



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IPM PREPARES FOR MAY CSD17 SESSION



Delegates during a CSD17 IPM plenary

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) for the 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD17) took place from 23-27 February 2009, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. The IPM's role was to provide a forum to discuss policy options and possible actions to enable the implementation of measures and policies concerning agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa – the thematic issues under consideration

during the CSD16/CSD17 two-year “implementation cycle.” The IPM discussed each thematic area and delegates proposed policy options and actions for adoption at CSD17. Delegates also considered inter-linkages, cross-cutting issues and means of implementation, as well as small island developing States. The IPM's deliberations were reflected in a Chair's Negotiating Text that was distributed on the final afternoon of the meeting. The document was developed with the expectation that it could form the basis for further discussions and negotiations during CSD17, scheduled to convene from 4-15 May 2009, in New York (<http://www.iisd.ca/csd/ipm17/>).

The Division for Sustainable Development, which serves as the CSD Secretariat, has also released the minutes from the second and third Bureau meetings, which were held on 30 January and 22 February 2009. Participants discussed the organization of the IPM and CSD17, and Chair Gerda Verburg (the Netherlands) said Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, had accepted her invitation to participate at the high-level segment of CSD17. The Bureau agreed that one CSD17 working group will discuss agriculture, rural development and cross-cutting issues, inter-linkages and means of implementation, and the second working group will discuss land, drought, desertification and Africa. The fourth meeting of the Bureau will take place on 25 March 2009, in The Hague, the Netherlands (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_buremeet_2nd.shtml; http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_buremeet_3rd.shtml).

GUEST ARTICLE

Climate Change Mitigation: Tapping the Potential of Agriculture

By Alexander Mueller, Wendy Mann and Leslie Lipper, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Abstract

Agricultural practices that improve land use and management through increasing and maintaining soil carbon stocks can generate multiple benefits: climate change mitigation, increased agricultural and

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

FROM RIDGE TO REEF: WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND COMMUNITY SECURITY: GEF ACTION ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES

(GEF, March 2009) This publication presents the GEF's work on International Waters projects. The GEF has supported regional collaborative efforts for 22 transboundary surface water basins, 16 large marine ecosystems, and five cross-border groundwater systems (http://www.thegef.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/GEF_RidgetoReef_CRA_lores.pdf).

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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 (*cont.*)

food production, pro-poor income generation, environmental services and improved resilience/adaptive capacity of farming systems. This constitutes an enormous opportunity for meeting a number of key global and national goals. The challenge is to ensure that the enabling means embodied in a new climate change agreement will encourage the agriculture sector and its farmers to generate these benefits, under increasingly adverse conditions shaped by global financial, food and fuel insecurity.

Agriculture needs to be part and parcel of efforts to meet international and national climate change objectives. It is a key source of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with a high technical mitigation potential, particularly vis-à-vis emissions from the sector. Eighty-nine percent of this potential could be achieved through soil carbon sequestration. Mitigation options from agriculture are already known, readily available and relatively inexpensive.

About 74% of total emissions from the sector are in developing countries and around 70% of the mitigation potential of agriculture could be realized in developing countries. Importantly, mitigation action in the agriculture sector has strong co-benefits for sustainable development and for climate change adaptation. It is therefore potentially of high relevance to nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), along with the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD).

Why then has agriculture remained somewhat marginal to the climate change negotiations? Agriculture is perceived to be a "difficult" sector for three main reasons: the sheer number of areas, farming systems, agro-ecosystems and farmers involved; robust methodologies for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), which can address uncertainties related to permanence/saturation, leakage

and additionality, are considered to be lacking and expensive; and the scope of existing financing mechanisms has tended to exclude the Land-Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sectors, including soil carbon sequestration from agriculture.

Ongoing and new developments regarding MRV methodologies and financing mechanisms could make agriculture a more attractive mitigation option. In terms of methodologies, the ability to measure soil carbon stock and stock changes has existed for decades. The fundamental issue is rather applying efficient sampling designs and rigorous protocols. Methodologies and approaches are continually being perfected and simplified. Greater coordination of data collection, modelling and field testing of these is needed, together with capacity building for their use. Work on afforestation and reforestation, as well as more recent work on REDD, may also be helpful in the further development of soil carbon sequestration methodologies and approaches that are robust, simple-to-use and cost-effective.

In terms of financing mechanisms, whether existing mechanisms are reformed or new ones created (and the two are not mutually exclusive), there is growing acceptance of the need for new concepts, approaches, mechanisms and modalities that enable the depth and breadth of mitigation to be expanded. Some have already been developed and introduced, while still others require further testing or development, particularly with regard to smallholder agriculture. A number of these can, or show promise, in helping to overcome constraints on access to climate change financing by LULUCF sectors.

FAO has identified the following key features as being required for funding mitigation from agriculture:

- aggregation (carbon finance, where up-scaled and broad approaches can be applied - e.g. sector, programme,

ecosystem - facilitates the involvement of large numbers of smallholder farmers, covering a wide area and range of ecosystems, with influence on the development of needed policies and technologies)

- financing arrangements that address the specific needs of smallholder agriculture mitigation adoption, including the need for investment capital, technologies and risk management/transfer (insurance)

- a range of options for mobilizing both private and public funds, including use of compliance market credits, voluntary market credits, publicly funded programmes and agricultural product labels, with adequate flexibility to adjust to the specific agro-ecological, institutional and technological situations of parties, and

- an enabling environment with appropriate policies, institutions, capacity building and an agreed system of property use/rights/access in order to link farmers, including smallholder farmers, to carbon financing.

Next steps include, at the international level, the creation of enabling conditions for further work on mitigation from agriculture in the next climate agreement. At country level, pilot activities are needed to test MRV methodologies and incentive/payment schemes, buttressed by capacity building, technology transfer and institutional mechanisms. Beyond Copenhagen in the transitional period leading up to 2012, ways of realizing terrestrial carbon sequestration from all land uses may need to be explored to enable better management of synergies and trade-offs across different land uses and land use changes.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle65.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.

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Logo courtesy of the UNFF Secretariat

UNFF8 DOCUMENTS RELEASED

The Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) has released a number of documents for its upcoming eighth session, which will convene from 20

April-1 May 2009, in New York, US. These include the report of the Secretary-General on Forests and biodiversity conservation including protected areas (E/CN.18/2009/6) and the report of the Secretary-General on Recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests in a changing environment (E/CN.18/2009/8) (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session-documents.html>).

An Information Note has also been prepared, to provide information related to UNFF8 documents, registration procedures, travel support procedures and side event guidelines (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/session_documents/unff8/UNFF8%20Info%20Note.pdf).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

A NEW CLIMATE FOR FORESTS: GEF ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

(GEF, March 2009) This publication reviews the GEF's work on sustainable forest management and its current portfolio as well as potential roles of the GEF in the post-2012 climate regime (<http://www.thegef.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/forestry.pdf>).

HANDBOOK FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE POPS REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Stockholm Convention Secretariat, 2009) This handbook was prepared to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) (http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/docs/POPRC4/intersession/EffectiveParticipation/Revised_POPRCHandbook_090217.pdf).

GPA OUTREACH – JANUARY-MARCH 2009 ISSUE

(Stakeholder Forum, March 2009) This issue of GPA Outreach focuses on nutrients and their impacts on marine and coastal ecosystems and features articles by: Lex Bouwman (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Netherlands) and John Harrison (Washington State University, US) on the upcoming workshop on "Coastal Eutrophication: Linking Nutrient Sources to Coastal Ecosystem Effects and Management;" Nicola Barnard (Senior Programme Officer, ICRAN) on the impacts of land-based pollution on the Mesoamerican Reef; and Morgane Danielou-Doumbouya (International Fertilizer Industry Association) on the fertilizer industry's efforts to reduce the negative impacts of fertilizer production and use on the marine environment (http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPA_Outreach/GPA_Jan_09_FINAL.pdf).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD ORGANIZES SCIENTIFIC MEETING ON US DLDD, COP9 DATES ANNOUNCED

On 26 February 2009, Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), participated in a scientific meeting on US desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) organized by the UNCCD and Colorado State University and hosted by the H. John Heinz Center for Science, Economics and the Environment in Washington, DC, US. Dennis Ojima of the Heinz Center chaired the meeting, during which participants reviewed US scientists' involvement in land degradation issues and opportunities for contributions to the UNCCD 10-year strategy and upcoming scientific conference during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9). Mark Winslow represented the Dryland Science for Development (DSD) consortium, which is organizing the scientific conference, and reported that the conference will seek to produce



Luc Gnacadja,
UNCCD Executive
Secretary

science outputs and policy recommendations. He said a process to engage scientists prior to the conference will begin in March, when the three Working Groups will hold their first meetings. Winslow said the process would be open to all qualified scientists through an open review process, while each Working Group would consist of about 30 people. At the close of the meeting, Chair Ojima highlighted that the discussions had proposed the following next steps: organize an *ad hoc* committee to explore next steps; synthesize what we have and how to contribute to the UNCCD; further develop linkages to UNFCCC as one of several pathways; discuss key needs with agencies; and develop a white paper to serve as a publicity and promotion document (IISDRS Sources).

In other UNCCD news, the Government of Argentina announced during the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the Commission on Sustainable Development that it will host the ninth Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD from 21 September-2 October 2009, in Buenos Aires (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol05/enb05269e.html>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION RELEASES GUIDANCE ON ALTERNATIVE FLAME RETARDANTS

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the Government of Norway have released guidance on alternative flame retardants to commercial pentabromodiphenylether (c-PentaBDE). Flame retardants represent a large group of chemicals that consist mainly of inorganic and organic compounds based on bromine, chlorine, phosphorus, nitrogen, boron, and metallic oxides and hydroxides. The document presents the potential alternatives to c-PentaBDE that are commercially available and are less hazardous. The fourth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will consider listing c-PentaBDE in Annex A of the Stockholm Conven-

tion at its meeting in May 2009 (http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/docs/POPRC4/intersession/Substitution/pentaBDE_revised_Stefan_Posner_final%20version.pdf).

BASEL CONVENTION REQUESTS COMMENTS ON USED TYRE GUIDELINES

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is inviting comments on the revised technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used tyres. Comments should be sent by 31 March 2009, following which the Government of Brazil will prepare a revised version of the guidelines for consideration by the seventh session of the Basel Convention Open-Ended Working Group, scheduled to convene in May 2010 (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

HELCOM LAUNCHES ROADMAP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF BALTIC SEA

The 30th annual meeting of the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (or HELCOM), a UNEP Regional Seas Commission, held from 4-5 March 2009, concluded with the

adoption of the roadmap for a holistic assessment of the environmental status of the Baltic Sea. Delegates also reviewed the organization's progress in the protection of the Baltic marine environment from pollution and set new objectives and priorities for the future work (http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_helcom/en_GB/HELCOM_30_outcome/).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR RELEASES SC40 AGENDA, NEW SITE DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat has released the agenda for the 40th meeting of its Standing Committee (SC40), which will take place in Gland, Switzerland, from 11-15 May 2009. The event will feature meetings of the Transition Committee of the Management Working Group Meeting, the Management Working Group, and the Subgroup on Finance. The SC will also hold plenary sessions to consider, *inter alia*: the establishment of the Subgroup on COP11; the report of the Management Working Group; financial matters; regional initiatives for 2009-2012; work plans and priorities for the future; the 2009 Ramsar Secretariat Work Plan; Scientific and Technical Review Panel matters; and Com-

munication, Education, Participation and Awareness matters. A study tour to a Swiss wetland will also be organized during the meeting (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/40/key_sc40_doc01_e.pdf).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has reported that the Government of Mauritania has designated its fourth Wetland of International Importance, the Lac Gabou et le réseau hydrographique du Plateau du Tagant (http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_mauritania2.htm).

IMO AND PARTNERS TO TACKLE BIO-INVASIONS CAUSED BY SHIPS' BALLAST WATER

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), the UN Development Programme, the Global Environment Facil-

ity and four private shipping corporations launched the Global Industry Alliance (GIA) on 2 March 2009



at IMO headquarters in London, UK, to tackle the threats of marine bio-invasions caused by the transfer of alien plants and animals in ships' ballast tanks. According to the IMO, approximately 10 billion tons of ballast water are carried around the globe each year, and over 3,000 species of plants and animals are transferred daily. The GIA aims to harness the skills and expertise of its partners to develop concrete solutions to this global environmental hazard (<http://globallast.imo.org>; http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11134).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK ORGANIZES MEETING ON FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAM, SUPPORTS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

The second design meeting on the World Bank's Forest Investment Program (FIP), a part of its Climate Investment Framework (CIF), convened from 5-6 March 2009, in Washington, DC, US. Among the issues discussed were the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the establishment of a Sub-Committee for the FIP to oversee the operations and activities of the Pilot Program (<http://go.worldbank.org/K1EFE6E230>).

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has signed an agreement to invest US\$61.5 million for the construction of the Totoral Wind Farm, advancing the development of renewable energy in Chile (<http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/media.nsf/content/SelectedPressRelease?OpenDocument&UNID=BD7E2DCF18F9192F85257558006C-C9AA>). It has also approved the Armenia Geothermal Energy Development project. The project, funded by a grant of US\$1.5 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund,

is the second operation financed under the Geothermal Energy Development Program (GeoFund), a US\$25 million regional programme to promote the use of geothermal energy in the Europe and Central Asia region (<http://go.worldbank.org/4KO4HOC7F0>).

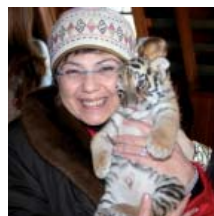
In related news, the World Bank approved, on 5 March 2009, a US\$1.3 billion loan to Brazil for the "First Programmatic Development Policy Loan for Sustainable Environmental Management," supporting the country's ongoing efforts to improve its environmental management system and integrate sustainability concerns in the development agenda of key sectors such as forest management, water and renewable energy (<http://go.worldbank.org/7GVQ1PWEL0>).

The GEF and World Bank, along with the Wildlife Conservation Society, have also announced a US\$2.8 million project to involve all tiger range States in high-level discussions for tiger conservation. The project will complement existing

efforts under the Global Tiger Initiative and will support a broad participation of other conservation organizations including TRAFFIC, WWF, and IUCN (http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=24122).

In other GEF news, the second Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project for Eastern Africa was approved on 3 March 2009, to improve collaborative management of the transboundary natural resources of Lake Victoria basin for the shared benefits of the East African Community partner States. The project includes International Development Agency loans and a US\$7 million GEF grant (<http://go.worldbank.org/RJSDWKS1X0>).

The GEF Council has also approved an intersessional work programme, including climate change projects amounting to US\$47.46 million. Climate projects approved include several energy efficiency projects in China, India, Turkey and the Russian Federation, and a sustainable transport project in Pakistan. The energy efficiency projects target energy efficiency in commercial buildings, in the railway system, in small and medium-sized enterprises, and in industry (<http://www.thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=94>).



Monique Barbut and a tiger cub (image courtesy of the GEF)

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

MULTILATERAL FUND RELEASES DOCUMENTS BEFORE MEETING

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol has released documents in preparation for the 57th Meeting of the Executive Commit-

tee of the Multilateral Fund, which will convene in Montreal, Canada, from 30 March-3 April 2009. The Committee will consider the status of the Fund, resources available for new activities during 2009-2011, prospects for developing countries to achieve compliance with the next con-

trol measures of the Montreal Protocol, resource mobilization for climate co-benefits, implementing agencies' business plans and work programmes, and hydrochlorofluorocarbon production phase-out plans for China and India (http://www.multilateralfund.org/57th_meeting.htm).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC RELEASES SUBMISSIONS ON LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM WORK OF AWG-KP, AND AGENDAS FOR SBI AND SBSTA

The UNFCCC Secretariat has released four submissions on views on the legal implications arising from the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 9, of the Kyoto Protocol. It received the submissions from Belarus, the Czech Republic on behalf of the EU, Japan and New Zealand. Article 3.9 states that commitments for subsequent periods for parties included in Annex I shall be established in amendments to Annex B and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties shall initiate consideration of such commitments at least seven years before the end of the first commitment period (http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/3594.php?rec=j&priref=600005110&suchen=n).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has also released the provisional annotated agendas for the 30th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (FCCC/SBSTA/2009/1) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) (FCCC/SBI/2009/1), which will be held from 1-12 June 2009 in Bonn, Germany (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/01.pdf>).

In other UNFCCC news, the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) convened a special meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 24-26 February 2009, to discuss and finalize three advanced reports on: performance indicators for technology development and transfer; identification and analysis of existing and new financing resources and relevant vehicles for the development and transfer of technologies; and long-term strategy to support the development and transfer of technologies. These reports follow on from interim reports that were presented at the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties in December 2008 and will be made avail-

able as input to the fifth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action Under the Convention, scheduled to take place from 29 March-8 April 2009, in Bonn, Germany (<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/EGTT.jsp>).

In addition, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released its first newsletter for 2009.



Image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

The publication contains a focus section on the Poznań Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer and contains: information and upcoming activities related to each of the Bali Roadmap building blocks (mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology); summaries of key UNFCCC statements; a guest column titled “Putting Energy into a Global Agreement,” authored by Björn Stigson, World Business Council for Sustainable Development President; and other UN climate news (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=yllhmm5i&s=h1qq5os0fj9scn0y>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

FRIENDS OF THE CO-CHAIRS PRODUCE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL, CBD LAUNCHES DIALOGUE ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The first Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety convened from 23-27 February 2009, in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting continued negotiating international rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms in the context of the Biosafety Protocol, and produced a draft text for a supplementary protocol on liability and redress that will serve as a basis for further consideration at the second meeting of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs, to be held in early 2010, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Most delegates agreed that the supplementary protocol is far from complete, but many thought the meeting had put a successful outcome within reach in time for the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to be held from 11-15 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/bs-gflr/>).

In other news, over 50 participants from governments and organizations met from 9-11 March 2009, in San José, Costa Rica, for the fifth Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organiza-

tions Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-building Activities, to share experiences and discuss strategies for improving capacity-building efforts with regard to the assessment of risks of living modified organisms, and to explore ways to better integrate biosafety into broader sustainable development plans and programmes (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-03-06-bs-en.pdf>).

In preparation for the second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change, to be held from 18-22 April 2009, in Helsinki, Finland, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) launched an internet-based discussion group from 9-20 March 2009. The discussion group seeks views from governments and relevant organizations on: case studies on reducing risks to biodiversity associated with climate change; steps taken to improve the integration of biodiversity considerations and traditional and local knowledge related to biodiversity within climate change adaptation; methodologies for analyzing the value of biodiversity in supporting adaptation in communities and sectors vulnerable to climate change; and case studies on providing incentives for the implementation of adaptation actions that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/climate/forums/public/>).

The CBD Secretariat launched the Plant Conservation Report, developed in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and other relevant organizations and stakeholders. The Report reviews progress in implementing the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted in 2002 by the sixth Conference of the Parties to the CBD (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/plant-conservation-report-en.pdf>). The CBD Secretariat has also launched an “Information Portal” related to the negotiations of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing (<http://www.cbd.int/abs/ir/>).

CMS LAUNCHES BOOK ON GORILLAS

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has launched a new publication on gorillas to support the survival of gorilla populations and mark the Year of the Gorilla 2009. The publishing company will donate money from the sale of each copy of “Gorillas – the Gentle Giants” to the Year of the Gorilla campaign (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/03_mar_09/Gorillas_Gentle_Giants_Eng.pdf).

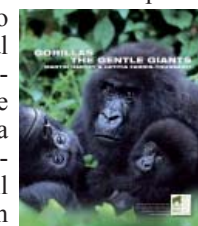


Image courtesy of the CMS Secretariat

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Participants during the HCFC Phase-out Management Plans seminar (photo courtesy of UNEP)

UNEP ORGANIZES SEMINAR ON HCFC PHASE-OUT, LAUNCHES GLOBAL FUEL ECONOMY INITIATIVE

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), OzonAction and the World Bank organized a seminar on 18 February 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya, for the focal points for ozone and climate from Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Senegal, Togo, Uganda and Zambia, to help them begin preparing their Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase-out Management Plans (HPMPs). The seminar sought to encourage cooperation and maximize the climate benefits of HPMPs, on the financing benefits of the Clean Development Mechanism, and promote energy effi-

ciency (http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction/archive_features.htm).

In other UNEP news, at the Geneva Motor Show, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5-15 March 2009, UNEP, the International Energy Agency, the International Transport Forum and the FIA Foundation presented their “50 by 50 Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI),” which will seek to halve car emissions by 2050. In 2009, the GFEI intends to undertake regional assessments, programme launches, four na-



Image courtesy of the FIA Foundation

tional pilot projects and a fuel economy information sharing campaign. (<http://www.fiafoundation.org/50by50/pages/homepage.aspx>).

UNEP has also released the second newsletter for the Marrakech Process. UNEP and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs are the lead agencies for this global multi-stakeholder process to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP). The newsletter reports on an event held at UNEP’s Governing Council meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 18 February 2009, titled “Building Resource Efficient Economies and Sustainable Societies,” and contains sections on: the first public draft of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for sustainable consumption and production; the second meeting of the Marrakech Process Advisory Committee held in October 2008, in Paris, France; national and regional activities and progress on SCP; the December 2008 launch of a UN Inter-Agency Network to increase awareness of the Marrakech Process and its activities; and other stakeholder contributions to the Marrakech Process (http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/pdf/MP_NEWSLETTER_Feb%202009.pdf).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- The Permanent Representatives of Namibia, Kaire Munionganda Mbuende, and Spain, Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, have been appointed the **Co-Chairs to facilitate the process of consultations on System-wide Coherence** (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/letters/appointmentSWC.pdf>).
- Jin-Hyun Paik (Republic of Korea) was elected, on 6 March 2009, as the newest member of the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)**. The election took place at a Special Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in New York, US, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Judge Choon-Ho Park (Republic of Korea). Paik will hold the office for the remainder of his predecessor’s nine-year term, which expires on 30 September 2014 (http://www.itlos.org/general_information/judges/text_en.shtml).



L-R: Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo (photo courtesy of the UN) and Kaire Munionganda Mbuende

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Second Intersessional Meeting of IMO Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships:** 9-13 March 2009. London, UK. http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11161
- **Eighth Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties on UNFSA:** 16-19 March 2009. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/fsaic8/>
- **19th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO):** 16-20 March 2009. Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/fao/cof19/>
- **18th Meeting of the Plants Committee of CITES:** 17-21 March 2009. Buenos Aires, Argentina. <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/pc18/>
- **Expert Meeting on Methodological Issues Relating to Reference Emission Levels and Reference Levels:** 23-24 March 2009. Bonn, Germany. http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/4770.php
- **Clean Development Mechanism Board Meeting:** 23-25 March 2009. Bonn, Germany. <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/046/index.html>
- **IPCC Scoping Meeting for Special Report on Extreme Events and Disasters:** 23-26 March 2009. Oslo, Norway. <http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/calendar.htm>
- **Fifth Meeting of the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee:** 23-27 March 2009. Rome, Italy. <http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=161&sid=18&tid=42>
- **Fifth Adaptation Fund Board Meeting:** 24-27 March 2009. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.adaptation-fund.org/>