



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

INFORMAL CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING CONCLUDES WITH CALLS FOR FASTER PROGRESS

The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) held intersessional informal consultations in Bonn, Germany, from 10-14 August 2009 (also referred to as Bonn III). The AWG-LCA focused on how to proceed with the 200-page revised negotiating text (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1), which reflects deliberations held at the sixth session of the AWG-LCA in June 2009. The negotiating text covers the key elements of the Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13), namely a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, mitigation, adaptation and finance, as well as technology and capacity building. After a week of consultations by five main informal groups and several sub-groups on mitigation, the AWG-LCA began to produce reading guides, tables, matrices and non-papers aimed at consolidating text and facilitating negotiations at the next meeting. The various tools will be compiled in a new information document that the Chair intends to make available before AWG-LCA 9. The revised negotiating text will remain largely as it was at the beginning of the Bonn III consultations. Under the AWG-KP, discussions continued on Annex I parties' emission reductions beyond the first commitment period ending in 2012. In addition, parties resumed consideration of texts related to potential consequences and other issues in the AWG-KP's work programme (FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/8), including land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) and the flexibility mechanisms. The AWG-KP's work at the informal session will be taken into account in documents that the AWG-KP Chair will prepare for Bangkok. Technical exercises related to Annex I parties' emission reductions were viewed as one of the most useful results of the session, although several participants stressed the need to make faster progress (<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12427e.pdf>; (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20091408_closing_pr_august_2009.pdf).



L-R: Halldor Thorgeirsson, UNFCCC Secretariat, and AWG-LCA Chair Michael Zammit Cutajar

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Climate and Atmosphere**
IPCC to Convene Lead Authors Meeting for Renewable Energy Report; Ozone Secretariat Prepares for MOP 21 *Page 2*
- **Sustainable Development**
DSD Organizes Meetings *Page 3*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD COP 9 Documents Posted; UNFF Submits CPF Paper on SFM to UNFCCC; ITTO Funds Projects *Page 4*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
UNDOALOS Prepares for Informal Consultations; IMO Prepares for Copenhagen; GPA Plans Training Workshop *Pages 4-5*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Membership Reaches 192; CMS Standing Committee to Meet in December; Deadlines Approach for CITES COP 15 Amendment Proposals *Page 5*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Basel Develops Directory of Training Institutions; Stockholm Prepares for POPRC 5; SAICM to Convene Meeting; UNEP Mercury Programme Prepares for OEWG *Page 6*
- **International Organizations**
UNEP Convenes Youth Conference, Releases Investment Toolkit *Page 6*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
World Bank Supports Reforestation, GEF Funds Approaches to Ecosystem Management *Page 7*

GUEST ARTICLE

Policy Incoherence in Capitals: Flawed Messages from the International Community

By Harris Gleckman, Principal, Benchmark Environmental Consulting, Project Manager for the Institute for Environmental Security's Global Policy Coherence Project, and Ewout Doorman, Programme Assistant, Diplomacy Programme/Global Policy Coherence Project, Institute for Environmental Security

Abstract

A post-2012 climate agreement will need to motivate extensive changes in investment flows

Continued on page 3

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

WORLD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY 2009: PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT, SAVING THE PLANET

(UNDESA, 2009) This Survey calls for integrated policy responses to development and climate challenges. It argues that mitigation and adaptation efforts can move forward effectively only if they are part of a consistent development strategy built around a massive investment-led transformation along low-carbon, high-growth paths (<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess>).

Continued on page 5

The *MEA Bulletin* © is a publication of IISD <info@iisd.ca> publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was researched and written by Soledad Aguilar, Ashline Appleton, Melanie Ashton, Alice Bisiaux, Reem Hajjar, Renata Rubian, Elsa Tsioumani, and Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. <lynn@iisd.org>. The Deputy Director of IISD Reporting Services is Chris Spence and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The *MEA Bulletin* is published by IISD in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). Opinions expressed in *MEA Bulletin* are those of the authors and not the publishers. Excerpts from the *MEA Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on IISDRS publications, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11A, New York, NY 10022, United States of America.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Continued from page 1

The UNFCCC Secretariat has released a number of documents reflecting work done under the AWG-LCA during Bonn III. The documents were produced with a view to facilitating negotiations at the next meeting in Bangkok, highlighting areas of convergence and divergence, and attempting to consolidate text and restructure paragraphs for sections relating to a shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building, and finance. The UNFCCC Secretariat has also released a version of FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1 in two parts, where notes on the sources of inputs provided by parties at AWG-LCA 6 are included (<http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/4381.php>). Under the AWG-KP, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a document to assist parties to make voluntary informal submissions of basic data on LULUCF with descriptions of assumptions and uncertainties. The document, which comprises a table, contains a list of data/information that could facilitate further consideration of the LULUCF options. This follows a request from parties during Bonn III for data to facilitate discussion of underlying assumptions and uncertainties during AWG-KP 9 (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/kp/application/pdf/listlulucfdata.pdf).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published, in addition to the three submissions contained in document (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.14), two submissions from parties (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.14/Add.1) on further views and proposals relating to a proposal for 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 are from Sri Lanka and Sweden on behalf of the EU and will be considered by AWG-KP 9 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/misc14a01.pdf>).

Looking ahead, three major UNFCCC meetings are scheduled to take place from September to December. AWG-LCA 7 and AWG-KP 9 are scheduled to take place from 28 September-9 October 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. A resumed AWG-LCA 7 and AWG-KP 9 will take place from 2-6 November 2009, in Barcelona, Spain. The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC and fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5) are scheduled to take place from 7-18 December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark. These meetings will coincide with the 31st meetings of the UNFCCC's subsidiary

bodies. Under the "roadmap" agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007, COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 are expected to finalize an agreement on a framework for combating climate change post- 2012 (when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends). Under the Nairobi Work Programme, a technical workshop on adaptation planning and practices will be held from 12-14 October, in Bangkok, Thailand.

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a technical paper, entitled "Cost of implementing methodologies and monitoring systems relating to estimates of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the assessment of carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions from changes in forest cover, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks" (FCCC/TP/2009/1), on the REDD information sharing web platform. (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/tp/01.pdf>).

Under adaptation, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published thirteen stories showcasing best practices of how business can help the poor to adapt whilst increasing profitability (http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_workprogramme/private_sector_initiative/items/4748.php).

The Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) has launched a call for public input on the establishment of a communication channel between the JISC and JI project participants. The task of the communication channel would include provision of regular inputs at JISC meetings. The call was launched in response to a request by the JI Action Group (JIAG), an association of some JI project developers, for the JIAG to act as a communication channel with the JISC on behalf of JI project participants (http://ji.unfccc.int/JI_News/issues/issues/I_7YTSEG WTLRK0LX9YJ4WBGVRI31UW3/viewnewsitem.html).

IPCC TO CONVENE LEAD AUTHORS MEETING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will convene a number of meetings between September and December. The Second Lead Authors Meeting for the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN) will take place from 1-4 September 2009, in Oslo, Norway. The Joint Expert Meeting of Working Group I (WG I) and WG II on Detection and Attribution Related to Anthropogenic Climate Change is scheduled to take place from 14-16 Sep-

tember 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. The 40th session of the IPCC Bureau will convene from 17-18 September 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. The 31st session of the IPCC will be held from 26-29 October 2009, in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting will consider approvals for an outline of the fifth assessment report (AR5) by sessions of WG, I, II and III. The First Lead Authors Meeting for the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation will be held from 9-12 November 2009 (http://www.ipcc.ch/calendar_of_meetings/calendar_of_meetings.htm).

OZONE SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR MOP 21

The Ozone Secretariat has released several documents related to the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 21) including: the provisional agenda; an information note for participants; the financial report on the trust funds for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer for the first year of the biennium 2008-2009 and expenditures for 2008 as compared to the approved budgets (UNEP/OzL.Pro.21/4/Add.1); and the proposed revised approved 2009 and proposed 2010 and 2011 budgets of the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro.21/4). MOP 21 is scheduled to convene from 4-8 November 2009, in Port Ghalib, Egypt. The meeting will be preceded by a workshop on quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methylbromide on 3 November (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

In other Ozone news, the 30th Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) Officers Network (ODSONET) convened in Abuja, Nigeria, from 17-20 August 2009. Representatives of 39 African countries attended the final meeting, organized by the UN Environment Programme Compliance Assistance Programme in Africa, in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria. During the meeting, Nigeria announced it would build an "Ozone Village," located in Ogun State, Nigeria, making use of locally fabricated prototype ozone friendly machines. These machines include a box of foaming machines, chlorofluorocarbon recovery and recycling machine, and hydrocarbon refrigerant production machine (<http://www.uneptie.org/ozon-action/information/mmcfiles/6289-e-ODSONETclosingPR.pdf>; <http://appablog.wordpress.com/2009/08/24/nigeria-builds-first-ozone-village-in-africa/>).

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

and government expenditures; it will need to trigger restructuring of important sectors of the economy such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and manufacturing; and it will need to change national consumption patterns. The new climate agreement will, in short, have to deal with a whole range of economic activities.

However, the economic, financial and environmental communities are not acting in a coherent way in addressing climate change. While links between climate and finance are unambiguous in the text of the Bali Action Plan – all four pillars of the plan have a clear financial component – they have failed to inspire trade, finance and economic ministries to take adequate action. Because the text has been adopted by the parties to the UNFCCC and not by their own governing bodies, the international financial institutions largely continue to operate and take funding decisions without adequate consideration of the consequences for global climate change.

As a result, climate negotiators and economic officials in developing countries have received contradictory messages from the international sys-

tem. The international financial institutions, which deal principally with ministries of finance, trade, development and domestic central banks, have maintained their pre-Bali directions of decision-making, signalling to developing country governments that climate change and the economic consequences of climate change are not a central concern.

We examine four areas – reporting on capital flows, the lack of greenhouse gas assessments in project proposals, the effect of climate events on pre-existing loans and funding of adaptation costs – in which the policies and practices of the international financial institutions potentially hinder the negotiation of an effective new climate agreement. For example, the Bali Action Plan calls for “measurable, reportable and verifiable” results but the international financial system, working through the IMF, the World Bank, the regional development banks and the Basel Committees, does not require reporting of climate-related capital flows. The world’s development organizations and aid agencies do not require greenhouse gas footprint forecasts as a part of requests for funding. Pre-existing international loan agreements have not revised their

repayment provisions to take into account likely ecologically-induced economic changes. And, while developing country climate negotiators argued for an adaptation fund that would be funded by obligatory resources from UNFCCC transactions, some bilateral aid agencies and international financial institutions have approached development and finance ministries in developing countries with proposals for loans rather than grants to cover these adaptation expenditures.

These examples illustrate that developing countries are receiving mixed and incoherent messages on global climate change priorities. This message reinforces the trade and finance ministries’ inclination to not support a climate agreement with serious economic underpinnings, and it potentially limits the effectiveness of the post-2012 regime.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle75.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.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



DSD ORGANIZING ENERGY AND INDICATOR MEETINGS

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) is organizing a number of workshops and meetings in the coming months, including: a South and South-East Asia Workshop on Financing Sustainable Electrification (Bangkok, Thailand, 8-11 September 2009); a Southern and East Africa Workshop on Financing Sustainable Electrification (Nairobi, Kenya, November 2009); and an expert group meeting on institutionalizing sustainable development indicators for measuring progress of National Strategies (Barbados, 17-19 September 2009). An International Consultation with Media on Water and Climate Change will be held from 24-25 September 2009, at the UN Water Zaragoza office in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information.

In addition, the Bureau for the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18), for which

the DSD serves as Secretariat, is expected to hold its first meeting on 25 September 2009, in New York, US. Regional Implementation Meetings (RIM) will convene during the next semester, to help each region prepare for CSD 18, with the first meeting taking place from 4-6 October 2009, in Cairo, Egypt, for the Western Asia region. The Africa RIM will take place from 26-30 October 2009, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the Latin America and the Caribbean RIM will convene from 17-18 November 2009, in Santiago, Chile; the Asia and the Pacific RIM will meet from 30 November-1 December 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand; and the Europe and North America RIM will meet from 1-2 December 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml). UNDESA is jointly organizing, with the Government of India, a “High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer,” which will convene from 22-23 October 2009, in New Delhi, India (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml).

DSD has made available eight advance unedited reports of the Secre-

tary-General to the UN General Assembly Second Committee, including: Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS; Agriculture Development and Food Security; Agricultural Technology for Development; Sustainable Mountain Development; Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy; and International Year of Sanitation, 2008 (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docugaecos_64.shtml).

Finally, UNDESA has announced a new US\$2.8 million project that will seek to revitalize the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNet) and develop a virtual curriculum, web-based tools and e-resources to deliver education for sustainable development for islands in the Caribbean, Pacific and African subregions (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/dev2760.doc.htm>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD COP 9 DOCUMENTS POSTED

A number of documents have been posted in preparation for the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which will take place from 21 September-2 October 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The documents for COP 9 can be found at <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop9/menu.php>, with recent additions including the assessment of the Global Mechanism by the Joint Inspection Unit ([http://www.unccd.int/php/document2.php?ref=ICCD/COP\(9\)/9](http://www.unccd.int/php/document2.php?ref=ICCD/COP(9)/9)). An eight-page draft synthesis and recommendations paper describes five recommendations that emanated from deliberations of the three Working Groups that have prepared for the first UNCCD Scientific Conference, which will take place alongside COP 9 (<http://dsd-consortium.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/CST-ConfSynthesis5Aug09.pdf>).

In addition, the UNCCD Secretariat has prepared guidelines for the alignment of national, regional and sub-regional action programmes (NAPs, RAPs and SRAPs) with the ten-year strategy, for consideration by the COP (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/menu.php?newch=13>).

The Secretariat has also prepared policy briefs based on the deliberations during Land Day, which convened on 6 June 2009, in Bonn, Germany. The briefs address sustainable land man-



6 June, 2009 Gustav Stresemann Institut, Bonn, Germany

Logo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat



Image courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

agement and climate change adaptation (<http://www.unccd.int/knowledge/docs/UNCCDPolicyBrief-Adaptation-final.pdf>) and the potential in land to mitigate the effects of climate change (<http://www.unccd.int/knowledge/docs/UNCCDPolicyBrief-Mitigation-02.pdf>). Finally, the Secretariat has invited stakeholders to submit stories regarding their activities to address desertification, land degradation and drought, for inclusion in a section on the UNCCD website titled "Desertification: The Battle is On" (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/partners/menu.php>).

ITTO FUNDS PROJECTS ON FOREST GOVERNANCE AND BUILDING A VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET SCHEME

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has disbursed funds to initiate implementation of two projects under its new thematic programmes, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET) and Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES). The funded projects aim to strengthen the capacity of local communities to manage their forests in Chaiyaphum Province, Thailand, and to build a voluntary carbon marketing scheme to promote SFM (http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2095&no=0).

As ITTO's Autumn 2009 cycle has been launched, producer and developing consumer member countries have been invited to submit, prior to 30 September 2009, proposals under these thematic programmes. Also in the coming months, ITTO is sponsoring a symposium on forest genetic resource conservation and sustainable utilization towards climate change mitigation and adaptation (5-8 October, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). The 45th meeting of the International Tropical Timber Council and associated sessions of the four committees will also meet from 9-14 November, in Yokohama, Japan (http://www.itto.int/en/upcoming_meetings/).

UNFF SUBMITS CPF PAPER ON SFM TO UNFCCC, CONSULTATIONS ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION CONTINUE

The Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) submitted a reference document to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), on sustainable forest management (SFM). The document provides background information on already agreed language at the multilateral level regarding SFM. The language, from the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument), describes SFM and the actions to be taken by member States to achieve the purpose of the forest instrument (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/smsn/igo/057.pdf>).

In the coming months, informal consultations on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management will continue with the objective of reaching agreement among all member States. In addition, a country-led initiative will be held in Guilin, China, from 16-20 November 2009, on "Forests for People: the role of national forest programmes and the forest instrument" (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

GPA PLANS TRAINING WORKSHOP AND MEETING ON MAINSTREAMING MARINE AND COASTAL ISSUES

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) regional training workshop will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 1-3 September 2009. The workshop is hosted by the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS). Representatives from Ministries of Environment, Planning and Finance of the CPPS member States Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru are expected to

attend this workshop. The core objective of the training workshop is to share experiences and facilitate understanding of inter-linkages between sectors and agencies' activities/mandates that could lead to mainstreaming of GPA issues into overall national planning and budgetary frameworks.

A meeting on "Mainstreaming of Marine and Coastal Issues into National Planning and Budgetary Processes: Sharing of cross-regional experiences," will be organized during the East Asian Seas Congress, in Manila, the Philippines, from 23-27 November 2009. Participants from Asia (Indonesia,

Philippines, India, Sri Lanka), Africa (Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa) and the Caribbean (St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize) will participate (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/>).

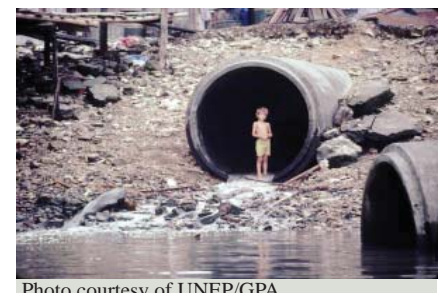


Photo courtesy of UNEP/GPA

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

TOWARDS NATIONAL FINANCING STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

(FAO, 2009) Written by Kees van Dijk and Herman Savenije, this study on the status, experiences and perspectives of forest financing in Latin America indicates that one of the main challenges facing countries in their efforts to reduce forest degradation and deforestation is the need to make good forest management more commercially competitive and make forests themselves more economically attractive (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/k3276e/k3276e00.pdf>).

▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNDOALOS PREPARES FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

In the upcoming months, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) will be focusing on: the meeting of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, from 10 August-11 September; the meeting of the *Ad hoc* working group of the whole to recommend a course of action towards the establishment of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, from 31 August-4 September; and the informal consultations of the UN General Assembly at its 64th session on draft resolutions under agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea," namely on "Sustainable fisheries" from 15-18 September and 16-20 and 23 November, and on "Oceans and the law of the sea" from 28 September-2 October

and 9-13 November. All these events will take place at UN Headquarters in New York, US (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/calendar_of_meetings.htm).

IMO PREPARES FOR COPENHAGEN

Among the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) activities in the upcoming months will be preparations to participate in the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including reporting on the outcome of its Marine Environment Protection Committee's discussions on greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping (<http://www.imo.org/>).



Logo courtesy of the IMO Secretariat

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD MEMBERSHIP REACHES 192

During August 2009, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) announced that Iraq acceded to the Convention and will become its 192nd party on 26 October 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-08-13-iraq-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the Secretariat has circulated the latest version of the implementation strategy for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, outlining activities planned to support all stakeholders to celebrate the year, as well as planned and confirmed activities by other partners (<http://www.cbd.int/iyb/iyb-2010-strategy-final-en.pdf>). It has also released the fifth issue of its newsletter on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation (<http://www.cbd.int/development/newsletters/newsletter-bd-05-en.pdf>).

The first draft of Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, as well as the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 are available for peer review until 1 October 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/gbo3review/>; <http://www.cbd.int/gspc/gspcpreview/>). A draft scientific synthesis report on ocean acidification and its impacts on marine biodiversity and habitats is available for peer review until 15 September 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/scientific-synthesis-marine-peerreview-02-en.doc>).

The CBD calendar for the upcoming months includes, among other meetings: 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 (29 September-2 October 2009, Ottawa, Canada); an expert workshop on the removal and mitigation of perverse, and the promotion of positive incentive measures (6-8 October 2009, Paris, France); the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) (2-6 November 2009, Montreal, Canada); and the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) (9-15 November 2009, Montreal, Canada). Related meetings include UNEP's second Intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (5-7 October 2009, Nairobi, Kenya); and the third meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (4 October 2009, Nairobi, Kenya).

CMS STANDING COMMITTEE TO MEET IN DECEMBER

The calendars of the Convention on Migratory Species and of agreements concluded under its auspices include: the sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) (16-18

September 2009, Bonn, Germany); and the 36th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (2-3 December 2009, Bonn, Germany).

DEADLINES APPROACH FOR CITES COP 15 AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

The calendar of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for the upcoming months includes a meeting of the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities of the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (5-7 October 2009, Brasilia, Brazil); and the eighth Technical Advisory Group meeting of MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants) (7-9 December 2009, Nairobi, Kenya). The deadline for submission of draft resolutions and proposals to amend Appendices I and II for consideration at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CITES (13-25 March 2010, Doha, Qatar) is 14 October 2009 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2009/E038.pdf>). The CITES Secretariat has also announced that the candidatures for membership of the Standing Committee, as well as the Animals and Plants Committees, for members whose term ends at COP 15 should be submitted by 13 November 2009 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2009/E039.pdf>).



Logo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat



Cover courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL CONVENTION DEVELOPS DIRECTORY OF TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

The Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee has developed a directory of training institutions that offer courses that can assist parties to deal with cases of illegal traffic under the Convention. The Committee is inviting relevant institutions interested in being included in the directory to complete application forms and transmit them to the Secretariat (<http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/compcommittee/index.html>).

In the coming months, the Basel Convention Secretariat will be preparing for the second meeting of the Indonesian-Swiss Country-led Initiative to Improve the Effectiveness of the Basel Convention, scheduled to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, from 12-15 January 2010 (<http://www.basel.int/convention/cli/index.html>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION PREPARES FOR POPRC 5 AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Stockholm Convention is convening the fifth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC 5) from 12-16 October 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretariat is also convening several regional meetings over the coming months including: a Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination for the Implementation of the Basel, Rot-

terdam and Stockholm Conventions, in Pretoria, South Africa, on 1 October; training and capacity building on implementation of Article 5 and use of the Guidelines on Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP), in Bucharest, Romania, from 2-5 November (<http://chm.pops.int/Home/tabid/36/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/75/xmid/1854/mret/t/language/en-US/Default.aspx>); a Regional Capacity Building Workshop on BAT and BEP and the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of POPs Wastes and PCBs for Asia, in Beijing, China, from 16-20 November; and a regional training workshop on reviewing/updating National Implementation Plans and implementing the guidelines on BAT and BEP, in Panama City, Panama, from 16-19 November (<http://chm.pops.int/Home/tabid/36/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/73/xmid/1854/mret/t/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

UNEP MERCURY PROGRAMME PREPARES FOR OEWG

The UNEP Mercury Programme is preparing for a meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Mercury, which will convene from 19-23 October in Bangkok, Thailand, and will serve as a preparatory meeting for the first intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) on mercury, scheduled to convene in 2010 (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/>).

SAICM TO CONVENE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN MEETING

The meeting of the Central and Eastern European Regional Coordination Group on the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) will convene on 6 September 2009, in Brno, Czech Republic, immediately prior to the tenth International Hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) and Pesticides Forum (http://www.saicm.org/index.php?content=meeting&mid=79&menu_id=16&def=1).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION PREPARES FOR REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

The thematic workshop to promote a shared responsibility and facilitate a dialogue among an exporting Party and selected trade partners in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention will convene in Beijing, China, from 19-22 October 2009. Participating countries include Brazil, China, Pakistan, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam (<http://www.pic.int/mbg-short.php?ReId=119>). A workshop on awareness raising of the Rotterdam Convention and training on strengthening chemicals management and implementation of the key obligations of the Convention will be held in Accra, Ghana, from 19-23 October. Francophone African countries will participate and the workshop will also provide assistance in completion and submission of Final Regulatory Actions (<http://www.pic.int/mbg-short.php?ReId=118>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP CONVENES YOUTH CONFERENCE, RELEASES INVESTMENT TOOLKIT

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Tunza International Youth Conference on climate change convened in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 17-23 August 2009. More than 800 young people from over 100 countries participated in the conference, and hundreds of other youth were linked to the meeting via a global town hall meeting to agree on a message to send to world leaders. A social networking platform for youth on climate change (my.uniteforclimate.org) was also launched. The final statement from the conference, entitled "Listen to our voices: the future needs leadership," urges governments and citizens take action on climate change, and also commit themselves to working to address climate change. The Conference was organized by UNEP with support from several UN

entities, including UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, WMO, UN-HABITAT, UNDESA, UNESCO and the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=594&ArticleID=6281&l=en>).

In other UNEP news, the Property Working Group of the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) has launched a toolkit to help investors better understand and apply the principles of Responsible Property Investment (RPI). This toolkit, entitled "Committing and Engaging," uses case studies to identify seven steps that organizations should take to institutionalize RPI, including: understand-

ing the meaning and value of RPI for an organization; identifying material risks and opportunities; managing and measuring success; and collaborating with stakeholders to develop and mainstream RPI practices (http://www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/responsible_property_toolkit1.pdf).

Among anticipated UNEP-related events during the September-December 2009 period is the UNEP Finance Initiative 2009 Global Roundtable, which will convene from 22-23 October 2009, in Cape Town, South Africa. The Roundtable will provide the opportunity to discuss efforts towards achieving sustainable financial markets and economies. In addition UNEP will continue to lead the 2009 Seal the Deal: UNite to Combat Climate Change initiative, which aims to encourage the governments of the world to agree on a deal that will protect people and the planet in Copenhagen this December.



Committing and Engaging
Part of a Series of Toolkits on Responsible Property Investing



Cover courtesy of
UNEP

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK SUPPORTS REFORESTATION AND SFM, GEF FUNDS INTEGRATED SILVO-PASTORAL APPROACHES TO ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The World Bank's BioCarbon Fund has announced that it will purchase 500,000 tons of emission reductions from a reforestation project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, generating environmental benefits to the local community as well as social services. By reforesting 4,200 hectares of degraded land, the Ibi Bateke Carbon Sink Plantation Project will trap an estimated 2.4 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) over the next 30 years, generating emission reductions that will be sold to finance the expansion of the project as well as health, education and agro-forestry activities in the local community. The degraded lands will be transformed into a managed forest of acacia, eucalyptus and indigenous species that will sequester CO₂ and contribute to the supply of fuelwood for Kinshasa (<http://go.worldbank.org/K1U9V0JGG0>).

In other World Bank news, the Bank approved, on 27 August 2009, a three-year Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant of US\$4.8 million, to support Senegal for a sustainable land management (SLM) Project. The project will convert 20,000 hectares of land

to sustainable management, meeting specified targets for improvement of soil quality (http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=26676).

The World Bank has also announced 100 finalists of the Development Marketplace contest on Climate Change Adaptation. Twenty-five projects will receive grants of up to US\$200,000 and were selected based on their innovation, objective and measurable results, project design and organizational capacity, sustainability of impact, and growth potential. The finalists will present their projects at World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC, US, in mid-November (<http://www.developmentmarketplace.org>).

In other GEF news, the GEF is funding a project in Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua aimed at improving ecosystem functioning of degraded pasture lands through the silvo-pastoral systems that generate global environmental benefits while providing socio-economic benefits. This project will incorporate the establishment of a differentiated payment scheme according to the degree of environmental service being provided, thus providing incentives for higher levels of conservation (http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=26516).

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) organized a meeting of the network on Sustainable Energy,

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management to discuss national and sectoral climate change strategies. The UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) participated in a panel on the economics of climate change in Latin America and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) participated in a panel on international and national financing alternatives for climate change (<http://www.thegef.org/uploadedfiles/agenda-CCmexico-09.pdf>).

The trade and finance cluster will have a busy season during the coming months. September includes meetings of the Adaptation Fund (14-16) and the WTO Public Forum (28-30). In October, the Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) will take place (6-7), as well as meetings of the Climate Investment Funds Trust Fund Committees (26-30). November will feature meetings of the GEF Council (9-13), as well as on the Fifth GEF Replenishment, in parallel with meetings of the Councils of the Special Climate Change Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund. Finally, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Seventh Ministerial Conference will be held under the general theme "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment" on 30 November- 2 December 2009.



Ibi Bateke Project (images courtesy of the World Bank)

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **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/reference_files/calendar_of_meetings.htm
- **Second World Seed Conference:** 8-10 September 2009. Rome, Italy. <http://www.worldseedconference.org/en/worldseedconference/home.html>