the importance of an inclusive and broad process of consultation on options leading to the establishment of a Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition,” and indicated that the consultation process should: be open to the full range of stakeholders involved in agriculture, food security and nutrition; be overseen by a representative contact group; have a sound methodology; and identify positive examples of ongoing partnerships (<http://www.ransa2009.org/en/index.htm>; [http://www.ransa2009.org/docs/docs/press\\_release\\_madrid\\_ransa2009.pdf](http://www.ransa2009.org/docs/docs/press_release_madrid_ransa2009.pdf)).



Miguel Angel Moratinos (right), Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; and Jacques Diouf (left), FAO Director-General, at the opening of the High-Level Meeting on Food Security for All

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#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### EC Partners in Innovative MEA Implementation Programme

By Elizabeth Mrema and Marko Berglund, UN Environment Programme, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions

##### Overview

Faced with the challenge of implementing a multitude of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that address increasingly complex scientific and technical issues, many developing countries’ efforts are further complicated by

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#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS 2009

(UN, January 2009) The 2009 edition of this annual publication by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs emphasizes that the world economy is mired in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The report details the measures undertaken by policy makers to deal with the crisis (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wesp/wesp2009files/wesp2009.pdf>).

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**GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)**

a range of overlapping human, financial, technical and other resource constraints. To enhance capacity related to MEA implementation in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has joined forces with the European Commission (EC) and seven other institutions. The partner institutions are: the African Union Commission (AUC); the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat; the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development; the Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD-GM); the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat; and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). With comparative advantages due to geographic reach and substantive expertise and areas of work, the partners have jointly designed a capacity enhancement programme that addresses countries' needs in a coordinated and coherent manner. The four-year, 21 million Euro EC ACP MEAs Programme will enhance MEA implementation through two components.

**Regional Hubs**

Three Regional Hubs have been established to support the 79 ACP countries to implement MEAs at the regional and national levels. Based on existing national and regional needs assessments, specific detailed activities will be identified during the six-month inception phase, beginning in January 2009. Stakeholder consultations will highlight existing priorities and the Regional Hubs will liaise with MEA Secretariats to ensure that needs identified by MEA parties will be considered. Activities will generally focus on strengthening and enhancing the capacities of national governments and stakeholders, as well as regional and sub-regional organizations, related institutions and stakeholders.

**Support to Specific MEAs**

Additional financial resources will also be provided to support the implementation of specific MEAs. The UNEP Risoe Centre will target African countries to support their full and successful engagement in the global carbon market and the Clean Development Mechanism. The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD will expand its successful SolArid Programme to Caribbean and Pacific countries. Sound management of chemicals in ACP

countries will receive a boost as funds are allocated to projects under the SAICM Quick Start Programme. The FAO will provide additional support to countries to eliminate existing obsolete pesticide stocks, to explore opportunities for the reduction of reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides, and to improve the management of pesticides in ACP countries.

**A New Approach and New Challenges**

The challenges of linking several institutions are great, and the numerous goals and target countries may at first give the impression of trying to do too much with too little. However, strategic planning and priority setting should overcome the impression of overreach. The success of this multiple partnership will demonstrate the merit of a coordinated and consolidated approach to donors and target countries alike.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle62.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.*

**CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**

**UNFCCC SECRETARIAT RELEASES DOCUMENTS AND COUNTRY REPORTS**

The Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has



Logo courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

released the revised "Assembly Document," which contains the ideas and proposals presented by parties and accredited observer organizations on the elements contained in paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan (BAP), received by 6 December 2008. The Assembly Document consists of five chapters on the five elements of the BAP, namely on: a shared vision for long-term cooperative action; enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change; enhanced action on adaptation; enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation; and enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2008/awglca4/eng/16r01.pdf>).

The Secretariat has also released reports of the individual review of the greenhouse gas inventories of Australia, submitted in 2008, and of Italy and Romania, submitted in 2007 and 2008. The expert review team (ERT) finds that all the inventories have been prepared generally in line with the Revised 1996 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines, the IPCC good practice guidance and the IPCC good practice guidance for Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). The ERT identifies shortcomings and makes recommendations related to the respective inventories ([http://maindb.unfccc.int/library/view\\_pdf.pl?url=http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/arr/aus.pdf](http://maindb.unfccc.int/library/view_pdf.pl?url=http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/arr/aus.pdf); <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/arr/ita.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/arr/rou.pdf>).

In addition, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a document summarizing the performance of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in 2008. The document describes the CDM, its purpose, approval process and potential, and outlines the number and distribution of projects. It also provides an overview



Cover courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

of some of the efforts made to improve the CDM, such as the CDM Bazaar, the CDM Programme of Activities and the new Validation and Verification Manual. The document includes two short pieces by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CDM Executive Board, titled "striving for efficiency, ensuring quality" and "work remains to meet the CDM potential," respectively ([http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/08\\_cdm\\_in\\_brief.pdf](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/08_cdm_in_brief.pdf)).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has also released a note as a reference tool for parties to facilitate the early submission of information and views requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and subsidiary bodies. The note includes a chronological summary table for all upcoming deadlines ([http://unfccc.int/files/parties\\_and\\_observers/notifications/application/pdf/090113\\_notification\\_early\\_submission.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/090113_notification_early_submission.pdf)).



**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**IMPROVING ACCESS TO LAND AND TENURE SECURITY**

(IFAD, December 2008) The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has issued this policy paper on improving access to land and tenure security. The paper offers a conceptual framework for the relationship between land issues and rural poverty; identifies the major implications of that relationship for IFAD's strategy and programme development and implementation; articulates guiding principles for mainstreaming land issues in the Fund's main operational instruments and processes; and provides the framework for the subsequent development of operational guidelines and decision tools (<http://www.ifad.org/pub/policy/land/e.pdf>).

**FLEGT BEYOND T: EXPLORING THE MEANING OF 'GOVERNANCE' CONCEPTS FOR THE FLEGT PROCESS**

(Wageningen University and Research Center, 2008) Written by Bodegom et al., this paper analyzes and catalogues the most important and widely used definitions of governance to help create a common understanding among national and international stakeholders. It is meant to be an input to the discussion of what governance could and/or should be within the framework of the EU forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) process and in the FLEGT partner countries ([http://www.cdic.wur.nl/NR/rdonlyres/DFDA8928-9664-4EF3-A593-C5E3023D3164/70310/FLEGT\\_beyond\\_T.pdf](http://www.cdic.wur.nl/NR/rdonlyres/DFDA8928-9664-4EF3-A593-C5E3023D3164/70310/FLEGT_beyond_T.pdf)).

**▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS**

**RAMSAR REPORTS ON TWO CREHO COURSES**

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported on two courses organized by the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO). The Second International Course on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Management of Wetlands was held in Panama City, Panama, from 24 November to 5 December 2008. Eighteen representatives from seven Latin American countries and the Caribbean participated

**▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**



Banner courtesy of the IPCC Secretariat

**IPCC WGIII HOLDS FIRST LEAD AUTHOR MEETING**

The IPCC is organizing four lead author meetings to facilitate the report writing and review process for the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN), which is being developed under the responsibility of Working Group III (Mitigation of Climate Change). The first lead author meeting, hosted by Brazil, is taking place from 26-30 January 2009, in São Paulo state. At this meeting, approximately 120 nominated and selected authors have gathered to initiate a 'zero-order draft' of the Special Report and to divide the tasks (<http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/>

events/1st-author-meeting-for-the-special-report-renewable-energy-sources; <http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/news/1st-author-meeting-for-the-special-report-renewable-energy-sources>).

**OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES JOINT BUREAU MEETING REPORT**

The Ozone Secretariat has released the report of the joint meeting of the Bureau of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Bureau of the 19th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Report details the 15 November 2008 meeting ([http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/Bureaux/19mop-bur1-3E.pdf](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/Bureaux/19mop-bur1-3E.pdf)).

**▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**DSD ORGANIZING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY**

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is jointly organizing, with UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), a capacity development workshop on improving agricultural productivity, water use efficiency and strengthening rural livelihoods. The 28-30 January 2009 workshop is taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, and will seek to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of key government institutions and policy makers in developing and implementing sustainable agricultural, rural development and irrigation water management policies. The workshop's outcomes will



The UN Conference Center in Bangkok, workshop venue

be reported to the 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD17), which will convene from 4-15 May 2009, in New York, US ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/work\\_bkk09.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/work_bkk09.htm)).

Also in preparation for CSD17, the second meeting of the CSD Bureau is expected to convene on 30 January 2009, on the sidelines of the Bangkok meeting, to discuss the CSD17 programme of work.

in the course ([http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho\\_eia\\_course\\_2008\\_fotos.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho_eia_course_2008_fotos.htm)).

The first Central American Workshop of Swamp Birds Monitoring took place at the Palo Verde National Park, Palo Verde Biological Station, Costa Rica, from 7-11 December 2008. The course aimed to provide participants with the knowledge, theory and practical abilities to use the monitoring protocols of swamp birds, in order to create capability in the Central American region and, thereby, improve knowledge of these birds and promote their conservation

([http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho\\_monitoring\\_2008.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/creho/creho_monitoring_2008.htm)).



View of the Palo Verde National Park, where the Central American Workshop of Swamp Birds Monitoring took place (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

**INVENTION AND TRANSFER OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION TECHNOLOGIES ON A GLOBAL SCALE: A STUDY DRAWING ON PATENT DATA** (Mines ParisTech, CERNA, AFD, 2008) This study analyzes the geographic distribution of climate mitigation inventions since 1978 and their international diffusion on a global scale. Its statistical analysis suggests that the Kyoto Protocol has induced technological innovation in the recent period in Annex 1 countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, but not in Australia or the US. By contrast, the study finds no visible effect of the Kyoto Protocol on technology transfer: international technology flows have increased recently, but the growth rate remains equivalent to the average ([http://www.cerna.ensmp.fr/images/stories/file/Poznan/final\\_report\\_090112.pdf](http://www.cerna.ensmp.fr/images/stories/file/Poznan/final_report_090112.pdf)).

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### UNCCD ORGANIZES TRAINING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in cooperation with UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Building and the Arab Water Council, has organized a capacity development workshop for water and environmental journalists in the Arab Countries. The “Water and Land” workshop took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 22-24 January 2009. The workshop sought to create awareness among media professionals in Arab countries about water resource man-

agement and land degradation issues in the region, and to seek active involvement of the media for creating public awareness and advocacy to promote sectoral reforms to support the Millennium Development Goals and the UNCCD. Participants decided to create a network of Arab journalists on water and land. They also highlighted the need for capacity building for journalists on environmental issues and for more Arabic websites (<http://www.unwater.unu.edu/article/830?menu=1>; [http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/pressrel/press\\_release\\_training\\_Cairo.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/pressrel/press_release_training_Cairo.pdf)).



Photos of the workshop (images courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat)

## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### CBD EXPERT GROUP ON COMPLIANCE FOR ABS MEETS, BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL NEWS POSTED

With regard to the negotiations for an international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the group of technical and legal experts on compliance is meeting from 27-30 January 2009, in Tokyo, Japan (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSGTLE-02>). The Co-chairs of the ABS Working Group, Fernando Casas (Colombia) and Timothy Hodges (Canada), will be holding informal consultations on 31 March and 1 April 2009, in Paris, France, prior to the seventh meeting of ABS Working Group, which will be held at the same venue from 2-8 April 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-010-abs-en.pdf>). Furthermore, the

CBD Secretariat has announced that the drafts of two studies, on monitoring and tracking of genetic resources, and on compliance in relation to the customary law of indigenous and local communities, national law, across jurisdictions and international law, are available for peer review. Comments should be forwarded to the Secretariat no later than 13 February 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/abs/peerreview/>).

With regard to the Biosafety Protocol, an online conference on capacity building for integration of biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes is being held from 19 January-6 February 2009 ([http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum\\_cb.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum_cb.shtml)). Furthermore, the latest issue of the *Biosafety Protocol News* has been posted on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/bpn/bpn-03-05-en.pdf>.

This issue contains a number of stories related to capacity building experiences and lessons learned related to implementation of the Biosafety Protocol.

### UNEP/CMS PROJECTS UNVEILED DURING YEAR OF THE GORILLA EVENT

Three projects aimed at countering the gorilla's slide towards extinction were spotlighted as the international Year of the Gorilla (YoG) 2009 got underway with a “Gorillas on Thin Ice” event. The projects, which were drawn up by the UN Environment Programme Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS), seek to boost the prospects for the Cross River Gorilla, which is Africa's rarest ape ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/01\\_jan\\_2009/UN\\_projects\\_unveiled\\_gorillas\\_on\\_ice.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/01_jan_2009/UN_projects_unveiled_gorillas_on_ice.pdf)).

## ► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

### BASEL CONVENTION REQUESTS COMMENTS ON ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND SHIP DISMANTLING

The Basel Convention Secretariat has invited proposals and comments on the draft outline of an Instruction Manual for the Legal Profession on the Prosecution of Illegal Traffic. Comments should be submitted by 28 February 2009 ([http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/2009-01-19\\_1.pdf](http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/2009-01-19_1.pdf)).

The Secretariat has also requested comments on appropriate criteria for assessing whether the Ship Recycling Convention, as adopted, establishes an equivalent level of control and enforcement to that established under the Basel Convention. Parties are requested to provide these comments by 31 January 2009 ([http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/2009-01-19\\_2.pdf](http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/2009-01-19_2.pdf)).

### STOCKHOLM CONVENTION WELCOMES TWO NEW PARTIES

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has announced two new parties to the Convention. Colombia and Poland both ratified the Convention on 20 January 2009, bringing the total number of parties to 162 (<http://chm.pops.int/>).





### ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

#### WORLD BANK AND GEF SUPPORT FOREST PROJECT IN GABON, BANK CARBON FUND PURCHASES CARBON CREDITS

The World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) are supporting a project in Gabon to train officers in national park surveillance, with a focus on sustainable forest resource management and local timber processing in order to create greater value for the industry. The Bank will provide US\$15 million to assist with the institutional reforms necessary for the management of national forests. Emphasis will be placed on the publication of schedules, zoning permits and revenue projections, the return of delinquent permits to the property office, and third-party monitoring aimed at controlling illegal activities. A US\$10 million GEF grant also seeks to build the institutional and operational capacity of the National

Parks Service (<http://go.worldbank.org/43QTXPKAC0>).

The World Bank also signed an Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA), on 14 January 2009, to purchase carbon credits from the Roxol Ethanol Plant Wastewater Treatment and Methane Gas Recovery Project in the Philippines. The project is expected to generate carbon credits through greenhouse gas emissions reductions derived from the adoption of a cleaner and more efficient technology for the treatment of the ethanol plant's wastewater, which includes the collection of methane from the plant's wastewater and its use to power the ethanol plant's boiler, thus displacing the use of more polluting bunker fuel. The World Bank's Community Development Carbon Fund Facility also requires that the project benefit local communities through a Community Benefits Plan funded from

the premium of US\$1/ton of carbon emission reduced by the project (<http://go.worldbank.org/6DD2RG6HE0>).

In other Bank news, on 22 January 2009, the World Bank approved a power sector efficiency enhancement project in Honduras, to: improve the National Electric Power Company's (ENEE) commercial and corporate resource management; rehabilitate ENEE's distribution regional sub-networks; and strengthen ENEE's institutional capacity and corporate governance (<http://go.worldbank.org/ZYJ2DS5FC0>).

In other GEF news, the Fourth Overall Performance Study is underway, with interagency consultations reported to have taken place in September 2008 and January 2009 to discuss progress and the methodology to be used to evaluate results and impact in the GEF focal areas (<http://www.thegef.org/gefevaluation.aspx?id=21388>; IISDRS sources).

### ► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- David Osborn (Australia) has been appointed as the new **Coordinator for the UN Environment Programme/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA)**. He worked with the GPA Coordination Office in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 2001-2005 before returning to the Australian Government. He replaces Veerle Vandeweerd (Belgium), who served as the UNEP/GPA Coordinator until September 2007. Anjan Datta (Bangladesh) has been serving as Officer in Charge in the interim (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/news.html#53>).



### ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on the Guidelines on BAT and Provisional Guidance on BEP:** 2-4 February 2009. São Paulo, Brazil. <http://chm.pops.int/>.
- **Regional Training Workshops on PCBs and POPs Wastes:** 2-5 February 2009. Kingston, Jamaica. <http://chm.pops.int/>.
- **High-Level Meeting: African Agriculture in the 21st Century: Meeting Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution:** 9-10 February 2009. Windhoek, Namibia. <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/africa/events/index.htm>.



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