



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

#### COUNTDOWN TO COPENHAGEN



DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS  
**123:14:09:42**

Image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

#### INTERSESSIONAL INFORMAL CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS SET TO OPEN

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published the third newsletter of the year, in the lead up to 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://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=52i26wej&s=hc8pkj4xl6iwc0fo>). A scenario note outlining organizational matters for the AWG-LCA negotiations has also been released ([http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/lca\\_scenario\\_note\\_august\\_informals.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/lca_scenario_note_august_informals.pdf)).

Regarding AWG-KP 9, which will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28 September-9 October 2009, and the resumed session scheduled for 2-6 November 2009, in Barcelona, Spain, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released three submissions by parties containing further views and proposals relating to amendments to the Kyoto Protocol, pursuant to its Article 3, paragraph 9, and a text on other issues outlined in document FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/8. The submissions were received from Algeria on behalf of the African Group, Colombia and Tuvalu (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/misc14.pdf>).

In other UNFCCC news, the report of the 48th meeting of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which was held from 14-17 July 2009, in St. Georges, Grenada, has been released. The Board considered, *inter alia*: matters relating to the registration of CDM projects; accreditation of operational entities; and methodologies for baselines and monitoring plans (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/index.html>).

#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation: Linking Sustainable Development Challenges

By Jaime Webbe, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

#### Abstract

Taking stock of the current activities of the Rio Conventions, there are many process-related actions of note.

*Continued on page 2*

#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### GUIDE TO THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM IN BRAZIL

(UNCTAD/ UNDP, 2009) The revised and expanded version of the Guide to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Brazil, also available in Spanish and Portuguese, explains the CDM process and details the specific regulations governing the submission of CDM project activities in Brazil (<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=11809&intItemID=4342&lang=1&mode=downloads>).

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**GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is developing a revised strategic plan and will soon be assessing progress towards the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is in the midst of implementing the Bali Action Plan and is looking towards Copenhagen as an opportunity to negotiate a post-2012 agreement. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has begun to implement its own 10 year strategic plan.

However, looking beyond the Convention-focused processes, it is increasingly clear that achieving the objectives of these three multilateral environmental agreements requires a coordinated effort on the ground and in policy fora. This need was highlighted at the recent meeting of the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, which the CBD convened with a mandate to provide biodiversity-related information to the UNFCCC.

The Expert Group highlighted that climate change is emerging as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. We are already seeing the negative impacts of changes in temperature, precipitation and extreme events. And, among the ecosystems that are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change are arid and semi-arid areas

including wetlands located in drylands – the same ecosystems that are most vulnerable to desertification.

However, even in such vulnerable areas, species have a natural adaptive capacity that allows them to adjust to changes in meteorological conditions. Maintaining and enhancing this natural adaptive capacity requires a planned effort to address the drivers of loss and ensure the continued functioning of ecosystems including through: restoring or rehabilitating degraded habitats and ecosystem services; promoting the conservation and sustainable use of intact ecosystems; preserving and enhancing the protective ecosystem services that buffer communities from extreme events; and ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable.

In addition to climate change adaptation, reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases is essential to the achievement of sustainable development goals. As with adaptation, it is unlikely that mitigation efforts will be successful without coordinated efforts across the three Rio Conventions. There is increasing evidence that limiting the global temperature increase to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels will be impossible without efforts to reduce emissions from a broad range of forest and land-use activities through conservation and sustainable use. Achieving the full potential contribution from

land-use management activities will depend, in part, on the extent to which countries draw on conservation and sustainable use lessons learned from the implementation of the CBD and the UNCCD.

Finding a balance between climate change-related activities, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and activities to combat desertification requires careful planning. The ecosystem approach – a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way – offers one way in which actions to achieve the objectives of the three Rio Conventions can be aligned.

Regardless of the methodology selected, parties to the CBD have agreed that activities to promote synergies at the national level are the most effective way to realize multiple benefits. In a world of increasing challenges, designing and implementing such activities will be critical if we are to realize the principles laid out in Rio.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle74.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](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information.*

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES OEWG REPORT

The Ozone Secretariat has released an advance version of the report of the 29th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-29), which convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15-18 July 2009 ([http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/oewg/29oewg/OEWG-29-9E.pdf](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/29oewg/OEWG-29-9E.pdf)). In other Montreal Protocol news, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the French Global Environment Facility have announced a project to assist African countries to replace chillers in support of the Montreal and Kyoto Protocols. The activity will replace chillers in Cameroon, Egypt, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan to eliminate the use of ozone depleting substances and reduce the consumption of fossil fuels through improved energy efficiency ([http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=6519&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=374&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=6&Hash=c32798a56f](http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=6519&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=374&tx_ttnews[backPid]=6&Hash=c32798a56f)).



L-R: Marc-Antoine Martin, French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) Secretary-General; Kande Yumkella, UNIDO Director-General; and Florence Mangin, Permanent Representative of France to the UN in Vienna (photo courtesy of Ravindra Wickremasinghe/UNIDO)

**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**ECONOMYWIDE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

(IFPRI, 2009) This research paper by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) analyzes two possible climate change adaptation scenarios for sub-Saharan Africa. The first assumes a doubling of the irrigated area in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050, but keeps total crop area constant. The second assumes that both rainfed and irrigated crop yields increase by 25% for all sub-Saharan African countries. Due to the limited initial irrigated area in the region, an increase in agricultural productivity achieves better outcomes than an expansion of irrigated area, although the research suggests that both scenarios could help lower world food prices (<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/ifpridp00873.asp>).

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES: A BUFFER AGAINST PRODUCTION RISK IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE?**

(IFPRI, 2009) This research paper by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) suggests that soil and water conservation investments perform differently in different rainfall areas and regions of Ethiopia, highlighting the importance of careful geographical targeting when promoting and scaling up soil and water conservation technologies (<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/dp/ifpridp00871.asp>).

**THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2009**

(UN, July 2009) This report states that, although data are not yet available to reveal the full impact of the recent economic crisis, it is expected that progress towards the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been slowed or even reversed. The report provides the latest information for global regions regarding nutrition levels, child and maternal health, water and sanitation coverage, as well as environmental sustainability, including biodiversity loss ([http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2009/MDG\\_Report\\_2009\\_En.pdf](http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2009/MDG_Report_2009_En.pdf)).

**► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Banner courtesy of ECOSOC

**CSD MEETING DATES SET FOR NEXT CYCLE, DSD PARTICIPATING IN WORLD WATER WEEK**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its annual session, adopted a decision regarding the dates of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during its 2010/2011 cycle. As announced during the closing plenary of CSD 17, CSD 18 will take place from 3-14 May 2010, the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD 19 will take place from 21-25 February 2011, and CSD 19 will take place from 2-13 May 2011. ECOSOC also adopted the report of CSD 17 along with the provisional agenda for CSD 18 in a decision on the CSD 17 report ([http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/3C673C543D10A4A8C1257602003F947C?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/3C673C543D10A4A8C1257602003F947C?OpenDocument)).

In other CSD news, representatives of major groups have been encouraged to forward, by 17 August 2009, written

inputs to the Secretary-General's state of implementation reports, focusing on best practices and lessons learned in implementation ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw/mg/mg\\_pdfs/mg\\_csd18\\_call\\_sg\\_repo.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw/mg/mg_pdfs/mg_csd18_call_sg_repo.pdf)).

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the CSD Secretariat as well as the UN-Water Secretariat, is also preparing to participate in World Water Week, which will take place from 16-22 August 2009, in Stockholm, Sweden (<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>). UN-Water activities will include the following seminars: Managing water in times of global crises – how can the UN system step up its efforts?, on 18 August; Workshop 1 of the UN-Water Task Force on Transboundary Waters: Benefit Sharing and Transboundary Waters, on 18 August; and UN-Water Seminar: World Water Day 2010 – Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities, on 19 August (<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/programme%202009>).



Image courtesy of UN-DSD



Logo courtesy of World Water Week

**► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

**WORLD BANK PROJECT DELIVERS LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENTS FOR WOMEN IN INDIA**

The World Bank's Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project is reporting its success in improving the livelihoods of women in rural communities in India.



Photo courtesy of the World Bank

The project involves integrated land management, featuring plantation, soil conservation, water harvesting, horticulture and agriculture. Results include restored forest areas and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices, which have helped harness water that earlier flowed

by unused and is assisting farmers to grow cash crops, such as vegetables. As incomes improve, families are beginning to spend more on livestock and better farming tools, while women have time to turn their attention to improving incomes, healthcare, education and sanitation (<http://go.worldbank.org/8AGU021ED0>).

**GEF FINANCES PCB MANAGEMENT**

A Global Environment Facility (GEF) project of US\$7 million was approved on 23 June 2009, to develop Viet Nam's national capacity to manage polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and, on a pilot basis in selected provinces, to safely store significant amounts of PCBs in anticipation of future disposal (<http://go.worldbank.org/1OY4K0QWE0>).

**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT: OUTCOME DOCUMENT**

(UNGA, July 2009) The outcome document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which was adopted by the General Assembly, is now available as an annex to General Assembly resolution (63/303). The recommendations emphasize solutions that can foster an inclusive, green and sustainable recovery, and provide continued support for sustainable development efforts by developing countries ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/63/303](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/63/303)).

**REPORT ON THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

(UN ECOSOC, July 2009) The report of the eighth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which convened in New York, US, from 18-29 May 2009, has been issued. The report contains the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on the Arctic, which emphasizes that climate change and environmental degradation are a great threat to the traditional lifestyle and cultures of indigenous peoples. The recommendations also call upon the Arctic States to provide financial resources to indigenous peoples of the Arctic to enable them to adapt to climate change ([http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2009/43\(SUPP\)](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2009/43(SUPP))).

**► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**



Bert Lenten and Elizabeth Mrema (photo courtesy of the CMS Secretariat)

**CMS ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN SENIOR MANAGEMENT**

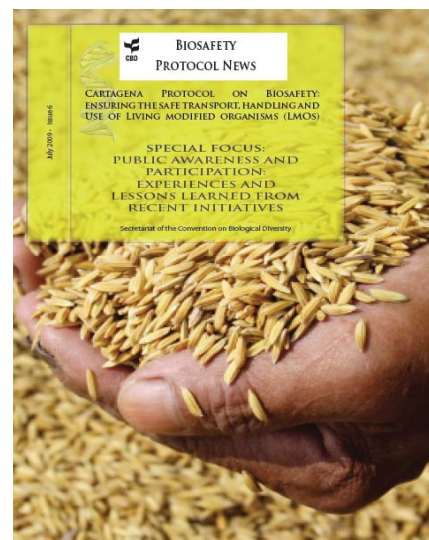
The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has announced that Robert Hepworth, CMS Executive Secretary, left the CMS Secretariat on 27 July 2009. Elizabeth Mrema, Principal Legal Officer, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), has been appointed Officer-in-Charge by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. In addition, Lahcen El-Kabiri has recently left the position of Deputy Executive Secretary of CMS to take up new functions as Head of the new CMS-managed office to oversee the implementation of the Agreements on birds of prey and dugongs in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. Steiner has appointed Bert Lenten, the current Executive Secretary of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat, as Acting Deputy Executive Secretary ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/07\\_july\\_09/farewell\\_to\\_rob\\_hepworth.htm](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/07_july_09/farewell_to_rob_hepworth.htm); [http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/07\\_july\\_09/new\\_interim\\_cms\\_management.htm](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/07_july_09/new_interim_cms_management.htm)).

In other CMS-related news, the second meeting of the signatories to the Pacific Islands Cetaceans Memorandum of Understanding was held from 28-29 July 2009, in Auckland, New Zealand. Signatories agreed on a four-year ac-

tion plan, outlining priorities for the conservation of whales and dolphins in the Pacific Islands region. The Action Plan: places emphasis on increasing capacity, awareness and understanding in the region; outlines how communities can benefit from whale- and dolphin-based tourism; and underscores local community involvement in conservation activities as a key to the success of the initiative ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/07\\_july\\_09/Pacific-CetaceansMeeting29july2009.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/07_july_09/Pacific-CetaceansMeeting29july2009.pdf)).

**CBD SECRETARIAT RELEASES NEW ISSUE OF BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL NEWS**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has recently published the sixth issue of *Biosafety Protocol News*, focusing on experiences and lessons learned from different initiatives in promoting public awareness, education and participation with regard to biosafety (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/bpn/bpn-06.pdf>).



Sixth issue of *Biosafety Protocol News* (cover courtesy of the CBD Secretariat)

**► CHEMICALS AND WASTES**

**BASEL CONVENTION BUREAU MEETING REPORT RELEASED**

The Basel Convention Secretariat has released the report of the first meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the Basel Convention. The meeting convened from 23-24 June 2009, in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting considered several substantive matters including: the Basel Convention Strategic Plan and Strategic Framework; cooperation with other chemical conventions; and a report on ship dismantling measures. The meeting also considered an offer to host COP10, scheduled to convene in 2011, by Colombia, in Cartagena, and agreed that the Secretariat

should enter into negotiations with the Government of Colombia (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/bureau/bureau%201%20cop%209/docs/09e.pdf>).

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION LAUNCHES PROJECT TO IMPROVE PESTICIDE IDENTIFICATION**

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched a joint project to improve capacity for the identification of severely hazardous pesticide formulations. The project was launched at a workshop in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, from 24-26 June 2009, which sought to im-



Participants at the workshop in Dar Es Salaam (photo courtesy of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat)

prove capacity for the collection of information about health problems caused by severely hazardous pesticide formulations under the conditions of use, to assist countries to submit proposals

under the Rotterdam Convention. The workshop resulted in two national plans for the implementation of a data collection project in each country, as well as the identification of training needs (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=334>).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORT 2009: THE STATE AND DEVELOPMENT GOVERNANCE

(UNCTAD, July 2009) This report, issued by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), argues that the impact of the global economic crisis is likely to be so severe in the least developed countries (LDCs) that business as usual is no longer possible. The report dedicates a chapter to agriculture and how LDCs can improve food security through a combination of policies and measures, such as the enhancement of basic infrastructure and the adoption of improved food production technologies and farming techniques ([http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ldc2009\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ldc2009_en.pdf)).



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### ECOSOC ADOPTS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS

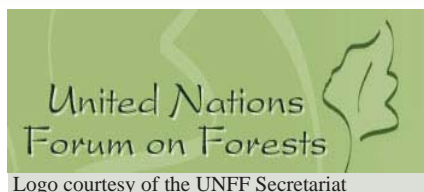
The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) met from 6-31 July 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland, for its annual substantive session. ECOSOC adopted four resolutions and seven decisions on economic and environmental questions. A resolution on human settlements requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda for consideration by ECOSOC at its substantive session of 2010. In a resolution on review of UN support for small island developing States, ECOSOC decided to consider the issue at its 2010 session. In addition, as reported in the Sustainable Development and Forests, Deserts and Land sections of this publication, ECOSOC authorized the UNFF to hold a one-day special session to consider the issue of means of implementation, and adopted the report of CSD 17 as well as the dates for the CSD's 2010-2011 cycle ([http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/)

(<http://newsbyyear.un.org/3C673C543D10A4A8C1257602003F947C?OpenDocument>).

### UNEP AND ICRAF DEVELOPING CARBON MEASURING METHODS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), a research center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), are partnering in a project to provide the basis for widespread adoption of agroforestry and other sustainable forms of agriculture. The Carbon Benefits Project, launched in May 2009, is developing a standard and reliable method for accurately measuring, monitoring, reporting and projecting how much carbon each kind of land use is storing. This global project makes use of the latest remote sensing technology and analysis, soil carbon modelling, ground-based measurements and statistical analysis (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=593&ArticleID=6256&l=en> UN EP Press release).

## FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Logo courtesy of the UNFF Secretariat

### UNFF 9 CHAIR TO UNDERTAKE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

On 27 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, at its 2009 substantive session in Geneva, Switzerland, adopted a decision noting that the Chair of the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 9) intends to undertake informal consultations to reach agreement among all member States on means of implementation for sustainable forest management. Arvids Ozols (Latvia), UNFF 9 Bureau member, in introducing the decision on continued consideration by the UNFF on means of implementation, said the decision was an outcome of work between member States following UNFF 8, when agreement on a decision on means of implementation was not reached. The Council authorized, should agreement be reached following the informal consultations, the holding of a one-day special session of UNFF 9, at the earliest possible date in 2009, to adopt the agreed text ([http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/%28httpNewsByYear\\_en%29/3C673C543D10A4A8C1257602003F947C?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/3C673C543D10A4A8C1257602003F947C?OpenDocument);

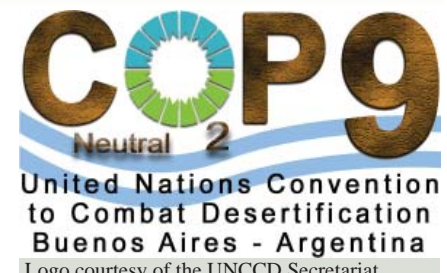
<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2009/L.40>).

### ITTO CONFERENCE AND ACTION PLAN PROMOTE INTRA-AFRICAN TIMBER TRADE

A conference on the intra-African trade in timber and timber products was convened by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in Accra, Ghana, from 30 June-2 July 2009. Over 100 participants shared ideas on expanding the regional timber trade and produced the Accra Action Plan to promote intra-African trade. The Plan identifies the main constraints faced by African suppliers in regional markets and proposes steps to be taken by governments, the private sector and international/regional organizations to overcome them. It also proposes that ITTO act, in liaison with other international/regional organizations, as a coordinating body to oversee the Plan's implementation ([http://www.itto.int/news\\_releases/id=2071](http://www.itto.int/news_releases/id=2071)).

### UNCCD PREPARES FOR COP, CST AND CRIC

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has released a number of documents in preparation for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Scientific Conference of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of



Logo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), all of which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, between 21 September-2 October 2009 (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cop9/doclist.php>).

Registration for participants in the Scientific Conference who are not members of UNCCD-accredited delegations has opened (<http://dsd-consortium.jrc.ec.europa.eu/php/index.php?action=view&id=150>), and a tentative agenda of the Scientific Conference has been released ([http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstsciconf/Tentative\\_Agenda\\_SciConf31July09.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstsciconf/Tentative_Agenda_SciConf31July09.pdf)). In addition, the review process of the White Papers that are being prepared for the Scientific Conference has been extended to 15 August 2009 (<http://www.drylandscience.org/>) and a list of the participants in the three Dryland Science for Development Consortium Working Groups that have drafted the White Papers has been posted ([http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstsciconf/Working%20Group%20Members\\_DSD.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstsciconf/Working%20Group%20Members_DSD.pdf)).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### IMO ADOPTS REGULATION TO PREVENT POLLUTION DURING SHIP-TO-SHIP OIL TRANSFER

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) met for its 59th session from 13-17 July 2009, in London UK, and adopted amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) to prevent pollution during ship-to-ship oil transfer operations. The amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2011. The MEPC also adopted amendments to MARPOL relating to the on-board management of oil residue; approved, with a view to future adoption, proposed draft amendments to MARPOL to prohibit carriage or use of heavy grade oil in the Antarctic area; agreed, in principle, to designate specific portions of the coastal waters of the US and Canada as an emission control area; and agreed on guidelines relating to the implementation of MARPOL Annex VI, the Ship Recycling Convention and the Ballast Water Management Convention ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1773&doc\\_id=11586](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1773&doc_id=11586)).

### RAMSAR REGIONAL CENTRE OPENS IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ramsar Secretary General Anada Tiéga and Senior Advisor Lew Young participated in the opening, on 21 July

2009, of the new Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia, in Changwon, Republic of Korea. The Centre will support projects and activities that will advance the mission of the Ramsar Convention in the region, largely by: enhancing the recognition of the value of wetlands and science-based wetland management; supporting Ramsar site designation and the establishment of inventories and management planning; and helping decision makers and practitioners to develop and use sustained wetland management tools ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.korea\\_rrc\\_opening.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.korea_rrc_opening.pdf)).

Further to improvements made in the management of the Alagol, Ulmagol and Ajigol lake complex, the Government of Iran sent, in November 2008, a report to the Ramsar Secretariat proposing that the site be taken off the Montreux Record “of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur.” This proposal was strongly supported in the report by a Ramsar Advisory Mission to the site in May 2009 ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.iran\\_alagol.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.iran_alagol.htm)).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has reported that the Government of Pakistan has set a Guinness World Record for planting 541,176 mangrove trees in 24 hours. The record-breaking event, organized by Pakistan’s Ministry of the Environment, is part of the

country’s activities to mark 2009 as the National Year of Environmental Protection. The trees were planted in the Indus Delta Ramsar site in southern Sindh Province ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.pakistan\\_mangrove\\_planting.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.pakistan_mangrove_planting.pdf)).

### UNEP GPA DELIVERS TRAINING COURSES ON WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Under the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), seven training courses on wastewater management were delivered during July in Benin, the Cook Islands, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and St. Kitts and Nevis. This brings the total number of alumni of this UN Development Programme-Global Environment Facility and EU African Caribbean Pacific Water Facility funded partnership programme to 1,600 experts from 67 countries. The training programme (accredited by the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea Train-Sea-Coast Programme) assists local and national governments in addressing the discharge of untreated wastewater that threatens human health, tourism and the environmental health of the recipient waterbodies. During the first week of August, courses are being held in Togo and Trinidad and Tobago (IISD Sources).



Alagol wetland (left) and Ajigol wetland (right) (photos courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Reviewing and Updating National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention:** 9-11 August 2009. Mexico City, Mexico. <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Meetings/UpcomingMeetings/tabid/521/mctl/ViewDetails/Event-ModID/1007/EventID/55/xmid/983/mret/t/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **24th Session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf:** 10 August-11 September 2009. New York, US. [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs\\_new/clcs\\_home.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/clcs_home.htm); [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference\\_files/calendar\\_of\\_meetings.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/calendar_of_meetings.htm)
- **Bonn Climate Change Talks – August 2009:** 10-14 August 2009. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwgi/>
- **Expert Group Meeting on Transport for Sustainable Development: Analysis of Trends, Issues and Policy Options:** 27-28 August 2009. New York, US. [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_tran\\_egm0809.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_egm0809.shtml)