



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

#### UNCCD COP 9 NEGOTIATING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Delegates at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) are meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 September-2 October 2009, along with the eighth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 8) and the ninth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 9). This is the first COP following the 2007 COP 8 adoption of a ten-year strategic plan and framework for the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018) (Strategy), and delegates are discussing a number of agenda items related to that decision, including: four-year work plans and two-year work programmes of the CRIC, CST, Global Mechanism (GM) and the Secretariat; the Joint Inspection Unit assessment of the GM; the terms of reference of the CRIC; the CST's operation; the communication strategy; arrangements for regional coordination mechanisms; impact indicators and performance indicators; and the budget. Following from the Strategy, the CST convened primarily in a scientific conference format during the first week to discuss "Biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management." At the conclusion of the first week, the CST adopted decisions regarding: Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands; the UNCCD fellowship programme; the roster of independent experts; reshaping the operation of the CST in line with the Strategy; and date, venue and programme of work of the second special session of the CST (<http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop9/>). On 28-29 September 2009, a high-level segment took place, with over 60 countries participating in three roundtables on global trends of desertification, land degradation and drought, linkages with climate change and partnerships.



L-R: Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD; Sherry Ayittey, Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Ghana; Ramadh Saif Kajembe, Ministry of Environment, Kenya; and Kwon Byong Hyon, Republic of Korea

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#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### UNECE Water Convention Parties to Consider Implementation and Compliance

By Francesca Bernardini and Sonja Koepfel, UNECE, Secretariat of the Water Convention

#### Abstract

Transboundary water relations in the Pan-European region are expected to take a significant step forward at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water

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#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### SHAPING CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

(GEF, September 2009) This report by the Economics of Climate Adaptation Working Group provides a set of tools for decision makers to adopt a tailored approach for estimating adaptation costs based on local climate conditions, and for building more resilient economies. The methodology was tested in localities within China, the US, Guyana, Mali, the UK, Samoa, India and Tanzania, which represent a range of climate hazards, economic impacts and development stages ([http://www.gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/ECA\\_Shaping\\_Climate\\_Resilient\\_Development.pdf](http://www.gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/ECA_Shaping_Climate_Resilient_Development.pdf)).

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**GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)**

Convention), to be held in Geneva from 10-12 November 2009, at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland.

Since its entry into force in 1996, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Water Convention has provided an important legal framework and contributed to improving transboundary water management in the pan-European region. Currently, the Convention has 36 Parties ranging from Portugal to Uzbekistan, including almost all EU countries and the European Community.

The Water Convention has served as a model for transboundary cooperation arrangements throughout the UNECE region. In particular, the Convention played an important role after the break-up of the Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia and the emergence of new countries, and has been the reference for new agreements on waters that were previously managed as national ones. The Convention could provide a model at the global level for peaceful, cooperative and integrated water resources management. To this end, it was amended in 2003 to allow States situated outside the UNECE region to become Parties.

A theme that will be at the centre of the discussions of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties will be implementation and compliance. The Guide to Implementing the Convention was developed in the past two years and is expected to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. The Guide offers a comprehensive commentary on the Convention's provisions, providing explanations of the procedural, legal, administrative, technical and practical aspects of the Convention's requirements.

It is also expected that Parties will decide to further work on the issue of implementation, in particular to address concrete implementation problems and to prevent or settle differences on the interpretation and application of the Convention, including in cases of non-compliance.

Past work under the Convention on water and adaptation to climate change should culminate with the adoption of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change by the Meeting of the Parties. The Guidance is the first document of its kind to focus on the transboundary setting. Based on the concept of integrated water resources management, the Guidance provides advice to decision makers and water managers on how

to assess impacts of climate change on water quantity and quality, how to perform risk assessment, including health risk assessment, how to gauge vulnerability, and how to design and implement appropriate adaptation strategies.

For the first time, the Meeting of the Parties will include a High-Level Segment focusing on transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia and the role of the Convention. Participants will share their knowledge in implementing the Convention and demonstrate how the Convention serves as a valuable instrument for both upstream and downstream riparians.

The meeting is open to country representatives from the UNECE region and from the rest of the world, representatives of NGOs and international organizations. For more information visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop5.htm>

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle77.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.*

**► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**UNFF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS REACH AGREEMENT ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) informal consultations that took place from 15-16 September 2009, in New York, US, have resulted in agreed *ad referendum* text on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (SFM). The objective of the consultations, led by co-facilitators UNFF 7 Chair Hans Hooegeven (the Netherlands) and UNFF 8 Chair Boen Purnama (Indonesia), was to advance negotiations on means of implementation, which had been stalled when a decision on the matter was not reached at UNFF 8. The agreed



Hans Hooegeven



Boen Purnama



Logo courtesy of the UNFF Secretariat

*ad ref* text states that an *ad hoc* expert group will be established with a view to making proposals on strategies to mobilize resources including, *inter alia*, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund. The group will meet before UNFF 9 and 10. The text also establishes a facilitative process to catalyze implementation of SFM and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. According to an ECOSOC decision, since an agreement has been reached on these issues, a one-day special session of UNFF 9 will convene for the purpose of adopting the agreed text (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/docs2/Agreed%20text%20on%20means%20of%20implementation%20for%20SFM%20during%20the%20informal%20consultation-16%20Sep.09-%206.20%20p.m..doc>).

In other UNFF news, a report on preparations for the International Year of Forests 2011 was submitted to the 64th session of the UN General Assembly. UNFF is developing a concept paper outlining key objectives for the Year and providing recommendations on how member States and others can develop activities to observe the Year. UNFF is also developing an official logo and website, and is collaborating with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to explore areas of synergy with the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>).



Image courtesy of the UNFF Secretariat

**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**WILDLIFE LEGISLATION AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR IN LATIN AMERICA**

(FAO Legal Paper Online no. 80, September 2009) Authored by Soledad Aguilar and Elisa Morgera, this study analyzes and compares national legislation on wildlife management in eleven countries in Central and South America. The comparative analysis seeks to identify strengths and weaknesses of legal frameworks in the promotion of sustainable wildlife management, and in allowing all members of society, particularly disadvantaged people, to directly benefit from wildlife management (<http://www.fao.org/legal/prs-ol/lp080.pdf>).



**► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Banner courtesy of UNDESA

**UNDESA AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS LAUNCH TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP, DSD PREPARES FOR RIMs**

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank are among more than 30 members of the new Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT). The partnership was launched officially in Bangkok, Thailand, on 25 September 2009, and seeks to contribute options and advice on the development of sustainable transport systems worldwide to inform the international climate change negotiations. It will also contribute to discussions in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which will consider transportation among other is-

ssues during the next two sessions. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have also signed on as partners (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/en-devdev1080.doc.htm>).

In other news, the UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) is collaborating with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on two Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) that will convene in October. The Africa RIM will be held from 27-30 October 2009, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the Western Asia RIM will be held from 4-6 October 2009, in Cairo, Egypt. The RIMs will contribute to the work of the CSD during the implementation cycle focused on transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18\\_rims.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml)).

**► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**



Logo courtesy of UNEP/GEF/CarbonRe

**GEF, UNEP AND PARTNERS LAUNCH RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT INSURANCE SCHEME, EFFICIENT LIGHTING PLATFORM**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) are supporting an innovative mechanism for insuring renewable energy projects in developing countries. The global renewable energy insurance facility was launched by Munich, RSA Insurance Group (RSA), and CarbonRe. It will be operated via an internet website and offer standard and customized insurance solutions for renewable energy projects in developing countries (<http://www.insurance4renewables.com>).

The GEF and UNEP have also launched the “Global Market Transformation for Efficient Lighting Platform,” a public-private partnership directed at reducing global energy demand for

lighting. The Platform aims to transform lighting markets, primarily in developing countries, by fostering the usage and production of energy efficient lighting while gradually discontinuing use of incandescent lighting, and substituting traditional fuel-based lighting with modern, efficient alternatives such as solid-state lighting (SSL) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps ([http://www.gef-web.org/interior\\_right.aspx?id=26876](http://www.gef-web.org/interior_right.aspx?id=26876)).

**WORLD BANK SUPPORTS GREEN GROWTH IN BRAZIL**

The World Bank approved, on 22 September 2009, a US\$24.3 million loan to finance the second phase of Brazil’s Second National Environmental Project. The project seeks to enhance the environment and sustain economic growth through: strengthening environmental licensing policies; environmental quality monitoring; economic instruments for environmental management; providing an incentive for the identification of pressing environmental challenges; and supporting the decentralization of project activities (<http://go.worldbank.org/7GJYFXZKQ0>).

**IDB SUPPORTS MEXICO’S CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA AND RELEASES NEW VERSION OF BIOFUELS SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved, on 16 September 2009, a project that will support Mexico’s climate change program, which includes mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening climate-related institutions. The climate activities are among several measures that Mexico has pledged to carry out under the programmatic policy-based loan for US\$400 million approved by IDB (<http://www.iadb.org/news/detail.cfm?language=English&id=5656>).

In other IDB news, the Bank has released a new version of its Biofuels Sustainability Scorecard, which will enable users to better anticipate the impacts of potential biofuel projects on sensitive issues such as indigenous rights, carbon emissions from land use change, and food security (<http://www.iadb.org/biofuelsscorecard/>).



The dais during the launch of “Global Market Transformation for Efficient Lighting Platform” (photo courtesy of the GEF Secretariat)



Graphic courtesy of the Inter-American Development Bank

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva presents Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary with a gift

### BANGKOK CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS OPEN WITH A HEAVY AGENDA

The first part of the seventh session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (AWG-LCA 7) and the first part of the ninth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 9) opened on 28 September 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand, and are set to continue until 9 October 2009. The AWG-LCA is focusing on revised negotiating text from AWG-LCA 6 (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1) and a document reflecting efforts by parties at an informal meeting held in Bonn, Germany, in August and by facilitators, under their own responsibility, to make the negotiating text more manageable (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.2) by reordering and consolidating its contents. Parties also have at their disposal a non-paper published by the UNFCCC Secretariat summarizing the main functions identified in proposals on institutional arrangements contained in the revised negotiating text. The non-paper contains a set of matrices that provide an overview of proposed institutional arrangements and their functions ([http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/application/pdf/non\\_paper\\_on\\_institutional\\_arrangements.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/non_paper_on_institutional_arrangements.pdf)).

The first part of AWG-KP 9 is focusing on the aggregate scale of Annex I parties' emission reductions in the post-2012 period and the contribution of Annex I parties to this scale. In accordance with the work programme, AWG-KP 9 is continuing its consideration of issues relating to means to reach emission reduction targets, relevant methodological issues and potential consequences, and to consider rules and modalities of possible improvements, as well as any draft COP/MOP decisions or draft Protocol amendments.

In other UNFCCC news, the report of the 49th meeting of the Executive Board

of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has been published. The meeting took place from 8-11 September 2009, in Bonn, Germany, and the Board considered issues relating to CDM afforestation and reforestation projects, small-scale CDM projects and the registration of CDM projects, among other items (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/049/eb49rep.pdf>).

The 17th meeting of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC 17) concluded with agreement on the importance of JI to the successful outcome at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. JISC 17 met from 10-11 September 2009, in Kiev, Ukraine, and considered issues relating to the operation of JI, including ways to improve and speed up the scheme and to ensure that lessons learned are carried to COP 15 ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/releases/application/pdf/20091009\\_pr\\_kiev\\_ji.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/releases/application/pdf/20091009_pr_kiev_ji.pdf)).

At its seventh meeting, held from 14-16 September 2009, in Bonn, Germany, the Adaptation Fund Board adopted the operational policy guidelines, and approved creating a standing Accreditation Panel for accrediting the proposed National Implementing Entities and Multilateral Implementing Entities (<http://www.adaptation-fund.org/press-releases.html>).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published the annotated provisional agenda (CC/EB/7/2009/1) for the seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee Enforcement Branch, which will take place from 11-12 October 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Enforcement Branch will consider questions of implementation with respect to Croatia's assigned amount and commitment period reserve. The enforcement branch is expected to make preliminary findings or adopt a decision not to proceed further ([http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto\\_protocol/compliance/enforcement\\_branch/application/pdf/cc\\_eb\\_7\\_2009\\_1\\_provisional\\_agenda\\_and\\_annotations\\_20090911-final.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/compliance/enforcement_branch/application/pdf/cc_eb_7_2009_1_provisional_agenda_and_annotations_20090911-final.pdf)).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has also published a draft for the annual report of the Compliance Committee to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the status of submission and review of reports under the Kyoto Protocol. The draft for the annual report, to be considered by the plenary of the Compliance Committee, provides a summary of the further consideration by the enforcement branch of the question of implementation with respect to Greece. It also frames a summary of its consideration of two

questions of implementation with respect to Croatia ([http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto\\_protocol/compliance/enforcement\\_branch/application/pdf/cc-2009-1-3\\_croatia\\_eb\\_decision\\_on\\_expert\\_advice-final\\_24\\_sept\\_09.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/compliance/enforcement_branch/application/pdf/cc-2009-1-3_croatia_eb_decision_on_expert_advice-final_24_sept_09.pdf)).

### IPCC WGIII AND MODELERS DISCUSS DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Working Group (WG) III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) held the second lead author meeting for the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN) from 1-4 September 2009, in Oslo, Norway. The meeting was preceded by an expert meeting on Modeling Renewable Energies, held from 30-31 August 2009. The expert meeting brought together modelers to discuss approaches to the deployment of renewable energy technologies. Following the expert meeting, the lead authors of the Special Report further outlined its structure. The report seeks to address the contribution of renewable energies in a future with high energy demand or potential resource limitations and the role of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) and nuclear energy in achieving ambitious climate protection goals. Conditions under which the combined deployment of CCS and biomass energy may become imperative are also addressed. SRREN is expected to be published in late 2010 (<http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/news/renewable-energies-experts-meet-in-oslo>).

### OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES DOCUMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

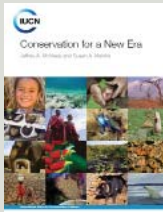
The Ozone Secretariat has released further documents in advance of the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 21), including draft decisions and proposed amendments to the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro.21/3 and Add.1) (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

In other Ozone news, the report of the 42nd Implementation Committee meeting, which convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20-21 July 2009, has been released. The Implementation Committee discussed, *inter alia*: existing plans of action to return to compliance; recommendations and decisions on compliance; and a report on parties that have established licensing systems ([http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/impcom/IMPCOM-42-5E.pdf](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/impcom/IMPCOM-42-5E.pdf)).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

CONSERVATION FOR A NEW ERA

(IUCN, September 2009) Authored by Jeffrey McNeely and Susan Mainka, this book outlines critical issues taken up during the World Conservation Congress held in Barcelona in October 2008. The book considers the state of global natural resources, as well as current trends. It reports a consensus at the Congress that work on ecosystems, species and protected areas will increasingly become a critical element in any societal strategy capable of bringing about a sustainable future. The book includes 22 chapters covering topics such as: ecosystem services; climate change and biodiversity; protected areas; challenges related to species conservation; armed conflict and post-disaster recovery; human health and biodiversity; the green economy; and forest, marine, dryland, freshwater, agricultural and urban systems (<http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2009-026.pdf>).



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Climate Neutral Network

Banner courtesy of UNEP

UNEP ANNOUNCES NEW CLIMATE NETWORK PARTNERS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that 16 new umbrella organizations, including cities, cooperatives, railways, postal services, industry and civil society associations, have joined the Climate Neutral Network – an initiative to promote global action to de-carbonize economies and societies. The announcement came on “Go Carbon Neutral Day” on 23 September, which was held as part of Global Climate Week, 21-25 September 2009 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=596&ArticleID=6323&l=en&t=long>).

In other news, UNEP has announced that nominations are now open for the sixth cycle of the Champions of the Earth award, for which there are four award categories: policy leadership, science and innovation, entrepreneurial vision, and inspiration and action. In 2010, each Champion will be receive US\$40,000.



CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH  
Cover courtesy of the UN

The award ceremony will be hosted in Seoul, Republic of Korea, alongside the annual Business for the Environment conference, on 22 April 2010 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=596&ArticleID=6304&l=en&t=long>).



Photos courtesy of UNEP

UNEP has also announced that its Billion Tree Campaign has reached 7 billion trees, which UNEP noted represents one tree for every person on the planet. The milestone was reached with the news that the

Government of China has planted 2.6 billion trees as part of the campaign (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=596&ArticleID=6319&l=en&t=long>).

WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

GPA REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP CONVENES

A regional training workshop to enhance national capacities to mainstream coastal and marine environmental management issues into national planning and budgetary processes convened in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 1-3 September 2009. The workshop was organized by UNEP’s Coordination Office for the GPA, in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS). The workshop was attended by 19 senior government officials of the Ministries of Environment, Maritime Authority, Aquatic Resources and Finance from

five member States of the CPPS (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru), as well as nongovernmental representatives. At the workshop each country developed a national mainstreaming strategy including identification of the key institution to take the lead in mainstreaming coastal and marine issues, outlining the roles and responsibilities of other participating institutions and sectors, including the accountability framework (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/news.html#72>).

IMO CELEBRATES WORLD MARITIME DAY 2009

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrated the 32nd World Maritime Day on 24 September

2009, under the theme “Climate change: a challenge for IMO too!” To mark the event, the IMO launched a short film highlighting the situation of the world’s international merchant fleet with regard to its energy efficiency and carbon footprint, as well as the challenges faced by IMO in its efforts to effectively control greenhouse gas emissions from ships engaged in international trade (<http://www.imo.org/>).



Logo courtesy of the IMO Secretariat

CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SAICM SECRETARIAT ISSUES UPDATE ON EMERGING POLICY ISSUES

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat has released an update on current activities related to SAICM’s agreed emerging policy issues: nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials; hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic

products; chemicals in products; and lead in paint. In each case, governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the private sector, are tasked to carry-out agreed actions (<http://www.saicm.org/documents/iccm/ICCM2/September09%20update-rev%20on%20emerging%20issues.pdf>).

In other SAICM news, the report of the fourth meeting of the African Core Group meeting on SAICM, which

convened from 20-21 August 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya, has been released. Delegates discussed various matters related to the implementation of SAICM in Africa, as well as elements of an African regional position on preparations for consideration of chemicals management by the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?content=meeting&mid=78&def=1&menuid=>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

**ASCOBANS MOP ADOPTS ACTION PLANS FOR HARBOR PORPOISES IN THE NORTH AND BALTIC SEAS**

The sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), an agreement under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), was held from 16-18 September 2009, in Bonn, Germany. Parties agreed on a number of measures to protect and enhance populations of small whales and dolphins, including a new version of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbor Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) aiming at restoring the population to healthy levels by reducing bycatch, supporting research and public awareness and establishing a network of marine protected areas. They also adopted a new Conservation Plan for the Harbor Porpoise in the North Sea, including actions related to management, monitoring, mitigation of threats and research. In addition, participants agreed on guidelines to address the adverse effects of underwater noise on marine mammals during off-shore construction activities for renewable energy production ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/09\\_september\\_09/ascobans\\_mop6.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/09_september_09/ascobans_mop6.pdf)).

In other CMS-related news, CMS Year of the Gorilla Ambassador Ian Redmond has completed his State of



Photo courtesy of WildlifeDirect Inc.

the Gorilla Journey, having traveled through eight out of ten gorilla range States in central Africa, using local buses wherever possible. Redmond maintained a daily blog of his encounters along the way (<http://www.gorilla.wildlifedirect.org/>).

**CBD HOLDS BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY**

An informal brainstorming session on business and biodiversity was held from 14-15 September 2009, in Montreal, Canada, as a preparatory meeting for the “Third Business and 2010

Biodiversity Challenge Conference,” to be convened from 30 November-3 December 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia, by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The meeting was held with the participation of the COP Triple Presidency (Brazil, Germany and Japan), Canada and the Netherlands. On the second day, the group was joined by representatives of the business community, NGOs and international organizations (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-09-16-business-en.pdf>).



Banner courtesy of WildlifeDirect Inc.

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **UNCCD COP 9:** 21 September-2 October 2009. Buenos Aires, Argentina. <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop9/>
- **AWG-LCA 7 AND AWG-KP 9:** 28 September-9 October 2009. Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg7/>
- **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. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWBCSIMA-01>
- **International Symposium on Forest Genetic Resources Conservation and Sustainable Utilization towards Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** 5-8 October 2009. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. [http://www.itto.int/en/workshop\\_detail/id=2073](http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2073)
- **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES II):** 5-9 October 2009. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/biodiv/ipbes2/>
- **Nairobi Work Programme: Technical Workshop on Advancing the Integration of Approaches to Adaptation Planning:** 12-14 October 2009. Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/waiaap/>
- **Fifth Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC-5):** 12-16 October 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/POPsReviewCommittee/AboutPOPRC/tabid/221/language/en-US/Default.aspx>