



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS END WITH 200-PAGE DRAFT NEGOTIATING TEXT

The Bonn Climate Change Talks, which convened in Germany from 1-12 June 2009, consisted of the 30th sessions of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the sixth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 6), and the eighth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Protocol (AWG-KP 8).



L-R: Luiz Machado, AWG-LCA Vice-Chair, and Halldor Thorgeirsson, UNFCCC Secretariat

The main focus in Bonn was to enhance international climate change cooperation, including in the post-2012 period when the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol expires. The long-term issues were considered by the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP, which are both scheduled to conclude their work by the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15), to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. AWG-LCA 6 concentrated on developing negotiating text, and completed the first and second readings of the Chair's draft (FCCC/AWG/LCA/2009/8), which served as a starting point. The main outcome was a 200-page draft negotiating text that will be forwarded to the AWG-LCA's next meeting. The draft covers all the main elements of the Bali Action Plan namely: a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, mitigation, adaptation, finance, and technology. AWG-KP 8 continued considering Annex I parties' further commitments under the Protocol. Discussions focused on proposals by various parties for Annex I countries' aggregate and individual emission reduction targets beyond 2012. No agreement was reached on the targets. The main outcomes from the SBI included agreement to reconstitute the Consultative Group of Experts on Non-Annex I National Communications. Under the SBSTA, the main issues considered included research and systematic observation, various methodological issues, technology transfer and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD). Overall, these meetings resulted in the adoption of 31 conclusions and seven draft decisions that will be forwarded to COP 15 or to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in December 2009, for their consideration (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb30/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

United Oceans

By Harlan Cohen, IUCN Advisor on Ocean Governance

Abstract

The 8th of June 2009 marked the first World Oceans Day as designated by the United Nations General Assembly earlier this year. This awareness-raising Day comes at a crucial moment for marine biologists and conservationists who have long recognized the role that the ocean plays in our society and the challenges we face in maintaining the ocean's capacity to regulate the global climate and ecosystems, and provide sustainable livelihoods.

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

VITAL FOREST GRAPHICS: STOPPING THE DOWNSWING?

(UNEP, FAO and UNFF, 2009)
This publication reviews changes in global forest cover and root causes of forest loss, including weak forest governance particularly in public-owned forests. It also highlights innovative practices in conserving forests and securing livelihoods of forest-dependent communities (http://www.grida.no/_res/site/file/publications/vital_forest_graphics.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The world's oceans cover over two-thirds of the Earth's surface and contain over 90% of the world's biomass. The ocean serves as a reservoir, store and transmitter of heat and water vapor; it regulates the Earth's climate and weather. The ocean plays a critical role in the global carbon cycle, absorbing some of the carbon dioxide that we humans emit. It provides over 15% of the protein needed by almost half of the world's population. For many developing countries, fish provide 50% of dietary protein. Thus, healthy fisheries are critical to the food security of millions of people. Fisheries also provide employment and economic opportunities, and help to sustain coastal communities.

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, States have accepted an obligation to protect

and preserve the marine environment. States have an obligation to conserve and manage living resources in such a way that they are protected from over exploitation.

Actions to protect and preserve the marine environment will include efforts to reduce overfishing by lowering fishing capacity and reducing harmful subsidies. Implementation of ecosystem-based management, whereby all species and activities are managed as a whole, will contribute, as will broadened use of marine protected areas including marine reserves or no-take zones. An assessment of the cumulative impacts of human activities on the world's oceans would contribute to our understanding of how to move forward, as would more accurate and transparent collection of fishing data. An Assessment of Assessments is welcomed under the United Nations to report

globally on the state of the marine environment, building on existing regional assessments. We should also work to reach the goals as agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg to create an effective globally managed system of marine and coastal protected areas by 2012, and to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce sustainable yields by 2015. Finally, we must act responsibly to reach agreement this year in Copenhagen to sharply reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle72.html>

Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► **CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**

OZONE OEWG 29 DOCUMENTS RELEASED

The Montreal Protocol Secretariat has released further documents in advance of the upcoming 29th Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG 29). These include an executive summary of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel report on assessment of alternatives to hydro-chlorofluorocar-

bons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and updating of data, and a report on national and regional Current control measures, limits and information reporting requirements for high-global-warming potential alternatives to ozone-depleting substances (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>). The Multilateral Fund has also released documents for the 58th Meeting of

the Executive Committee, scheduled to convene in Montreal, Canada, from 6-10 July 2009 (http://www.multilateralfund.org/show/page/58th_executive_committee_meeti.htm).



► **TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

GEF COUNCIL ADDRESSING GEF-5

The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Council meeting is taking place this week in Washington DC, US. The Council will address several issues including: how to improve the transparency of the resource allocation framework for the fifth GEF replenishment (GEF-5); the Memorandum of Understanding on the provision of Secretariat services by the GEF to the Adaptation Fund Board; the reallocation of remaining GEF-4 resources; new projects for approval; a proposed GEF adaptation strategy 2010-2014; and the interim report of the Fourth GEF Overall Performance Study. The GEF Council was preceded by NGO Consultations held on Sunday, 21 June 2009, and will be



followed by the Second Meeting of GEF-5, on 25-26 June (http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=17146).

WORLD BANK FINANCES COAL POWER PLANT MODERNIZATION, MINING AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The World Bank approved, on 18 June 2009, a US\$180 million loan to the Government of India, to renovate and modernize old, inefficient and polluting coal-fired power plants. The project, which is expected to lower carbon emissions and boost power production at these plants, is co-financed with a US\$45.4 million grant from the GEF (<http://go.worldbank.org/W6XEGG6QN0>).



The Board of Executive Directors also approved, on 9 June 2009, an International Development Association

(IDA) credit of US\$50 million to support implementation of a Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project in Tanzania, a project designed to support transparency of the mining legal and regulatory framework, to achieve the government's objective of ensuring that mining sector development and investment conforms to international good practice, adjusted to the particular conditions of Tanzania. The project will also support Tanzania's efforts to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) (<http://go.worldbank.org/TOO3AG-KKM0>).

On the same day, the Board also approved a US\$840 million loan to Argentina for the sustainable management of the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin in Buenos Aires metropolitan area. The project aims to improve sewerage services and to support industrial pollution abatement and environmental territorial management (<http://go.worldbank.org/8WVOMWW920>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

JOINT WATER QUANTITY/ QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS IN A BIOFUEL PRODUCTION AREA: USING AN INTEGRATED ECONOMIC-HYDROLOGIC MODEL

(IFPRI, 2009) This discussion paper was published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a research center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. It examines the application of the integrated hydrologic-economic basin model to water management in the Pirapama River Basin in Brazil, to study both water quantity and quality issues. The model results show that incorporating water quality aspects into water allocation decisions leads to a substantial reduction in application of vinasse byproduct to sugarcane fields. The paper also suggests that to enforce water quality restrictions, the shadow price for maintaining water in the reservoir could be used as a pollution tax for fertirrigated areas, which are currently not subject to pollution charges (<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/IFPRIDP00867.pdf>).

MIGRATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(IOM, 2009) This policy paper, published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), focuses on the connection between environmental changes and human settlement and population movement from a human mobility perspective. It identifies current and potential migrations caused by a shifting climate and indicates that about 200 million people worldwide could become climate migrants by 2050. It notes that conflict, human rights, gender, levels of development, public health and governance issues affect migratory patterns. It also notes that migration should be recognized as a possible adaptation strategy to climate change (http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/policy_documents/policy_brief.pdf).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD CALLS FOR MAJOR GROUP INPUTS TO CSD18

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has invited inputs from major groups' organizations as a contribution to the CSD18 review of the state of implementation of goals and targets for transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. Inputs to the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports should be submitted by 17 August 2009, and should focus on best practices and lessons learned in implementation. Each of the nine Major Groups are also coordinating the development of a summary of their sector's progress in relation to the thematic areas, identifying obstacles and constraints to implemen-



Logo courtesy
of UN-DSD

tation and new challenges to be met by major groups to expedite implementation. These Discussion Papers should be submitted by 30 November 2009 (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_mg/mg_pdfs/mg_csd18_call_sg_repo.pdf).

In other news, the dates and locations for the CSD18 Regional Implementation Meetings have been posted (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml). DSD, the UN-Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, UN University and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Centre launched the *African Economic Outlook 2009* on 16 June 2009 (<http://esango.un.org/event/dsd.html?page=viewEvent&nr=3301>). And Unite for Climate, an online community for young people and organizations working on climate change solutions, has been soft launched ahead of the official launch at the TUNZA Global town hall meeting in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, on 20 August 2009 (<http://uniteforclimate.org/>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNGA DIALOGUE CONSIDERS TECHNOLOGIES AND POLICIES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The UN General Assembly's (UNGA) interactive thematic dialogue on "Energy efficiency, energy conservation and new and renewable sources of energy" took place at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 18 June 2009. Speakers included UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the President of the General Assembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, Hoesung Lee, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and Mohamed Waheed Hassan, Vice-President of the Maldives. Participants also engaged in two panel discussions. The first, entitled "Status and prospects: Energy efficiency and new and renewable sources of energy," addressed promising renewable and energy efficient technologies, constraints that hindered their wider deployment, efforts to deploy leading technologies at a scale that met sustainable development goals, and the potential of such technologies to improve energy access. The second panel, entitled "Meeting the challenge: Investment and policies," explored the types of policies and investment needed to promote renewable and energy efficiency, particularly during the global financial crisis (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/ga10838.doc.htm>).

UNEP AND UNESCO ANNOUNCE DRYLANDS PROJECTS

To mark World Day to Combat Desertification, which is celebrated on 17 June, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced the findings of the US\$10 million Desert Margins Programme (DMP), led by UNEP in partnership with the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics and with support from the GEF. This project has involved nine pilot countries in Africa and has employed technologies that combine modern science with traditional and indigenous knowledge in an effort to identify anti-desertification strategies (<http://www.unep.org/themes/land/desertificationday.asp>).

Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), marked the Day highlighting UNESCO's global research project "Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands." He said the second phase of this project would cover 2009-2013, and will also develop climate change scenarios so that policy-makers and dryland communities are better able to respond and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and desertification. Matsuura also announced the publication of a "Teaching Resource Kit for Dryland Countries," available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish (http://www.unesco.org/mab/doc/drylands/e_WDCD.pdf).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FOOD CRISIS

(UNCTAD, 2009) This report, prepared by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the 47th session of the Trade and Development Board, focuses on lessons learned from the 2008 food crisis. It indicates that the food security situation of African countries could further deteriorate if low productivity and market regulation issues are not addressed. The report indicates that out of 36 countries worldwide facing a food security crisis, 21 are African. It estimates that over 300 million Africans are facing chronic hunger (http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/td-bex47d3_en.pdf).

LAND GRAB OR DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY? AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND INTERNATIONAL LAND DEALS IN AFRICA

(IFAD, IIED and FAO, 2009) This report is the first detailed study of large land acquisitions, including purchases or leases, in Africa. It highlights the misconceptions about what have been designated as land grabs. It notes that land-based investment has been rising over the past five years due to food security concerns, food supply shortage and growing production of biofuels. It indicates that while foreign investment dominates, domestic investors are also playing a big role in land acquisitions (http://www.ifad.org/pub/land/land_grab.pdf).

DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: THE WORLD BANK GROUP AT WORK

(World Bank, 2009) This booklet provides an overview of the World Bank's activities related to climate change, including sections on partnerships, strategy, finance and knowledge and capacity (<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTCC/Resources/WBGatWork.pdf>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION INVITES COMMENTS ON POPs ALTERNATIVES, CONVENES BAT AND BEP MEETING

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat is inviting comments on draft guidance documents on alternatives to persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The draft guidance documents were prepared by an intersessional working group on substitution and alternatives to POPs, with the mandate of developing a document describing the issues relating to alternatives, taking into consideration issues of persistence, bioaccumulation, long-range transport and toxicity. The group has also drafted a guidance document outline for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) alternatives. Comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by 26 June (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/POPsReviewCommittee/>

hrMeetings/POPRC4/FollowuptothePOPRC4/Invitationtocommentsonalternativesguidance/tabid/574/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

In other Stockholm Convention news, a regional capacity-building training for Anglophone African countries on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) and the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of POPs convened from 15-19 June 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya. The training session sought to strengthen awareness raising initiatives under the chemicals agenda, and to increase knowledge of national obligations regarding the unintentional emissions of POPs and the ESM of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and POPs waste under the Convention (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=589&ArticleID=6218&l=en>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL HOLDS ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Held on 13 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany, a meeting of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) on Scientific Council Activity Planning reviewed progress achieved on the Council's intersessional work and started to consider the agenda for the Council's next full meeting, which is expected to take place the first half of 2010. Topics identified for discussion included: the future funding of the Small Grants Programme; the adoption of standard taxonomic references for the Convention's bird species; how the Convention should respond when taxonomic nomenclature changed in cases where species were merged (lumping); possible criteria for listing CMS Appendix II species; and the classification of countries as range States (http://www.cms.int/bodies/ScC/ScC_Subset_Meeting/ScC_Subset_Mtg_docs.htm).

The latest issue of FINS, the newsletter of the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), an agreement within the CMS family of agreements, is available online. The issue includes news from the agreement's Secretariat and the Scientific Committee, an update on meetings on cetacean conservation and an article on the Pelagian Islands bottlenose dolphin action plan, among others ([http://www.accobams.org/file.php/1480/FINS%204\(2\)](http://www.accobams.org/file.php/1480/FINS%204(2))).

CBD EXPERT GROUP ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MEETS, SECRETARIAT RELEASES NEWSLETTER

Established within the framework of the negotiations on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the expert group on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources met from 16-19 June 2009, in Hyderabad, India, to address a series of issues, including: the relationship between access and use of genetic resources, and associated traditional knowledge; community-level procedures and customary laws regulating access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge at the community level; elements and procedural aspects for the prior informed consent of knowledge holders when traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is accessed; options for including traditional knowledge in a potential internationally recognized certificate; and the definition of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in the ABS context (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSGTLE-03>).

The CBD Secretariat has published the fourth issue of the newsletter on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation. This issue covers: the establishment of a new partnership with UN Development Programme; the information material already available; and the on-going development of new training toolkits linking biodiversity and economic development sectors (<https://www.cbd.int/development/newsletters/newsletter-bd-04-en.pdf>).



Logo courtesy of CMS

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

FOOD PRICES: SMALLHOLDER FARMERS CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

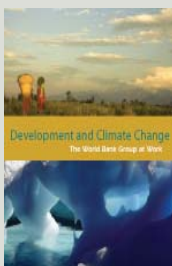
(IFAD, 2009)
This brief, published by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), notes that there are



about 500 million small farmers in developing countries, supporting the livelihoods of at least one third of the world's population. It also notes that the number of undernourished people worldwide has risen to 963 million in 2008, an increase of 40 million from 2007 levels. Nevertheless, it indicates that investments through public expenditures or foreign assistance for agriculture in developing countries have not increased. The brief highlights possible solutions to the problem, underlining the role of small holders in resolving the problem (http://www.ifad.org/operations/food/factsheet/food_e.pdf).

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN DEVELOPING ASIA

(ADB, 2009)
This report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) outlines ongoing and planned interventions to help build low-carbon,



climate resilient economies in Asia and the Pacific. To better align its investments and associated policy and institutional support with the priorities of its developing member countries relating to climate and development, each of ADB's five regional departments has drafted a Climate Change Implementation Plan to serve as a guide for climate-related responses, both to mitigate greenhouse emissions and to adapt to climate change impacts (<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Climate-Change-Dev-Asia/Climate-Change.pdf>).

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Banner courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

UNCCD MARKS WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, PROJECT AND PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) selected the theme "Conserving land and water = Securing our common future" for the 17 June celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification. The 2009 Day marks 15 years since the Convention was adopted and opened for signature. In a joint statement to mark the Day, the UNCCD and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) announced that they have agreed to develop a US\$7.5 million project to support countries to meet their obligations under the Convention. The project will be implemented in collaboration with UNEP/GEF, and will assist parties to the UNCCD to set up or strengthen national monitoring and assessment systems, enabling them to report back to the COP on the status of implementation of their National Action Programmes in the context of their national sustainable development objectives (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/2009/menu.php?newch=12>).

In other UNCCD news, representatives from the Secretariat and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) participated in a retreat, from 4-5 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany, that sought to build common ground and a framework for partnership to combat desertification, land degradation and to mitigate effects of drought. The event was co-chaired by UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja and Director of UNDP Environment and Energy Group Veerle Vandeweerd. Based on their discussions, the UNCCD and UNDP agreed to establish a strategic working partnership on a pilot basis, to collaborate on a range of programmatic actions with the overall aim of reducing poverty by enhancing ecosystem functions and services in the drylands (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/undp/menu.php>).

The UNCCD Secretariat has also posted the advance versions of several documents for the upcoming ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, including information for participants and the agenda and annotations (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop9/menu.php>).



UNCCD/UNDP Retreat participants (photo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat)

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS



L-R: Kathleen Abdalla, UN-DESA, and DOALOS Director Serguei Tarassenko

UNDOALOS ORGANIZES ICP10, RELEASES REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE “ASSESSMENT OF ASSESSMENTS”

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) organized the tenth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP10 or Consultative Process), which took place from 17-19 June 2009, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. The meeting brought together over 350 representatives from governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

During the meeting, plenary sessions were held to address: the implementation of the outcomes of the Consultative Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its

first nine years; issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea; and consideration of the outcome of the meeting. The Secretary-General's report on “Oceans and the law of the sea” (A/64/66) provided the basis for discussion. The meeting's outcome consists in a report drafted by Co-Chairs Amb. Paul Badji (Senegal) and Amb. Don MacKay (New Zealand) containing a summary of plenary and panel discussions on the ICP's: mandate, objective and role; outcomes and their implementation; format and methods of work; and issues that could benefit from future attention. The summary, which was adopted with minor amendments, will be forwarded to the General Assembly for consideration at its 64th session under the agenda item “Oceans and the law of the sea” (<http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/icp10/>).

In other news, UNDOALOS has released the advance and unedited report on the results of the “Assessment of Assessments” (the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects). The report was prepared by the UN Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cul-

tural Organization, as the invited lead agencies, and contains a report on the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Assessment of Assessments *Ad Hoc* Steering Group and the findings of the Assessment of Assessments, including options and a framework for a Regular Process. The report will be considered by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) at its 64th session under the agenda item “Oceans and the law of the sea.” The report will also serve as a basis for discussions by the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole, which will be convened by UNGA (A/RES/63/111 paragraph 157) in New York, US, from 31 August-4 September 2009, to recommend to UNGA a course of action regarding a Regular Process (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/report_assessment.pdf).

RAMSAR MIGRATES WEBSITES

The Ramsar Secretariat has informed that its website is being redesigned and based on a different technology, financed by the Danone Group. During the month of June, its website content is being migrated to the new site, which is expected to be functional in early July. In the meantime, the Secretariat is not posting any new material to its website (http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm).



ICP10 participants during one of the plenary sessions

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **58th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee:** 6-10 July 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.cites.org/>
- **International Vilm Workshop on Matters Related to Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources and the ABS Regime:** 6-10 July 2009. Isle of Vilm, Germany. <http://www.cbd.int/abs/vilm.shtml>
- **Multilateral Fund 58th Executive Committee Meeting:** 6-10 July 2009. <http://www.multilateralfund.org/>
- **ECOSOC Substantive Session:** 6-31 July 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>
- **IPCC AR5 Scoping Meeting:** 13-17 July 2009. Venice, Italy. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- **Fourth Session of the CGRFA ITWG-PGR:** 15-17 July 2009. Rome, Italy. <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPS/pgr/default.htm>
- **29th Open-Ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol:** 15-18 July 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://ozone.unep.org/>