



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SIDS DAY AT CSD 18 CONSIDERS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY

On 10 May 2010, delegates to the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18) considered the CSD 18 thematic topics as they relate to small island developing States (SIDS) and conducted a review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (PrepCom for MSI+5). Delegates' discussions were guided by the Secretary-General's report on the Review of the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (E/CN.17/2010/9). A number of speakers discussed issues related to the climate change negotiations, with Grenada, for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), stressing the need to: adopt a legally-binding instrument at the Cancun Climate Change Conference at the end of 2010; address the security and human dimensions of climate change; and consider the establishment of SIDS as a special category within the UN system. Several speakers highlighted funding they are providing for SIDS, including: Spain, for the EU, describing the EU's commitment of US\$30 million under the Fast Start climate initiative; and India highlighting that it has committed project aid of US\$70 million to SIDS. Additional directions for action included India's statement indicating its is looking forward to the results of the vulnerability-resilience methodology being developed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the suggestion by Tuvalu, for Pacific SIDS, that the Security Council should take up the security implications of climate change. Delegates reviewed the proposed agenda for MSI+5, scheduled to convene on 24-25 September 2010. They also considered and adopted a draft resolution on the organization for MSI+5. CSD 18 is meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, US, from 3-14 May 2010. Agenda items in addition to the MSI+5 PrepCom include: chemicals; hazardous waste; transport; mining; and sustainable consumption and production patterns (<http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd18/>; http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18.shtml).



L-R: Cheick Sidi Diarra, UN Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States; and Thomas Stelzer, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, at the opening of SIDS Day

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GUEST ARTICLE

Confronting Environmental Treaty Implementation Challenges in the Pacific Islands

By Pamela S. Chasek, Executive Editor, *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, and Associate Professor of Political Science, Manhattan College

There is a pervasive notion that small islands are privileged to be situated in a heavenly natural environment, and that this is the main determinant of the quality of life of islanders.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

(World Bank, 2010) This brief highlights that, in fiscal year 2009, World Bank efforts channeled US\$ 9.3 billion in financing for climate-affected sectors. In addition new renewable energy and energy efficiency financing reached US\$1.3 billion, more than doubling the previous fiscal year's investment (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/NEWS/Resources/Climate_Change_Results_Brief_4-12-10.pdf).

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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.)

This convenient vision has been fueled not only by the way the tourism industry has portrayed tropical islands, but also by the fact that a majority of small-island developing States have demonstrated a relatively enviable socioeconomic performance, compared with many continental or large developing countries. Overall, the international community has tended to view island societies as relatively prosperous, and has not been inclined to appreciate the intrinsic reality of "small islandness," which is characterized by environmental and social fragility and a high degree of economic vulnerability to many possible external shocks beyond domestic control (UNCTAD 2004).

It is this paradox that has affected the Pacific Island countries (PICs) and territories most of all. The problems facing these small entities are in some cases so large that none can respond to them alone. As a result, cooperation, mutual aid between States,

and the pooling of energies and ideas is necessary within the region.

Cooperation in such a diverse region comes with its challenges, however, as does the participation of the PICs in a range of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). At the national level, operation of the MEA system requires significant time and resources to address policy considerations for negotiation, signature, and ratification of conventions. The same is true for the implementation of national commitments under ratified conventions. For small PICs, these requirements are quite large in relation to the total number of government personnel and their other responsibilities.

Specifically, in the Pacific most of the responsibility for national coordination of MEA implementation rests with a small number of personnel in environment units or departments set up relatively recently. In this context, while MEA processes may be the key to building up resources and capacities to address the full range of environmental issues over the medium to long term, in the short term they can

impose significant additional stresses on smaller developing countries, like those in the Pacific.

This paper examines the difficulties that the PICs have in fulfilling their international environmental commitments. The first section of the paper provides an introduction to the region. The next section describes the MEAs that play a role in the Pacific, followed by an examination of implementation challenges. The final section provides recommendations on how these challenges can be addressed and what role the donor community, regional organizations, UN system, and nongovernmental organizations can play in this regard.

This guest article by Pamela Chasek is excerpted from *Confronting Environmental Treaty Implementation Challenges in the Pacific Islands*, the latest issue in the Pacific Islands Policy series, published by the East-West Center in Honolulu. Available online at EastWestCenter.org/pacificislandspolicy.

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**GEF ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTS IDENTIFY CLIMATE TIPPING POINTS**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has published documents for the Fourth GEF Assembly, including a report of its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) that identifies a series of climate change tipping points (GEF/A.4/3). Other documents include the GEF Fourth Overall Performance Study (GEF/A.4/4) and an introduction to the topics of roundtable discussions, which will take place during the Assembly in Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 24-28 May 2010 (GEF/A.4/Inf.2) (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/360/40>).

In other GEF news, the World Bank approved, on 29 April 2010, a project on sustainable coastal zone management in

Alexandria that will focus in particular on reducing land-based pollution to the Mediterranean Sea. Among project activities, the US\$7.15 million GEF grant will finance pilot measures to reduce land-based sources of pollution entering lake Mariout and subsequently the Mediterranean Sea (<http://go.worldbank.org/IGQ9D0DI70>).

DEVELOPMENT BANKS SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

At the 43rd Annual Meeting, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 1-4 May 2010, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a solar energy initiative to generate 3,000 megawatts of solar power over the next three years, with plans to invest US\$2.25 billion and the potential to leverage an additional US\$6.75 bil-

lion in co-financing. The Asia Solar Energy Initiative will fund projects and host the Solar Energy Forum, an international knowledge-sharing platform that will track solar development projects, discuss new solar power proposals and incentive mechanisms, and organize conferences, including the first Solar Energy Forum, which is scheduled for 5-6 July 2010, in Manila, Philippines (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13232-asian-solar-energies-initiatives/>).

On 3 May 2010, the ADB also approved funding for a 73 MW solar power plant in central Thailand, which is likely to become one of the largest solar photovoltaic projects in the world. The plant is expected to diversify the energy mix through the addition of solar energy capacity and demonstrate the success of privately-owned, renewable generation projects (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13233-thailand-solar-energies/>).

In related news, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved a 78.5 million Euro loan to finance a wind farm in south-west Mexico. The EIB loan will help finance the construction and commissioning of a wind farm comprising 121 turbines with a total capacity of 103 MW in Santo Domingo Ingenio, Oaxaca (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-070-eib-finances-wind-farm-in-mexico.htm>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

NEGOTIATE – REACHING AGREEMENTS OVER WATER
(IUCN Water Programme, 2010)

This toolkit in the Water and Nature Series is aimed at helping those interested in designing, leading, or participating in negotiation and consensus building on sustainable water resources management. It makes the case for constructive engagement and cooperative forms of negotiation in dealing with complex water issues. It focuses on the diversity of agreements that can be produced to regulate or encourage fairer and more effective water allocation and use (<http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/water/resources/toolkits/?4912/Negotiate--reaching-agreements-over-water>).

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS 2009: BANKING ON BIODIVERSITY

(World Bank, 2010) To mark the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, this annual review focuses on the importance of biodiversity conservation in sustaining livelihoods and reducing poverty. It includes viewpoints on the importance of indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation, protected areas, marine biodiversity, and invasive species and poverty. Feature articles address biodiversity funding at the World Bank, ecosystem-based solutions to climate change, and making wind power safer for biodiversity. The publication reviews projects such as the Global Tiger Initiative, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and a World Bank-GEF-IUCN project seeking to leverage funds from private companies that use animals and plants in their logos to support species conservation efforts (<http://www.worldbank.org/environmentmatters>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2010 FOCUSES ON GLOBALLY THREATENED MIGRATORY BIRDS

Organized by the Secretariats of the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, with the support of several partners, the 2010 World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated from 8-9 May 2010 with several events around the world, including bird festivals, educational programmes, presentations and

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Banner courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

UNCCD PREPARES FOR LAND DAY 2

The Secretariat for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is preparing for Land Day 2, which will take place on 5 June 2010, on the side of the June Bonn Climate Change Conference. The keynote speaker is Robert Watson, Chief Science Adviser to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK) and Former Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Panels will address: how synergetic implementation of the conventions on climate change and desertification will foster action at the country level; how land and soil fit into the post-Copenhagen process; and what

negotiators need to know about water and land as assets in confronting climate change (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/2010/menu.php>).

The Secretariat has also announced that Lyndle Lindow has joined the Secretariat as the Coordinator of Administration and Finance Services. Prior to joining UNCCD on 1 May 2010, he was Chief of Programme Planning and Budget at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/announce/new_head_of_finance.php).

In addition, the dates for PRAIS Training Workshops, which were postponed due to the travel disruptions in Europe, have been announced (<http://www.unccd.int/prais/>), and an informal template and reporting guidelines for affected country parties has been made available (<http://www.unccd.int/prais/docs/cricinf2%20-%20advance%20copy%20-%20040510.pdf>).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP-WCMC GLOBAL ISLANDS DATABASE LAUNCHED

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) launched the Global Island Database (GID) during the 18th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18) in New York, US, on 10 May 2010. The GID aims to boost sustainable management of islands by identifying and bringing together existing sources of data and information relevant to island systems, and presenting new analyses to aid resource managers and decision making at the island, national, regional and global levels (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=624&ArticleID=6559&l=en>; <http://gid.unep-wcmc.org/index.html>).

In related news, UNEP, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization and several governments organized a side event at CSD 18 to discuss progress on the Global Chemicals Outlook. The publication is expected to be completed by December 2011. The side event also discussed the UNEP-UNDP Mainstreaming Partnership to integrate the sound management of chemicals into national development planning processes, and looked forward to shaping the upcoming CSD agenda for chemicals, particularly in the context of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development process (also known as Rio+20) (http://www.chem.unep.ch/unepsaicm/mainstreaming/GlobChemOutlook_Report.htm; IISD RS sources).



Image courtesy of the Global Island Database



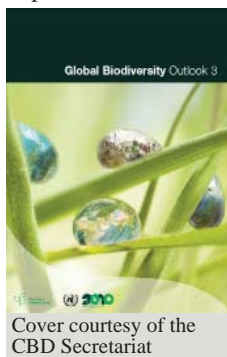
Banner courtesy of UNEP/AEWA

birdwatching trips, as well as an international photo competition. This year's central theme was "Save migratory birds in crisis – every species counts!" It sought to raise awareness about globally threatened migratory birds, with a particular focus on birds on the edge of extinction. Prominent examples of "migratory birds in crisis" include the Slender-billed Curlew, the Northern Bald Ibis, the Sociable Lapwing, the Waved Albatross and the Orange-bellied Parrot (<http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

GBO-3 LAUNCHED DURING CBD SBSTTA

The third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3), a major assessment of the current state of biodiversity and the implications of its continued loss for human well-being, was launched on 10 May 2010 in several cities around the world. The product of close collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), GBO-3 confirms that the world has failed to meet its target to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The report is based on: an analysis of the current status and trends of biodiversity carried out by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership; a study of future scenarios and models involving a wide range of scientists from the Diversitas network and UNEP-WCMC; the review of hundreds of scientific articles and assessments; and national reports submitted by CBD parties. It notes that the linked challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change must be addressed with equal priority and in close coordination if the most severe impacts of each are to be avoided, and outlines a possible new



strategy for reducing biodiversity loss, including addressing the underlying causes of indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, such as patterns of consumption, the impacts of increased trade and demographic change, and ending harmful subsidies. Subject to an extensive independent scientific review process, it is one of the milestones of 2010 – International Year of Biodiversity (<http://gbo3.cbd.int/>).

CARIBBEAN CONSULTATION CONSIDERS BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FOR WEALTH GENERATION

A consultation for Caribbean nations was held from 26-27 April 2010, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The event was organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) as part of a regional initiative entitled “Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Why these are Important for Sustained Growth and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The initiative aims to prepare a report on the role of biodiversity in wealth generation and support of wellbeing in the region. The seventh in a series of consultations, the Caribbean consultation discussed emblematic policies in Caribbean nations, and identified key sectors for promoting investment in biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as existing barriers to such investments. Participants also discussed insights from case studies from Paraguay and Indonesia, and recommended inputs to the regional report, ways to convince

decision makers and dissemination strategies. In the final plenary, participants recommended key messages and ways to enrich the regional initiative (<http://www.iisd.ca/larc/biodiv/lacbp/>).

NEW CITES SECRETARY-GENERAL TAKES OFFICE

On 3 May 2010, John Scanlon (Australia) took up his duties as the new Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He is the fifth CITES Secretary-General, following Willem Wijnstekers, who held the post from April 1999 to 30



John Scanlon, new Secretary-General, CITES

April 2010 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010/E008.pdf>).

In other CITES-related news, the Secretariat has published the new Appendices in effect following the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) held from 13-25 March 2010, in Doha, Qatar. The Appendices will come into effect on 23 June 2010 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010/E007A.pdf>). The Secretariat also has published the summary records of the plenary and committee sessions of COP 15 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/sum/index.shtml>).

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► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

CHEMICALS AND WASTES CONVENTIONS HOLD ASIAN WORKSHOP

The Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions was held from 19-21 April 2010, in Beijing, China. Convened by the Secretariats of the three treaties, the event involved 31 participants from 16 countries in the region. Participants were informed about the ongoing process to further promote cooperation and coordination among the three Conventions and their possible implications at the regional and national levels. The status of implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in the region, as well as national priorities identified by parties to fulfill their obligations, were also discussed. The workshop provided an opportunity for sharing information and experience on existing coordination mechanisms at the national level, and identifying areas where further coordination might be required. Participants

were also informed of the opportunities of technical and financial assistance to implement the three Conventions in a synergistic way (IISD RS Sources).

SAICM QUICK START PROGRAMME FUNDING WINDOW OPEN

The Secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) has announced that applications for the ninth round of the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) are currently being accepted. Applications to the QSP trust fund can be submitted twice a year, and applications for the ninth round close on 27 August 2010 (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=25&pageid=259&submenuheader>).

In other SAICM news, the Secretariat has made several recent additions to the Information Clearinghouse. These include case studies from numerous countries on tackling illegal international traffic in hazardous chemicals. A persistent organic pollutants (POPs) laborato-

ry database has also been included. This database consists of 222 laboratories with the capacity to analyze POPs, particularly in developing countries (<http://www.saicm.org/ich/>).

BASEL OEWG 7 CONVENES

The seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG 7) is convening from 10-14 May 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. OEWG 7 will consider, *inter alia*: a proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for South Asia in the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme; review and strengthening of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres; implementation of the relevant decisions of the COP on resource mobilization and sustainable financing; enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic; the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment; and the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC CONTINUES PREPARATIONS FOR JUNE SESSION

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published a number of documents in the run up to the tenth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 10) and the twelfth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 12). These sessions will be held in Bonn, Germany, from 1-11 June 2010, in conjunction with the 32nd sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). In addition to the AWG-LCA provisional agenda, a document including views on which the AWG-LCA Chair may draw in preparing text to facilitate negotiations among parties has been published. The document includes 18 submissions from parties (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca10/eng/misc02.pdf>).

Under the AWG-KP, the UNFCCC has released the provisional agenda for AWG-KP 12. Following completion of consultations, the AWG-KP will be invited to elect its Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. In addition, parties will consider documentation prepared by the Chair to facilitate negotiations on the basis of the annex to the report of the AWG-KP 10. Parties will also consider: a paper compiling pledges for emission reductions and related assumptions provided by the parties to date and the associated emission reductions; and a technical paper laying out issues relating to the transformation of pledges for emission reductions into quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awg12/eng/04.pdf>).

A note regarding documentation prepared by the AWG-KP Chair to facilitate negotiations among parties has also been published. The note indicates that the documentation is based on annex I to the report of the AWG-KP 10 and compiles draft decision texts in five addenda: addendum 1 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.1) contains a draft decision text entitled *Proposed amendments to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to its Article 3, paragraph 9*; addendum 2 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.2) comprises a draft decision text entitled *Land use, land-use change and forestry*; addendum 3 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.3) comprises a draft decision text entitled *Emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms*; addendum 4 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/

Add.4) contains a draft decision text entitled *Greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories: common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks; and other methodological issues*; and addendum 5 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/6/Add.5) consists of a draft decision text entitled *Consideration of information on potential environmental, economic and social consequences, including spillover effects, of tools, policies, measures and methodologies available to Annex I Parties* (http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/4577.php).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a synthesis of views from parties on issues relating to the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines and the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines.

The note also contains proposals on the process and timeline of the work programme established by SBSTA 3, to revise the "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories." The note has been prepared to facilitate consideration by SBSTA 32 of the process to revise the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/sbsta/eng/04.pdf>).



Image courtesy of the IPCC Secretariat

IPCC REVIEW TEAM NAMED

The InterAcademy Council (IAC) has announced that Harold T. Shapiro, an economist and former president of Princeton University and the University of Michigan, will chair a 12-member committee to conduct an independent review of the procedures and processes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The review was requested in March by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and IPCC Chair Rajendra K. Pachauri. The committee will review IPCC procedures for preparing its assessment reports. Among the issues to be reviewed are: data quality assurance and control; the type of literature that may be cited in IPCC reports;

expert and government review of IPCC materials; handling of the full range of scientific views; and the correction of errors that are identified after a report has been completed. The committee also will review overall IPCC processes, including management functions and communication strategies. The IAC plans to deliver a peer-reviewed report with the committee's findings and recommendations to the UN by 30 August 2010. The report will be delivered to the Secretary-General as well as the UN Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, and the IPCC, with the intention of informing an October meeting for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (<http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/>).

EUROPEAN AND ASIAN OZONE OFFICERS MEET

The UN Environment Programme OzonAction Programme and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey jointly convened a meeting of European and Asian Ozone Officers from 26-31 April 2010. Over 30 Ozone Officers attended the Joint Meeting of the Regional Ozone Networks for Europe and Central Asia to exchange experiences on phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) widely used in refrigeration, air-conditioning and foam production (http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/6349-e-TURmediabriefing_PR2010.pdf).

The Ozone Secretariat has released several additional documents in advance of the 30th meeting for the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG 30), which is scheduled to convene from 15-18 June 2010. The documents include: an annotated agenda for the seminar on the environmentally sound management of banks of ODS (UNEP/OzL.Pro/Seminar.1/Rev.1/Add.1); the report of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on a special facility under the Multilateral Fund (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/30/3); and the Indicative Financial Report on the Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol pursuant to decision XX/20 (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/30/INF/1) (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/Seminars/Seminar-1-1-Add1E.pdf).



Multilateral Fund
for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol



Logos courtesy of UNEP

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

PROTOCOL TO THE HNS CONVENTION ADOPTED

The International Conference on the Revision of the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (HNS Convention) took place from 26-30 April 2010, at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, UK, and was attended by delegations from 79 IMO member States. During the Conference, delegates adopted a Protocol to the Convention, aimed at bringing that Convention into effect. The 2010 Protocol addresses practical problems that have prevented many States from ratifying the original Convention, which, despite being adopted in 1996, currently only has 14 ratifications and is some way from meeting the conditions for its entry into force. The 2010 Protocol also establishes a two-tier compensation scheme for damage caused by bulk HNS, packaged HNS, or by both, of up to 250 million SDR (US\$375 million) (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=12832).

GPA CONVENES SESSIONS ON WATERSHED, COASTAL AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

During the Fifth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, which took place in Paris, France, from 3-7 May 2010, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), together with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Global Environment Fac-

ility's Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management Project, convened a session on "Strengthening Implementation of Integrated Watershed and Coastal Management." Participants identified a series of priorities to move towards integrated freshwater and coastal management, to be taken by governments, national agencies, donors and practitioners, *inter alia*, to: engage stakeholders at all levels in the integration process; promote multidisciplinary programmes to address watershed management; promote replication of best practices and good examples; and create databases and documentation through successful case studies and experiences to help replication. Session participants also agreed that communication and outreach are essential tools to promote integration at all levels of the upstream and downstream communities (IISD RS Sources).

In addition, the GPA Coordination Office, together with the US Government, hosted a side event titled "Partnering for sustainable agriculture and food production: exploring the links between nutrient management, climate change and dead zones," during the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which is taking place in New York, US, from 3-14 May 2010. Chaired by John Matuszak, US State Department, panelists included: Art Gold, University of Rhode Island; Cheryl Palm, International Nitrogen Initiative; Mark Davis, UN Food and Agriculture Organization; and David Osborn, UNEP. The event highlighted the central role of nutrient management in sustainable agriculture and sustainable development more broadly. Panelists called for the CSD to recognize the complex links between agricultural production,

climate change, biodiversity and coastal dead zones, and to express support for the Global Partnership for Nutrient Management (IISD RS Sources; <http://www.gpa.unep.org/>).

RAMSAR PARTICIPATES IN GLOBWETLAND MEETING

The Ramsar Secretariat has participated in a meeting of the second "Globwetland" project, which aims to apply mapping, monitoring and assessment of wetlands by airborne or satellite Earth observation techniques for Ramsar-related purposes. The project is carried out by the European Space Agency in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention and a network of partners and contracting parties in the South and East Mediterranean basin. At the 4 May 2010 meeting, which took place in Brussels, Belgium, participants clarified several ways for the project to support parties with the analysis and reporting of Ramsar's indicators of effectiveness, in particular those relating to trends in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. Further progress will be reported to the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee meeting, scheduled to take place in Corsica, France, from 30 May-4 June 2010 (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/fr/ramsar-news-latest-globwetland/main/ramsar/1-26-76%5E24583_4000_1__).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has announced that the Government of Panama has designated its fifth Wetland of International Importance. The site has high biological value as it sustains an ample diversity of flora and fauna because of its various habitats (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2010-new-site-panama/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24533_4000_0__).



Panama's fifth Wetland of International Importance (photos courtesy of Albatros Media)

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **CSD 18:** 3-14 May 2010. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd18/>
- **CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice:** 10-21 May 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta14/>
- **First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development:** 17-19 May 2010. New York, NY. <http://www.iisd.ca/uncsd/prepcom1/>
- **Fourth GEF Assembly:** 24-28 May 2010. Punta del Este, Uruguay. <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/gef/gefassembly4/>
- **Third Meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRD):** 24-28 May 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wgri3/>
- **Resumed Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN 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:** 24-28 May 2010. New York, NY. <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/rfsaic/>