



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

BANGKOK TALKS END WITH LITTLE PROGRESS ON FINANCE AND MITIGATION

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) took place from 28 September-9 October 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The main objective of the Bangkok session was to continue streamlining and consolidating text under both AWGs. AWG-LCA 7 based its work on the revised negotiating text (FCCC/AWG/LCA/2009/INF.1), which reflects deliberations at AWG-LCA 6 in June. To assist its work, the AWG-LCA also had before it re-ordered and consolidated negotiating text as well as background materials prepared during and after its informal session in August (FCCC/AWG/LCA/2009/INF.2 and Adds. 1 & 2). The work in Bangkok focused on the key elements of the Bali Action Plan (BAP), namely: adaptation, finance, technology, mitigation, capacity building and a shared vision for long-term cooperative action. As a result of two weeks of negotiations, the AWG-LCA produced a number of non-papers that will be forwarded to the resumed AWG-LCA 7 in Barcelona. After the Bangkok session, the length of the text before the AWG-LCA remains considerable and some have pointed to what they characterize as “deep divides” in areas such as finance and mitigation. However, progress on issues such as adaptation, technology and capacity building was described as satisfactory. During the first part of AWG-KP 9, discussions continued on Annex I parties’ emission reductions beyond the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, parties continued to discuss other issues in the AWG-KP’s work programme (FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/8), including the flexibility mechanisms, land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) as well as potential consequences of response measures. Many saw progress on LULUCF rules as the most important achievement in Bangkok. Most felt, however, that no significant progress was made on Annex I parties’ aggregate and individual emission reductions in the post-2012 period, and differences also surfaced between developed and developing countries concerning whether the outcome from Copenhagen should be an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol or a single new agreement.



L-R: AWG-LCA Chair Michael Zammit Cutajar and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer

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GUEST ARTICLE

It’s time for drylands! Towards a “One UN” approach

By Hossein Fadaei, UN Environment Management Group, and Jessica Jones, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Abstract

What should the UN system be doing to support drylands and their populations? This was the question on everyone’s mind at a recent event organized by the Environmental Management Group (EMG) with support from the

Continued on page 2

SPECIAL MEETING REPORT

UNEP Workshop on Knowledge Management and MEAs

By Eva Duer, UNEP, and Marcos Silva, CITES

Representatives from seven UNEP Administered Conventions (CBD, CITES, CMS and AWEA, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Basel) as well as other MEAs (ITPGR-FA, Ramsar, WHC) together with representatives from bodies related to processes that seek to present information derived from MEAs, such as UNEP-WCMC with InforMEA,

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Following a call from the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and the General Assembly, drylands were identified as a priority issue that requires a joint effort by the whole UN system. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation serves as a platform that the UN system can rally around to guide its efforts. While the UNCCD Secretariat has a critical role in supporting the Convention itself, a forthcoming report shows that several UN agencies, including a number of regional bodies, can and should play important roles in delivering on the UNCCD's strategic objectives.

In 2009 and 2010, the EMG will bring together an action report guiding UN-wide support through a compelling new vision for drylands development and sustainable land management. A recent consultative event on this report was held in the margins of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the

UNCCD last month in Argentina. At the event, UN agencies, technical experts and UNCCD national focal points indicated that the UN system is ready for an exciting and persuasive common way forward on drylands. Poverty alleviation and food security are two of the most important rationales for the current prioritization of drylands on the global agenda. The incredible diversity of drylands is one important factor in their resilience and adaptive capacity, and should be fully recognized and culturally appreciated, if not celebrated.

While the EMG report should focus on UN agencies' role in achieving the UNCCD Strategy's vision and objectives, the UN does not operate in isolation and is only one of many players in drylands development. The niche for this particular publication is to identify the strengths of the various partners in drylands development, and to isolate those actions that are best suited to the UN system. The report should also act as an investment guide, suggesting ways for public and private support to unlock the development potential of drylands.

Through the EMG drylands report and other avenues, stakeholders want to see a renewed, revitalized common agenda for drylands, which can be enacted through practical steps. The ongoing report preparation process is an opportunity for UN agencies, technical experts, national focal points, and affected communities to exchange views and set priorities. The EMG drylands report development process is open to inputs from a diversity of sources. And the full text of this article (<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle78a.html>) suggests ways in which interested individuals and organizations can get involved in this process. The EMG drylands report itself will be measured by how it is carried through to implementation. Let's work together to plan follow-up action from the outset.

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.



Side event during UNCCD COP 9 on "Revitalizing Drylands: Benefits from Coordinated Action." L-R: Hossein Fadaei, Environment Management Group (EMG); Philip Dobie, UNDP; Stephen Twomlow, UNEP; Bakary Kante, UNEP; and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

In other UNFCCC Secretariat news, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has released the reports from recent meetings of its Afforestation and Reforestation (A/R) Working Group, and Small Scale Working Group (SSC WG). The A/R Working Group held its 25th meeting from 21-23 September 2009, at UNFCCC headquarters in Bonn, Germany (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar/025/ar_025_rep.pdf). The 22nd meeting of the SSC WG convened from 21-24 September 2009, to consider matters relating to small-scale CDM project activities (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ssc_wg/meetings/022/ssc_022_rep.pdf).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has added a new series of audio files to its CDM

Audio File Service. The Service was launched to provide CDM information in plain language, and the new audio files explain topics such as baseline, project boundary and leakage, and also provide more information about fees, methodologies, tools and certified emission reductions (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/about/multimedia/podcasts/index.html>).

IPCC PREPARES FOR 31st SESSION

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has posted several new documents for its 31st session and sessions of the Panel's Working Groups, which will convene from 26-29 October 2009, in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. The new documents include background information on the three Working



Nusa Dua (photo courtesy of IPCC)

Groups' contributions to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). At the meeting, the three WGs are expected to agree on chapter outlines for the AR5 and schedules for the assessment work, which will then be formally accepted by IPCC 31. The Panel will also discuss the treatment of crosscutting issues in the AR5 and consider a proposal for the preparation of a Synthesis Report, including its scope and nature (http://www.ipcc.ch/meeting_documentation/meeting_documentation_31th_session.htm).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

ECONOMICS OF ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

(World Bank, September 2009) This study estimates that adaptation costs in developing countries will be approximately US\$75-100 billion per year for the period 2010 to 2050. In addition to estimating the global costs of adaptation in developing countries, the study seeks to help decision makers in developing countries better understand and assess the risks of climate change (<http://beta.worldbank.org/climatechange/content/economics-adaptation-climate-change-study-homepage>).

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES MOP 21 DOCUMENTS

The Ozone Secretariat has released further documents in advance of the 21st Meeting of the Parties (MOP 21), scheduled to convene from 4-8 November 2009, in Port Ghalib, Egypt. Documents include: further information from the Ozone Secretariat on issues related to funding opportunities for the destruction of ozone-depleting substances; information on illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances reported by Parties to the Montreal Protocol (paragraph 7 of decision XIV/7); and the annotated provisional agenda of MOP 21 (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

In other ozone news, UNEP has launched a joint programme with the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers to activate the International Cooperation Agreement previously signed between the two organizations. The cooperation agreement aims to achieve several international goals, including; the sustainable phase-out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) in refrigeration and air-conditioning applications; climate benefits of using ODS alternatives, including aspects of energy saving in buildings; as well as facilitate the transfer and adoption of suitable technologies in developing countries (http://www.uneptie.org/ozonAction/information/mmcfiles/6313-e-unep_ashrae_PR09.pdf).



Logos courtesy of UNEP and ASHRAE

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FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD COP 9 IDENTIFIES IMPACT INDICATORS

Among the 36 decisions adopted before the final gavel came down at 7:50 am on Saturday, 3 October, at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), was a decision that identifies two indicators – the proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line and land cover status – as the minimum subset of impact indicators required for reporting by affected countries beginning in 2012, along with additional, optional impact indicators.

COP 9 convened 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). Additional events during the COP included the convening of the first UNCCD Scientific Conference, which

discussed “Biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management.” 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. Participants also attended an open dialogue session with civil society organizations, and close to 70 parliamentarians convened from 24-25 September to consider food security and climate change in the drylands.

Additional COP decisions included a budget decision that includes a small increase in funding, a decision to enable the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to become a standing subsidiary body of the COP, and a decision that indicates regional coordination mechanisms may be given support. The agenda item on the relationship between the Global

Mechanism and the Secretariat, however, overshadowed much of the conference and was not resolved at COP 9 (<http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop9/>).

ITTO AND INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia have launched a partnership designed to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and to enhance forest carbon stocks through enhanced community participation in conservation and management of the Meru Betiri National Park (MBNP), in the southeastern part of the East Java province. The project is specifically designed to improve the livelihoods of local communities living inside MBNP and in surrounding areas through their involvement in activities to avoid deforestation, degradation and biodiversity loss, and will include the development of a measurable, reportable and verifiable system for monitoring emissions reductions and forest carbon stock enhancement. Conservation efforts will have financing from 7&i Holdings Ltd, under a pilot public-private partnership. Emmanuel Ze Mekka, Executive Director of ITTO, commented that this project “is an important example for upcoming negotiations in Copenhagen on the role of the private sector which can play a greater role on the ground to implement activities for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including sustainably managing and conserving forests (REDD+)” (http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2130&no=0).



The dais during the UNCCD Scientific Conference. L-R: Youba Sokona, Sahara and Sahel Observatory; James Reynolds, Duke University; Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD; and Charles Hutchinson, University of Arizona.

SPECIAL MEETING REPORT (cont.)

IUCN and FAO with ECOLEX, and IUCN as a contributor to TEMATEA, as well as UNEP (DELCL and DCPI) and UNON, met from 22-24 September 2009, in Chexbres, Switzerland, for a UNEP Workshop on Knowledge Management (KM) and MEAs to implement a Knowledge Management strategy amongst and between a broad range of MEAs.

Bradnee Chambers (UNEP), Co-Chair, opened the meeting by highlighting the need for greater coherence in the development of international environmental law. Marcos Silva, the meeting's other Co-chair, provided a comprehensive review of knowledge management within the context of the United Nations and UNEP. He also described past efforts by the MEAs to develop a knowledge management strategy through the use of new information and communication technologies.

The Co-Chairs concluded by emphasizing that the objective of the meeting was to create an enabling environment for capturing, managing and sharing the MEAs' knowledge assets. This would be made possible by enhancing the capacity of MEAs to harmonize their information resources and to develop knowledge tools to assist Parties in making more coherent and mutually beneficial decisions.

In the ensuing discussion, participants agreed that there exists an urgent need to identify the steps required to enhance technical capacity at the Secretariat level and to reach agreement on standards related to information exchange and sharing. These standards would facilitate interoperability of disparate information systems and offer new possibilities for the timely development of sustainable knowledge tools needed by Parties, a CoP decision knowledge base being a case in point.

Following these introductory remarks, representatives from the MEAs presented current KM initiatives, particularly with regard to making interoperable disparate systems of information. Participants representing existing information tools (Ecolex, InforMEA, TEMATEA) then discussed their possible contributions to the development of a KM strategy.

DELCL presented its current efforts to develop an "analytical index" for the topic of International Environmental Law. This index would seek to complement existing tools and WebPages and link them together through a guide based on environmental law terminology.

There was a great sense of urgency and enthusiasm amongst the participants, who brought different back-

grounds to the table but all represented international and non-governmental organizations devoted to safeguarding the environment. Throughout the meeting, the agenda was adjusted so as to allow for additional contributions from different participants, most notably a presentation on cutting edge Web 2.0 technologies that may facilitate greatly the development of new knowledge tools. Of special relevance to the meeting were the presentations by the chemical conventions on their synergies processes, which led to the development of a more harmonized approach to data sharing and exchange.

On the afternoon of the second day, participants broke out into working groups. These working groups made a number of recommendations that were further discussed during the third day of the meeting. Recommendations included a plan to move the idea of KM forward through a proof of concept project on interoperability of information such as calendars, focal points and contacts, strategic documents and COP decisions. An MEA KM long term strategy, initially based on this proof of concept note, would be developed in parallel to the project. Finally, participants agreed on a steering mechanism to guide this process. These recommendations will be presented to the executive secretaries of MEAs for consideration.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**CSD 18 BUREAU HOLDS FIRST MEETING, DSD ORGANIZES CLIMATE CHANGE SERIES FOR SECOND COMMITTEE**

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has prepared a note from the first meeting of the CSD 18 Bureau. The 25 September 2009 meeting, in New York, US, discussed preparations for and the organization of work for CSD 18, including whether to organize a ministerial dialogue with the heads of governing bodies of UN system organizations as part of the official programme, and the possibility of organizing a session on the implementation of CSD 17 decisions in the organization of work of CSD 18. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it will be conducting a capacity building seminar series for delegates of the Second Committee to enhance their understanding of the issues to be considered

under the current thematic cluster. And, the meeting was informed that SIDS Day during CSD 18 will serve as a preparatory committee for Mauritius+5. The next Bureau meeting will take place in Guatemala on 25 November 2009 (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_buremeet_1st.shtml).

In other news, the DSD has organized a series of special events on climate change for the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. A discussion on "Climate Change

Negotiations: Road to Copenhagen" took place on 13 October 2009, during which panelists sought to stimulate debate on how to reconcile differences among countries and ensure an ambitious outcome in Copenhagen. They also elaborated on the key elements for agreement at Copenhagen, including mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_ga101309.shtml; http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_meetwork.shtml).

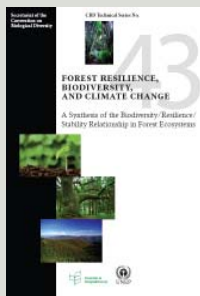


Delegates during the discussion on "Climate Change Negotiations: Road to Copenhagen"

► RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

FOREST RESILIENCE, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(CBD Secretariat, October 2009) This synthesis report on the biodiversity/resilience/stability relationship in forest ecosystems, produced



at the request of the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, strongly supports the conclusion that the capacity of forests to resist change, or recover following disturbance, is dependent on biodiversity at multiple scales. The findings are relevant for the further implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, as well as for efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-43-en.pdf>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION POPRC CONVENES, SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

The fifth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) of the Stockholm Convention is convening from 12-16 October 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. The 31 Committee members will review the chemicals proposed for listing in Annex A, B and/or C of the Convention, including short-chained chlorinated paraffins, endosulfan, and hexabromocyclododecane (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc5/>).

In other Stockholm Convention news, the Secretariat has launched a small

grant programme designed to channel bilateral donor funds for implementing the Convention through Stockholm Convention regional and sub-regional Centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology. The initial funding, provided by the Government of Norway for 2009, is US\$100,000, with the possibility of annual replenishment and expansion of the Programme. Two proposals will be selected from among those submitted by the regional centres. Interested centres are invited to submit their proposals to the Secretariat before 31 October 2009 (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/RegionalCentres/Small-GrantProgramme/tabid/630/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

IDB FUNDS SECOND-GENERATION BIOFUELS STUDY

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will fund a feasibility study in Chile to explore sustainable biodiesel derived from forest industry byproducts and wood waste, which do not compete with food production. The grant will help ForEnergy to initially build a facility for producing hydrogen and steam from

woodchips or other woody biomass through a gasification process. In a second phase, these gases will be converted into a type of biodiesel (<http://www.iadb.org/NEWS/detail.cfm?id=5733>).



Photo courtesy of IDB

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR CONVENES CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The first of a series of CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) workshops throughout the Ramsar regions took place in Ramsar, Iran, from 29 September-1 October 2009. The workshop brought together CEPA Focal Points, National Focal Points and other members of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities from seven countries, as well as representatives from two non-Contracting Parties, and focused on CEPA Action Planning. Under the current CEPA Programme of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution X.8, all parties are urged to develop a CEPA Action Plan at either the national, sub-national, catchment or local level, in order to identify priority activities that address recognized needs in the field of CEPA to support the wise use of wetlands (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24113_4000_0__).

New wetlands sites have been designated by Poland and the Czech Republic, and Burkina Faso. The Krkonose/Karkonosze subalpine peatbogs were added on 21 September 2009 to the list of Transboundary Ramsar Sites. These mountains mark the natural border be-



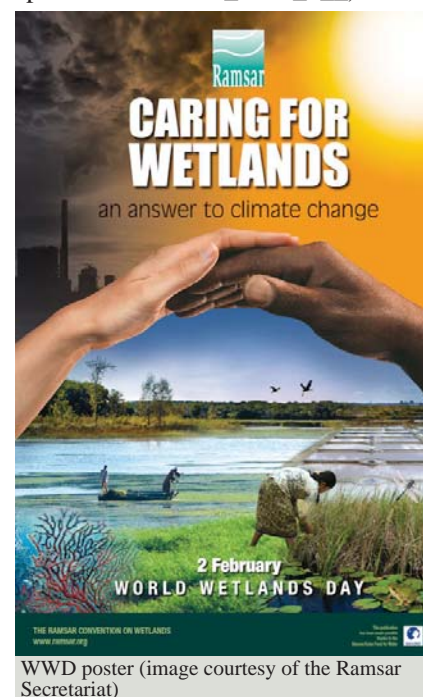
View of the Krkonose subalpine peatbog (photo courtesy of Ramsar)

tween Poland and the Czech Republic (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24120_4000_0__).

The Government of Burkina Faso has completed the process for designating twelve new Ramsar sites in varied locations, including natural as well as artificial lakes and permanent and seasonal rivers. Three of the sites are located at borders with neighboring countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Mali (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24099_4000_0__).

In other Ramsar news, the theme for World Wetlands Day (WWD)

on 2 February 2010 has been announced as "Caring for wetlands – an answer to climate change." WWD materials are available for download from the Ramsar website (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78^24106_4000_0__).



WWD poster (image courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD SECRETARIAT PRODUCES BROCHURE ON BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has produced a short brochure that describes the purpose and function of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in all six UN languages (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/bs-brochure-en.pdf>).

The CBD Secretariat has also published its Monthly Bulletin of Activities, including reports on: the EU high-level conference on “Visions for biodiversity beyond 2010 – people,

ecosystem services and the climate crisis” (7-9 September 2009, Ströms-tad, Sweden); a teleconference of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity (9 September 2009); the sub-regional capacity-building workshop on forest biodiversity and climate change (2-5 September 2009, Singapore City); and the African regional training of trainers’ workshop on the identification and documentation of living modified organisms under the Biosafety Protocol (14-18 September 2009, Bamako, Mali) (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/mba/2009/mba-2009-09-en.pdf>).

CHAIRS OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS CONVENE

The third meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions convened on 4 October 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting discussed the development of post-2010 biodiversity targets and options for improving collaboration and synergy on issues of common interest, among other issues (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CSAB-03>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP-SPONSORED MEETING ADDRESSES SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

Held from 5-9 October 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya, the second *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-II) discussed the findings of a gap analysis on the existing science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, options to strengthen such interface, and possible functions and governance structures of an intergovernmental science-policy platform. Most delegates

expressed support for a new mechanism that carries out assessments able to generate and disseminate policy-relevant advice, and agreed that a new mechanism should complement multilateral environmental agreement bodies, not replace them. Many countries also recognized that a new mechanism should harness local and traditional knowledge as a tool for conservation. Delegates agreed that the UNEP Executive Director should report at the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-11/GMEF) in February 2010 on the meeting’s outcome, and that the

UNEP GC should request to convene a third and final meeting to negotiate and decide whether to establish an IPBES (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/biodiv/ipbes2/>).

UNEP AND UNDP CONTRIBUTE TO GOVERNORS’ GLOBAL SUMMIT 2

The Governors’ Global Climate Summit 2, held from 30 September-2 October 2009, in Los Angeles, US, was co-hosted by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and California’s Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, among others. The Summit produced a declaration in which leaders present at the meeting committed to work together to pursue clean transportation and mobility, support national climate change legislation, and include forests in climate policy development. Participants further acknowledged the need for adaptation efforts and recognized the role of subnational governments in the discussions on the next global climate agreement being negotiated in Copenhagen (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2009/october/30-global-leaders-sign-declaration-in-advance-of-next-climate-agreement.en>).



Delegates during one of the plenary sessions of IPBES-II

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Fifth Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC-5):** 12-16 October 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc5/>
- **Open-Ended Working Group on Mercury:** 19-23 October 2009. Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/wginc1/>
- **CGRFA-12:** 19-23 October 2009. Rome, Italy. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cgrfa12/>
- **High-Level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer:** 22-23 October 2009. New Delhi, India. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml
- **IPCC-31:** 26-29 October 2009. Bali, Indonesia. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- **5th Biennial GEF International Waters Conference:** 26-29 October 2009. Cairns, Australia. http://iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/events/iwc5
- **CSD Regional Implementation Meeting for Africa:** 27-30 October 2009. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml