



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD SBSTTA FOCUSES ON BIODIVERSITY-CLIMATE CHANGE LINKAGES

The 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened at the headquarters of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya, from 10-21 May 2010. SBSTTA 14 launched the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 3) and adopted 18 recommendations, which will be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD, to be held from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. The recommendations address: in-depth reviews of implementation of the programmes of work on mountain biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, protected areas, biodiversity and climate change, and Article 10 (sustainable use); agricultural biodiversity, including biofuels; biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands; forest biodiversity; invasive alien species; outcome-oriented goals and targets for the period beyond 2010; incentive measures; the Global Taxonomy Initiative; the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation; consideration of the GBO 3 messages and implications; new and emerging issues; and ways and means to improve SBSTTA effectiveness. Notwithstanding certain divergences, notably on biofuels, participants viewed SBSTTA 14 to have made incremental progress on several issues, in particular on biodiversity and climate change, by laying out clear and informative options for political decision-making at COP 10 (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/sbstta14/>).



L-R: Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, CBD; and SBSTTA Chair Amb. Spencer Thomas (Grenada)

Immediately following SBSTTA 14, the third meeting of the CBD Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI) is convening from 24-28 May 2010, at the same venue. The meeting is expected to focus on a revised and updated strategic plan including a post-2010 biodiversity target, and a multi-year programme of work for the CBD (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/wgri3/>). *Continued on page 2*

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MEA REPORT I

CMS and the Sahelo-Saharan Conservation Project in Niger

By UNEP/CMS Secretariat

The Termit massif and the large adjacent erg of Tin Toumma in Niger can be considered as one of the remaining hotspots for biodiversity in the Sahara, with 30 species of mammals, over 100 species of birds and some rare reptiles. The site is particularly remarkable because it harbors the last viable population of addax, now the rarest antelope in the world with less than 300 individuals living in the wild.

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MEA REPORT II

Land Day 2 Considering a Holistic Response to Global Climate, Biodiversity and Land Use Challenges

By UNCCD Secretariat

After the uncertain close of the Copenhagen climate summit, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat is organizing "Land Day 2" to heighten attention among policy makers to land issues of relevance to the ongoing climate change negotiations.

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► **BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

Continued from page 1

In other CBD-related news, this year's International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated on 22 May 2010, under the theme "Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation."

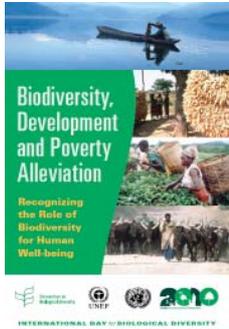
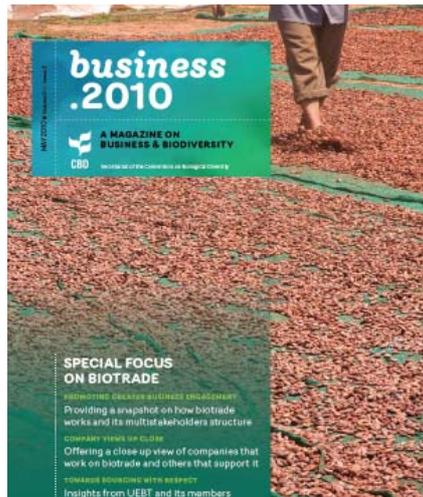


Image courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

On the occasion, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the integration of the 2010 biodiversity target into the Millennium Development Goals, and underscored the need for a new vision to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and the equitable sharing of the benefits from its use, and to also recognize the close links between natural capital and development objectives (<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2010/>).

A new website launched during SB-STTA 14 focuses on implementation tools for the programme of work on protected areas. It provides information on the values and benefits of protected areas, detailed information on each goal and target of the work programme, an online platform for gauging the status of the work programme implementation at national, regional and global levels, and several e-learning tools (<http://www.cbd.int/protected/>).

Finally, the second issue of the fifth volume of the CBD Secretariat's *Business.2010* magazine, a collaborative effort among the CBD Secretariat, UNCTAD and the Union for Ethical Biotrade, which focuses on biotrade, has been released (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/news-biz-2010-05-en.pdf>).



Cover of the second issue of the fifth volume of the CBD Secretariat's Business.2010 magazine

CITES SECRETARY-GENERAL RESPONDS TO CONCERNS ABOUT CONFISCATED ORANGUTANS

The Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), John Scanlon, has issued a statement responding to messages urging the return to Indonesia of 11 orangutans confiscated by the CITES Management Authority of Thailand in February 2009. In the statement, he notes ongoing consultation between the Thai and Indonesian CITES Management Authorities about possible return of the animals, in accordance with CITES provisions, and explains the supportive role of the CITES Secretariat in relation to domestic law enforcement, as well as compliance measures (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press/2010/20100520_SG_statement_orangutan.shtml).

In other CITES-related news, the Secretariat has invited concerned range States to communicate candidates for

the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species by 8 July 2010 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010.shtml>).

SIGNATORIES TO AQUATIC WARBLER MOU ADOPT ACTION PLAN

The second meeting of signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler, held under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), convened from 13-15 May 2010, in Biebrza, Poland. The meeting adopted a new International Species Action Plan for the Aquatic Warbler, prepared by CMS partner Birdlife International on behalf of the EU, aiming to protect the Aquatic Warbler throughout its range and envisaging concrete actions to be taken by countries. The meeting further agreed to extend the geographical coverage of the agreement, originally comprising 15 countries, to include seven new countries in Europe and Africa, along the bird's migration route and in its wintering areas. The Aquatic Warbler is the rarest and the only globally threatened passerine bird found in mainland Europe (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/05_may/aqwarb_press_cms_bli.pdf).



Photo courtesy of A. Koszulnik/BirdLife Belarus

► **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

NORWAY PROVIDES ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO UNEP, UNEP-WCMC LAUNCHES CARBON AND CO-BENEFITS WEBSITE

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has received US\$34 million from the Government of Norway towards the organization's forward-looking work programme and its Medium Term Strategy (MTS), for 2011/2012. The MTS is centered on cross-cutting themes, including: climate change; ecosystem management; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste and resource efficiency, including sustainable consumption and production. The Norwegian funds



L-R: H.E. Norwegian Ambassador, Elisabeth Jacobsen; and Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP, signing the donor agreement (photo courtesy of UNEP)

will assist UNEP in responding to countries requesting support and advice in delivering the policies and smart market mechanisms as they move towards a low carbon, resource efficient Green

Economy (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=624&ArticleID=6557&l=en>).

The UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC), with support from the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), has launched a new website highlighting the potential for actions on maintaining natural carbon stocks to generate co-benefits. The new UNEP-WCMC website demonstrates the utility of spatial analyses to assist decision makers in identifying areas where high carbon, high biodiversity priority and ecosystem service values overlap, in order to secure co-benefits (<http://www.carbon-biodiversity.net/>).

MEA REPORT I (cont.)

It also hosts one of the last populations of Dama gazelle, as well as Saharan cheetah, Barbary sheep, striped hyena, caracal, lappet faced vulture and spurred tortoise, among other species.

A project for the study and conservation of biodiversity in the area of Termit-Tin Toumma, funded by the French Fund for the Environment (FFEM) and the EU, is being implemented in partnership with the Sahara Conservation Fund. On 4-12 May 2010, the Scientific and Technical Officer of Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Borja Heredia, and Scientific Councillor Roseline Beudels, convener of the Terrestrial Mammals Working Group, visited the project and met the team that is implementing the different components in the field. The project's objectives are:

- to conserve the unique Saharan biodiversity by involving the pastoral communities in surveillance activities;
- to involve local communities and other stakeholders in the sustainable management of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of life of the pastoral communities;

- to establish a system for enhancing the biological and socio-economic knowledge;
- to enhance national, regional and international awareness of the value of the Saharan natural heritage; and
- to establish an independent and effective project management structure.

During meetings with the EU Delegation in Niamey and high ranking officials from the Ministry of Water, Environment and Combat of Desertification, CMS was reassured of Niger's commitment to the protection of the area and to designating it as a National Nature Reserve before the end of 2010. Then it will become one of the largest conservation areas in the world with around 10 million hectares under legal protection.

The process of designation is based on a participatory approach involving the pastoralist people, whose way of life is consistent with the presence of wildlife and the sustainable management of the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The project aims at protecting the local biodiversity, but also the traditional lifestyles of the nomadic people who depend on the nat-

ural resources of the region for their livelihood.

In addition, the overall initiative will contribute to achieving Millennium Development Goals 1 (Poverty Reduction), 3 (Gender Equality) and 7 (Environmental Sustainability) by initiating and encouraging micro development projects to help the pastoral communities gain improved living conditions, educating pastoral communities, and integrating young nomads in the conservation structures. It will increase the national, regional and the international levels of awareness which will give value to the Niger's Saharan natural heritage and thus might be a starting point for further ecotourism projects in the region.

More information about the project can be found at: <http://www.ass-niger.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.

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT



The dais during the Civil Society Forum. L-R: **Maria Leichner**, Fundacion ECOS; **Jorge Patrone**, Vice Minister for Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Uruguay; **Monique Barbut**, GEF CEO and Chairperson; **Faizal Parish**, Director of the Global Environment Centre, and Central Focal Point of the GEF NGO Network; and **Miguel Reynal**, Fundacion ECOS, Uruguay.

GEF CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM AND COUNCIL MEET, GEF-5 REPLENISHMENT CONCLUDES

On the eve of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly meeting, the GEF Council and Civil Society Forum met in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on 24 May 2010. The GEF Council approved the results of the Fifth GEF Replenishment (GEF-5), where over 30 countries pledged US\$4.25 billion to fund projects with global environmental benefits during the next four years, including funds in the order of US\$1.3 billion programmed for climate change and US\$250 million for sustainable forest management (http://www.thegef.org/gef/council_meetings). The Civil Society Forum featured experiences from GEF

projects and the role of civil society, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, in safeguarding the global environment. They also discussed how to enhance civil society participation in GEF-5 and Latin American experiences with GEF projects (<http://gefassembly.org/j2/>).

In related news, the sixth meeting of donors for GEF-5, which met in Paris, France, on 12 May 2010, finalized negotiations. The financial pledges included some of the Fast Start Financing discussed at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, and will feature the creation of a Sustainable Forest Management-reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, conservation, sustainable for-

est management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD Plus) initiative. Some of the main areas of work for the GEF during the four-year period starting July 2010 will be to: lower carbon dioxide emissions; expand sustainable management of protected areas and critical landscapes; strengthen multi-State cooperation on transboundary water systems management; reduce persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in land and water; reduce mercury emissions; and expand and protect the Earth's forest cover (<http://thegef.org/gef/>).

In other news, the World Bank approved, on 6 May 2010, a US\$60 million loan to China to revert soil erosion and desertification through the re-vegetation of 38,000 hectares of degraded hillsides and development of 28,000 hectares of forest belts and plantations on saline coastal areas (<http://go.worldbank.org/Z1KWEKCM00>).

On 20 May, two GEF grants were also approved: a US\$8.89 million grant to strengthen the protected areas system in Peru (<http://go.worldbank.org/SAVZ93XQX0>) and a US\$8.64 million grant to support the Philippines in reducing human and environmental exposure to harmful POPs such as furans and dioxins (<http://go.worldbank.org/GHI41646J0>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

WOW FLYWAY TRAINING KIT

(Wings Over Wetlands project, 2010) This training kit is designed to build capacity to plan, implement, monitor and engage in effective flyway-scale conservation of migratory waterbirds and wetland habitats in Africa and Eurasia. The package includes three modules with text, case studies and exercises supported by ready-to-use presentations, as well as accompanying CDs and additional material. The kit is designed to assist in targeted trainings that can be customized by topic as they relate to flyway conservation, wetland management and migratory waterbird conservation (<http://wow.wetlands.org/CAPACITYBUILDING/TRAININGAWARENESSRAISING/WOWTrainingResources/tabid/1688/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

UN-WATER GLOBAL ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF SANITATION AND DRINKING-WATER (GLAAS) 2010

(World Health Organization, 2010) GLAAS is a UN-Water initiative implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) that aims to provide policy makers at all levels with analyses of the evidence to make informed decisions in sanitation and drinking-water. Sub-titled "Targeting resources for better results," this report finds that over 2.6 billion people live without access to improved sanitation facilities, and nearly 900 million people are not receiving their drinking-water from improved water sources. It highlights where efforts stagnate in achieving the Millennium Development Goal Target 7.C. – to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation. It also outlines the post-2015 challenges (http://www.unwater.org/downloads/UN-Water_GLAAS_2010_Report.pdf).

WATER ISSUES: CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF CSD 18/19

(UN-Water and UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, 2010) This document was prepared for the 18th and 19th sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18/19). It highlights water-related aspects of the current CSD thematic issues of mining, sustainable production and consumption, chemicals, transport and waste management (http://www.unwater.org/downloads/UN-Water_UNSGAB_CSD_18_19.pdf).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES



Participants of the SHPFs consultation (photo courtesy of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat)

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CONVENES CONSULTATION ON SEVERELY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention convened a consultation to strengthen capacities in the identification of Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPFs) under article 6 to the Rotterdam Convention. The consultation convened in Lomé, Togo, from 5-7 May 2010, and was attended by representatives from Benin, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo. Outcomes included: a draft plan of action to collect information on poisoning and intoxications caused by hazardous formulations; and strengthened capacities of the different national key players including representatives of Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Health, as well as local non-governmental organizations and farmers' associations (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77>).

In related news, the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has released the final report from the Sixth Meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, which convened from 15-19 March 2010 (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=6&sid=18&tid=42>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION GLOBAL DDT ALLIANCE CONVENES

The Second meeting of the Interim Steering Committee of the Global Alliance for the development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to DDT for disease vector control convened in New Delhi, India, from 19-21 May 2010. The Interim Steering Committee reviewed the progress of the implementation of the activities of the Global Alliance and proposed a web-based information-sharing mechanism (<http://chm.pops>

[int/Programmes/DDT/hrstyleheight-1pxcolorgrayMeetings/GlobalAllianceISC22010/tabid/761/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1421/EventID/96/xmid/3263/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/DDT/hrstyleheight-1pxcolorgrayMeetings/GlobalAllianceISC22010/tabid/761/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1421/EventID/96/xmid/3263/language/en-US/Default.aspx)).

In related news, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat convened a regional capacity-building workshop on new persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the process for reviewing and updating National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Latin American region in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 18-21 May 2010. Key outcomes of the workshop include increased knowledge and understanding of participants on the: the nine new POPs recently listed in Annexes A, B and C of the Convention and on the implications at the national level of the new obligations arising from their listing; guidance and training tools available to assess their new obligations and to update their NIPs accordingly; and using the electronic system for reporting under Article 15 of the Convention (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/TechnicalAssistance/hrTrainingWorkshops/LatinAmericatheCaribbean/S%3%A3oPaulo2010/tabid/756/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/89/xmid/3230/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).



Venue of the regional capacity-building workshop on new POPs and the process for reviewing and updating NIPs for the Latin American region (photo courtesy of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat)

MEA REPORT II (cont.)

The Copenhagen Accord that emerged from UNFCCC COP15 only makes thematic reference to the issues of deforestation and forest degradation. Thus, the next round of UNFCCC negotiations, especially COP16 in Cancún, Mexico, scheduled for the end of 2010, offers a new opportunity to fully address and include issues of land and soils in negotiations for an inclusive and well-rounded climate change treaty in the post-2012 period and beyond.

Abdullah M. Alsaidi, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations and current Chairman of G-77, will deliver the opening remarks. Ian Johnson, Secretary-General, Club of Rome and former World Bank Vice President, will deliver the keynote address. Jato Sillah, Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Natural Resources and Environment, Gambia, Yvo de Boer, outgoing Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, and Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, are among the high level speakers and panelists that will attend the event.

Land Day 2 will offer cutting-edge knowledge for direct use in the ongo-

ing post-2012 climate change negotiations, with the policy recommendations from the event disseminated to the negotiators and stakeholders. The event will take place on 5 June 2010, in Bonn, Germany, on the margins of the 32nd session of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies (SB32) taking place from 31 May-11 June 2010 in Bonn, Germany.

The purpose of Land Day 2 is to demonstrate how the continuing climate change negotiations could benefit from a more inclusive and holistic approach to climate, biodiversity and land use. Specifically, the event will seek to foster constructive dialogue in line with the expected UNFCCC COP16 outcomes, offer practical suggestions on the priority thematic issues under negotiation and tailor such proposals to each sector. A key focus will be demonstrating how sustainable land management contributes to the climate change mitigation and adaptation.

By stimulating debate among panelists and participants and prompting new insights to help shape sound global policy, Land Day 2 aims to:

- increase understanding, among climate change meeting participants, of the links between unsustainable use

of land on the one hand, and worsening climate change on the other, so that land and soil are recognized and incorporated as important factors in adaptation and mitigation measures, especially at COP16 of the UNFCCC in Mexico and thereafter;

- demonstrate the redoubled commitment of the UNCCD and UNFCCC Secretariats to strengthen and tighten their cooperation through synergetic implementation of their respective action programmes – the NAPAs and NAPS – at country level; and

- reinvigorate the commitment made by countries for the implementation of the 2007 Bali Action Plan (BAP) as the main vehicle for generating concrete recommendations, supported by concrete examples and evidence, on food security, land and water management for the drylands, these being indispensable elements of the global climate change adaptation agenda.

More information: <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/2010/menu.php>



Banner courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNFF AND UNCCD SIGN MOU

The Secretariats of the UNCCD and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that stresses the need to work together to fight land degradation, including in forests. The MOU was signed on 25 May 2010, the side of the Fourth GEF Assembly, which is taking place in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, from 24-28 May. The MOU underscores the link with climate change and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks). It provides new avenues of cooperation on common issues between sustainable forest and land management, particularly in arid land forests, tropical dry forests and low forest cover countries. It will also contribute to synergies between the Secretariats, including a common programme on forest landscape restoration (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/envdev1143.doc.htm>).



L-R: Jan McAlpine, Director, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat; and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD, signing the UNCCD-UNFF MOU at the Fourth GEF Assembly

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO AWARDS FELLOWSHIPS



Logo courtesy of the ITTO Secretariat

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has awarded 29 fellowships to promote human resource development in tropical forestry in member countries. The Freezailah Fellowship Fund aims to promote the sustainable management of tropical forests, the efficient use and processing of tropical timber, and better economic information about the international tropical timber trade. The fellowships were awarded to recipients from 14 different countries, and included six female fellows. The awards ranged from funding recipients to attend international workshops and conferences, including the XXIII IUFRO World Congress, to completing graduate research programmes and preparing and publishing research documents (http://www.itto.int/en/fellowship_detail/id=2342).

UNCCD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AT GEF ASSEMBLY, GM DEPLOYS STAFF TO RCMs

The Executive Secretary of the UN Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, Luc Gnacadja, is participating in the fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility

(GEF), which is meeting from 24-28 May 2010, in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Among other activities, he will participate in a high-level round table on "Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the GEF" and will address an event on "Forest Financing and Implementation of Synergies at the National Scale" (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/gef/gef4/menu.php>).

The UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism (GM), the UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the GEF are organizing a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop for subregional and regional organizations that will provide technical support to UNCCD National Focal Points on the new Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS). The TOT workshop will convene at UN Food and Agricultural Organization headquarters, in Rome, Italy, from 31 May-4 June 2010, as part of a capacity-development programme called for at COP 9 to assist country parties to the Convention during the fourth UNCCD reporting cycle (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/preparing-trainers-to-support-the-4th-unccd-reporting-and-review-process/>).

In response to Decision 3/COP 9, in which the GM was requested to provide staff, within available resources, to the Regional Coordination Mecha-

nisms (RCMs), the GM has deployed staff to the RCMs for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and has reported that it is in the process of doing the same for Asia (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/the-gms-support-to-regional-coordination-mechanisms/>).

The GM, UNCCD Secretariat and the Czech Republic are preparing to convene, in June 2010, a joint capacity building and knowledge exchange workshop on National Action Programme alignment and UNCCD financing in Central and Eastern Europe (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/workshop-on-nap-alignment-and-unccd-financing-in-central-and-eastern-europe-/>). And, based on a request from the 16th Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), in January 2008, the 17th Forum, in April 2010, considered a proposal for a regional integrated financing strategy (RIFS) to combat desertification, land degradation and the effects of drought in the region that had been drafted by the GM and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for LAC, in coordination with the Agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee, and endorsed it (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/news/lac-environment-ministers-adopt-unccd-regional-proposal-for-integrated-financing-strategy/>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNCSO PREPCOM DISCUSSES ORGANIZATION OF WORK LEADING TO RIO+20 EVENT

The first session of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSO) took place from 17-19 May 2010, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. The Preparatory Committee (Prep-Com) began its work in planning for UNCSO (also referred to as "Rio+20"), which will take place in 2012, with delegates taking up both substantive and procedural matters. On the substantive side, delegates assessed progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementing outcomes of major summits on sustainable development, new and emerging challenges, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. On the procedural side, participants organized their work in the lead up to 2012, and to consider the UNCSO's rules of procedure (<http://www.iisd.ca/uncsd/prepcom1/>).

CSD 18 REVIEWS POLICIES RELATED TO THEMATIC CLUSTER

Delegates at the 18th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 18), which convened in New York, US, from 3-14 May 2010, focused on the thematic cluster of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and sustainable

consumption and production patterns. Delegates also conducted a one-day preparatory committee meeting for the five-year high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation (MSI+5) of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (<http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd18/>).



A view of the dais during the address of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



The Maritim Hotel, venue of the Bonn Climate Change Talks - May/June 2010

UNFCCC MEETINGS TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

The second round of negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010 will take place from 31 May-11 June, in Bonn, Germany. In preparation for these meetings, the UNFCCC Secretariat has posted, *inter alia*, the Chair's text to facilitate negotiations among parties at AWG-LCA 10, which maintains the general structure of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) presented to 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) with a combination of thematic decisions and a broad decision covering: a shared vision; provisions on mitigation and finance; and reference to the thematic decisions. The UNFCCC Secretariat has also published the AWG-LCA scenario note (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca10/eng/06.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca10/eng/05.pdf>).

Looking ahead to COP 16, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published a note by the Executive Secretary on arrangements for intergovernmental meetings. This document addresses three main topics: COP 16 and the sixth session of the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 6); future sessional periods; and organization of the intergovernmental process. Under the first item, information on the sessions is provided, including an organizational scenario and possible elements of the provisional agendas. Regarding future sessional periods, the document addresses arrangements for additional sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Working Groups in 2010, as well as preparations for COP 17 and COP/MOP 7. Guidance by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation is also invited regarding the dates for the four regular sessional periods in 2014 and 2015. On the organization of the intergovernmental process, the document focuses on engagement of observer organizations. This document will be considered by the 32nd session of the SBI, which will convene from 31 May-9 June 2010, in Bonn, Germany

(<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/sbi/eng/08.pdf>).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published its second newsletter for 2010, which includes a video address from Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, in which he notes the need for "firmer, fast achievable action across the whole spectrum of climate responses," emphasizing that negotiations must produce a clear common understanding of what Cancun can deliver. The newsletter also focuses on fast start financing, summarizes activities and outputs under mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance, and includes a guest article on scaling up institutional investment in climate solutions, by Aled Jones, Deputy Director, University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=yczctpnj&s=hkomb5gqcoxzenwd>).



Image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

INTERACADEMY COUNCIL CONVENES FIRST MEETING FOR IPCC REVIEW

The InterAcademy Council, an organization of the world's science academies, has convened a committee to conduct an independent review of the procedures and processes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The committee's first meeting was held on 14 May 2010, at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. At the meeting, the committee heard presentations in open session by IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri and Secretary of the IPCC Renate Christ. The audio of these presentations is available online at the website of the InterAcademy Council. Presentations were also made via telephone by Janos Pasztor, Director of the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team, and Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) (<http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/IACMediaAdvisory.html>).

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TEAP REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES TO HCFCs RELEASED, MULTILATERAL FUND RELEASES 60th MEETING SUMMARY

The Montreal Protocol Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) has released an assessment of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and environmentally-sound alternatives, and a scoping study on alternatives to HCFC refrigerants under high ambient temperature conditions. The reports are in response to Decision XXI/9, paragraph 2, which requests the TEAP in its 2010 Progress Report to: list all sub-sectors using HCFCs, with concrete examples of technologies where low-global warming potential (GWP) alternatives are used; identify and characterize the implemented measures for ensuring safe application of low-GWP alternative technologies and products as well as barriers to their phase-in; and predict the amount of high-GWP alternatives to ozone-depleting substances uses that can potentially be replaced. The report includes chapters on: definitions of high- and low-GWP; methods and metrics for prioritizing investment to minimize climate impacts; domestic, commercial, industrial and transport refrigeration; unitary, chiller and vehicle air conditioning; foams; fire protection; solvents; and inhaled therapy (http://ozone.unep.org/Assessment_Panels/TEAP/Reports/TEAP_Reports/teap-2010-progress-report-volume1-May2010.pdf).

In other ozone news, the Multilateral Fund has released a summary report of the 60th meeting of the Executive Committee, which convened from 12-15 April 2010, in Montreal, Canada. The Committee finalized guidelines for the phase-out of HCFC consumption, and addressed issues related to the phase-out of HCFC production and pharmaceutical grade chlorofluorocarbons for metered-dose inhalers. The Committee approved investment projects and work programme activities valued at over US\$31 million, plus US\$2.45 million in support costs for bilateral/implementing agencies. It also took 51 decisions including the approval of the first tranches of two HCFC phase-out management plans (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/files/60/pms60.pdf>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR'S STANDING COMMITTEE REVIEWS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

The 41st meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, which took place from 26 April-1 May 2010, in Kobuleti, Georgia, considered the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Administrative Reform regarding the proposal to move the Ramsar Secretariat to UNEP. On this question, delegates recommended mandating the Working Group to continue its work, to determine the modalities for implementing a transfer of the Ramsar Secretariat to UNEP, including options for reducing the costs of a UNEP-administered Ramsar Secretariat, transition arrangements, timing and a timeline for implementation, and the added benefits to the Convention. The Standing Committee also: renewed Secretary General Anada Tiéga's tenure for another term; reviewed plans for Ramsar 40th anniversary celebrations next year and the preparations for the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in 2012; approved the National Reports format for COP 11; and approved three new Regional Initiatives (for the Black Sea, Caribbean, and American mangroves) as operating in the framework of the Convention (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-standing-sc41-report/main/ramsar/1-31-41%5E24612_4000_0_; http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-standing-sc41-decisions/main/ramsar/1-31-41%5E24613_4000_0_).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has announced that the Government of Cameroon has designated its fifth site of International Importance, located in the department of Ndian, at the edge of the Gulf of Guinea. The Government received financial and technical assistance from

WWF International, through its Freshwater Programme and the WWF Cameroon Country Programme Office, for the designation of this site (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-cameroonnewsite/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24629_4000_2_). The Secretariat also has reported that the Australian Government has approved the merger of two sites supported by the Kakadu National Park into a single "Kakadu National Park Ramsar site," and extended its boundary by approximately 600,000 hectares (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-kakadumerger/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24627_4000_2_).



Kakadu National Park Ramsar site (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

IMO SAFETY COMMITTEE ADOPTS SHIP CONSTRUCTION REGULATION

The 87th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) took place in London, UK, from 12-21 May 2010. The MSC adopted the International Goal based Ship Construction Standards for Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers (GBS) for newly-constructed oil tankers and bulk carriers. This is the first time the IMO has set standards for ship construction.

The MSC also adopted guidelines that establish the procedures to be followed to verify that the design and construction rules of an Administration or its recognized organization, for bulk carriers and/or oil tankers, conform to the adopted GBS. This is also the first time the IMO has given a role in verifying conformity with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The development of the GBS is based on the recognition of the need for ships to be designed and constructed for a specified design life in a way that is safe and environmentally-friendly. The GBS and the guidelines will enter into force on 1 July 2012 (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=12896).

FISH STOCKS REVIEW CONFERENCE UNDERWAY

The 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 (the "Agreement") is being held at UN Headquarters in New York, US, from 24-28 May 2010. The Review Conference, convened pursuant to article 36 of the Agreement, will be resumed pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 63/112 of 5 December 2008 and resolution 64/72 of 4 December 2009, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of the Agreement in securing the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/review_conf_fish_stocks.htm; <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/rfsaic/>).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Christiana Figueres, a Costa Rican diplomat, as **Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC**, to replace Yvo de Boer on 1 July 2010. Figueres has been a member of the Costa Rican negotiating team since 1995. She represented Latin America and the Caribbean on the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism in 2007, and was then elected Vice President of the Conference of the Parties for the 2008-2009 period (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/100517_pressrel_new_es.pdf).



Christiana Figueres

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **CBD Second Expert Meeting for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development:** 29-30 May 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-02>
- **Bonn Climate Change Talks - May/June 2010:** 31 May-9 June 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb32/>
- **Land Day 2:** 5 June 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/2010/menu.php>
- **INC to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury:** 7-11 June 2010. Stockholm, Sweden. <http://www.respoint.se/itp/event/inc1/9475.jsessionid=C836E798F1295D75ED7A479552DE7304>
- **IPBES III:** 7-11 June 2010. Busan, Republic of Korea. <http://www.ipbes.net/3rd-meeting-on-ipbes.html?139181e9463c94a418d97a0a0634b1b9=a3948decab43e7111da0ed89978b2af1>
- **International Conference on Biological and Cultural Diversity:** 8-10 June 2010. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/icbcd/>
- **7th Meeting of Signatories to the Siberian Crane MOU:** 10-11 June 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>