



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

#### CGRFA 12 ADOPTS STRATEGIC PLAN, DISCUSSES ABS ISSUES



L-R: Shivaji Pandey, FAO; Modibo Tiémoko Traoré, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, FAO; Chair Javad Mozafari Hashjin (Iran); Dan Leskien, CGRFA Secretariat; Kakoli Ghosh and Elcio Guimarães, FAO

The twelfth regular session of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA 12) was held from 19-23 October 2009, in Rome, Italy. It was preceded by a special information seminar on policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for genetic resources for food and agriculture, which convened on 17 October 2009. CGRFA 12 adopted: the Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for implementation of its multi-year programme of work; a resolution on policies and arrangements for ABS for genetic resources for food and agriculture; and a funding strategy for implementation of the Global Plan of Action for animal genetic resources. It also elected members for the Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups on plant, animal and forest genetic resources, and approved the outline of a report on the state of the world's forest genetic resources (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cgrfa12/>).

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### GUEST ARTICLE

#### UNEP-WCMC Reviews Progress towards CBD's Protected Area Targets

By Bastian Bomhard, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK

#### Abstract

In 2004, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the most comprehensive and specific protected area commitments ever agreed to by the international community.

*Continued on page 3*

### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

#### INVESTING IN REDD-PLUS

(The Forests Dialogue, October 2009) This resource reports on dialogues that engaged nearly 100 leaders from forest stakeholder groups between April and September 2009, and produced a consensus on financing for REDD-plus, including 26 recommendations ([http://www.itto.int/en/news\\_releases/id=2164](http://www.itto.int/en/news_releases/id=2164)).



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## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### CITES COP 15 AGENDA AND AMENDMENT PROPOSALS POSTED

In preparation for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretariat has posted on the website the meeting's agenda, as well as the amendment proposals to be considered, in the language and form they were received (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/doc/index.shtml>; [http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/raw\\_props.shtml](http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/raw_props.shtml)).

### BUSHMEAT LIAISON GROUP MEETS, CBD COP 10 AND 2010 IYB LOGOS LAUNCHED

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Liaison Group on Bushmeat held its first meeting from 15-17 October 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC). The meeting's objective was to develop policy recommendations for the sustainable use and conservation of bushmeat species. Recommendations addressed issues including sustainable wildlife management, climate change, forest concessions and certification, rights and tenure, good governance and partnerships, among others (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-10-21-bushmeat-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, Japan marked the one-year countdown to the

start of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the CBD by launching the COP 10 logo and slogan. The COP 10 logo was launched together with the International Year of Biodiversity logo (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-10-13-iyb-cop10-en.pdf>).

Finally, Somalia has deposited its instrument of accession and will become the 193rd Party to the CBD as of 10 December 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-10-16-somalia-en.pdf>).

### UNEP/CMS ESTABLISHES OFFICE IN ABU DHABI, WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF CMS MEETS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) have signed a donor agreement to establish a UNEP/Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) office in Abu Dhabi. The agreement follows an offer by EAD to fund and host an outposted office of the UNEP/CMS Secretariat, which will service CMS memoranda of understanding (MOU) on dugongs and on migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia, adopted in Abu Dhabi in October 2007 and October 2008 respectively ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10\\_october\\_09/EAD\\_UNEP\\_Donor.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10_october_09/EAD_UNEP_Donor.pdf)).



Elizabeth Mrema (center), CMS Officer-In-Charge, and Majid Al Mansouri (right), Secretary General of EAD, signed the agreement in a ceremony on 12 October 2009 at EAD's Headquarters



Participants of the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS

[int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10\\_october\\_09/EAD\\_UNEP\\_Donor.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10_october_09/EAD_UNEP_Donor.pdf)).

In other CMS-related news, the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Future Shape of CMS met from 19-20 October 2009, in Bonn, Germany, to review the first draft of a report dealing with the current organization of the CMS and its family of agreements. Progress was reported in refining the text of the report, prior to its submission to the CMS Standing Committee. The Working Group also started planning the next two stages of the process on the future shape, which is expected to culminate in the submission of three options to the next COP, due to convene in 2011 ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10\\_october\\_09/future\\_shape\\_wg\\_mtg\\_report.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10_october_09/future_shape_wg_mtg_report.pdf)).

In addition, the final Steering Committee meeting and project completion workshop for the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project were held from 12-15 October 2009, in Harbin, China. Participants reviewed the four participating countries' (China, Iran, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation) progress during the final project extension phase in 2009 and considered wrap-up activities to be conducted through the end of 2009 ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10\\_october\\_09/Sibe\\_crane\\_workshop.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/10_october_09/Sibe_crane_workshop.pdf)).

## ► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



### UNEP WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT LAUNCHED, UNEP FI 2009 GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE CONVENES

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with the UK Government, has launched a significant waste management project in southern Sudan. The project was launched with

a clean-up in Juba, which will be replicated across southern Sudan, coupled with a sustained awareness-raising campaign to encourage the citizens of Juba to adopt an environmentally friendly attitude towards the disposal of waste in the city. Under the project, the UNEP office in Juba will provide technical support to the Government to manage its forests and other valuable natural resources in a sustainable manner, and work to build the capacity of Government ministries to address environmental issues affecting Southern Sudan and implement the 24 recommendations of UNEP's Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=599&ArticleID=6346&l=en>).

The UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) convened its 2009 Global Round-

table in Cape Town, South Africa, from 22-23 October 2009. The meeting explored ways to achieve sustainable financial markets and economies. The Roundtable was intended to help frame discussions on international climate policy that are expected to impact the financial sector and international carbon markets. Several reports were launched at the meeting, including "Catalysing Low Carbon Growth in Developing Economies: public finance mechanisms to scale up private sector investment in climate solutions." This report was prepared based on case studies and made several recommendations related to, *inter alia*, country risk cover, low-carbon policy risk cover, and the public sector taking subordinated equity positions in low-carbon funds (<http://www.unepfi.org/index.html>).

**GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)**

These commitments, which comprise the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), seek to establish and maintain “comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative systems of protected areas” that, collectively, will significantly reduce the rate of loss of global biodiversity. The implementation of the PoWPA is thus expected to contribute to the three objectives of the CBD, the CBD’s strategic plan and 2010 biodiversity target, and the Millennium Development Goals.

More than 80 experts from more than 40 countries recently reviewed the implementation of the PoWPA at an international workshop held from 14-17 September 2009, on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. On this occasion, Charles Besançon, the Head of UNEP-WCMC’s Protected Areas Programme, presented a report on progress towards the CBD’s 2010 and 2012 targets for protected area coverage (the full report is available at: [http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected\\_areas/pubs.htm](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/pubs.htm)).

This report is a summary of recent studies by UNEP-WCMC and its partners in relation to one of the key

PoWPA goals: the establishment of a global network of comprehensive, representative and effectively managed national and regional protected area systems in the terrestrial realm by 2010 and in the marine realm by 2012. Key findings highlighted in the report include:

- Nationally designated protected areas cover 12.2% of the world’s land area, 5.9% of the world’s territorial seas, but only 0.5% of the world’s extraterritorial seas.
- 45% of 236 countries and territories have 10% or more of their terrestrial areas covered by protected areas, but only 14% of 194 countries and territories have 10% or more of their marine areas covered by protected areas.
- 13.5% of the world’s forest area is included in nationally protected areas; however, 46% of the 670 WWF terrestrial ecoregions with forest cover have less than 10% of their forest areas protected.
- 46% of the 821 terrestrial ecoregions analyzed and 82% of the 232 marine ecoregions have less than 10% of their area protected.

“Our report shows considerable progress in protection; however, it

also shows that the world is unlikely to achieve one of the key PoWPA targets, i.e. to effectively conserve at least 10% of each of the world’s ecological regions by 2010/2012,” noted Besançon. The report also indicates that further studies are urgently required to assess the protection status of the world’s mountains, islands, drylands and freshwater ecoregions.

UNEP-WCMC monitors progress towards the CBD’s 2010 and 2012 protected area targets using the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), the largest assembly of data on the world’s terrestrial and marine protected areas. The WDPA is a joint project of UNEP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), managed by UNEP-WCMC with the support of IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

See the reference at <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle79.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.*

► **WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS**

**RAMSAR AND UN-HABITAT DISCUSS COLLABORATION**

The Ramsar Secretariat and UN-HABITAT discussed joint efforts on sustainable management of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as the production of comprehensive guidance for managing urban wetlands, taking into account the ecosystem approach and issues such as climate change, ecosystem services, food production, human health and livelihoods. This collaboration will assist in accomplishing task 2.7 of Ramsar’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel’s Work Plan,

which will support parties in the implementation of resolution X.27 on wetlands and urbanization ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-76\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-76_4000_0__)).

In other Ramsar news, the Government of Argentina has designated a new Wetland of International Importance in the province of Tierra del Fuego, while the US Government has listed its 25th Ramsar site, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, in Florida ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-76\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-76_4000_0__)).



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat/Mike Knight)

► **FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**UNCCD RELEASES PARLIAMENTARIANS’ DECLARATION**

The Eighth Round Table of Members of Parliament, which met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 24-25 September 2009, in parallel with the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), developed a Declaration and identified commitments and future actions the Parliamentarians would take related to desertification. In the Declaration, Par-

liamentarians committed to strengthening the political will for UNCCD implementation ([http://www.unccd.int/parliament/docs/Buenos\\_A\\_-\\_Declaracion\\_2009-09-25%20final%20version.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/parliament/docs/Buenos_A_-_Declaracion_2009-09-25%20final%20version.pdf)). The Parliamentarians also developed Rules of Procedure for the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary network of the UNCCD ([http://www.unccd.int/parliament/docs/Rules%20of%20procedures\\_ENG-adopted%20version\\_25.09.09.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/parliament/docs/Rules%20of%20procedures_ENG-adopted%20version_25.09.09.pdf)), and identified steps they would take to support the Convention ([http://www.unccd.int/parliament/docs/Parliament\\_up-coming\\_ENG-adopted.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/parliament/docs/Parliament_up-coming_ENG-adopted.pdf)).

Also during COP 9, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Global Mechanism signed a memorandum of understanding at a side-event, with the aim of increasing their joint coordination of national assessments in the LAC region on the socio-economic benefits of investing in land (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/land-resources-underpin-national-economies/>).

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### UNFF AND ITTO AT FAO-HOSTED FORESTRY CONGRESS

Representatives of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), along with thousands of other participants, attended the World Forestry Congress from 18-23 October 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Government of Argentina, the Congress was themed "Forests in Development: A Vital Balance," and plenary and thematic sessions, as well as posters and side events, focused on: forests and biodiversity; producing for development; forests in the service of people; caring for our forests; development opportunities; organizing forest development; and people and forests in harmony. Participants at the Congress developed a declaration outlining nine findings and 27 strategic actions through which the "vital balance between forests and development can be improved," and a message from the organizers to the

fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 15) calling for urgent action on, *inter alia*, the promotion of sustainable forest management and recognition that forests are more than just carbon, the need to address climate change mitigation and adaptation concurrently, and the improvement of monitoring and assessment techniques.

During the Congress, the UNFF Secretariat hosted a side event to provide participants with an overview of the UNFF and its processes, the recently agreed Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (the Forest Instrument), and the Global Objectives on Forests. Presentations were made on the emerging cooperation within and outside the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on key issues including climate change, biodiversity, desertification and financing. UNFF Director Jan McAlpine also delivered addresses on the topics of wildlife associated with forests, as well

as a keynote address on "Forests – a critical part in the global development agenda" (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/forest/wfc13/>).

ITTO hosted two events: on ensuring that international trade in CITES-listed timber species is consistent with their sustainable management and conservation ([http://www.itto.int/en/workshop\\_detail/id=2141](http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2141)); and on promoting sustainable forest management in the tropics ([http://www.itto.int/en/workshop\\_detail/id=2142](http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2142)).

In other UNFF news, meeting documents for the UNFF 9 Special Session, which will convene on 30 October 2009, in New York, US, have been posted. The documents include the meeting's agenda, a message from the chair of the UNFF 9 Bureau, and the agreed text on means of implementation (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>).



UNFF Director Jan McAlpine

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### THIRD GEF-5 REPLENISHMENT MEETING DISCUSSES ALLOCATIONS FOR FOCAL AREAS

The third meeting of Participants for the Fifth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5) was held at the World Bank office in Paris, France, on 14-15 October 2009. Issues addressed included: the Fourth Overall Performance Study (OPS4); scenarios for GEF-5 reflecting increases of 50, 75, and 100% over GEF-4; the possibility of asymmetric increases in allocations for some focal areas and themes, including for climate change, POPs and ODS; and the desirability of a wider GEF involvement in chemicals, including mercury. Some participants also expressed support for a stronger focus on biodiversity, sustainable forest manage-

ment, land degradation, and international waters. A revised programming document will be prepared by the Secretariat by the end of October (<http://www.gefweb.org/uploadedfiles/GEF%205%20THIRD%20meeting%20Co-Chair%20Summary%2010152009.pdf>).

### WORLD BANK FUNDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES IN RWANDA

The World Bank approved, on 15 October 2009, an International Development Agency (IDA) grant for US\$4.5 million equivalent to improve the policy and institutional framework of Rwanda's renewable energy and energy efficiency sub-sectors and to increase private sector participation in the renewable energy sector. These objectives will be achieved

by building capacity in the Ministry of Infrastructure and the local private sector to design, launch and monitor sustainable energy projects (<http://go.worldbank.org/TZBL3I9PH0>).

In related news, the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) scheme, an initiative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is funding projects in Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Samoa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guatemala, Morocco, Namibia, Niger and Viet Nam. Each nation is expected to develop, plan and implement up to 20 community-level schemes, and it is hoped that communities in other countries will be able to replicate their successes (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32530&Cr=climate+change&Cr1>).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### ASIA-PACIFIC ADDRESSES ILLEGAL TRADE, OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

The Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network (MEA-REN) workshop convened in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 12-15 October 2009. Approximately 90 customs and environment officers from 24 Asia Pacific countries, together with experts from international organizations and nongovernmental organizations, gathered to analyze environmental crime trends and explore

further cooperation to address illegal trade in ozone depleting substance (ODS), harmful chemicals and hazardous wastes. Participants analyzed smuggling trends and shared best practices in fighting against the crime. Participants also discussed how to improve communication channels for informal information exchange and to make progress in developing common tools for data management and collaboration ([http://www.uneptie.org/ozon-action/information/mmcfiles/6315-e-ChiangmaiRENmeeting\\_PR\\_Oct09.pdf](http://www.uneptie.org/ozon-action/information/mmcfiles/6315-e-ChiangmaiRENmeeting_PR_Oct09.pdf)).

In other ozone news, the Ozone Secretariat has released additional documents in the lead up to the 21st session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 21), scheduled to convene in Port Ghalib, Egypt, from 4-8 November 2009. The documents include a compilation of draft decisions and proposed amendments to the Montreal Protocol (UNEP/OzL.Pro.21/3/Rev.1), and issues for discussion by and information for the attention of the MOP 21 (UNEP/OzL.Pro.21/2) (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### UNFCCC RELEASES DOCUMENTATION FOR RESUMED AWG SESSIONS



Logo courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

To facilitate negotiations amongst parties, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat has released documentation in the run up to the second 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), which will be held from 2-6 November in Barcelona, Spain, in conjunction with the resumed seventh session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 7).

A note by the AWG-KP Chair (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/10/Rev.2) outlines that documentation has been compiled in four addenda: addendum 1 contains proposed amendments to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to its Article 3, paragraph 9; addendum 2 contains other proposed amendments to the Kyoto Protocol; addendum 3 contains a compilation of proposals for elements of draft decisions on other issues identified in paragraph 49 (c) of document FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/8; and addendum 4 contains a compilation of proposals by parties for aggregate and individual figures for Annex I Parties (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/10r02.pdf>).

A revised addendum comprising a compilation of proposals and information relating to possible individual quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives and proposals from parties with regard to the scale of emission reductions to be achieved by Annex I parties in aggregate is contained in FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/10/Add.4/Rev.2 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/10a04r02.pdf>). An additional revised addendum (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/10/Add.3/Rev.2) consisting of draft decisions on other issues identified in paragraph 49 (c) of document (FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/8) has been published (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/10a03r02.pdf>).

An addendum to the provisional annotated agenda (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/11/Add.1) for AWG-KP 9 has also been published. The AWG-KP Chair intends to propose that the approach relating to the organization of work, which was adopted at the first part of AWG-KP 9, be maintained for the resumed session, including the

continuation of the established contact groups. Under other matters, the AWG-KP will be invited to consider the organization of work at AWG-KP 10 in order to enable the Group to present the results of its work to COP/ MOP 5 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg9/eng/11a01.pdf>).

The AWG-LCA scenario note has also been published (FCCC/AWG-LCA/2009/13). The document outlines the initial ideas of the Chair of the AWG-LCA on the objectives and organization of work. Parties are encouraged to concentrate their initial negotiations in Barcelona on some critical issues addressed in the current non-papers that are central to the task of the AWG-LCA and to consider whether certain detailed material now incorporated in the non-papers could be dealt with separately, for example in annexes or in complementary decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The scenario note includes suggestions to concentrate and accelerate discussions in Barcelona, and an indicative list of possible areas of initial concentration in the work of the AWG-LCA in Barcelona is proposed (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca7/eng/13.pdf>).

The UNFCCC held a Technical Workshop on Advancing the Integration of Approaches to Adaptation Planning from 12-14 October 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop, which was organized under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, was mandated by the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. Nearly 70 participants, representing governments and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, came together to discuss integrating and expanding adaptation planning at national, subnational and local levels, and to exchange views on lessons learned, good practices, gaps, needs, barriers and constraints to adaptation. The workshop also aimed to make progress on: collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge; and facilitating communication and cooperation among and between parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society, decision makers and other stakeholders (<http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12440e.pdf>).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released a note on National



L-R: UNFCCC Workshop Chair Helen Plume (New Zealand), and Roberto Acosta, UNFCCC Secretariat

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Data for the Period 1990-2007, which reported the "continuing growth in emissions from industrialized countries." The note reports that between 1990 and 2007, all Annex I Parties decreased their total aggregate GHG emissions excluding emissions/removals from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) by 3.9 per cent, and GHG emissions/removals including LULUCF by 5.2 per cent. Annex I Parties with economies in transition (Annex I EIT Parties) decreased GHG emissions excluding LULUCF by 37.0 per cent, and GHG emissions including LULUCF by 42.2 per cent. Annex I non-EIT Parties increased GHG emissions excluding LULUCF by 11.2 per cent and GHG emissions including LULUCF by 12.8 per cent (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/12.pdf>).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published an annual compilation and accounting report for Annex B Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/15). This document provides an overview of the information on initial accounting parameters for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol recorded in the compilation and accounting database for parties to the Convention that are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol with commitments inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Parties) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cmp5/eng/15.pdf>). An addendum to this document (FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/15/Add.1) contains detailed information on these accounting parameters for individual Annex B Parties (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cmp5/eng/15.pdf>).

The report of the 50th meeting of the Executive Board (EB) of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has been posted on the CDM website. The EB held its 50th meeting from 13-16 October 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand, and considered matters relating to CDM afforestation and reforestation projects, small-scale CDM projects, and the registration of CDM projects, among others (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/050/eb50rep.pdf>).

## ► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### UNDESA/DSD ORGANIZE MEETINGS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), has organized a series of special events on climate change for the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. A discussion on 19 October considered "Climate Change: Impacts and Threats," based on the Secretary-General's report "Climate Change and its Possible Security Implications." Speakers highlighted attention to mitigation, water, prevention of irreversible effects on ecosystems, education and

transboundary water-sharing institutions, among others ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_cc/cc\\_ga101909.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_ga101909.shtml)). A discussion on 26 October considered "Green Growth and Sustainable Development" ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_cc/cc\\_ga102609.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_ga102609.shtml)).

From 22-23 October 2009, participants gathered in New Delhi, India, at a high-level meeting on climate change, technology development and transfer that UNDESA and the Government of India co-organized. UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Sha Zukang opened the meeting, noting that the meeting would build on a similar conference that convened in Beijing,

China, in 2008, and suggested that the meeting could "send a clear message to Copenhagen that there is a way forward on technology cooperation and technology sharing." The final statement from the meeting indicates participants "believe that there is an urgent need to accelerate the large scale global deployment of environmentally-sound and climate-friendly technologies and to minimize the time lag between their initial development, transfer and deployment particularly in the developing countries," and suggests creating centres or networks of centres to stimulate deployment of technologies ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd\\_aofw\\_cc/cc\\_conf1009.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_cc/cc_conf1009.shtml)).

## ► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

### MERCURY OEWG AGREES RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR INC PROCESS

The *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to Prepare for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Mercury convened from 19-23 October 2009, in Bangkok, Thailand. The OEWG agreed to recommend rules of procedure to the INC, as well as inter-sessional work for the Secretariat to prepare documentation for the first meeting of the INC, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 7-11 June 2010, including options for structure of the instrument and a description of options for substantive provisions. Delegates also took part in information sessions on supply and storage of mercury, artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and products and process ([http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/wginc1/brief/brief\\_mercury.html](http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/wginc1/brief/brief_mercury.html)).

### STOCKHOLM CONVENTION POPRC-5 CONSIDERS THREE CHEMICALS

The fifth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-5) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) took place from 12-16 October 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. POPRC-5 addressed several operational issues, including: work programmes on new POPs; substitutions and alternatives; toxicological interactions; and activities

undertaken for effective participation in the work of the Committee. POPRC-5 also considered the draft risk profile for endosulfan and agreed to move it forward to the Annex F phase of the assessment process. The draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) was stalled at the Annex E phase. This decision was taken without prejudice to future decisions, and requests the Secretariat to analyze the risk management and risk reduction measures and present this information at POPRC-6 in 2010. The Committee also discussed whether hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) met the Annex D criteria for listing under the Stockholm Convention and agreed to move it to the Annex E phase (<http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/poprc5/>).

### UNEP AND FAO LAUNCH WEBSITE FOR SIMULTANEOUS EXCOP

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have launched a dedicated website for the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, scheduled to convene from 22-26 February 2010, in Bali, Indonesia. The website includes new information about the Advisory Committee on the ExCOPs and the Consultative Process on Options for Financing Chemicals and Wastes (<http://excops.unep.ch/>).

### ROTTERDAM CONVENTION RELEASES PROGRESS REPORT

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has released a progress report pertaining to activities undertaken from January to October 2009, towards the implementation of mandated activities for the period 2009-2011. The activities in this progress report include: training and awareness-raising meetings; trade related issues; working with customs authorities; fostering cooperation; follow-up to the synergies decision; the establishment of a joint Clearing House Mechanism; and partners in the regional delivery of technical assistance (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=94>).

### BASEL CONVENTION RELEASES GUIDANCE ON NATIONAL REPORTING

The Basel Convention Committee for administering the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance of the Convention has developed a guidance document on improving national reporting by parties to the Basel Convention. The document aims to provide a practical guide for the national technical officials responsible for the collection of information for the preparation of the national reports that are to be submitted annually to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (<http://www.basel.int/latestadd.html>).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Sixth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity:** 2-6 November 2009. Montréal, Canada. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wg8j-6/>
- **Barcelona Climate Change Talks 2009:** 2-6 November 2009. Barcelona, Spain. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/rccwg7/>
- **Twenty-first meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer:** 4-8 November 2009. Port Ghalib, Egypt. <http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop21/>
- **Forty-fifth session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees:** 9-14 November 2009. Yokohama, Japan. <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/ittc45/>