



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

ABS 8 ADOPTS CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT, ESTABLISHES INTERSESSIONAL PROCESS

The eighth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS 8) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from 9-15 November 2009, in Montreal, Canada. The Working Group on ABS continued the negotiation of an international regime



The newly formed "Like-Minded in Spirit Group of Women."

on ABS, in view of its mandate to finalize the international regime and to submit an instrument/instruments to effectively implement the provisions in Articles 15 and 8(j) of the Convention and its three objectives for consideration and adoption by COP 10 in October 2010. During the course of the meeting, ABS 8 delegates addressed operative text on the components of the regime, including traditional knowledge, capacity building, compliance, benefit-sharing and access. Delegates also discussed the legal nature of the regime. The meeting adopted the Montreal Annex, consisting of a single, consolidated draft on the international regime, and a second annex on proposals for operational texts left in abeyance for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group also established an intersessional process leading up to ABS 9, including a Friends of the Co-Chairs group to convene in late January 2010, and a Co-Chairs' inter-regional informal consultation to convene in March 2010. A series of regional and inter-regional consultations will also be held during the intersessional period before ABS 9, scheduled to be held from 22-28 March 2010, in Cartagena, Colombia (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/abs8/>).

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CITES Publishes List of Proposals;
CMS and Bern Convention Sign
MoC Page 2
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
Adaptation Fund Board to Locate
in Bonn; World Bank Organizes
Roundtable; GEF Meetings
Convene Page 3
- **Sustainable Development**
DSD Knowledge Partnership
Releases Publications Page 3
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC Prepares for Copenhagen;
MOP 21 and Implementation
Committee Reports Released Page 4
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm and Rotterdam Convene
Workshop; Simultaneous ExCOP
Advisory Committee Report
Released Pages 4-5
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNFF CLI Makes Recommendations;
ITTC 45 Pledges US\$9.3 Million;
UNCCD Posts COP 9 Report Pages 5-6
- **International Organizations**
UNEP Co-Hosts Workshop on
Climate Impact in Kenya Page 6
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
Ramsar Partnership Hosts
Workshop on Carbon Offsets Page 6

GUEST ARTICLE

The Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention ushers in a new era for the 1992 agreement

By Sonja Koepfel and Francesca Bernardini, Water Convention Secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Abstract

From 10-12 November 2009 in Geneva, the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International

Continued on page 2

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL MITIGATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: OPTIONS FOR CAPTURING SYNERGIES

(FAO, 2009) This paper explores potential synergies between food security, adaptation and climate change mitigation from land-based agricultural practices in developing countries. The paper suggests, *inter alia*, that the UNFCCC's SBSTA be mandated to work on methodological issues and possible parameters for frameworks for implementation, including a coordinated set of pilot activities (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/ak596e/ak596e00.pdf>).

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

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Lakes (Water Convention) tackled a number of challenges in transboundary water cooperation and ushered in a new era for the Convention.

The Meeting took an historic step forward by adopting the *Guide to Implementing the Convention* – a comprehensive commentary that provides explanations of the Convention's legal, administrative, technical and practical requirements as well as examples illustrating good practices in the UNECE region. A second important breakthrough was the mandate given to the Convention's Legal Board to explore options for a mechanism to support implementation and compliance. Such a mechanism will provide Parties with a clear and permanent forum to resort to for advice and support. A proposal for such a mechanism will be considered by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

Another unique instrument adopted by the Meeting is the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*, which gives advice to countries on how to cope with the uncertainties of climate change together and to effectively tackle its impacts in a concerted way. The *Guidance* is considered to be an important contribution to the upcoming COP 15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and will be launched during a COP 15 unofficial side event in the Dutch Pavilion.



The dais during the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (photo courtesy of UNECE)

The session also welcomed the progress achieved under the National Policy Dialogues in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia under the EU Water Initiative, carried out since 2007 by UNECE in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. New Dialogues will start in Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkmenistan in 2010. And the Meeting's first ever high-level segment focused on Central Asia, as this subregion is one of the priority areas of work for the Convention.

Additional decisions of the Meeting of the Parties included: endorsement of the *Safety guidelines and good practices for tailing management facilities*, which should help Governments to provide leadership and create administrative frameworks for the safer development, operation and decommissioning of tailing management facilities; and agreement on the road map for preparing the *Second Assessment of transbound-*

ary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in UNECE region, to be issued at the Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2011). The Parties also agreed on the workplan for 2010-2012 and decided to establish a programme of pilot projects to assist Parties with implementing the Convention and making use of the guidance documents developed under the Convention. Finally, parties showed a firm intention to make the 2003 amendments enter into force by 2012, though which the Water Convention would be open to accession by any member of the United Nations.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle81.html>

Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

Continued from page 1

In other CBD-related news, the second issue of [square brackets], CBD newsletter for civil society, has been published to coincide with ABS 8. It includes messages from the CBD Secretariat and the CBD Alliance, and articles on the ABS negotiations, community-based management of medicinal plants in Saint Katherine, Egypt, and bio-cultural community protocols, among others (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/square-brackets/square-brackets-2009-11.html>).

A page has been created on the CBD website to facilitate the peer-review of the draft documents prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14), sched-

uled to be held from 10-21 May 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya (<http://www.cbd.int/sbstta14/review/>).

Finally, the website of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity was launched in Montreal, Canada (<http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>).

CITES SECRETARIAT PUBLISHES LIST OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE APPENDICES

In preparation for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held from 13-25 March 2010, in Doha, Qatar, the CITES Secretariat has published a list of proposals to amend the CITES appendices (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2009/E047.pdf>).

CMS AND BERN CONVENTION SIGN MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) have signed a memorandum of cooperation, on the occasion of their common 30th anniversary (http://www.cms.int/press/pressreleases/Bern_%20Bonn_Conventions_Press_Release.pdf).

In other news, the CMS Secretariat is posting documents relating to the 36th meeting of the CMS Standing Committee, to be held from 2-3 December 2009, in Bonn, Germany, as they become available (http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/36th_stc_documents.htm).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD ACCEPTS OFFER TO LOCATE IN BONN

The latest meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) took place on 16-18 November 2009, in Bonn, Germany. The AFB, among other decisions: adopted Operational Policies and Guidelines; approved the creation of a standing Accreditation Panel for accrediting the proposed National Implementing Entities (NIE) and Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIE); agreed to issue a call for experts to serve on the Panel; and invited the Kyoto Protocol parties to submit nominations for National Implementing Entities (NIEs) for accreditation and to access fund resources directly. The AFB also accepted the offer by Germany to confer legal capacity and to host the AFB in Bonn. The Secretariat for the AFB will remain in Washington, DC, US, hosted by the GEF. The World Bank serves as its trustee (<http://www.adaptation-fund.org/pressreleases.html>).

WORLD BANK ORGANIZES ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

On 18 November 2009, the World Bank and First Peoples Worldwide organized a roundtable on *Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change*, which met in Washington DC, US. The event brought together indigenous peoples representatives from around the world as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and bilateral and international organizations to exchange ideas, forge partnerships, and create synergies to map the way forward for an Indigenous Peoples Climate Action Fund (IPCAF)

(<http://go.worldbank.org/OWUZY-PO920>).

In other World Bank news, close to US\$5 million was awarded to 26 climate adaptation projects through the Global Development Marketplace Awards. Winning projects include SZTR Sunce's initiative to mitigate the effects of climate change induced bacterial blooms on commercial fishponds (Serbia); the University of Los Baños 'Bell and Bottle' initiative – providing a low cost, high efficacy flood and landslide warning system (the Philippines); and the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan's idea to build elevated bamboo houses, essentially lifting communities in flood zones out of harm's way (Ecuador) (<http://go.worldbank.org/EMV9R16LJ0>).

GEF COUNCIL, GEF-5 REPLENISHMENT AND CLIMATE FUNDS MEETINGS CONVENE

The 36th meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council took place in Washington DC, from 10-12 November 2009, and adopted a new allocation framework, the System for a Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), to be applied to the fifth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-5). Resources in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation will thus be distributed following STAR criteria, which will result in every country receiving a minimum of US\$2 million for climate change, \$1.5 million for biodiversity, and \$0.5 million for land degradation. The maximum a country may get is \$300 million for the above-mentioned focal areas.

The Council also approved a work program comprising 34 project con-

cepts worth US\$159.29 million and decided on the dates of its next meeting to be held in the weeks of 29 June and 15 November 2010.

The fourth meeting for the GEF-5 Replenishment also took place in the same venue on 13 November 2009. Participants welcomed the Russian Federation as new donor to GEF-5, and continued discussions on the level of funding and focus of GEF-5. The next meeting of GEF-5 is, subject to confirmation, scheduled for February 2010 in Rome.

On 12 November 2009 the Council of the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund (LDCF/SCCF) also met and approved a project in Brazil and another one in Jordan (http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=17146).

In other GEF news, a US\$3 million Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) grant, funded by the GEF, was approved for Colombia to use for the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity in the Seaflower Marine Protected Area in the Caribbean Sea. The grant will help implement a management plan for the marine protected area, which was designed through a participatory process with the local communities, and seeks to both preserve biodiversity and long-term economic use of marine and coastal resources (<http://www.iadb.org/NEWS/detail.cfm?id=5903>).

In addition, the GEF was recognized with its partners for an environmentally-sound transit project in Mexico City with Harvard University's Roy Family Award for Environmental Partnership (http://www.gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=27532).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP RELEASES PUBLICATIONS

A new series of policy briefs has been launched by the Sustainable Development Knowledge Partnership (SDKP), which was established with the goal of organizing the available knowledge on sustainable development and making it available to policy makers and practitioners in more accessible and user friendly formats. The SDKP was founded during a May 2009 meeting entitled "Conclave of Thought Leaders: The Future of Sustainable Development," which convened in New York, US, in parallel to the annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The UN Division for Sustain-

able Development (DSD) is serving temporarily as the Secretariat of the Partnership. The policy briefs, called "Sustainable Development Insights," have been launched in collaboration with the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, of Boston University, which is managing and hosting the publication series. The first two papers are titled "Pushing 'Reset' on Sustainable Development," by Alan Atkisson, and "Rio + 20: Another World Summit?," by Miquel Muñoz and Adil Najam (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sdkp/sdkp_index.shtml).

Image: Cover of "Rio + 20: Another World Summit? (image courtesy of Boston University)



► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

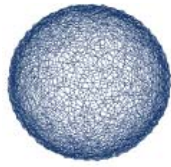
Major preparations are under way in the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with less than two weeks remaining before the opening of the anticipated 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC, which will take place from 7-18 December 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its fifth session (COP/MOP 5), the 31st sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 31) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 31), the tenth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 10), and the eighth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 8). In addition to other activities, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released a number of documents, including an addendum (FCCC/CP/2009/1/Add.1) to the provisional annotated COP agenda, which provides an overview of additional information regarding arrangements for the sessions and the high-level segment. The agenda states that the Government of Denmark intends to invite all Heads of State and government to come to Copenhagen and to close COP 15 at the summit level on 18 December, where they will receive the results of negotiations launched by decision 1/CMP.1 and decision 1/CP.13 (the Bali Action Plan) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/01a01.pdf>). The supplementary provisional annotated agenda (FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/1/Add.1) for COP/MOP 5 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cmp5/eng/01a01.pdf>), and the provisional annotated agenda (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/15) for AWG-KP 10, have also been released (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg10/eng/15.pdf>).

A note (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/10/Rev.3) by the Chair of the AWG-KP on documentation to facilitate negotiations among parties during AWG-KP 10 has also been published. The documentation prepared by the AWG-KP Chair under his own responsibility, building on the work of previous sessions is compiled in four addenda (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg10/eng/10r03.pdf>).

In other Kyoto Protocol news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a note (FCCC/SBI/2009/INF.9) that provides information on the status of submissions and review of fourth national communications, and of reports demonstrating progress under the Kyoto Protocol, from Annex I parties. This report will be considered by SBI 31 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/inf09.pdf>).

Regarding the AWG-LCA, eight further submissions (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.6/Add.1) from parties on ideas and proposals on the elements contained in paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan have been received (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca7/eng/misc07a01.pdf>). The UNFCCC Secretariat has also received four further submissions (FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/MISC.7/Add.1) from intergovernmental organizations (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca7/eng/misc06a01.pdf>).

Under technology transfer, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released an advance report by the Chair of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) evaluating its work in 2008-2009 and presenting its 2010-2011 work programme, to be considered by SBSTA 31 and SBI 31. The Report of the EGTT for 2009 (FCCC/SB/2009/INF.6) focuses on the EGTT's work to date (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sb/eng/inf06.pdf>). An advance summary of the final report by the Chair of EGTT on "Performance indicators to monitor and evaluate the ef-



COP15
COPENHAGEN
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009
Logo courtesy
of the UNFCCC
Secretariat

fectiveness of the implementation of the technology transfer framework" (FCCC/SB/2009/4) has also been published and will be considered at SBSTA and SBI 31 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sb/eng/04sum.pdf>).

On capacity building, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a report (FCCC/SBI/2009/10) on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries, to be considered by SBI 31. The report has been prepared to support annual monitoring and evaluation by the SBI of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/10.pdf>).

Regarding the Clean Development Mechanism, the report and annexes of the 23rd meeting of CDM Small Scale Working Group (SSC WG) have been released. The meeting took place from 27-30 October 2009, in Bonn, Germany, and considered issues relating to baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale CDM project activities (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ssc_wg/meetings/023/ssc_023_rep.pdf). The proposed agenda, annotated agenda and draft work programme for the 51st meeting of the CDM Executive Board are now available. EB 51 will convene from 30 November-4 December 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark, to consider issues relating to the operation of the CDM (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/051/eb51annag.pdf>).

MOP 21 AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE REPORTS RELEASED

The Ozone Secretariat has released advance copies of the report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Parties (MOP 21) and the Forty-third Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol. The advance reports are available in English only (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-9E.pdf and http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/impcom/IMP-COM-43-5E.pdf).

The Ozone Secretariat has released advance copies of the report of the Twenty-first Meeting of the Parties (MOP 21) and the Forty-third Meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol. The advance reports are available in English only (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-9E.pdf and http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/impcom/IMP-COM-43-5E.pdf).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SIMULTANEOUS EXCOP ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT RELEASED

The report of the second meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (ExCOP) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions has been released. The meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24 October 2009 and discussed the issues to be considered by the ExCOP, the consultative process on financing options for

chemicals and wastes, and the voluntary trust fund budget. The Advisory committee concluded that matters related to the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes would be considered by the UN Environment Programme Governing Council Special Session, as opposed to the ExCOP (<http://excops.unep.ch/documents/advcom/ac4.pdf>).

In other synergies news, the Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination

for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in South America is convening from 23-25 November, in Montevideo, Uruguay. The emphasis of the meeting is on identifying synergies and linkages at the national level as a way to foster compliance with the Conventions' requirements (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/TechnicalAssistance/hrTrainingWorkshops/SouthAmerica/tabid/662/mctl/ViewDetails/Event-ModID/1007/EventID/82/xmid/2551/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM AND ROTTERDAM CONVENTIONS CONVENE WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN REVIEW COMMITTEES

The first joint workshop of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for Effective Participation in the Review Committees' Work convened in Cairo, Egypt, from 17-19 November 2009. The objective of the workshop was to support the effective participation of parties and stakeholders in the work of the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC), and to improve information sharing on chemicals. The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to share experiences and challenges in chemicals management, and develop suggestions on improving the efficiency of the work of the two committees at the national level. Participants also highlighted the

need for further guidance and assistance for implementing the requirements of both Conventions, especially in view of the nine chemicals recently included in the Stockholm Convention (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77>; IIS-DRS sources).

In other Stockholm Convention news, the POPRC is calling on parties and observers to provide Annex F (risk management evaluation) information on endosulfan, and Annex E (draft risk profile) information on hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), and short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/POPsReviewCommittee/hrPOPRCMeetings/POPRC5/POPRC5Followupcommunications/tabid/644/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

In other Rotterdam Convention news, the Secretariat convened sub-regional training and awareness-raising for Designated National Authorities (DNAs)

and relevant stakeholders on the Implementation of the Rotterdam Convention and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Pretoria, South Africa, from 2-6 November 2009. The objectives of the training workshop were to assist new parties including Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi and Uganda, as well as parties that have recently nominated new DNAs to meet their obligations under the Convention and strengthen their capacity to implement the Convention. Opportunities to strengthen co-operation at the national and sub-regional level and on joint implementation of other MEAs were discussed, and the importance of regional entities, including the African Institute and the Southern African Development Community as well as the role of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Environment Programme in promoting regional cooperation, were stressed (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=367>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



A view of the beautiful scenery along the Lijiang river

UNFF CLI MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON FORESTS FOR PEOPLE

The Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in support of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) met from 17-20 November 2009, in Guilin, China, focusing on forests for people and the role of national forest programmes (NFPs) and the Non-Legally Binding Instruments on All Types of Forests (NLBI). Participants gathered to share experiences and lessons learned in the use of NFPs to achieve sustainable forest management (SFM) and as a means to implement the NLBI. During plenary, participants heard presentations on: forests for people in the context of the NLBI, NFPs and the UNFF; global and regional activities to promote forests for people contributing to the implementation of NFPs and the NLBI; and NFPs as a tool to facilitate stakeholder participation in promoting forests for people and implementing the NLBI. Delegates also heard country experiences and lessons learned in implementing NFPs and the NLBI to improve livelihoods and eradicate poverty. Throughout the meeting, partici-

pants also convened in working group sessions on: policy, legal and institutional frameworks; sustainable production of goods and services; national arrangements to mobilize finance; and capacity building and participatory approaches. A Co-Chairs' summary report, listing conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, was prepared and will be submitted for consideration by the UNFF at its ninth session in 2011 (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/forest/clic2009/>).

ITTC 45 PLEDGES US\$9.3 MILLION FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

The 45th session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC 45) and the associated sessions of its four Committees convened in Yokohama, Japan, from 9-14 November 2009. At this session the Council considered: implementation of the Biennial Work Programme 2008-2009, and activities to be included under the Biennial Work Programme for 2010-2011; and the current status of implementation of the International Tropical Timber Organization Thematic Programmes, including on Reducing

Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDD), and on Tropical Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET). The Council also reviewed the status of the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006, and discussed the frequency and location of future Council sessions.

Delegates also convened the 43rd sessions of the Committees on Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Forest Industry, and Reforestation and Forest Management to approve projects and pre-projects, review projects and pre-projects under implementation and ex-post evaluations, and conduct policy work. The 23rd session of the Committee on Finance and Administration also met to discuss, *inter alia*, the administrative budget, the current status of the Administrative Account, and resources of the Special Account and the Bali Partnership Fund. A total of US\$9.3 million in new funding was announced, including US\$2 million towards Thematic Programmes on Community-Based Forest Management, and on Enterprise and Trade and Market Transparency (<http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/itto/ittc45/>). In addition, ITTC-45 awarded 22 fellowships to recipients from 16 different countries, including seven female fellows. The Freezailah Fellowship Fund promotes human resource development and strengthens professional expertise in member countries in tropical forestry and related disciplines (http://www.itto.int/fellowship_detail/id=2190).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD POSTS COP 9 REPORT

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification has posted the report of the Conference of the Parties on its Ninth Session (COP 9), which convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 September-2 October 2009 (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cop9/pdf/18eng.pdf>). A document with the decisions taken at COP 9 has also been posted (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/officialdocs/cop9/pdf/18add1eng.pdf>),

along with the slides from a presentation in which Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja summarized the COP 9 outcomes, including the outputs from the Round Tables of ministers and high-ranking officials and of Members of Parliament (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop9/docs/Final%20COP%209%20Outcomes%20Revised.pdf>).

The President of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentarians Networks of the UNCCD, Aristides Lima,

President of the National Assembly of Cape Verde, delivered the Round Table's message on Food Security to the World Food Summit on 18 November 2009. The Round Table's Declaration on Food Security in the drylands underlines that there is no human security without food security and that enabling legislation to combat desertification is necessary, among other issues (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/docs/ParliamentariansMessage.pdf>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP CO-HOSTS WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE IMPACT IN KENYA AND LAUNCHES CLEAN UP PROGRAMME IN SUDAN

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Swedish Government co-hosted a climate change conference on 11 November 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya, to raise awareness of the implications of climate change for Kenya's economy and vulnerable groups. The

conference focused on the hope of African countries for an inclusive, fair and effective outcome in the Copenhagen climate negotiations that prioritizes adaptation and recognizes that the continent has an urgent need for support (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=602&ArticleID=6368&l=en&t=long>).

In other UNEP news, the agency has launched a £1 million project, funded

by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), to begin building a sustainable waste management system for Juba, Sudan. The project was launched with a clean-up that saw over 16,000 volunteers taking to the streets to tackle the growing health hazard caused by public dumping of waste in the town (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=602&ArticleID=6377&l=en&t=long>).

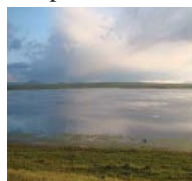
► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR PARTNERSHIP HOSTS WORKSHOP ON CARBON OFFSETS, STRP COMPILES DECISIONS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Danone-IUCN-Ramsar partnership hosted a three-day expert workshop on "Achieving carbon offsets through mangroves and other wetlands," from 9-11 November 2009, in Gland, Switzerland. Participants: considered mechanisms for crediting delivery of carbon offsets in mangroves and other wetlands, through wetland restoration projects that are in line with the principles and practices of the Ramsar Convention; identified which types of wetlands can be readily restored and over what timeframes, and for which types of wetland current carbon measurement methodologies can be readily applied; and identified available results and mechanisms for elaborating carbon evaluation in mangroves (<http://earthmind.net/wetcarbon/workshop.htm>).

The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention has compiled a briefing note based on recent decisions adopted by Ramsar contracting parties and on recent information and recommendations provided by the STRP in relation to wetlands and climate change. The note was prepared to serve as an aide-memoire for preparations for, and during, the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, to ensure that wetland issues are given due consideration (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/strp/strp_briefing_climate_2009_e.pdf).

In other Ramsar news, new Wetlands of International Importance have been designated in Turkey, the Central African Republic and Seychelles. Turkey's Ministry of Environment and Forestry has designated Lake Kuyucuk (Kuyucuk Gölü)



Lake Kuyucuk
(photo courtesy of Ramsar)

as Turkey's 13th Wetland of International Importance, protecting one of the most important wetlands of Kars province in northeastern Turkey (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24238_4000_0__). The Central African Republic has benefited from a Ramsar Swiss Grant for Africa project, "Establishment of a network of Ramsar sites along the Congo Rivers," to complete the process of designating its second Wetland of International Importance, Rivière Sangha, a National Park and Nature Reserve (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24194_4000_0__). Seychelles has designated as its second Wetland of International Importance the Aldabra Atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage site (1982) in the Western Indian Ocean (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24187_4000_0__).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **CSD Regional Implementation Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean:** 26-27 November 2009. Antigua, Guatemala. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml
- **CSD Regional Implementation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific:** 30 November-1 December 2009. Bangkok, Thailand. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml
- **UNEP High Level Expert Meeting on the New Future of Human Rights and Environment:** 30 November-1 December 2009. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.unep.org/environmental-governance/Events/HumanRightsandEnvironment/tabid/2046/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **CSD Regional Implementation Meeting for Europe:** 1-2 December 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml
- **Copenhagen Climate Change Conference:** 7-18 December 2009. Copenhagen, Denmark. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop15/>