



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD ADOPTS POLICIES FOR AGRICULTURE, DESERTIFICATION, DROUGHT, LAND, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AFRICA



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the High-level Segment. He highlighted that sustainable agriculture can contribute to climate change mitigation and urged CSD17 to inspire the world to address the multiple daunting challenges faced.

Delegates to the 17th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD17), which convened from 4-15 May 2009, at UN Headquarters in New York, US, focused on the thematic cluster of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. CSD17 negotiated policy recommendations based on CSD16's review of the issues and the development of a draft Chair's Negotiating Text during an Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, which convened in February 2009. Delegates

adopted a "Text as prepared by the Chair" by acclamation during the closing plenary. In addition to negotiating policy options related to the thematic cluster of issues, CSD17 delegates also engaged in dialogues with Major Groups and the policy research community, and a High-level Segment and Ministerial Roundtables focused on the food crisis, a sustainable green revolution in Africa, and integrated management of land and water resources for sustainable agriculture and rural development. The results from the Ministerial Roundtables were summarized in a Shared Vision Statement, which was annexed to the CSD17 report. The CSD17 Organization of Work also included, for the first time, a tripartite dialogue among Heads of UN agencies, Chairs of Executive Boards/Governing Councils of UN agencies, and ministers. These closed and informal discussions took place prior to the morning sessions of the first two days of the High-level Segment. A Partnerships Fair, Learning Center and side events also took place during the two weeks (<http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd17/>; http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17.shtml).

GUEST ARTICLE

UN-REDD Programme: Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society

By *Elspeth Halverson, Environment & Energy Group, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP*

Abstract

It is widely understood that for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) to succeed, Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) must be heard, especially at the local level where land and other natural resource management decisions are made.

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

ABANDONED, LOST OR OTHERWISE DISCARDED FISHING GEAR

(FAO/UNEP, 2009) This study reviews: the magnitude and composition of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear; its impacts; the factors that cause fishing gear to be abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded; and the measures currently in place to reduce the problem. The report concludes with recommendations to reduce such debris (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0620e/i0620e.pdf>).

Continued on page 3

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm COP4 Adds Nine Chemicals; ICCM2 Agrees to Action on Emerging Issues; Rotterdam Convenes Experts on Asbestos; First Basel PACE Meeting Convenes Page 2
- **International Organizations**
UNEP, UNDP Announce SEED Award Winners Page 3
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
World Bank Funds Environment and GHG Reduction in China Page 3
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
IMO Adopts Ship Recycling Convention; Ramsar SC40 Concludes Pages 3-4
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC Prepares for June Talks; Montreal Protocol Releases Documents Pages 4-5
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD Organizing Land Day Page 5
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Promotes International Biodiversity Day; CMS Highlights Gorilla Conservation; CITES Announces COP Dates Page 6

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, 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.)

The UN-REDD Programme fully recognises the need to support the active participation of Indigenous Peoples and CSOs in a successful REDD. In consultation with local representatives, the UN-REDD programme has developed Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Communities to guide national and international activities.



Image courtesy of UNEP

The Operational Guidance approach is driven by three basic principles: active representation, outreach, consultations, and the establishment of a CSO Advisory Group for both international and national participation. It informs the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of UN-REDD Programme activities and provides best practice advice on how to consult with Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities.

At the national level, the UN-REDD Programme requires National Joint Programmes to be approved in-country with civil society engagement. The Operational Guidance draws on the principles and recommendations made at the Global Indigenous Peoples Consultation on REDD in Baguio City, Philippines, in November 2008, a meeting organised by the UN-REDD Programme with partners (see the Summary Report for more details on the Global Indigenous Peoples Consultation). The UN-REDD Programme engagement strategy ensures Indigenous Peoples and civil society are represented as members and observers in the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, providing leadership towards the overall success of the programme.

Membership includes one Indigenous Peoples representative and one representative from civil society. All Policy Board decisions are reached by consensus. Serving as observers are three Indigenous Peoples representatives from each of the three regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean) and three civil society representatives. Indigenous Peoples and civil society members and observers act as conduits of information, linking networks, organisations and the UN-REDD Programme meetings and processes.

The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board has fully endorsed the Civil Society Advisory Group on Forests, Livelihoods and Climate Change (see Establishing an independent CSO Advisory Group for more details). This group will provide independent advice to the UN-REDD Programme and other bodies.

Link to the full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle70.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.

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES



Group photo of Ministers attending the POPs COP4 High-Level Segment

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION COP4 ADDS NINE NEW CHEMICALS

The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP4) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) was held from 4-8 May 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 800 participants, representing more than 149 governments, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies, attended the meeting. Three key agenda items were focused on during the week-long meeting: the addition of nine new chemicals to the Convention; financial resources and technical assistance, including endorsement of regional coordinating centres; and agreement on a non-compliance mechanism. The three issues were interlinked, and while delegates were at an impasse until early Saturday morning, a political

compromise was achieved, allowing the COP to adopt a package of decisions on new chemicals and financial resources and technical assistance. Delegates did not reach agreement on a non-compliance mechanism, and work on this issue was deferred to COP5 (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/cop4/>).

ICCM2 AGREES TO ACTION ON EMERGING ISSUES

The second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) was held from 11-15 May 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was attended by over 800 participants, representing over 150 governments, as well as intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and industry. ICCM2 considered new emerging policy issues, rules of procedure, the need for an intersessional body, and matters related to finance in contact groups throughout the week. Delegates adopted resolutions on, *inter alia*: rules of procedure; emerging issues; a process for considering emerging issues; the establishment of an open-ended working group; and financial resources. ICCM2 took the decision to not integrate the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety as a subsidiary body

of the ICCM, and left it to determine its own future (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/iccm2/>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CONVENES INTERNATIONAL EXPERT CONFERENCE ON ASBESTOS

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat convened an International Expert Conference on Asbestos and POPs Policies and Practices in Kazakhstan and the EU, in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 20-21 April 2009. The key outcome from the meeting was a resolution outlining recommendations to the Government of Kazakhstan, including the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, on asbestos and POPs policies (IISDRS sources).

FIRST BASEL CONVENTION PACE MEETING CONVENES

The Basel Convention Secretariat convened the first meeting of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) from 18-19 May 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting discussed general partnership issues, cooperation with other international organizations and e-waste related initiatives (IISDRS Sources).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

MAINSTREAMING POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: A HANDBOOK FOR PRACTITIONERS

(UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, 2009) The UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme (UNDP-UNEP) Poverty-Environment Initiative has published this Handbook, which is designed to serve as a guide for champions and practitioners engaged in mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages. It draws on experience at the country level and lessons learned by UNDP and UNEP in working with governments, especially ministries of planning, finance and environment, to support efforts to integrate the complex interrelationships between poverty reduction and improved environmental management into national planning and decision-making. French and Spanish translations are currently under preparation and will be made available soon (<http://www.unpei.org/Knowledge-Management/PEI-Handbook.asp>).

MAKING THE ECONOMIC CASE: A PRIMER ON THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS FOR MAINSTREAMING POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

(UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, 2009) This new primer provides guidance on presenting evidence about the economic, development and poverty reduction benefits of the environment to public sector decision-makers, so as to justify and promote “environmental investment.” This primer is designed to help interested countries and governments engaged in the environmental mainstreaming challenge to succeed in making their case, ensure that they have the evidence to back it up, and identify entry points to engage the attention of economic and development decision-makers and to enter into meaningful dialogue with them (<http://www.unpei.org/News/indexhomenews.asp#2>).

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP, UNDP ANNOUNCE SEED AWARD WINNERS

The winners of the 2009 SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development were announced at an event in conjunction with the 17th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), on 12 May 2009. The SEED Award is the flagship programme of the SEED Initiative, a partnership founded by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Environment Programme (UNEP)



Logo courtesy of the SEED Initiative

and IUCN. The international award recognizes innovation in local, environmentally-responsible and sustainable entrepreneurship. The 20 winning local initiatives included: a carbon bank and village development in Thailand; a solar energy, education and fishing project in Sri Lanka; a solar conversion of traditional kerosene hurricane lamps project in Bangladesh; a “Nafore and Afrisolar energy kiosks” project in Burkina Faso; and a clean energy initiative in Mozambique (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=585&ArticleID=6164&l=en>).

TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK FUNDS ENVIRONMENT AND GHG REDUCTION IN CHINA

During the month of May, the World Bank approved a loan of US\$80 million to fund the utilization of coal bed methane and coal mine methane as substitutes to coal in China. It also approved two new loans to China, totaling US\$150 million, to improve water resources management in Yunnan Province and Lake Dianchi and a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant of US\$19.7 million to raise thermal power efficiency in Shanxi, Shandong and Guangdong Provinces (<http://go.worldbank.org/LH0TTWMET0>, <http://go.worldbank.org/GF4Q8FGVV0>).

In other development bank news, the European Investment Bank (EIB) will co-finance investments that will contribute to the mitigation of climate change in Viet Nam through a EUR100 million loan. Viet Nam’s Ministry of Finance will make available 70% of the proceeds of the EIB’s framework loan to four state-owned banks, that will lend the funds to final beneficiaries carrying out investments that contribute to climate change mitigation, through renewable energy or energy efficiency projects (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2009/2009-091-eib-loan-to-mitigate-climate-change-in-vietnam.htm>).



Logo courtesy of EIB

WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

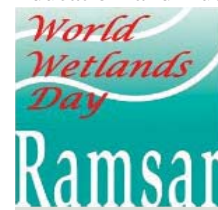
RAMSAR SC40 CONCLUDES, NEW SITES DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Standing Committee (SC) held its 40th meeting in Gland, Switzerland, from 11-15 May 2009. The meeting was the first of the Committee membership newly elected by the tenth Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP10) in Changwon, Korea, in November 2008. Subsidiary committees met over the first two days to prepare the ground for the plenary sessions that continued until the end of the week. Participants also took a study tour of a Ramsar site in the Geneva area. The Ramsar Secretariat has released the report of the SC40 (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/40/key_sc40_report.htm) and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel work plan for 2009-2012 that was adopted by SC40 (http://www.ramsar.org/strp/strp_workplan_2009.pdf).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has announced the designation of various new sites. The Government of Uganda has designated “Mountains

of the Moon” or “Rwenzori Mountains Ramsar site” (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.uganda_rwenzori.htm). The Government of the Republic of Korea has completed the paperwork for three Wetlands of International Importance that were announced at Ramsar COP10, namely the Ganghwa Maehwamarum Habitat, the Muljangori-oreum Wetland and the Odaesan National Park Wetlands (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.repkorea_ganghwa.htm).

Finally, Ramsar’s Communication, Education and Public Awareness programme has released advance information for World Wetlands Day 2010, which will be celebrated on 2 February around the theme “Wetlands, Biodiversity, and Climate Change” (http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/10/wwd2010_advance.htm).



Logo courtesy of Ramsar

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

FINANCE FOR FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(UN DESA, April 2009) Prepared by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Climate Change Working Group, this brief reviews forest-related programmes currently in place to fund reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). It recommends, *inter alia*, that international action be taken to support developing countries in building capacity and preparing for forest carbon programmes, and that negotiations on REDD and its financing have to be based on the broader and comprehensive framework of sustainable forest management (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief15.pdf>).

THE GREEN AND REDD OF CLIMATE CHANGE

(UN DESA, April 2009) Prepared by DESA's Climate Change Working Group, this brief reviews the impacts of forests on climate change and *vice versa*, the development of a REDD mechanism, and the role of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) in addressing forests and climate change (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief16.pdf>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO HOLDS CLIMATE MEETING, PRESENTS IMLI AWARD, ADOPTS SHIP RECYCLING CONVENTION

The Heads of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) have held a meeting in preparation for the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. IMO's Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Yvo de Boer of the UNFCCC, and ICAO's Kobeh González met in London, UK, on 30 April 2009. The three leaders discussed potential hurdles to be crossed in the process leading up to COP15. Mitropoulos recommended that parties to the UNFCCC continue to entrust IMO with the development and enactment of a global regulatory regime to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping. Kobeh emphasized that a globally-harmonized framework is essential for tackling emissions from international aviation due to their global nature. He added that a Group on International Aviation and Climate Change was created and mandated by the ICAO Assembly in 2007 to pursue this global framework through an ICAO Programme of Action on International Aviation and Climate Change. He also indicated that the ICAO Council has scheduled a High-level Meeting on International Aviation and Climate Change in October 2009 to review the Programme of Action and the recommendations to parties in Copenhagen. De Boer underlined the potential contribution of the two sectors in achieving the long-term objectives of

the UNFCCC and stressed the need for the Copenhagen agreement to constitute a solid foundation for the work of the IMO and the ICAO to address emissions from bunker fuels (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11336).

In other IMO news, on 5 May 2009, IMO Secretary-General Mitropoulos presented the "IMLI Award for Meritorious Contribution towards the Dissemination, Harmonization and Implementation of International Maritime Law" to Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation. Mitropoulos noted that, under Sasakawa's leadership, the Nippon Foundation has, *inter alia*, been involved in a project with IMO in the development of a new framework to enhance navigational safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11329).

The IMO has also adopted the International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, during the International Conference on the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, which took place from 11-15 May 2009, in Hong Kong, China. The Convention aims to ensure that ship recycling is carried out in a way that does not pose unnecessary risks to human health and safety and the environment. It was developed over the past three years, with input from IMO member States and relevant industry organizations, and in cooperation with the International Labour Organization and the parties to the Basel Convention (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11368).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

MONTREAL PROTOCOL RELEASES DOCUMENTS, REGIONAL OZONE NETWORK CONVENES

The Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol has released several reports in advance of the 29th Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) scheduled to convene from 15-18 July 2009, including the: May 2009 Report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel; Assessment of Alternatives to Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); Report of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on the progress made in reducing emissions of controlled substances from process-agent uses for the period 2007-2008

(UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/29/4); and the Report of the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund on the status of agreements to convert metered-dose inhaler manufacturing facilities in parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 (decision XX/4) (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/29/3) (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

In other ozone news, the Europe and Central Asia Regional Ozone Network convened from 18-22 May 2009, in Yerevan, Armenia. Fifteen Heads of national refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) associations participated, in order to initiate cooperation among these associations and to define their role in phasing out ozone-depleting HCFCs that also contribute to climate change. The network unanimously

agreed to enhance this new cooperation by creating a joint website. It was also recommended to include a provision in phase-out management plans for HCFCs for capacity building and networking of national RAC associations (http://www.uneptie.org/ozonAction/archive_features.htm).



Group photo of delegates attending the Annual Meeting of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia held in Yerevan (photo courtesy of UNEPTIE)

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC PREPARES FOR JUNE CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS

The second UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Newsletter of the year has been published. It focuses on the negotiating texts that will be on the table during the upcoming climate change talks in June. This edition contains interviews with John Ashe, *Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Countries under the Kyoto Protocol* (AWG-KP) Chair, and Michael Zammit Cutajar, *Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention* (AWG-LCA) Chair, who share their views on what remains to be done to reach a successful outcome in Copenhagen. An overview of developments since the March climate talks is also provided under the relevant sections on mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. The guest columnist, Changhua Wu, Greater China Director, The Climate Group, discusses China's path to a low-carbon future, highlighting green stimulus for low-carbon prosperity, emerging trends to form the foundation for transformation, and overcoming barriers to achieve transformation (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=e0ko37bj&s=h2qylamxyfksncx6>).



The UNFCCC Secretariat has released a number of documents in the run up to the June meetings, which will include: the 30th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA30), 1-10 June 2009; the 30th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI30), 1-10 June 2009; the eighth session of the AWG-KP8, 1-12 June 2009; and the sixth session of the AWG-LCA6, 1-12 June 2009. The documents include: the provisional annotated agendas for AWG-LCA6 (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/6) and AWG-KP8 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/6) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg8/eng/06.pdf>); <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca6/eng/06.pdf>; the overview schedule for the 30th session of the subsidiary bodies (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/sb30/application/pdf/sb30_overview_schedule.pdf); the negotiating text prepared by the Chair of the AWG-LCA (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/8) (http://maindb.unfccc.int/library/view_pdf.pl?url=http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca6/eng/08.pdf); and two documents (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/7, FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/8) prepared by the Chair of the AWG-KP to provide a basis for the AWG-KP to intensify negotiations on further emission reduction commitments for Annex I parties (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg8/eng/07.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg8/eng/08.pdf>). The UNFCCC Secretariat has also published the programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011 (FCCC/SBI/2009/2),

proposed by the Executive Secretary for consideration by SBI30, adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th session and endorsement by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its fifth session (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/02.pdf>).

A note (FCCC/SBI/2009/INF.6) containing information on the status of submission and review of fourth national communications, and of reports demonstrating progress under the Kyoto Protocol, from parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I parties) has also been released (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/inf06.pdf>). Two documents containing 74 submissions from 41 parties received up to 5 May 2009, on ideas and proposals on the elements contained in paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.4 (Part I) and FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.4 (Part II) have also been released (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca6/eng/misc04p01.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca6/eng/misc04p02.pdf>).

In addition to other submissions received, three submissions (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.12) on further views on issues relating to potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I parties have also been published by the UNFCCC Secretariat (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg8/eng/misc12.pdf>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD ORGANIZING LAND DAY DURING JUNE CLIMATE TALKS

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat is organizing a "Land Day" event, to take place in parallel to the June Climate Change Talks in Bonn, Germany. The 6 June 2009 event will offer climate change negotiators an opportunity to consider in depth the linkages between climate change and desertification, land degradation and drought, and will seek to raise awareness about the mutually reinforcing benefits of climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded lands (<http://www.unccd.int/>).

In preparation for the upcoming ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP9), and as requested by COP8, the Secretariat has facilitated a process through which the Regional Implementation Annexes have finalized their respective proposals for re-

gional implementation mechanisms. The proposals developed by the Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern Europe Annexes will be compiled in an official document to be submitted to the COP (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/menu.php>).

In preparation for the scientific conference to take place in conjunction with the next Committee on Science and Technology, which will take place during COP9, the organizing consortium has announced that the first draft of the analytical white papers that will feed into the conference will be placed on the open internet on 22 May. Reviews and comments will be requested for one month, following which the Working Groups will consider the comments and revise the drafts by 31 July, at which time they will be posted on the internet to assist participants to prepare for the meeting

(<http://www.unccd.int/documents/DS-DUupdate8May09.pdf>).

Also in preparation for COP9, the Secretariat has prepared a UNCCD water policy document and is organizing a workshop, to take place from 8-9 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany, to review the document. The workshop will seek to develop a water scarcity policy framework for the UNCCD and discuss next steps for the formulation of such a policy (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/pagi/menu.php>).

Finally, among other activities during the 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat launched a publication titled "Securitizing the ground – Grounding Security," which presents a paradigm of soil security in the context of the present global challenges and that highlights the unique global contribution of the UNCCD (<http://www.unccd.int/streambox/1409.php>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY FOCUSED ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Celebrated around the world on 22 May 2009, the International Day for Biological Diversity focused on invasive alien species, one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and to the ecological and economic well-being of society and the planet. As the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) promoted celebration of the 2009 day, it also announced that this day in 2010 would focus on "biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation" (<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2009/>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-05-22-idb-en.pdf>).

In other CBD news, an expert meeting on mainstreaming biodiversity in development cooperation was held from 13-15 May 2009, in Montreal, Canada. Participants' recommendations included: recognizing biodiversity as natural capital and making the case at the local level; establishing the value of biodiversity to economic sectors and the cost of not investing in biodiversity management; promotion by donors of a systematic and coherent use of strategic environmental assessment across sectors; promoting synergies between the biodiversity, climate change and desertification conventions; and developing a user-friendly planning toolkit for development practitioners focused on productive sectors (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-05-19-development-en.pdf>).

With regard to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Secretariat has posted the report of the first meeting of the *Ad*

Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on risk assessment and risk management, held from 20-24 April 2009, in Montreal, Canada. The AHTEG produced the initial draft of a roadmap for risk assessment requested by the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and agreed on an action plan to produce, prior to its second meeting, modalities for development of guidance documents on specific aspects of risk assessment (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/bsrarm-01/official/bsrarm-01-03-en.pdf>).

CMS SECRETARIAT HIGHLIGHTS GORILLA CONSERVATION

On the occasion of the International Biodiversity Day, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) stressed that the ever-growing human demand for energy and its consequences represent an omnipresent yet invisible threat to gorillas and

their habitats, noting that charcoal production and fossil fuel extraction are major threats to gorilla forests in many areas (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/05_may_09/Gorillas_energy_22May.pdf).

With regard to this year's focus on invasive alien species, the CMS Secretariat announced preparation of a review intended to illustrate some of the most representative and documented forms of threat posed by invasive alien species to various taxonomic groups of migratory species in different areas and habitats (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/05_may_09/nw_220509_ias_ibd.htm).

CITES SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES COP DATES

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has announced that the Government of Qatar and the CITES Secretariat have agreed in principle that the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to CITES should be held in Doha from 13-25 March 2010. Formal confirmation of these dates is expected in the near future (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2009/CoP15_dates.shtml).

In other CITES news, the Secretariat has made available the proceedings of the second African elephant meeting, held from 9-11 March 2009, in Gigiri, Kenya. The meeting focused on the African elephant action plan and the African elephant fund (http://www.cites.org/common/prog/mike/regional_meetings/Summary%20Note%20Af%20Elp%20meeting%20Gigiri%202009.pdf).



Image courtesy of the CMS Secretariat

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Bonn Climate Change Talks – June 2009:** 1-12 June 2009. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb30/>



Climate-L.org

IISD Reporting Services is pleased to bring you Climate-L.org (<http://www.climate-l.org>), a knowledge management project that provides news and information to decision makers on climate-related activities throughout the international community, with a special focus on actions by the United Nations.

Daily updates on the news we have added to Climate-L.org are distributed exclusively through our Climate-L Listserv (www.iisd.ca/c), which offers an announcement service for the climate change policy community. To subscribe to it and other IISD RS lists, visit: www.iisd.ca/email/subscribe.htm

Climate-L.org is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC