



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE GETS UNDERWAY



IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri during the Opening Ceremony

The United Nations Climate Change Conference opened in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 7 December and is scheduled to conclude on 18 December 2009. The conference includes the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5).

The conference marks the culmination of a two-year negotiating process to enhance international climate change cooperation under the Bali Roadmap, adopted by COP 13 in December 2007. More than one hundred world leaders are also expected to attend the joint COP and COP/MOP high-level segment from 16-18 December.

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Climate and Atmosphere**
OzonAction Organizes Journalist Competition *Pages 2-3*
- **Sustainable Development**
Preparations for CSD 18 Underway *Page 3*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Basel Releases Report on Regional Centres; UNEP Releases Documents for ExCOP *Pages 3-4*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Holds Conference on Business and Biodiversity; CMS Standing Committee Meets; CITES and Interpol Join Forces *Page 4*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD Reports on IMG on Land *Page 5*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
GEF Videos Highlight Projects; MDBs and IMF Call for a Copenhagen Deal *Page 5*
- **International Organizations**
UNEP Convenes Human Rights and Environment Meeting *Page 6*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
UNGA Adopts Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; Ramsar Parties Designate Wetlands of International Importance *Page 6*

GUEST ARTICLE

Global Partnership on Nutrient Management Taking Shape

By David Osborn, Coordinator, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)

Abstract

Nutrients, such as nitrogen, are a key part of delivering food security and sustainable development. But excess use and inefficient practices lead to nutrient over-enrichment, causing soil acidification, groundwater pollution, and the undermining of marine and

Continued on page 2

CLIMATE BENEFITS FROM OZONE LAYER PROTECTION: LOW HANGING FRUITS

(UN, 2009) This resource includes a background section on ozone protection and climate change and focuses on the issue of phasing down hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) use. It also provides a summary of the UN Department of Public Information nongovernmental (NGO) briefing on the ozone layer. The publication contains a summary of presentations and of the question and answer session held with ozone experts (<http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmc/files/6318-e-DPINGObklt09.pdf>).

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GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

coastal ecosystems and the services and livelihoods they support. A recent article in *Nature* suggests that the additional amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus activated by humans are now so large that they significantly perturb the global cycles of these two important elements.

Our challenge is to optimize the use of nutrients to realize food security while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and human health. The complexity of nutrient-related issues requires special attention in the political domain: policy integration that deals with air, water, soil, agriculture and commerce is the key. It will also require sound and efficient means for exchange of information between the scientific community and policy makers from local to national and international scales.

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), a partnership of scientists, policy makers, private sector, NGOs and international organizations, was formed to address the growing problem of nutrient over-enrichment. The partnership will provide a web-based platform, presenting information on major emission sources and impacts, cross-media transfer of nutrients, environmental costs of over-enrichment, and an identification and analysis of impacts in coastal areas and marine ecosystems.

The Partnership was launched formally by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on 6 May 2009, at the UN's Commission on Sustain-

able Development, in collaboration with the Governments of the United States and the Netherlands. Other key partners are the Governments of Italy and Germany, the European Union, the International Fertilizer Association (IFA), the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The first partnership meeting was held on 22-23 October 2009, in The Hague, the Netherlands, where developed and developing country participants discussed the landscape of nutrient issues, practices and research across the world's regions; agreed on a draft Action Plan for the Partnership; and identified a number of initiatives for the Partnership to foster in the short term. A steering committee was established to give structure and guidance, and opportunities identified for regional partnership meetings on the way to a full meeting of partners in New Delhi, India, in December 2010. The meeting also discussed how to share information and best practices through the newly designed web-based platform.

Facilitating implementation partnerships between and within countries will be a key focus. Using the web-based information provided by the GPNM, such partnerships involving stakeholders from different countries and disciplines will be able to identify the necessary research, policies, partners, tools and training to make informed, on-the-ground interventions. In turn, information, approaches and lessons learned from these interventions would be made available to all partners for future use.

The challenge will be to move from establishing a web-based platform as an effective information tool – the immediate focus of activity – to using the Partnership to broker and foster concrete interventions and capacity building, including strengthened assessment.

The identification by partners of a number of opportunities augurs well, as does the sense, fostered by the meeting, of an emerging 'community of nutrient stakeholders.' Interventions and activity will need to be complementary and focused given the role of key agencies and organizations in the nutrient field and the multiplicity of nutrient related issues.

The GPNM will be a key initiative to help implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), a non-binding multi-lateral environmental agreement addressing the links between watersheds and coastal systems using an ecosystem management approach. The 2006 inter-governmental review of the GPA in Beijing prioritized action on nutrients in regard to the GPA's marine and coastal focus of action. UNEP GPA provides the Secretariat for the GPNM.

For more information, please visit <http://www.gpa.unep.org/>

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.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Continued from page 1

COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 are convening in conjunction with the thirty-first sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 31) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 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 UNFCCC (AWG-LCA 8).

The focus in Copenhagen is on the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP, which are the main bodies under the Bali Action Plan (BAP). AWG-LCA 8 has agreed to work

through one contact group and is expected to draft texts on all the elements of the BAP for consideration by the COP. It is also discussing the legal nature of the "agreed outcome" on which parties have expressed differing views throughout 2009. AWG-KP 10 is continuing to work through four contact groups on Annex I emission reductions, other matters, potential consequences and legal matters. The emphasis of the AWG-KP's work is on Annex I emission reductions. All groups are focusing on preparing draft COP/MOP decisions or Protocol amendments. Both AWGs are scheduled to conclude their work on 15 December, and their Chairs will report the results to COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 respectively

on 16 December. One of the main issues before the COP is the AWG-LCA's report. The COP's provisional agenda also includes items such as: five proposals for new protocols submitted by parties under Convention Article 17 (protocols); a proposal by Malta to amend Annex I of the Convention; financial mechanisms national communications; technology; and capacity building. The COP/MOP agenda includes the AWG-KP's report and consideration of proposals by parties to amend the Kyoto Protocol. The COP/MOP will also consider issues such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), joint implementation (JI), the Adaptation Fund and compliance (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop15/>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE: A TIME FOR TRANSFORMATION

(AU, AfDB, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, NEPAD, and World Bank, 2009) This report indicates that Africa has the weakest infrastructure in the world, and in some countries in Africa people often pay twice as much for basic services as elsewhere. The report looks at energy, water, transport and ICT, and suggests that US\$93 billion is needed to improve Africa's infrastructure, with half of the investments to facilitate access to energy (http://www.infrastructureafrica.org/aicd/system/files/WB147_AIATT_Consolidated_rx8.pdf).

THE WAY FORWARD: RESEARCHING THE ENVIRONMENT AND MIGRATION NEXUS

(UNU-IEHS, 2009) This brief, written by Marc Stal and Koko Warner and published by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-IEHS), focuses on the links and implications of climate change and environmental degradation for migration and policy. It recommends that research should focus on providing best practice solutions as well as a set of options to manage the impacts of environmentally induced, in particular climate-related, migration (<http://www.ehs.unu.edu/article:848?menu=2>).

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

OZONACTION LAUNCHES COMPETITION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction Programme, in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Communication and Public Information (DCPI) and UNEP's regional Offices, has announced a competition for young journalists. To be considered, young journalists must have published an article on the interlinkage between

the stratospheric ozone layer protection and climate change issues in the context of science, impacts, alternative technologies or policies. The competition closes 31 December 2009 (http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/ozone2climate/journalists_competition.pdf).



Image courtesy of UNEP

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PREPARATIONS FOR CSD UNDERWAY

The Chair of the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18), Luis Alberto Ferraté, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala, has offered a summary of the topics to be discussed during the May 2010 session in his "Message from the Chair" (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_burechaimess.shtml). Also in preparation for CSD 18, all of the Regional Implementation Meetings have now concluded and meeting agendas and background papers have been posted on the CSD website (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_rims.shtml).

In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Chemicals Branch, the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the CSD, co-organized the Workshop on Case Studies in the Sound Management of Chemicals, which convened in Geneva from 3-4 December 2009. Participants brainstormed salient features of sound management of chemicals, and reviewed and finalized the content of the CSD 18 publication entitled "Practices in the Sound Man-

agement of Chemicals" (<http://esango.un.org/irene/dsd.html?page=viewContent&nr=5182&type=8>).

In other DSD-related news, the First International Conference of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance considered the theme "Raising Awareness and Communicating the Urgency to Act" during a 3-4 December 2009 meeting in Zaragoza, Spain. The conference introduced and launched "Water Smart," the UN communication campaign for Water Operators on the Urgency to Act with special focus on the World Water Day 2010, which will concentrate on water quality (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_wat/wat_conf1209.shtml).

Finally, DSD Director Tariq Banuri has contributed a thought called "Bring Down the Cost of Renewable Energy" (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd/dsd_direbiog.shtml#cop15thought) to the Climate Thoughts webpage on Denmark's Copenhagen Climate Change Conference website (<http://en.cop15.dk/thoughts>).



Image courtesy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL CONVENTION RELEASES REPORT ON REGIONAL CENTRES

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has released a report entitled "Review of the Operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres." The report, called for in decision IX/4, includes: a draft work plan for the strengthening of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs); a detailed list of the necessary elements for the performance of the core functions of BCRCs; a draft strategic framework for the financial sustainability of the

centres; and a set of indicators to measure performance and impediments in relation to the functions and impacts of the BCRCs. The document will be considered by the seventh session of the Open-Ended Working Group, scheduled to convene in Geneva from 10-14 May 2010 (<http://www.basel.int/latestadd.html>).

SAICM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL MEETING CONVENES

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is convening the Third Central

and Eastern European regional meeting on SAICM in Lodz, Poland, from 7-11 December 2009. The meeting will discuss: the SAICM health sector strategy; SAICM reporting guidelines; emerging policy issues; issues related to the Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; and preparations for the extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?content=meeting&mid=87&def=4&menuid=>).

► **CHEMICALS AND WASTES**

UNEP RELEASES DOCUMENTS FOR CHEMICALS EXCOP

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released advance versions of the documents for the Simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the Conferences of the Parties (ExCOP) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, scheduled to convene in Bali, Indonesia, from 22-24 February 2010. The documents include: the provisional agenda (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/1); a report on synchronization of budget



Logos courtesy of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

cycles (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/5); joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/

EXCOPS.1/6); and a scenario note (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/INF/1) (http://excops.unep.ch/index.php?option=com_usertable&view=usertable&Itemid=2&lang=en).

► **BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

CBD HOLDS CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY, LAUNCHES WEBSITE ON BIODIVERSITY-CLIMATE CHANGE LINKAGES

The Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), was held from 30 November-2 December 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia. The meeting adopted the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, which calls for better reflection of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services into economic models and policies, enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity into business needs through voluntary corporate actions and market-oriented enabling policies and approaches, and increasing awareness of consumers, investors and small and medium-sized enterprises regarding biodiversity. The meeting expressed support for the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services; called for a strategy to advance the 2020 business and biodiversity agenda to be considered by the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the CBD, to be held in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan; and called for a multi-sectoral global forum on business and biodiversity, to be convened no later than CBD COP 11 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/business/jakarta-charter-business-en.pdf>).

The CBD Secretariat has set up a webpage for posting relevant CBD documents and statements on linkages between climate change and biodiversity



Image courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

for the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (www.cbd.int/climate/copenhagen/).

A discussion document on the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the post-2010 period is available for review (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/sp2010/>). It is recalled that CBD COP 10 is due to adopt a revised and updated Strategic Plan for the Convention. Submissions should reach secretariat@cbd.int no later than 11 January 2010. Furthermore, a draft synthesis of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) has been prepared on the basis of the extended version of the Outlook and is open to peer-review until 31 December 2009, at: <http://www.cbd.int/gbo3review/>.

CMS STANDING COMMITTEE MEETS

The 36th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was held from 2-3 December 2009, in Bonn, Germany. In her opening speech, CMS' new Executive Secretary Elizabeth Maruma Mrema emphasized climate change as the first priority of CMS' future work, and identified promotion of cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions as one of the key challenges.

The meeting heard an update on activities related to the Year of the Gorilla, a report on progress achieved in the Intersessional Working Group on the Future Shape of the Convention, as well as reports on activities of several agreements concluded under CMS auspices (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/12_dec_09/36_standing_cttee.pdf).

CITES AND INTERPOL JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT TIGER POACHING

A law enforcement intelligence training for tiger range States was held from 30 November-4 December 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia, as part of the joint efforts between the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Interpol. The course was attended by 16 law enforcement officials from tiger range States, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam. Its objective was to facilitate and co-ordinate law enforcement action between wildlife enforcement officers, customs and police (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml).



CITES/INTERPOL participants at the law enforcement intelligence training for tiger range States (photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat)

► **FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

UNCCD REPORTS ON ISSUE MANAGEMENT GROUP ON LAND, POSTS COP-RELATED DOCUMENTS

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has reported on the 23-24 November 2009 meeting in Bonn, Germany, of the first inter-agency working group of the UN focusing on the land issue. The Issue Management Group (IMG) on Land was established by the Environment Management Group (EMG). Participants reached agreement to prepare a Rapid Response Report on Drylands by fall 2010, and in a parallel track to consider land challenges with a bearing on current global crises. The expected result from the initiative is to identify options for a coherent UN system-wide contribution to land challenges. The meeting agreed on the focus and scope of the report, the process and timeline for its preparation, and responsibilities of the institutions in the task. Emphasis was given to the need for support for widespread and increased adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. The Rapid Response Report on Drylands is part of a UN system-wide initiative to support the implementation of the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD for 2008-2018 (http://unccd.int/publicinfo/pressrel/showpressrel.php?pr=press07_12_09).



L-R: Stephanie Dannenmann, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; Philip Dobie, UN Development Programme; Ivar Baste, EMG Secretariat; UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja; and Dominique Lantieri, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat)

The Secretariat has also posted a number of documents related to the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP9), which met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 September-2 October 2009. Reports on regional consultations of the Northern Mediterranean affected country parties (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/northmed/meetings/meetings.php#regional>) and Central and Eastern European country parties (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/centraleu/meetings/meetings.php#regional>) summarize discussions during meetings of parties to these Annexes. The Northern Mediterranean affected country parties met on 21, 23 and 30 September, on the margins of the COP. The meeting adopted a procedure for the appointment of officers for Annex IV, and discussed project proposals to develop a Regional Action Plan and Dryland Water System Project, and monitor carbon stocks. The Central

and Eastern European country parties met on 21 September, and discussed issues on the COP agenda along with sub-regional and regional activities.

The Secretariat is providing daily updates on its website from the UN Conference on Climate Change, highlighting discussions on desertification, land degradation and drought as well as sustainable land management (<http://unccd.int/main.php>).

The Secretariat has also released the third issue of its bi-monthly newsletter, UNCCD News. This issue includes interviews with Uriel Safriel (Israel) and Mary Seely (Namibia), and a story about the launch by the European Space Agency of the Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS) Earth Explorer satellite, which will measure moisture in the Earth's landmasses and salinity in the oceans, among other stories (<http://newsbox.unccd.int/>).

► **TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**



Bhutan Adaptation (image courtesy of the GEF Secretariat)

GEF VIDEOS HIGHLIGHT ADAPTATION EFFORTS IN BHUTAN AND RENEWABLES IN CHINA

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has posted online two videos showcasing adaptation efforts in Thotomi Glacier Lake, Bhutan, and efforts in China to develop the renewable en-



China renewables (image courtesy of the GEF Secretariat)



China renewables (image courtesy of the GEF Secretariat)

ergy sector (http://arrowheadfilms.com/channel_gef.html).

MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND IMF CALL FOR A COPENHAGEN DEAL

The Heads of the Multilateral Development Banks and the IMF appealed, in a joint statement issued on 2 December 2009, to the Parties to the UNFCCC to agree in Copenhagen on the foundations for an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable global climate change regime that enables all countries to achieve sustainable development along climate-resilient and low greenhouse gas emission-intensive paths. The heads of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Eu-

ropean Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund also committed their organizations to the use of technical assistance and funds to further support their environmental goals.

The Joint Statement states that it is critical that developed countries continue to take the lead in the mitigation of climate change by adopting adequate quantitative emissions reduction targets beyond 2012, and support and enable nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries with technology, financing and capacity-building. It further recognizes that stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases within safe levels would require adequate, predictable and sustainable financial flows to developing countries, as well as policies in all major economies conducive to the creation of a broadly similar carbon price signals around the world (http://www.iadb.org/news/detail.cfm?language=English&id=6025&wt.mc_id=6025&ealertFrq=HA).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP CONVENES HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT MEETING

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), convened the High-level Expert Meeting on the New Future of Human Rights and Environment, under the theme of "Moving the Global Agenda Forward," from 30 November-1 December 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Expert Meeting provided a forum to review recent developments concerning the relationship between human rights and environment, including the recent resolutions of the Human Rights Council on human rights and climate change, and for discussing ways and means to promote integrated strategies and policies for the protection of human rights and the environment (<http://www.unep.org/environmental-governance/Events/HumanRightsandEnvironment/tabid/2046/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

In collaboration with Bangkok's Emporium Shopping Complex and the Asian Regional Partners Forum on Combating Environmental Crime (ARPEC), UNEP organized the ARPEC Exhibition from 17-23 November 2009, at the Emporium Shopping Complex. The exhibition included video presentations of five of the most prominent crimes committed, including: illegal trade in wildlife; illegal trade in ozone depleting substances; dumping and illegal transport of hazardous waste; illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing; and illegal logging and the associated timber trade (http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/6317-e-ARPEC_PR09.pdf).

In other UNEP news, the organization and the Governor of Rivers State, Nigeria, have launched an assessment of the impacts of oil production in the Ogoni region of the Niger Delta. The year-long assessment will focus on environmental contamination from oil field and installations in Ogoniland, and the findings will be used to inform recommendations

on the appropriate levels of remediation required to rehabilitate the land to a condition that is environmentally acceptable (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=602&ArticleID=6382&l=en&t=long>).

In addition, the website for World Water Day 2010 has been launched. UNEP



World Water Day
2010
Clean Water for a Healthy World
Banner courtesy
of the World
Water Day

is coordinating the organization of the World Water Day 2010 campaign on behalf of UN-Water and in collaboration with FAO, UNDP, UNECE, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, WHO, and the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and

Communication as well as with partner organizations such as International Water Association, World Wide Fund for Nature and World Water Council. The Day, celebrated annually on 22 March, will focus on the theme "Clean Water for a Healthy World" (<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/flashindex.html>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNGA ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

On 4 December 2009, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted draft resolution A/64/L.18 (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/64/L.18>) and A/64/L.18/Corr.1 (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/64/L.18/Corr.1>) on "Oceans and the Law of the Sea" as resolution 64/71, and adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/64/L.29 (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/64/L.29>) on "Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments" as resolution 64/72. The resolutions set the dates for related upcoming meetings, among other issues. The resolution on oceans and the law of the sea includes sections on: implementation of the Convention and related agreements and instruments, capacity building; meeting of States parties; peaceful settlement of

disputes; the Area; effective functioning of the authority and the Tribunal; the continental shelf and the work of the commission; maritime safety and security and flag state implementation; marine environment, resources, biodiversity and science; regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects; regional cooperation; open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea; coordination and cooperation; and activities of the division for ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

RAMSAR PARTIES DESIGNATE WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported on recent designations of wetlands of international importance. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey has designated Lake Kuyucuk (Kuyucuk Gölü) as Turkey's 13th Wetland of International Importance, which is located along the African-Eurasian migration flyways (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24238_4000_0__). The Government of Mexico has desig-

nated its 114th Wetland of International Importance, the "Canal del Infiernillo y esteros del territorio Comcaac (Xepe Coosot)" (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24252_4000_0__). And the Government of Kazakhstan has designated its sixth new Wetland of International Importance in the year 2009 (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24259_4000_0__).

The Ramsar Secretariat also released a report for the VI Workshop of the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands, which it helped to organize along with the Bolivian Government through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and with financial support from the Danone Group. The Workshop convened in La Paz, Bolivia, from 21-24 September 2009, with the main objective of discussing the impact of climate change in high Andean wetlands and the definition of priorities for the triennium 2009-2012, with special emphasis in the definition of funding mechanisms for its implementation (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/mtg/mtg_bolivia_andean2009_e.pdf).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner has appointed Elizabeth Maruma Mrema as the new **Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat**, based in Bonn, Germany, with effect from 1 December 2009. The announcement was made on 2 December 2009, at the 36th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/12_dec_09/Mrema_CMS_Executive_Secretary.htm).