

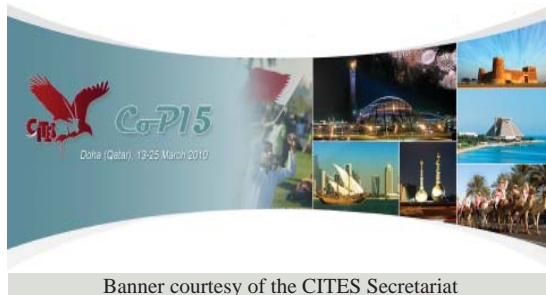


RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CITES COP 15 KICKS OFF IN DOHA, NEW SECRETARIAT HEAD NAMED

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) opened on 13 March 2010, in Doha, Qatar, and will continue until 25 March 2010. The meeting will address proposals related to bluefin tuna, elephant populations, polar bears, and a wide



Banner courtesy of the CITES Secretariat



John Scanlon, CITES Secretary-General

range of sharks, corals, reptiles, insects and plants species. Other issues on the agenda include the adoption of urgent measures to tackle illegal trade of tiger products, rhinos and other species that are on the brink of extinction. The meeting will also address the potential impacts of CITES measures on the livelihoods of the rural poor, and those on the frontlines of using and managing wildlife (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/20100313_cop15.shtml).

On the first day of the COP, it was announced that John Scanlon, an Australian national and top advisor at the UN Environment Programme, has been named the new Secretary-General of CITES. Scanlon succeeds Willem Wijnstekers, who has been Secretary-General of the CITES Secretariat since 1999 and will retire on 1 May 2010 (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/20100313_SG.shtml).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Quality matters: World Water Day 2010

By Nicoletta Forlano, UN-Water Communication Advisor and UN FAO Communication and Information Manager

Abstract

Previous efforts to mark World Water Day, celebrated on 22 March since 2007, have set the spotlight on transboundary waters, sanitation and water scarcity. This year will focus on water quality, under the overall coordination of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

WETLANDS FOR THE FUTURE FUND

(Ramsar Secretariat, February 2010) This report was prepared by the Americas Team of the Ramsar Secretariat, and funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of the US. It highlights the contribution that the Wetlands for the Future Fund has made over the past 12 years to the on-the-ground implementation of the three pillars of the Ramsar Convention as well as to the Ramsar Strategic Plan (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/wff/wff_pub2010_e.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Water quality is a parameter that has often received inadequate attention, but good water quality is paramount for sustaining healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing. “Clean Water for a Healthy World” is the slogan chosen by UN-Water members to stress that water quality is an absolute necessity for the world as a whole. The staggering truth is that waterborne diseases kill 1.5 million children each year, and 2 million tons of sewage and other liquid waste drain into the world’s water every day.

The World Water Day website (<http://www.worldwaterday2010.info>) provides clear arguments and tools aimed at addressing different stakeholders, channeling efforts to reach policy makers and the public at large. The site has become a window to inform and communicate, highlighting the threats of water pollutants, the risk they pose to human health, and highlighting the economic return from improved sanitation. These are all important factors that need to be considered when policies and laws are drafted or, more simply, when human behavior poses a menace to our water resources.



Banner courtesy of the World Water Day

To celebrate World Water Day, UNEP, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Sanitation (UN-SGAB) and the Government of Kenya, will host a three-day event at UN headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. UN-Water will launch its statement on water quality, a scientific panel will address challenges and responses, a high-level panel will discuss policy options and actions to improve water quality, and the outcomes of the event will be communicated through a live web-cast to the UN General Assembly in New York, which is also organizing an event to celebrate World Water Day.

Protecting water quality is a shared responsibility for the common benefit. Governments, municipalities and civil society, from individuals to local communities, together with international organizations must all take

actions to prevent our water sources from becoming polluted. Through our lifestyle, we have an impact on water quality, and water quality has an impact on our lives. Some people’s wastewater is other people’s drinking water. Maintaining healthy ecosystems triggers a virtuous circle. For example, thriving natural wetlands act as filters for excessive nutrients and other toxic substances, providing cascading benefits, such as potable water or healthy fisheries, up to the service industry, such as tourism. Most important *it costs more to clean up after pollution than to keep our water resources healthy*. The world as a whole needs to address this issue at the global, national and local levels. More research and monitoring, as well as regulatory functions and compliance with rules on water quality, hold the future of our wellbeing, because we all live downstream.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle88.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



Logos courtesy of the UN

CBD SECRETARIAT CIRCULATES FACT SHEETS, PARTNERS WITH DISCOVERY COMMUNICATIONS

In the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity – 2010, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has circulated 30 fact sheets providing a brief synopsis on all the important issues related to the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-046-factsheets-en.pdf>). In another effort to spread awareness of the International Year of Biodiversity, the UN and Discovery Communications established a partnership, during which Discovery will work closely with the CBD Secretariat to increase the understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth

(<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-03-10-discovery-en.pdf>).

CMS REPORTS ON YEAR OF THE GORILLA

The UN Year of the Gorilla 2009, an educational and awareness-raising campaign led by the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS), resulted in hundreds of related articles, interviews, lectures, conferences and films. In addition, the UN Year of the Gorilla 2009 generated €100,000 for field projects to prevent critically endangered gorilla species from going extinct. Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP/CMS Executive Secretary said: “With the support of innovative gorilla projects the UN Year of the Gorilla has created a permanent legacy. Conserving gorillas not only helps safeguarding their habi-

tat, which is shared by us, but it also addresses the major challenges of climate change and poverty” (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/03_mar/CMS_Press_Release_YoG_promotes_%20conservation.pdf?DocumentID=612&ArticleID=6477&1=en&t=1ong).



Image courtesy of the UN Year of the Gorilla 2009

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

**FRAMING THE FLOW:
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES
TO UNDERSTAND, PROTECT
AND VALUE ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES ACROSS LINKED
HABITATS**

(UNEP/WCMC, 2010) This report of the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP/WCMC) analyzes the linkages across coastal ecosystems and the ‘value added’ in terms of ecosystem services provided by these linkages as opposed to the services provided by just one system studied in isolation (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/oneocean/pdf/Framing%20the%20Flow.pdf>).

**DEEP WELLS AND
PRUDENCE: TOWARDS
PRAGMATIC ACTION
FOR ADDRESSING
GROUNDWATER
OVEREXPLOITATION IN
INDIA**

(World Bank, March 2010) This report provides a menu of practical and politically-feasible strategies for managing groundwater use in India. The report also showcases a community groundwater management model adopted in Andhra Pradesh that has produced the first global example of large scale success in self-regulation of groundwater use (<http://www.worldbank.org.in/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/INDIAEXT/0,,contentMDK:22489346~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:295584,00.html>).

**EAST ASIAN SEAS STATE OF
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
REPORT 2009**

(Coordinating Body of the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) of the UN Environment Programme, 2009) This report underlines that the East Asian seas are facing multiple threats as a result of factors including unsustainable development, pollution, alien invasive species and climate change. The report recommends a more systematic and integrated approach to managing coastal and oceanic issues, allied to improved data collection and management and economic incentives to encourage private sector involvement in environmental protection efforts (<http://www.roap.unep.org/publications/State%20of%20the%20Marine.pdf>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Logos courtesy of the UN

**REGIONAL SIDS MEETING
DISCUSSES MAURITIUS
STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

In preparation for the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI), the SIDS Unit (Small Island Developing States) of the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), within the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Commission and the UN Development Programme, convened the AIMS regional meeting in Malé, Maldives, from

9-10 March 2010. Participants assessed ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities, discussed common priorities for action, and prepared a regional synthesis report for consideration by the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18), which will act as the preparatory committee for the September 2010 MSI high-level review (http://www.sidsnet.org/msi_5/aims_meeting.shtml).

In other DSD-related news, preparations are underway for the 64th UN General Assembly’s High-level interactive dialogue on the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015, which will take place on World Water Day, 22 March 2010 (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/64/thematic/water.shtml>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**UNEP LAUNCHES CARBON
FINANCE COLLABORATION IN
AFRICA**

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Standard Bank and the German Government’s International Climate Initiative are collaborating on the Africa Carbon Asset Development (ACAD) Facility. ACAD supports African carbon projects through a combination of technical assistance, grants and preferential access to corporate finance and trans-



Image courtesy of UNEP

actional guidance. ACAD has recently awarded its first grants to innovative development projects including: providing partial payment for validation costs under the Clean Development Mechanism on the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project in Kenya; and supporting the costs of engineering and carbon auditing studies required to earn carbon credits of the Lagos Waste Management Authority in Nigeria, which is developing several waste-to-energy sites (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=612&ArticleID=6487&l=en>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

**IDB SUPPORTS LIVELIHOODS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, COASTAL AREAS**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through FOMIN, its private sector lending branch, is supporting livelihood changes for inhabitants of Galapagos Islands to favor their inclusion in sustainable economic activities and create disincentives for unsustainable fishing practices. Fishermen are being trained to work as crew-members on tourist ships and as guides for scuba-diving expeditions and artisanal sports fishing tours, reducing their need to rely on sea cucumber and other endangered species to make a living. The project is also supporting local produce and coffee to supply the growing tourism industry (<http://www.iadb.org/features-and-web-stories/2010-03/english/galapagos-a-different-kind-of-evolution-6568.html>). In other related



Image courtesy of FOMIN



Sea lions accent the Galapagos Islands landscape (courtesy of the IDB)

news, the IDB has approved a US\$4 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant to support the country’s marine and coastal protected areas network and help implement a national plan for the protection of sharks (<http://www.iadb.org/NEWS/detail.cfm?Language=En&artType=PR&artid=6693&id=6693>). A US\$3 million GEF grant has also been approved to preserve marine and coastal ecosystems in Costa Rica (<http://www.iadb.org/NEWS/detail.cfm?Language=En&artType=PR&artid=6702&id=6702>).

► **TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

GEF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PANEL AND REPLENISHMENT MEETING CONVENE

The GEF convened a meeting in Rome, Italy, from 9-10 March 2010, to discuss the fifth replenishment of its Trust Fund. At the meeting, participants considered replenishment options between US\$3.6-4.6 billion for the period 2010-2014, and policy recommendations to: enhance country ownership, including a more flexible approach for the allocation of GEF resources; and improve the efficiency of the GEF partnership, including a results-based management framework and a streamlined project cycle. Negotiations will continue with a view to arriving at a final figure at the next meeting to be held in Paris, France, on 7 April 2010 (http://www.thegef.org/gef/fifth_replenishment, IISD RS Sources).

Prior to the Replenishment meeting, the GEF's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (GEF STAP) held an open



Image courtesy of UNEP

meeting with representatives from GEF agencies, the GEF Secretariat, GEF Evaluation Office and Conventions, and observers from the GEF Council. The meeting discussed: STAP's work programme; advisory products including their use and expected impacts; collaborative work towards a GEF Knowledge Management strategy; a revised monitoring and evaluation policy; and options for scientific advice on climate change adaptation. The meeting agreed that STAP's advice should be organized into toolkits to be used by the GEF and made available to contracting parties to the Conventions supported by the GEF to increase transparency regarding the GEF project



cycle (<http://stapgef.unep.org/activities/stapmeetings/Mar2010>, IISD RS Sources).

WORLD BANK ANNOUNCES FIRST LARGE-SCALE FOREST CDM PROJECT REGISTERED IN AFRICA

The World Bank has presented Africa's first large-scale forestry project to be registered under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The announcement was made on the margins on the annual Africa Carbon Forum, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 3-5 March 2010. The Humbo Assisted Natural Regeneration Project is expected to cut an estimated 880,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the next 30 years. The sale of carbon credits under the BioCarbon Fund will provide an income stream of over US\$700,000 to the local communities over a minimum of ten years (<http://go.worldbank.org/8B352TV090>).

► **FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**



Logo courtesy of the UNFF Secretariat

UNFF SECRETARIAT HOSTS BRIEFING SESSIONS ON FOREST FINANCING

The Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) hosted a series of briefing sessions on the UNFF Strategic Work Plan on Forest Financing on 10 March 2010, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. The Strategic Work Plan was recently endorsed by the UNFF 9 Bureau as a means to pave the way for full implementation of the UNFF 9 Special Session's Resolution on means of implementation, and outlines a four-year roadmap including two official *ad hoc* expert group (AHEG) meetings and the UNFF Facilitative Process. The Strategic Work Plan follows the Resolution's vision on forests - a cross-cutting and multi-sectoral approach that involves substantive inputs from member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional processes and other stakeholders, and encompasses resources from international, regional and national sources.

Discussions at the briefing also focused on the first phase of the activity of the Facilitative Process, launched to identify gaps, obstacles and opportunities in forest financing. The first phase

of the Process is focused on small island developing States and low forest cover countries, and depending on additional funding, would then expand to other groups of countries and provide its inputs on issues referred to it by the Forum. Delegates also discussed logistical and substantive preparations for the upcoming first meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental AHEG on Sustainable Forest Management Financing, scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, in September this year. The AHEG will discuss forest financing actions, analyses and experiences at all levels, as well as some features of forest financing strategies and mechanisms (IISD RS Sources).

UNCCD SUBSIDIARY BODY TO CONVENE IN FEBRUARY 2011

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced that the Bureau of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) took the decision to convene the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in February 2011, rather than November 2010, as had been decided at COP 9. As a result, the dead-



Image courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

lines for national reporting, which is to be reviewed at the CRIC, have been adjusted. Reports by country parties and other reporting entities are expected by 30 September 2010, and preliminary analysis of reports and preparation of other official CRIC documentation is to be completed by 15 November 2010 (<http://www.unccd.int/prais/>).

In other UNCCD news, a background note guiding this year's campaign leading up to World Day to Combat Desertification, which is celebrated on 17 June annually, is available. The Day will be organized around the theme "Rich Soil Biodiversity: Wellbeing in livelihoods and ecosystems," and will emphasize the close relationship between livelihood and ecosystem wellbeing, and that soils are rich in biodiversity (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/2010/docs/Concept_Note_2010_eng.pdf).



Image courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

EXPERTS EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CLIMATE DATA COLLABORATION AT UNFCCC WORKSHOP

The UNFCCC Secretariat organized a technical workshop on collaboration among regional centers and networks, which took place from 2-5 March 2010, Apia, Samoa. The workshop was held under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change work areas of: methods and tools; data and observations; and climate modeling, scenarios and downscaling. The event brought together around 60 representatives from parties, relevant organizations, regional centers and networks, communities and experts to share climate data and information available in the public domain, exchange views on climate data and information needs within the context of adaptation planning, and discuss possible roles of regional centers and other knowledge intermediaries in improving the provision, dissemination and application of climate data and information (http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_workprogramme/workshops_and_meetings/items/5258.php).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has posted on its website, letters from the Governments of India and China, dated 8 and 9 March respectively, informing of their wish to be listed in the chapeau of the Copenhagen Accord (<http://unfccc.int/home/items/5265.php>).

The first edition of the UNFCCC Secretariat newsletter for 2010 has been released. The issue includes updates on topics discussed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and looks ahead to upcoming meetings and events (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=v9dwzt3f&s=hkomb5gqcoxzcw>).

Notifications from the UNFCCC have been released regarding the upcoming 11th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the ninth session *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-



UNFCCC News - issue #20 cover (image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat)

term Cooperative Action under the Convention, scheduled to take place in Bonn, Germany, from 9-11 April 2010. The notifications invite parties, observer States, UN Secretariat units and bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations, to communicate to the Secretariat the names, titles and contact details of the Head of delegation and representatives who will attend the meetings by 17 March 2010 (http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/notification_20100303.pdf).

Under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the proposed agenda and annotations, together with the draft work programme, for the 53rd meeting of the CDM Executive Board, which is scheduled to take place from 22-26 March 2010, in Bonn, Germany, is now available on the CDM website. At the meeting, the Board will discuss matters relating to the operation of the CDM. A live and on-demand Internet webcast of the proceedings will also be available (http://cdm.unfccc.int/eb/053/eb53_propag.pdf).

IPCC WORKING GROUP DISCUSSES LINKAGES BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS AND THE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODELING COMMUNITY

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III convened an expert meeting on 'Model-

ing Renewable Energies' in Oxford, UK, from 28 February-1 March 2010, in support of the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN), to be finalized in early 2011. The Special Report will assess the state of renewable energy sources and their future potential in the mitigation of climate change. As part of this assessment, the authors of the SRREN are exploring and synthesizing research from both the integrated assessment modeling community and the community of renewable technology experts. The expert meeting in Oxford brought together experts from both communities to facilitate discussions on how to integrate their respective research within the context of the Special Report. In addition, it looked at the longer-term perspective and addressed processes aimed at improving the linkages between technology experts and the integrated assessment modeling community following the publication of the SRREN and leading up to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (<http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/publications/special-reports/special-report-renewable-energy-sources>).

Regarding the review of the IPCC's processes and procedures, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri announced, on 10 March 2010, that the InterAcademy Council (IAC) had been requested to carry out this task, aimed at further strengthening the quality of the Panel's reports on climate change. The IAC is the umbrella organization for various national academies of science from countries around the world. The review will examine every aspect of how the IPCC's reports are prepared, including the use of non-peer reviewed literature and the reflection of diverse viewpoints and institutional aspects, such as management functions as well as the Panel's procedures for making public its findings. The report has been requested by 31 August 2010, so it can be considered at the 32nd session of the IPCC in October (<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press/pr-1003210-UN.pdf>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ANNOUNCES CLIMATE AND POPS STUDY

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has announced a 12-month international study into the influence of climate change and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) on human health and the environment. The study will involve organizations in five countries reviewing the latest science to inform the assessment

of current and new POPs. The outcomes of the study are expected to result in policy recommendations on how to mitigate the impacts of POPs under a changing climate. According to the Secretariat, the potential impact of climate change on the behavior of POPs in the environment is complex, but some data suggest that higher temperatures can make wildlife more sensitive to exposure to certain pollutants. Climatic

change is expected to alter the partitioning of POPs among environmental compartments (air, water, soil, sediments, snow and ice). These factors are likely to influence the transfer, redistribution and uptake of POPs, along with the overall concentrations of POPs around the globe (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Media/Pressreleases/ClimatechangeandPOPsParma12March2010/tabid/717/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION'S CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE CONVENES

The sixth meeting of the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee (CRC 6) is convening from 15-19 March 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The CRC is considering a draft decision guidance document for endosulfan as well as a legal interpretation of the term "intentional misuse." The CRC is also considering notifications of final regulatory actions to ban or severely restrict

chemicals including amitraz, azinphos-methyl, methyl bromide and paraquat (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=166&sid=18&tid=42>).

BASEL CONVENTION RELEASES OEWG 7 DOCUMENTS

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has released documents for the upcoming seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG 7), scheduled to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10-14 May 2010. The doc-



Logo courtesy of the Basel Convention

uments include: the strategic plan and new strategic framework (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/3); Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/7); technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/8); and the classification and hazard characterization of wastes (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/9 and Add.1) (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR REPORTS ON MEETINGS, SIGNS MoUs

The Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) met in Gland, Switzerland, from 22-26 February 2010, for its 'mid-term workshops' to further progress its 2009-2012 Work Plan. The event brought together approximately 50 STRP members, invited experts and representatives of observer organizations to review and undertake substantive work on the range of high priority and other tasks requested of it by the 10th session of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP 10). Participants worked in parallel thematic work area and task workshops and plenary sessions, as well as in several pre-session workshops on, *inter alia*: developing guidance on managing urban wetlands (jointly with UN-HABITAT); carbon storage in wetlands; and developing mechanisms for a Global Wetland Observing System. The Panel achieved major progress and identified which outputs from these tasks would likely lead to draft resolutions and guidances to be submitted to COP 11 to be held in 2012 (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2010-strp-2010-workshop/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24436_4000_0__).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also reported on two regional events. The third Youth Model Ramsar Convention, which was organized by Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) and student secretariat members, took place in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 26-27 February 2010, and brought together over 160 high-school students (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-ymrckorea/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24481_4000_2__). In addition, the first Meeting of the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 3-7 February 2010. Participants adopted the Santo Domingo Declaration, which highlights the value of the Caribbean wetlands, urges international cooperation to develop joint actions, and requests governments to support the development of the Caribbean Wetlands Initiative (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2010-caribbeanwetlands/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24469_4000_0__).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), one with the Organization of American States (OAS) (<http://www.ramsar.org/cda/>

[es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-oasnewmou/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24467_4000_2__](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-oasnewmou/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24467_4000_2__)), and one with the Stetson University College of Law, Florida, US (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-oasnewmou/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24467_4000_2__).

Furthermore, the Ramsar Secretariat has released a set of fact sheets on wetland ecosystem services (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-info-ecosystem-services/main/ramsar/1-30-103%5E24258_4000_0__).

UNDOALOS RELEASES INITIAL MATERIAL FOR ICP 11

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released initial reporting materials on capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science, which address the topic of focus of the 11th meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP 11) in preparation for an informal preparatory meeting for that meeting, to be held on 18 March 2010 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/documents/material2010.pdf).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **CITES COP 15:** 13-25 March 2010. Doha, Qatar. <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop15/>
- **Caribbean Regional Meeting for MSI+5 Review:** 16 and 18 March 2010. St. George's, Grenada. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_milemajomeetmsi5_carr.shtml
- **Fourth Policy Board Meeting of the UN-REDD Programme:** 17-19 March 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.un-redd.org/Events/tabid/590/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **International Consultative Meeting on Expanding Waste Management Services in Developing Countries:** 18-19 March 2010. Tokyo, Japan. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_wasthaza_icm0310.shtml
- **2010 CIF Partnership Forum:** 18-19 March 2010. Manila, Philippines. <http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/climate/cif2010/>
- **IDB Annual Meeting:** 19-23 March 2010. Cancun, Mexico. <http://www.iadb.org/am/2010/?lang=en&disp=>
- **60th session of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee:** 22-26 March 2010. London, UK. http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D26826/1.pdf
- **53rd meeting of the CDM Executive Board:** 22-26 March 2010. Bonn, Germany. http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2010
- **CBD ABS 9:** 22-28 March 2010. Santiago de Cali, Colombia. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/abs9/>
- **CSD 18 Thematic Seminar Series: Sustainable Consumption and Production:** 23 March 2010. New York, US. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_seminar_series.shtml