



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

MONTREAL PROTOCOL OEWG DISCUSSES HFC PHASE-DOWN

The 29th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG 29) of the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15-18 July 2009. OEWG 29 was preceded by the Workshop on the Environmentally Sound Management of Banks of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), held on 13 July 2009, and the Dialogue on High-Global Warming Potential (GWP) ODS Alternatives, held on 14 July 2009. At OEWG 29, delegates considered several issues arising from the 2009 Progress Report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), including on: a campaign production for CFC metered-dose inhalers; a review of nominations of essential use exemptions for 2010 and 2011; a review of nominations for methyl bromide critical-use exemptions for 2010 and 2011; a discussion of the interim report of the methyl bromide quarantine and pre-shipment applications Task Force; and laboratory and analytical use exemptions. Parties also discussed the treatment of stockpiled ODS relative to compliance, a proposed evaluation of the Multilateral Fund, and institutional strengthening of national ozone units. OEWG 29 considered a proposal by Mauritius and the Federated States of Micronesia to amend the Montreal Protocol to destroy ODS banks and to regulate the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons. Parties identified the elements that would need to be addressed under possible HFC control measures, including: substances to be covered; baselines; phase-down steps for Article 5 and non-Article 5 parties; relationship with the UNFCCC; financial issues; by-product emissions; units of accounting; and the importance of import and export licensing systems for HFCs. Discussions on this issue are expected to continue at the 21st Meeting of the Parties scheduled to convene in Port Ghalib, Egypt, from 4-8 November 2009 (<http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/oewg29/>).



L-R: Patrick McInerney, (Australia); Maqsood Akhtar (Pakistan); Marco González, Ozone Secretariat Executive Secretary; Rajendra Shende, UNEP OzoneAction; and Helen Tope, Co-Chair Medical Options Committee, Australia

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GUEST ARTICLE

Knowledge Sharing for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges

By AfricaAdapt KSOs*

Abstract

Knowledge sharing is the exchange of ideas and experiences through networks of relationships. It differs from information sharing, which is typically concerned with channeling messages between knowledge producers and target audiences.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

CONVENIENT SOLUTIONS TO AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

(World Bank, 2009) This report argues that ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation should be included as a third and essential pillar in national strategies to address climate change (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ENVIRONMENT/Resources/ESW_EcosystemBasedApp.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Historically, the creation and dissemination of “valid” knowledge was the monopoly of certain persons or institutions. This resulted in the marginalization of segments of society based on gender, race, language and other discriminating factors. However, the emergence of new participatory tools such as web-based “social media” including Twitter, wikis and blogs, participatory video and mobile phones, has led many to argue that a new “architecture of participation” is emerging and will democratize access to and production of knowledge (Thompson 2008). These developments present both exciting opportunities and important challenges to complex concerns such as climate change, development and global environmental governance.

The urgency of the adaptation challenge for Africa paired with a growing acknowledgement that successful adaptive practice must take into account local practices and engage with local institutions (Agrawal and Perrin 2009), highlights the importance of addressing the barriers to knowledge sharing in Africa if current research is to be effective. Further, as we begin to recognise the potential of indigenous knowledge (which is often transmitted orally at very local scales and not formally documented) for adaptation, it becomes important to consider how to appropriately encourage collaboration with and between the bearers of this knowledge.

An increased acknowledgement of the role knowledge sharing can play has seen the emergence of new initiatives focusing on climate change. One such initiative, AfricaAdapt, is a network hosted by four institutions that is dedicated to sharing African adaptation knowledge within a community of practice. In addressing the

need for tailored approaches to sharing, the network uses both online and offline forms of engagement in both French and English to reach adaptation stakeholders. Its website features user-generated profiles of adaptation projects where members can host documents, discussions and blog-style news. The site also hosts thematic resources on adaptation and space for sharing community contributions.

AfricaAdapt’s engagement with African communities and community-based organizations, however, occurs primarily offline and on the ground. It collaborates with community radio to increase and deepen discussion on climate change; produces print-based summaries of pertinent information; and will be hosting forums for diverse stakeholder groups to exchange perspectives. The network also encourages local innovation on knowledge sharing with small grants to initiatives that engage hard-to-reach communities. One of the particularly innovative dimensions of this network is its use of decentralized intermediaries (called Knowledge Sharing Officers (KSOs)) to actively reach out to stakeholders and seek their contributions.

Despite its rise in prominence, knowledge sharing practice faces challenges and uncertainties, both in terms of its implementation and its potential impact on development. The proliferation of knowledge sharing initiatives on climate change, while commendable on many levels, demands improved coordination and collaboration between complementary activities, and greater capitalisation on lessons learned in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and achieve impact.

Vulnerable African communities face numerous challenges related to barriers to

access, including language, infrastructure and technology. Perhaps even more challenging, however, are those barriers related to disempowerment of certain groups, mistrust and lack of openness to ways of knowing, all of which adversely affect people’s propensity to share. Another challenge is to better understand what factors help knowledge sharing actually lead to new learning, and subsequently to positive change. Insufficient reflection has gone into the fact that more information sharing on climate change does not necessarily result in more knowledge or better decision making. A final concern is the all-important link to financial support for adaptation to allow communities and countries to put new knowledge into practice.

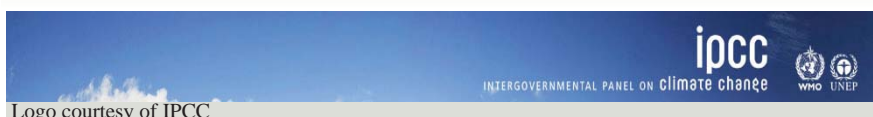
In closing, we share the optimism regarding new, more participatory avenues to knowledge sharing on climate change adaptation. However, we must appreciate that these developments are far from complete, and without continued work and support the challenges presented by climate change in Africa will not be met.

To read the full article and references, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle73.html>

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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



Logo courtesy of IPCC

IPCC CONVENES AR5 SCOPING MEETING

The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) posted a number of documents in preparation for the Scoping Meeting for the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), which convened in Venice, Italy, from 13-17 July 2009. The documents include the corrected version of the decisions taken at the 30th Session of the IPCC and the policy-relevant scientific technical topics to be addressed in IPCC’s AR5. The Chair’s

Vision Paper outlining the IPCC Chair’s expectations for the conduct and structure of the Scoping Meeting and ideas regarding the content of the AR5 indicates that the economics of climate change and humanitarian aspects of climate change are emerging as central to future assessments. Following the Scoping Meeting, IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri reported that the AR5 will “be heavy on regional details and examine integrated approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation, irrespective of the outcome”

of the Copenhagen climate change meeting in December (<http://www.ipcc.ch/workshops-experts-meetings-ar5-scoping.htm>; http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2009/090720_IPCC.doc.htm).

The IPCC has announced, on its redesigned website, that the IPCC Peace Scholarship Fund is open for donations (<http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>). In addition, the IPCC is seeking disaster reduction experts for lead author and review editor roles for the IPCC special report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/themes/climate/ipcc/nominate/>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPING SAICM IMPLEMENTATION PLANS: PILOT EDITION 2009

(SAICM, 2009) The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat, with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, has developed guidance to facilitate the development of SAICM implementation plans. The document is designed to facilitate SAICM implementation at the national, regional and organizational levels. Comments are requested by 24 July 2009 (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?ql=p&pageid=117>).

WILDLIFE IN A CHANGING WORLD – AN ANALYSIS OF THE 2008 IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES

(IUCN, July 2009) Published every four years, this IUCN analysis indicates that the 2010 target to significantly reduce biodiversity loss will not be met. The report analyzes 44,838 species on the IUCN Red List and presents results by groups of species, geographical regions, and different habitats, such as marine, freshwater and terrestrial. The report shows that a broad range of marine species are experiencing potentially irreversible loss. Nearly one-third of amphibians, more than one in eight birds and nearly a quarter of mammals are threatened with extinction, while the situation is even more serious for some plant groups (<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/RL-2009-001.pdf>).

TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(WTO, UNEP, 2009) This report by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) highlights that there is considerable scope and flexibility under WTO rules for addressing climate change at the national level, and that mitigation measures should be designed and implemented in a manner that ensures that trade and climate policies are mutually supportive (http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/trade_climate_change_e.pdf).

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



The Hotel Maritim, venue of the Bonn Climate Change Talks - August 2009

UNFCCC PREPARES FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat has released a number of documents for the remaining climate change talks in 2009, including the overview schedule for the intersessional informal consultations of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), which will convene from 10-14 August 2009, in Bonn, Germany (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/intersessional/bonn_09_2/application/pdf/0908_overview_schedule.pdf). The revised negotiating text (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1) for the AWG-LCA has also been released (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca6/eng/inf01.pdf>).

Documentation to facilitate negotiations among parties during the ninth session of the AWG-KP, which will take place from 28 September-9 Oc-

tober 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand, and for the resumed ninth session to be held in Barcelona, Spain, from 2-6 November 2009, has also been published. This documentation, including a note by the Chair (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/10), has been compiled in four addenda (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/10.pdf>).

In other UNFCCC news, the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) published the proposed agenda and annotations, as well as the draft work programme, prior to its 48th meeting, which convened in St. Georges, Grenada, from 14-17 July 2009 (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/048/eb48annag.pdf>). The report and annexes of the 21st meeting of the CDM Small Scale Working Group (SSC WG) have been posted on the CDM website. The meeting took place from 16-19 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany, and considered issues related to the operation of small-scale CDM project activities (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ssc_wg/index.html). The Joint Implementation (JI) Supervisory Committee (JISC) has released the report of its 16th meeting, which convened from 17-18 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany, and considered issues related to the functioning of JI (http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup_Committee/Meetings/index.html). The UNFCCC Secretariat has also launched the sixth public call for three experts to serve as members of the JI Accreditation Panel (JI-AP) (http://ji.unfccc.int/Panel_WG/Accr_Panel/CallForExperts/AP200907/CallExperts.html).

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP ASSISTS ACP IN MEA IMPLEMENTATION

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is coordinating multiple partners under a four-year, multi-million euro capacity enhancement programme for implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The European Commission (EC) ACP MEAs Programme is funded by the EU and aims to support and strengthen three existing regional institutions with environmental mandates to assist ACP countries in implementing their obligations under environmental agreements. The African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will house the African Hub of the Programme, the Caribbean Hub will be hosted by the Carib-



Logo courtesy of UNEP

bean Community Secretariat, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme will host the Pacific Hub. Programme activities will be centered around the three regional hubs, with the aim of increasing national capacity. The Programme will include: training for negotiation and lobbying skills; project design and management; harmonized and streamlined national reporting to MEAs; and improved information management. UNEP is coordinating and facilitating the work of four partner institutions: the UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy Climate and Sustainable Development; the Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM); and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (more information: Marko.Berglund@unep.org).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNDOALOS RELEASES ADVANCE ICP10 REPORT

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the advance and unedited report of the tenth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP10), which met in New York, US, from 17-19 June 2009. The meeting focused on the topic of "Implementation of the outcomes of the Consultative Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its first nine meetings." The report consists of a Co-Chairs' summary of the discussions held during the tenth meeting, drafted by Co-Chairs Paul Badji (Senegal) and Don MacKay (New Zealand). It will be forwarded to the 64th session of the UN General Assembly under the agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea" (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/10th_icpadvance_report.pdf).

IMO CIRCULATES INTERIM GHG REDUCTION MEASURES

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the Interna-

tional Maritime Organization (IMO) held its 59th session from 13-17 July 2009, in London, UK, and agreed to circulate interim voluntary measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping. The MEPC also issued a work plan of market-based instruments to offset growing emissions in other sectors and to serve as an incentive for the industry to invest in more fuel-efficient technologies.

The measures include: interim guidelines on the method of calculation, and voluntary verification, of the Energy Efficiency Design Index for new ships; guidance on the development of a Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan, for new and existing ships, that incorporates best practices for the fuel efficient operation of ships; and guidelines for voluntary use of the Ship Energy Efficiency Operational Indicator, for new and existing ships, that enables operators to measure the fuel efficiency of a ship. It is estimated that, if unaddressed, GHG emissions from international shipping may increase between 150 and 250% by 2050.

The outcome of the MEPC on GHG emissions from ships will be reported to the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009 (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11579).

GPA TRAINING PROGRAMME AVAILABLE IN SEVEN LANGUAGES

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) training programme on wastewater management in coastal cities, jointly implemented with the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), is now available in seven languages. Courses were delivered in May and June in Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, the Seychelles, Togo, Belize and Cameroon. This has brought the total number of alumni to 1,260 experts from 64 countries (<http://www.training.gpa.unep.org/content.html?id=72&ln=6>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO LAUNCHES EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) launched the Children's Environmental Education Programme at a conference it hosted on tropical forests on 10 July 2009, in Yokohama, Japan. The programme aims to better educate schoolchildren around the world about the importance of tropical forest conservation in maintaining a healthy global environment. The programme will initiate activities in: supplementary teaching materials; school forests; a learning network; forest education camps; dispatching



The Imperial Highnesses, the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan, during the ITTO meeting (photo courtesy of K. Sato/ITTO)

lecturers; and environmental education conferences. Students and teachers from 40 different countries were among the 900 people attending the conference (http://www.itto.int/en/news_releases/id=2063).

UNCCD RIAs PREPARE FOR COP 9

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has organized meetings for the parties in the Regional Implementation Annexes (RIA) to prepare for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), which will convene from 21 September-2 October 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting for the Latin America and the Caribbean RIA convened in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 29 June-3 July 2009. The Northern Mediterranean RIA met in Rome, Italy, from 8-10 July 2009, and the Asia RIA met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13-17 July

2009. The Central and Eastern Europe RIA will meet from 22-24 July 2009, in Banja Luka, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, and the Africa RIA will convene in Tunis, Tunisia, from 27-31 July 2009. The meetings are discussing issues on the agendas for the COP and the concurrent meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, as well as each region's proposal for a regional coordination mechanism (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/menu.php>) and other regional positions (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/menu.php?newch=19>).

The UNCCD Secretariat has also released a report on Land Day, which it organized on 6 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/docs/FINAL%20REPORT%20ON%20LAND%20DAY.pdf>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

ROTTERDAM CONVENES WORKSHOP ON TRADE

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat convened a thematic workshop on trade-related issues under the Rotterdam Convention for the European Community from 22-26 June 2009, in Cyprus. The objective of the workshop

was to promote a shared responsibility in the implementation and enforcement of the trade-related provisions of the Convention by facilitating a dialogue among exporting parties and trade partners. Participants reviewed the current operational procedures in the countries present and received feed-

back from the perspective of their trade partners. The workshop resulted in the identification of issues that were country specific as well as common across countries, and follow-up actions were proposed for the short, medium and long term (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=302>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF COUNCIL AND GEF 5 MEETINGS CONVENE

The Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has convened a meeting of its Council and the second meeting of contributors towards the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF 5), in Washington, DC, US. The GEF Council met from 22-24 June 2009 and approved a work programme including 60 projects amounting to US\$248.84 million. The Council also adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Conference of the Parties acting as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to provide Secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund (AF) Board. In approving this MoU, the Council clarified that the accountability of the Head of the AF Board Secretariat referred to in paragraph 3 of the MoU applies solely to issues pertaining to the Adaptation Fund and the use of its resources. The next Council meeting will be held in November 2009.

The second GEF 5 meeting, on 25-26 June 2009, addressed several issues that will guide GEF 5 including a strategy to enhance engagement with the private sector, a corporate programmes strategy, and a results-based management framework. Participants also agreed that the proposed strategies for focal areas for the GEF 5 replenishment are broadly appropriate and encouraged a more country-focused and programmatic approach, welcoming the idea of GEF-specific national business plans. Participants agreed in principle that two NGO representatives, selected by the GEF NGO Network, from a recipient country and a non-recipient country, should be invited to GEF 5 meetings as observers. Contributing participants also agreed to consider a proposal for the participation of non-donor recipient country representatives in the replenishment

meetings. The next replenishment meeting is scheduled for October 2009 (http://gefweb.org/uploadedfiles/GEF.R.5_Summary_of_the_Co-chairs.pdf).

In other AF news, the AF Board meeting held in Bonn, Germany, on 15-17 June 2009 advanced in completing its Operational Guidelines, which further to their adoption at the next AF meeting, will enable the Fund to initiate the accreditation processes and call for project proposals. Germany and Barbados have put forward offers to confer legal capacity and host the AF Board. The Board established the Ethics and Finance Committee and the Project and Program Review Committee, and welcomed the first voluntary contribution to the Fund by students in Germany. The next Board meeting will be held at the same venue from 14-16 September 2009 (<http://www.adaptation-fund.org/pressreleases.html>).

DEVELOPMENT BANKS APPROVE PROJECTS

In recent weeks, energy efficiency projects were approved for India, Tunisia and Benin; greenhouse gas mitigation projects on carbon capture and storage (CCS), wind energy, and biofuels were approved for Russia and China; and sustainable development projects were approved for Brazil, Ethiopia and Benin.

The World Bank approved a US\$7.3 million project to replace centrifugal chillers in India to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously supporting the phase-out of ozone depleting substances through the installation of efficient non-CFC-based centrifugal chillers. An US\$8.5 million energy efficiency project in Tunisia seeks to remove institutional and capacity-related barriers to the marketing of energy efficient products and to establish energy services companies. A US\$1.82 million project in Benin

will disseminate 350,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs in the market and introduce a regulatory and labeling system for compact fluorescent light bulbs and individual air conditioning units (<http://go.worldbank.org/GR3O5OASB0>; <http://go.worldbank.org/KJUGA4C940>; http://www.gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=26130).

The Asian Development Bank will provide a US\$1.25 million technical assistance loan to promote CCS demonstration projects in China, as well as a US\$24 million loan to finance a wind farm in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will provide a loan for the equivalent of €9 million to get rid of inefficient diesel and oil-fired generators in Siberia and Russia. The loan will also cover the cost of building a factory to produce pellets and briquettes to feed these biomass-fired heat and power plants (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/12933-chinese-clean-energies-projects/>; <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2009/12929-asian-renewable-energies/>; <http://www.ebrd.com/new/pressrel/2009/090713.htm>).

On sustainable tourism, the World Bank approved the first sustainable tourism development project in Sub-Saharan Africa. The US\$35 million project will develop Ethiopia's tourism sector for economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. The World Bank also approved a US\$10 million equivalent loan for Ghana's forest and wildlife sectors. In Brazil, the World Bank approved two loans for a total of US\$ 270.65 million to improve transport conditions and control environmental and water pollution in the state of São Paulo (<http://go.worldbank.org/XA54R5XK50>; <http://go.worldbank.org/QK8Y1LASE0>; <http://go.worldbank.org/5KUBDR8Q00>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD HOLDS MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE FOR FORESTS

The Secretariat of the Convention Biological Diversity (CBD) has facilitated a meeting, held from 8-10 July 2009, in Montreal, Canada, on South-South Cooperation and sustainable forest management, with a focus on forest biodiversity, between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, and the Central Africa Forests Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to share knowledge, strategies and experiences in order to promote mutual learning on forest policy coordination and cooperation, and to improve the impact of regional

organizations (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-07-16-forest-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), has prepared a report on the potential impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity, which is now available for peer-review (<http://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/scientific-synthesis-marine-peer-review-en.doc>).

The draft guide on "Integrating protected areas within wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies" is also available for peer-review

(<http://www.cbd.int/pa/doc/pa-draft-guide-peer-review-2009-06-26-en.doc>).

Finally, an online discussion forum was established to facilitate preparation for an expert workshop on scientific and technical guidance on the use of biogeographic classification systems and identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection, to be held from 29 September-2 October 2009, in Ottawa, Canada. The online discussion forum will be kept alive until 31 August 2009 (<https://www.cbd.int/marine/forums/>).



Image courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CITES STANDING COMMITTEE FORWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP

The 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from

6-10 July 2009. The Committee adopted a number of recommendations on, *inter alia*: national wildlife trade policy reviews; national reports; reviews of significant trade; revision and publication of CITES Appendices; introduction from the sea; trade in crocodilian specimens; stock assessment and a

total allowable catch methodology for sturgeons; and bigleaf mahogany. The Committee also established an intersessional working group on the participation of the African region in CITES. Recommendations will be forwarded to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held from 13-25 March 2010, in Doha, Qatar (<http://www.iisd.ca/cites/sc58/>; <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/58/sum/index.shtml>).

On the occasion of the Standing Committee meeting, a *CITES Guide to Falconry Species* was launched by the government of Canada and the CITES Falcon Enforcement Task Force, to help prevent illegal trade in birds of prey (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml). The CITES Secretariat has also published the 18th issue of its official newsletter, *CITES World*, focusing on electronic permitting (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/newsletter.shtml>).



L-R: Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers; SC58 Chair Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah (Ghana); and Jonathan Barzdo, CITES Secretariat, at the closure of a successful meeting

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD POSTS BRIEF ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND TECHNOLOGY

The UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has recently released a new policy brief on "Climate Change and Technology Transfer: The Need for a Regional Perspective." The brief suggests how regional technology innovation centers could contribute to tailoring technology development and adaptation better to regional and country needs (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/policybriefs/policybrief18.pdf>). In related news, preparations are underway for a High-level Conference on Climate Change:

Technology Development and Transfer, which will take place in New Delhi, India, from 22-23 October 2009 (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc_conf1009.shtml).

The DSD homepage is being updated on a daily basis with UN news, radio, television, press releases and other UN communications relevant to sustainable development and the work of the Division. The news articles are also logged, for later reference (<http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/index.shtml>).

DSD is also preparing for an expert group meeting on Sustainable Development Indicators, which is scheduled to take place in Barbados from 26-28 August 2009; and an inception workshop for the project "Capacity Development through Education for Sustainable Development and Knowledge Management for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)," which DSD is organizing with the Board of Trustees of the University Consortium of Small Island States (UCSIS) and which will meet in Jamaica, from 18-21 August 2009.

The DSD has also posted the remaining UN regional groups' nominations for the CSD 18 Bureau: Ulf Jaeckel (Germany) and Tania Valerie Raguz (Croatia) have been selected by the Western European and Others Group, and Eastern European States Group, respectively (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_bureau.shtml).



L-R: Tania Valerie Raguz (Croatia) and Ulf Jaeckel (Germany)

In other DSD-related news, CSD 18 will consider sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, among other issues, focusing in particular on the activities of the Marrakech Process, a global process that supports the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP. A newsletter for the Marrakech Process indicates that a third Public Draft of the 10YFP on SCP is expected in July 2009. It also reports that the third meeting of the Marrakech Process Advisory Committee, which took place in New York, US, during the May CSD 17 session, highlighted the importance of the linkages between the upcoming regional SCP expert meetings, organized under the Marrakech Process, and the CSD Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs), organized by the UN regional economic commissions in preparation for CSD 18. Many of the regional SCP expert meetings are scheduled for September 2009. The RIMs are scheduled to take place between October and early December 2009. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled to take place in November or December 2009, in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific RIM. (<http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/>; <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/pdf/Third%20MP%20NEWSLETTER.pdf>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETING

- **ECOSOC Substantive Session:** 6-31 July 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>