



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

BONN CLIMATE TALKS START LONG-TERM PROCESS, PREPARE FOR NAIROBI

The latest round of climate talks in Bonn have started two parallel processes for considering a long-term framework for addressing climate change beyond 2012, while also preparing for the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 12) and second Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 2) in Nairobi this November. The long-term process was discussed at a "UNFCCC Dialogue" (15-16 May: <http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12297e.html>) and in a new subsidiary body, the *Ad Hoc* Working Group under the Kyoto Protocol (17-25 May: <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb24/>). Both the UNFCCC Dialogue and Protocol Working Group were new processes resulting from decisions taken during COP 11 and COP/MOP 1 in Montreal in late 2005. Both new processes are intended to consider an approach to long-term cooperative action on climate change. *Continued on Page 2.*



Participants at the UNFCCC Dialogue

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

GLOBAL DESERTS OUTLOOK

(UNEP, 2006) Celebrations were held in Algiers on 5 June to celebrate World Environment Day, under the theme "Don't Desert Drylands!" and UNEP launched *Global Deserts Outlook*, the first thematic report in UNEP's Global Environment Outlook (GEO) series of environmental assessments. The report traces the history and biology of the deserts and identifies policy options to help governments and relevant bodies deliver a more sustainable future to these regions (<http://www.unep.org/geo/gdoutlook/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Addressing Capacity Needs to Manage MEAs in South Asia

By Arvind Anil Boaz, Director General of SACEP, Pradyumna Kumar Koita, SACEP, and Makiko Yashiro, UNEP

Abstract

Countries face significant challenges in responding to the increasing number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), resulting in a need to enhance country capacity to manage multiple MEAs in a synergistic manner. Various efforts have been undertaken in South Asia to address these challenges at the regional level, with the first step being an identification of the region's needs.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

DESERT SCIENCE DOSSIER

(SciDev.Net, 2006) SciDev.Net has created a desert science dossier about drylands and desertification, in recognition of the theme for World Environment Day on 5 June. The dossier contains links to news, feature and opinion articles, including summaries of the issues involved and key documents from online sources (<http://www.scidev.net/desertscience>).

STATUS OF TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT 2005

(ITTO, 2006) This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the forest management situation in all 33 of ITTO's producer member countries. It addresses the policy and institutional settings in each country, the approaches taken to the allocation and management of resources, and the status of management of those resources (http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/1222/IT-TOSFMTopics2005_summary.e.pdf).

ANNUAL REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD TIMBER SITUATION

(ITTO, 2006) ITTO's Annual Review and Assessment of the World Timber Situation compiles statistics on global production and trade of timber, with an emphasis on the tropics. It also provides information on trends in forest area, forest management and the economies of ITTO member countries (http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/400/E-AnnualReview2005.pdf).

MANUAL ON COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENFORCEMENT OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

(UNEP, May 2006) This Manual expands on UNEP's Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It was launched during the second High-Level Meeting on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs (http://www.unep.org/dec/docs/UNEP_Manual.pdf).

WORLD DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS 2006

(World Bank, 2006) This World Bank publication offers data on over 800 indicators for some 150 economies and 14 country groups. It provides a current overview of the most recent information available as well as regional data and income group analysis in six thematic chapters: World View, People, Environment, Economy, States and Markets, and Global Links (http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=5367096).

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Continued from Page 1.

The regular 24th sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB 24) began on 18 May and concluded on 26 May. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took up issues such as national communications, financial and administrative matters, capacity building and arrangements for future intergovernmental meetings. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) considered topics including the five-year work programme on adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, and several methodological issues under both the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. The two subsidiary bodies together adopted 30 conclusions and one draft decision. However, most of these texts did not contain substantive agreements, and instead simply forwarded the issues to SB 25 for further consideration. SB 25 will take place alongside the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, COP 12 and COP/MOP 2 in November 2006, in Nairobi, Kenya. SB 24 and AWG 1 did not achieve any major breakthroughs, but as climate negotiations show a cyclical pattern, SB 24 and AWG 1 can be seen as the beginning of a new phase after the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and the major developments in Montreal in 2005. Below the surface of an apparently dull meeting, things are starting to move and the processes to consider the long-term future are now underway (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12306e.html>; <http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb24/items/3648.php>).



SBSTA Chair Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) opening SBSTA 24

In addition to the regular SB 24 sessions and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, many contact group and informal consultations took place to help the subsidiary bodies make progress on their agendas. In addition, one other pre-session meeting and three in-session workshops were held: the Expert Meeting on Economic Diversification convened from 16-17 May (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12298e.html>), while workshops were held on carbon capture and storage on 20 May (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12301e.html>), carbon capture as a Clean Development Mechanism project activity on 22 May (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12302e.html>), and mitigation in relation to agriculture, forestry and rural development on 23 May (<http://www.iisd.ca/vol12/enb12303e.html>). For information on side events, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb24/enbots/>.

OZONE SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR 26TH OEWG

In preparation for the 3-6 July 2006 26th Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (OEWG), the Ozone Secretariat has released a note by the Secretariat on treatment of stockpiled ozone-depleting substances in relation to compliance (http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting_Documents/oewg/26oewg/OEWG-26-5E.pdf), the Special Report from the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) on validation of alternatives to methyl bromide for pre-plant fumigation (http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting_Documents/oewg/26oewg/index.asp), a draft decision on multi-year exemptions for methyl bromide use (http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting_Documents/oewg/26oewg/OEWG-26-6E.pdf), and a framework table of the list of measures arising from the IPCC/TEAP Special Report (http://www.unep.ch/ozone/Meeting_Documents/ipcc/IPCC_List_of_measures_table.doc). The table of measures arising from the IPCC/TEAP Special Report and its Supplement details each measure's: relevance to ODS; significance; practicality; cost effectiveness; and other environmental impacts.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD SECRETARIAT RELEASES REPORTS ON CSD-14 AND PACIFIC ISLAND STATES WORKSHOP, SETS DATES FOR CSD-15

The Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) has released the Chair's summaries for CSD-14 (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/documents/chairSummaryPartI.pdf>; <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/documents/chairSummaryPartII.pdf>). Also available is the final report for the Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies in Pacific Island States (4-5 May 2006, New York), which took place during CSD-14

(<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/nsds/workshop/pacificislands.htm>). The Secretariat has also announced the dates for CSD-15, which will build on the discussions at CSD-14, focusing on policy options for energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. An Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting will convene from 26 February – 2 March 2007 to prepare for the 15th session, which is scheduled to meet from 30 April – 11 May 2006. Both meetings will take place in New York (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Based on a series of initiatives, representatives of governments, international and regional organizations identified a range of capacity needs, summarized as follows:

1. *Institutional coordination*: There is a lack of institutional coordination in the management of MEAs at the national level, and the establishment of new coordinating bodies often causes problems, such as opposition from existing agencies, due to territorial disagreements over resources and mandates.

2. *Information management*: Countries lack appropriate information management systems, leading to a need to establish effective mechanisms to manage MEA-related information, such as national and regional clearing house mechanisms.

3. *Financing*: Countries have difficulties due to lack of steady financial resources and experience delays in receiving and processing funds for project implementation. Poor coordination with and among donors and regional agencies is also a challenge to overcome.

4. *Capacity development and awareness raising*: Countries generally face a continuous lack of human and technical capacity in the negotiation, planning and implementation phases of MEAs, and need to develop long-term capacity development plans and raise awareness of high-level decision makers about MEA-related issues.

5. *Regional cooperation*: Dialogues among countries need to be promoted to identify regional priorities and develop common positions when negotiating and implementing MEAs. Regional partnership frameworks are also effective in providing training, information and policy support requested by countries in managing MEAs.

To address these challenges, a series of action plans was developed. One of these is a proposal to establish the Regional Network of Centers of Excellence for Inter-linked MEA Capacity Building in South Asia, which aims to strengthen cooperation among existing Centers of Excellence on MEA-related issues at the regional and national levels, allowing designated Centers to provide timely technical and capacity development assistance to countries. This proposed network also aims to develop a knowledge base of best practices related to the effective and integrated management of MEAs, and enhanced information sharing among countries, through the development of clearing house mechanisms on MEA-related activities in the region.

For further information about the initiatives, please visit: <http://geic.hq.unu.edu/>

Read the Full Article at:
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle7.htm>

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 Research Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information and article guidelines.

¹ The author was previously with the United Nations University (UNU) and involved in the Inter-linkages Initiative, before taking a post at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in February 2006.

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION RELEASES COP-2 REPORT, UPDATES LIST OF COUNTRY NIPS, SETS DATES AND VENUE FOR COP-3

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has published the English version of the official Report of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties: http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/cop_2/report/default.htm. The Secretariat has also recently uploaded the latest submissions on "National Implementation Plans pursuant to Article 7 (b) of the Stockholm Convention." The latest additions have been: Canada (17 May 2006), Lebanon (17 May 2006), Finland (17 May 2006), Sweden (23 May 2006), Cote d'Ivoire (24 May 2006), Chile (30 May 2006), Netherlands (30 May 2006), and Uruguay (1 June 2006) (<http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips/submissions/default.htm>).

The Secretariat also announced the date and venue for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place in Senegal from 30 April - 4 May 2007 (<http://www.pops.int/documents/press/>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION RELEASES HARMONIZED SYSTEM CODES, HOSTS MEETINGS

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has recently posted the harmonized system codes assigned to chemicals in Annex III to

the Rotterdam Convention. The World Customs Organization in June 2004 adopted amendments to the Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature and has assigned specific HS codes to the individual chemicals or groups of chemicals listed in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention. These amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2007. The accuracy of this information has now been verified by the World Customs Organization (<http://www.pic.int/Guidance/HS%20codes%20list%20for%20website.doc>).

The Secretariat also recently organized two meetings: the Near East Subregional Meeting of the Rotterdam Convention (21-24 May 2006, Muscat Sultanate, Oman) and a National Consultation on the Ratification and Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention (23-26 May 2006, Hanoi, Viet Nam). The major focus of both meetings was the ratification and implementation of the Convention, particularly the main obligations under the Convention (<http://www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.asp?id=403>). Additionally, the Secretariat is organizing a regional meeting to be held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 19-23 June 2006. The invited countries are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting will focus on the benefits of the Rotterdam Convention, ratification and implementation (<http://www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.asp?id=405>).

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MEETS WITH WTO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Celebrated on 22 May, this year's International Day for Biological Diversity focused on drylands, with a number of celebrations and activities held in many countries around the world. CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif highlighted that "The International Day for Biological Diversity provides us with a unique opportunity to renew our commitment as a community of nations bound by a common, long-term, ecological destiny" (<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2006-ctrs.shtml>; <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/speech/2006/sp-2006-05-17-ibd-en.pdf>).

On 29 May 2006, Djoghlaif met with Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to discuss how the two organizations can work together to fulfill their mandates, achieve sustainable development and be mutually supportive (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/press/2006/pr-2006-05-31-wto-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the CBD Secretariat posted a compendium of side events held during the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/>

[publications/side-events/cse-2006-01-abswg-04-wg8j-04-en.pdf](http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/bs/mop-03/official/mop-03-15-en.pdf)), as well as the report of the third meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/bs/mop-03/official/mop-03-15-en.pdf>).

CMS AND WDACS CELEBRATE BIODIVERSITY DAY AT BONN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Staff members from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDACS) celebrated International Biodiversity Day with the students of the Bonn International School to help raise awareness of endangered species among international students. Issues discussed included whales and dolphins, their biology, behavior and threats to their survival, the behavior and life of bats, and the effects of the tsunami on biodiversity in Sri Lanka (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/May/nw230506_biodivday_bis.htm).



Students at Bonn International School learn how to rescue dolphins (Photo courtesy CMS)

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO CO-ORGANIZES FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION WORKSHOP IN PHILIPPINES, RELEASES REPORT ON TROPICAL FORESTRY

ITTO, together with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Government of the Philippines, recently organized a national training workshop on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Bagac, Bataan, Philippines, from 8-12 May 2006. The workshop brought together representatives from government agencies, civil society, the private sector, local communities and research organizations to validate the extent and causes of forest landscape change in the Philippines, and provided training on the concepts and application of FLR through various learning activities. Participants also provided feedback on the restoration guidelines and manual developed by ITTO and IUCN, and drafted an Action Plan to enable the practical implementation of FLR in the Philippines over the coming months (http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/05/26_forest.htm).

ITTO also released, at the 40th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (29 May-2 June, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico), an analysis of the state of tropical forestry in



FLR Workshop in the Philippines
(Photo courtesy Sandeep Sengupta, IUCN)

33 countries in Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. Reflecting four years of work, the study incorporates data and information collected from a variety of independent sources. It assesses the effectiveness of plans to bring sustainable management

practices to large areas of timber-producing tropical forests, and finds a significant gap between words and on-the-ground action in all regions examined. The report shows that the area of sustainably managed tropical forests has expanded from less than one million hectares in 1988 to at least 36 million hectares in 2005. However, of the 353 million hectares designated as production forests, only 7 percent are being managed sustainably (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagel=217&id=1262>).

UNFF LAUNCHES ONLINE FORA ON ROOT CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION

The Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) is introducing a series of online fora on the root causes of deforestation. For the first online discussion, posted between 22-26 May 2006 and currently available for viewing, participants contributed their views on what they considered to be the root causes of deforestation. Summaries will be available and the fora will be closely linked to the UNFF bimonthly newsletter (<http://es-aconf.un.org/~unff>).

UNCCD ORGANIZES MEETING ON WOMEN AND DESERTIFICATION, PREPARES FOR WORLD DESERTIFICATION DAY

The Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), together with the governments of Algeria, China and Italy, organized the Beijing International Conference on Women and Desertification (29 May - 1 June 2006, Beijing, China), as one of several conferences marking the 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD). Over 100 participants from approximately 50 countries discussed challenges and opportunities for women in drylands and the Beijing Platform for Action from the Fourth World Conference on Women, among other

agenda items. Three thematic working groups convened for one and a half days to identify potential elements for a Beijing Statement, which was adopted by the conference. The Beijing Statement addresses: institutional issues, including ways to use the intersectoral intergovernmental working group (IIWG) and *Ad Hoc* Working Group to follow-up on the Beijing discussions; main priorities for action, including water and resource management, energy, food security, health and education; funding mechanisms; monitoring; and implementation mechanisms. Participants also recommended that the Beijing Statement be placed on the COP-8 agenda and that a follow-up meeting be organized in two years (http://www.iydd.org/index_beijing.htm).

The UNCCD Secretariat is inviting country parties to celebrate World Day to Combat Desertification, 17 June, which marks the tenth anniversary of the ratification of the UNCCD and this year takes place during International Year of Deserts and Desertification. The theme for the 2006 World Day celebrations is "The Beauty of Deserts - The Challenge of Desertification."

Summaries of two May sessions of the Secretariat-sponsored e-forum on best practices and traditional knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean are now available. On soil rehabilitation and conservation, participants shared successful experiences with land rehabilitation, including those in which traditional and modern knowledge were combined and those that involved communal organizations in applying best practices and traditional knowledge (http://www.unccd-deselac.org/uploads/s3summary_en.pdf). On agricultural and forest practices, participants identified experiences in the field and highlighted the need to deal with the discontinuity and fragmentation of political action, particularly in the poorest areas (http://www.unccd-deselac.org/uploads/s4summary_en.pdf).

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF COUNCIL MEETING TO ELECT NEW GEF CEO

The GEF Council will elect the new GEF CEO during its 6-9 June 2006 meeting in Washington DC. Meeting documents indicate that Monique Barbut (France), Director of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, has been unanimously proposed for this post. The meeting will also consider GEF's annual performance report, the status report of the Special Climate Change Fund, a strategy for financing biosafety activities, a private sector strategy, and progress in the implementation of the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) (http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C28/gef_c28.html).

GEF PROJECT FOR KIRIBATI

The World Bank approved a GEF grant to Kiribati for US\$1.8 million to help the island nation adapt to further climate change. This project aims to identify and demonstrate

climate-related problems, design cost-effective adaptation solutions and continue to integrate climate risk awareness and responsiveness into economic and operational planning. It will be co-financed with the Australian Agency for International Development (US\$1.49 million), and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (US\$ 0.97 million), while the European Union will provide parallel financing (€2 million) (<http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=73230&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=441920&Projectid=P089326>).

WORLD BANK CONFERENCE RETHINKS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) convened from 29-30 May 2006 in Tokyo, Japan, and focused on "Rethinking Infrastructure for Development." Participants

addressed several major topics related to infrastructure, including growth, climate change, energy efficiency, rural development, agriculture and the implications for regional cooperation. The Conference participants called for new analytical and evaluation tools to help decision-makers make infrastructure choices that deliver vital services such as energy, transportation and water, to facilitate growth and achieve the MDGs, while also remaining cost-effective and friendly to the environment. In his closing speech, François Bourguignon, World Bank Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, noted the need to: deepen analysis on links between infrastructure and growth; strike the right balance between public and private involvement; deal with cross-border or global externalities; and improve data and evaluation to achieve an ambitious infrastructure agenda (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20944196~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNGA CONSULTATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE TO CONSIDER COORDINATION, INTEGRATION AND MEA COMPLIANCE

As proposed in a letter dated 24 May 2006, the two Co-Chairs of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) consultations on environmental governance (Amb. Enrique Berruga, Mexico, and Amb. Peter Maurer, Switzerland) will convene further consultations on 6, 20 and 27 June 2006, at UN headquarters in New York. Co-Chairs Berruga and Maurer proposed focusing on: enhanced coordination; improved policy advice and guidance; better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operation level, including through capacity building; better treaty compliance; and strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation.

The first set of issues to be tackled in June include: major challenges at the normative, policy and operational levels with respect to coordination; specificities at the global, regional and national levels; and vertical and horizontal coordination of UN System coordination, to improve the UN response to environmental challenges. In this regard, attention will be devoted to the appropriate coordination between the UN System and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and more effective use of the Environment Management Group. In relation to policy advice and guidance, the Co-Chairs suggested focusing on: possible solutions in light of the legal autonomy of MEAs, promotion of a more coherent global environmental agenda, and more effective utilization of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. In this respect, attention will be devoted to the specific challenges within the UN System, between the UN System and MEAs, and between the UN System and other international organizations such as the World Bank. With respect to better environmental integration, the Co-Chairs called for suggestions on how to improve the current activities of the UN System, in particular how to best support the implementation of environmental policies in developing countries. Attention will also be devoted to increasing the impact on the ground of multilateral funding mechanisms for the environment such as the Global Environment Facility.

In relation to treaty compliance, the Co-Chairs proposed focusing on challenges, practical implications and suggestions on how to ensure coherence and effectiveness in treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of MEAs. They called for views on how to build capacity at the national level to foster implementation, identify the UN bodies and the type of capacity building best

suited to support national implementation of international agreements, and organize these bodies to deliver the requested services, minimizing administrative costs and avoiding duplication of work.

The June consultations are also expected to address the proliferation of meetings and reporting obligations arising from MEAs, taking into account possible unified reporting systems and options for "consolidated" meetings of the parties and expert meetings. Finally, the Co-Chairs suggested considering the challenges and practical implications of strengthening scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation. They called for suggestions on how to bring available scientific knowledge and make it more authoritative and accessible, including in terms of monitoring and assessing emerging trends and early warning. Co-Chairs Berruga and Maurer also announced that a web link with relevant background information on environmental governance issues will be established, to promote inclusiveness and transparency in the consultations, and confirmed their close contact with the Secretary General's High-level Panel on System Wide Coherence (IISD sources).

UNEP HOSTS SECOND MEETING ON MEA COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions organized a second High-Level Meeting on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements from 31 May – 2 June 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland. This meeting built on the process initiated at the first High-Level Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in January 2006. The Geneva meeting considered the technical aspects of compli-

ance and enforcement and identified potential legal, structural and institutional innovations that could enhance MEA implementation. Based on its deliberations, the meeting developed a Chair's Summary that UNEP will use to develop an action plan on compliance with and enforcement of MEAs, which is expected to be presented to the UNEP Governing Council in 2007. Recommendations include: promotion of partnerships and cooperation between UNEP and MEA Secretariats, and between these actors, donors and international financial institutions; promotion of regional cooperation; and development of the knowledge base on international criminal activities related to MEAs (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/unespmea2/>; http://www.unep.org/dec/support/mdg_meeting_geneva.html).

HOSTS, UNEP TO GREEN FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

UNEP is working with the German organizers of the 2006 FIFA soccer World Cup to ensure an environmentally-friendly tournament. Green Goal, set up by the German Organizing Committee, has decided that environmental messages contained in a short film will be presented on giant screens as part of the pre-match events before every game. Green Goal also finalized the Climate Neutral scheme, which will offset all 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide generated within Germany by transportation, construction and maintenance of the stadiums, and the presence of the 3.2 million expected spectators. Other energy- and water-saving and waste-minimizing devices will be applied in the stadiums (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=477&ArticleID=5271&I=en>; <http://greengoal.fifaworldcup.yahoo.net/>).



From left to right: Elizabeth Maruma-Mrema, UNEP-DEC; Philippe Roch, Chair of the High-Level Meeting on Compliance with and Enforcement of MEAs; Bakary Kante, Director UNEP-DEC; and Lal Kurukulasuriya, Rapporteur of the meeting

► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

UN DIVISION FOR OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENES FISH STOCKS REVIEW CONFERENCE, POSTS INFORMATION ON UNICPOLOS

The Review Conference of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA or the Agreement) convened from 22-26 May 2006, at UN headquarters in New York. By the end of the week, delegates adopted a final report that highlights: a commitment to integrate ecosystem considerations in fisheries management; the urgent reduction of the world's fishing capacity to levels commensurate with the sustainability of fish stocks; urgent strengthening of regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) mandates to implement modern approaches to fisheries; urgent RFMO performance reviews; a commitment to develop a legally binding instrument on minimum standards for port State measures and a comprehensive



Vladimir Golitsyn, Director of the UN Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), opened the Review Conference

global register of fishing vessels; expanded assistance to developing countries; and continuation of a dialogue to address concerns raised by non-parties. The final



Amb. David Balton (US) was elected President of the Review Conference by acclamation

report will be transmitted to the RFMO secretariats and the UN General Assembly, among others, and delegates decided to resume the Review Conference no later than 2011 (<http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/sfsrc/>).

In addition to organizing the Review Conference, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has posted information and answers to frequently asked questions on the seventh meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS), which will take place from 12-16 June 2006 at UN headquarters in New York (http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process_info.htm).

NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat announced the designation of seven new wetland sites. The Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forestry has designated three new Wetlands of International Importance. Two of the sites are located on the Central Anatolian plateau, and the third site, Yumurtalik Lagoons, is located on the southern coast of the country.

Chad's Ramsar Administrative Authority has designated a southeastern floodplain complex as the country's fifth Wetland of International Importance. The Plaines d'inondation des Bahr Ouak et Salamat is the world's third-largest Ramsar site, a complex

of floodplains, hills, a lake, rivers and ponds located in a natural depression at the border with the Central Africa Republic. The Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia has designated the Wasur National Park in Irian Jaya for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, effective 16 March 2006. Ecuador has designated the Ñucanchi Turupamba wetland complex, which performs an important hydrological function by recharging aquifers, filtering water and regulating the water level of the adjacent peatlands.

Guatemala has designated the Eco-región Lachuá as a Ramsar site. This eco-region comprises the "Laguna de Lachuá" National Park and its surrounding buffer zone and is the habitat of the bat, mammals such as the cougar, jaguar, Baird's tapir, and various monkeys and reptiles. (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.turkey_three.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_chad_salamat.htm; http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm)

GPA PREPARES FOR SECOND IGR

The Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) is collaborating with the Stakeholder Forum to produce *GPA Outreach*, a newsletter regarding preparations for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the GPA, scheduled to take place in Beijing, China, on 16-20 October 2006. The May issue focuses on the first day of the IGR-2, which will be dedicated to National Programmes in the implementation of the GPA (<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa/docs/GPAOutreachMay.pdf>).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- UNEP has announced that **Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention**, will continue to serve the Secretariat until 30 April 2007 (<http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/150506.pdf>).
- Jan Erik Heino (Finland) has been appointed the new **Head of the Forestry Department at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization**. He is a former Director-General of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Finland, and currently Director-General of Metsähallitus, the Finnish State Forest Enterprise. He will take up his new appointment on 29 June 2006.

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **SEVENTH SESSION OF THE UN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNICPOLOS-7):** 12-16 June 2006. UN headquarters, New York, US. http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm
- **FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (ITPGR) GOVERNING BODY:** 12-16 June 2006. Madrid, Spain. <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/gb1.htm>
- **ONLINE DIALOGUE ON THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES (GPA):** 12-23 June 2006. Internet. <http://www.stakeholderforum.org/gpa>
- **FOURTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN EXPERTS GROUP ON CITES:** 14-16 June 2006. Makati City, Metro Manila, the Philippines. http://www.cites.org/common/news/2006/4th_ASEAN_EXP_GRP_2.pdf
- **CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF DRYLANDS:** 19-21 June 2006. Tunis, Tunisia. <http://www.unesco.org/mab/ecosyst/futureDrylands.shtml>
- **SUB-REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION:** Latin America and the Caribbean, 19-22 June 2006. Havana, Cuba. Africa, 19-23 June 2006, Pretoria, South Africa. <http://www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.asp?id=405>