



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

BONN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS END WITH LIMITED PROGRESS

The Bonn Climate Change Talks took place from 31 May-11 June 2010, in Bonn, Germany. The meeting included the 32nd sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the tenth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 10) and the 12th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 12). One of the key issues under the Subsidiary Bodies was an agenda item under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigating climate change. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), with most other parties, called for requesting a technical paper by the Secretariat on options for limiting global average temperature increase to 1.5°C and 2°C from pre-industrial levels. No agreement was reached and parties eventually adopted SBSTA conclusions without referencing the technical paper. The AWG-LCA focused on exchanging views on the Chair's new draft negotiating text (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/6) through a contact group chaired by AWG-LCA Chair Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe (Zimbabwe). However, AWG-LCA 10 did not adopt conclusions as parties did not reach agreement on issues including a request to the Secretariat to compile developed and developing countries' mitigation pledges. Late on Thursday, 10 June, AWG-LCA Chair Mukahanana-Sangarwe circulated the advance draft of a revised text to facilitate negotiations among parties, to be issued as an official document (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/8) for consideration by AWG-LCA 11 in August. During the closing plenary, a number of developing countries indicated that the advance draft was "unbalanced," emphasizing that it could not be used as the basis for negotiations in August unless developing countries' proposals were better reflected.



Incoming UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres presented Yvo de Boer with a very large pair of shoes indicating that she has large shoes to fill

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GUEST ARTICLE

Voluntary environmental or sustainability labeling for sustainable consumption and production

By *Liazzat Rabbiosi and Patrick Clairzier, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch*

Abstract

Voluntary environmental or sustainability labeling and standards facilitate the selection of products and services according to specific environmental and social criteria,

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

DEAD PLANET, LIVING PLANET: BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(UNEP, GRID-Arendal, 2010) Edited by C. Nellemann and E. Corcoran, this report is a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity and a complement to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study. It documents over 30 successful case studies referencing thousands of restoration projects ranging from deserts and rainforests to rivers and coasts (<http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/dead-planet/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

with the focus on improving the overall performance of products throughout their life-cycle. These tools have become a market reality in response to consumers' perceived desire to protect the environment in a complex marketplace that makes it difficult for them to determine the impact of their choices. They communicate information about hidden impacts of products and use the social and environmental values of consumers to introduce incentives for producers to improve their manufacturing processes. For these reasons, they are often referred to as consumer information tools.

From the policy perspective, consumer information tools are based on the principles of modern governance such as transparency, participation and shared responsibility between government, private sector and civil society to contribute to reaching sustainability objectives. The perceived implementation gap of command-and-control policies in the 1970-1980s created the need for a new type of policy tools and a paradigm of systematic and integrated policy approaches, as outlined in Agenda 21 of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Ten years later, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) called on stakeholders to "encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production." This call to action launched the Marrakech Process, which "is a global multi-stakeholder platform to promote the implementation of policies and capacity build-

ing on sustainable consumption and production (SCP)" as an input and basis for elaboration of the 10-year framework of programmes on SCP. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development, which is the high-level forum for sustainable development to review the progress of the JPOI and provides policy guidance at the local, national, regional and global levels, is focusing on SCP patterns in its thematic cluster for 2010-2011.

The increasing interest in market-driven product information tools as one mechanism for tackling unsustainable consumption and production challenges has led to the development of multiple schemes and systems around the world. However, there is often little coherence between information tools, which differ widely in scope, approach and methodology. Moreover, developing countries often view voluntary standards and labeling as disguised barriers to trade.

In response to these challenges, UNEP has initiated a number of activities to advance SCP principles globally through the use of credible and functional consumer-oriented information tools. As one example, the UNEP 'Enabling developing countries to seize ecolabelling opportunities' project works with SMEs in selected countries to meet the requirements of ecolabels and with governments to create an enabling policy framework. It focuses on obstacles and challenges that businesses in developing countries may face in terms of trade and environmental labeling. This is done through a combination of awareness raising, capacity building, technical assistance and consultation involving various stakeholders.

By the end of the project, a number of export products from selected countries are expected to be awarded with an ecolabel and enhance market access for their sustainable products in global and European markets.

Currently, no commonly applied and coherent framework exists to provide the baseline against which environmental claims can be defined and communicated. UNEP proposes to create a global collaborative process to identify, agree and promote common principles on how to communicate sustainability information in a legitimate and practical way. UNEP will involve various stakeholder groups that share a common interest in simplifying and synergizing the realm of consumer information tools that incorporate their different perspectives, needs and aspirations.

UNEP recognizes voluntary labeling and standards as the critical connection between consumption and production. It is only by establishing dynamic and transparent institutional mechanisms that are accepted by all stakeholders and providing capacity building and technical assistance that these tools will contribute to the needed change in the SCP patterns of developed and developing countries.

To view the full guest article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle95.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.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

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For the AWG-KP, the focus was on Annex I emission reductions and other issues, including the flexibility mechanisms and land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). In particular, parties exchanged views on the pledged emission reductions and the underlying assumptions on the use of the flexibility mechanisms and LULUCF in the post-2012 period. They also addressed legal matters and ways to ensure that there is no gap between the first and subsequent commitment periods. Late on Friday night, 11 June, the AWG-KP agreed to conclusions (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/L.4) requesting the Secretariat to prepare a technical paper on legal issues and or-

ganize a technical workshop on the scale of Annex I emission reductions before AWG-LCA 13. At the end of the meeting, delegates bid farewell to the outgoing UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, and welcomed the appointment of Christiana Figueres (Costa Rica) as the next Executive Secretary (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb32/>).

OZONE OEWG 30 CONVENES

The 30th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG 30) of the parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer took place from 15-18 June 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. At OEWG 30, parties discussed issues related to: the financial

mechanism; hydrochlorofluorocarbons and their alternatives; polyols; and environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Parties also considered issues concerning exemptions for ODS uses, including: essential- and critical-use exemptions for 2011 and 2012; transitions to chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-free metered dose inhalers; laboratory and analytical uses of ODS; and use of ODS as process agents. OEWG 30 also considered two proposals, from the Federated States of Micronesia and from the US, Canada and Mexico, for amendments to the Montreal Protocol to control hydrofluorocarbons (http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/oewg30/brief/oewg30_brief.html).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES



Chair Fernando Lujaris (Uruguay) gavelled the INC 1 meeting to a close at 7:01pm

MERCURY INC 1 BEGINS WORK ON LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC 1) convened from 7-11 June, in Stockholm, Sweden. Delegates to the meeting exchanged views on key issues to be addressed in the instrument including: objectives; structure of the instrument; capacity building and technical and financial assistance; compliance; issues of supply, demand, trade, waste and storage; atmospheric emissions of mercury; and awareness raising and information exchange. Delegates mandated the Sec-

retariat to prepare, for consideration by the INC, “elements of a comprehensive and suitable approach to a legally binding instrument on mercury.” This document is expected to be used as the basis for negotiations by the INC 2, scheduled to convene from 24-28 January 2011, in Chiba, Japan (<http://www.iisd.ca/mercury/inc1/>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION CONVENES CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention convened a regional Capacity-Building Workshop on New Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Process for Reviewing and Updating National Implementation Plans, and Reporting Requirements under the Stockholm Convention for Central and Eastern Europe, from 15-18 June 2010. The workshop aimed to raise awareness of the recent amendments to the Stockholm Convention, and offered the opportunity for participants to become familiar with the enhanced version of the online electronic reporting system in preparation for the second round of party reporting (<http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/TechnicalAssistance/hrTrainingWorkshops/>

Central Eastern Europe/Brno2010/tabid/768/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/90/xmid/3316/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

BASEL CONVENTION SECRETARIAT RELEASES OEWG REPORT

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has released an advance report of the Seventh Session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), which convened from 10-14 May 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The report (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/21) is available in English only (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION RELEASES PROGRESS REPORT

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has released a progress report on activities undertaken in order to achieve its COP 4 mandates. The webpage lists 18 activities, including establishment of a clearing-house mechanism and follow-up to the synergies decision, with links to the relevant COP 4 mandate and reports on action taken from January-October 2009 and November 2009-May 2010 (<http://www.pic.int/ProgressReportMinisite/preport.html>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD ORGANIZES LAUNCH EVENT FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, SIDS UNIT UPDATES ON PREPARATIONS FOR MSI+5

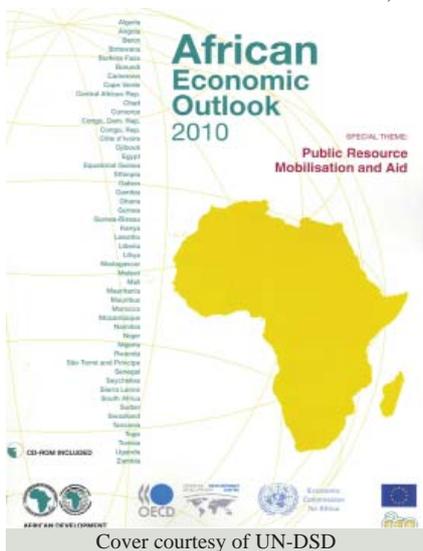
The UN Division for Sustainable Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSD-DESA), together with the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Regional Bureau for Africa of the UN Development Programme, co-hosted the launch of the “African Economic Outlook,” a

joint publication of the OECD Development Centre, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_afri_aeo0610.shtml).

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Unit of DSD has published the sixth issue of SIDS Newsletter, with updates on preparations for the high-level meeting, to be convened on 24-25 September 2010, to carry out a five-year review of progress in addressing the vulnerabilities of SIDS through the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI+5). The newsletter indicates that the President of the General Assembly has announced the appointment of the Permanent Representatives of Singapore and Luxemburg as co-facilitators to lead

the informal consultations of a draft political declaration on MSI+5, to be adopted at the General Assembly high-level meeting. Consultations are expected to begin by the end of June, and the co-facilitators are expected to request inputs from all interested member States including the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Group of 77. Procedural aspects for the MSI+5 high-level meeting will be worked out in parallel by the General Assembly President in consultation with concerned parties (http://www.sidsnet.org/provisional/docs/newsletter/SIDS_Unit_Newsletter-May_2010.pdf).

In other DSD news, the Division co-organized a workshop titled “The Challenge of Sustainability: A Workshop in Preparation for Rio+20.” The event took place on 8-10 May 2010, in New York, US, in parallel to the Commission on Sustainable Development, and served as an introduction to a UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, also known as Rio+20) workshop series. The workshop sought to foster discussion on the possibility of global sustainable growth based on absolute decoupling of growth from additional inputs of material resources and the desirability of growth (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sdkp/sdkp_uncsd_workshop_0510.shtml).



Cover courtesy of UN-DSD



Cover courtesy of the UN

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



The dais at IPBES III. L-R: Ibrahim Thiaw, UNEP; Kim Chan-woo (Republic of Korea); and Vice-chair Robert Watson (UK).

IPBES MEETING RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The third *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES III) met from 7-11 June 2010, in Busan, Republic of Korea. Delegates discussed whether to establish an IPBES and negotiated text on considerations for its function, guiding principles and recommendations. The meeting adopted the Busan Outcome, recommending the establishment of an IPBES that would collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services and be scientifically independent. The meeting also recommended that: the UN General Assembly be invited to consider the conclusions of the meeting and take appropriate action for the establishment of an IPBES; and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council should invite UNEP, in cooperation with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and UN Development Programme, to continue facilitating any ensuing process of implementing the IPBES until a secretariat is established (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/biodiv/ipbes3/>).

MEETING ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS CONCLUDES, CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY DEVELOPS ELEMENTS FOR PROGRAMME OF WORK

Held from 15-19 June 2010, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the third meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety continued negotiations on a supplementary protocol on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms (LMOs). Significant progress was made, with only two outstanding issues remaining in the

supplementary protocol: its application to products of LMOs, and the explicit recognition of the right of parties to require financial security. The meeting also considered draft guidelines on civil liability and redress proposed by the Co-Chairs Rene Lefebvre (the Netherlands) and Jimena Nieto (Colombia). Following a proposal by Malaysia not to pursue the guidelines further, their bracketed text was annexed to the report of the meeting, pending consideration of the Malaysian proposal. The Group will resume from 6-8 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, immediately before the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held from 11-15 October 2010, to resolve outstanding items and finalize the new instrument (IISD RS sources).

The "International Conference on Biological and Cultural Diversity: Diversity for Development – Development for Diversity" convened from 8-10 June 2010, in Montreal, Canada. Held jointly with the 16th International Economic Forum of the Americas/Conference of Montreal, it was organized in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, UNESCO, UNEP and the University of Montreal. Bringing together civil society, indigenous and local community representatives, policy makers, scientists and intergovernmental and development cooperation agencies, the conference aimed to exchange knowledge and practices linking biological and cultural diversity. Among its outcomes, the conference adopted elements for a programme of work to be jointly implemented by UNESCO, the CBD Secretariat and other partners, on the links between biological and cultural diversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-06-11-icbdc-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the Convention and the Alliance for Zero Extinction, a global alliance to prevent extinction of species, have signed a memorandum to specifically lay out areas of cooperation (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-06-11-zero-extinction-en.pdf>).

With reference to the resumed ninth session of the CBD Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held from 10-16 July 2010, in Montreal, Canada, the Working Group Co-Chairs Timothy Hodges (Canada) and Fernando Casas (Colombia) have circulated a scenario note providing an outline and associated rationale for the workflow during the meeting (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-122-abs-en.pdf>).

Finally, the CBD Secretariat in inviting views on the draft terms of reference for the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Agriculture and Forestry by 15 July 2010 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-115-ahteg-en.pdf>).

SIGNATORIES TO THE SIBERIAN CRANE MOU MEET

Held from 10-12 June 2010, in Bonn, Germany, the seventh Meeting of Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Siberian Crane, developed under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), has endorsed a new conservation plan for the critically endangered Siberian Crane, covering its entire range and migration routes. The meeting also designated two new sites as part of the West and Central Asian Site Network, in recognition of their importance for migratory waterbirds and potential for the Siberian Crane (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/06_jun/siberian_crane_mos7.pdf).

In other CMS-related news, the Secretariat has announced that the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will take place in the second half of November 2011, in Norway, with further details to be circulated in due course. Finally, Equatorial Guinea has recently acceded to the Convention, bringing the number of parties to the CMS to 114 (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/06_jun/equatorial_guinea_accession.pdf).

CITES CELEBRATES 35th ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an official reception will be hosted at the Natural History Museum of the City of Geneva on 1 July 2010 (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2010/35th_anniversary.shtml).

In other CITES-related news, the Secretariat has posted online the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting (COP 15), held in March 2010, in Doha, Qatar (<http://www.cites.org/eng/dec/valid15/E15-Dec.pdf>).

The Secretariat has also revised the guidelines for the preparation and submission of annual reports, to incorporate the results of COP 15, take account of changes in standard nomenclature and update the ISO codes for countries and territories (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010/E013A.pdf>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Logo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

UNCCD COORDINATES WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION CELEBRATION

The Secretariat to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) coordinated events marking World Day to Combat Desertification, celebrated annually on 17 June. To mark the event, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja called attention to the interlinkages between soil, biodiversity and climate change. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that, in this International Year of Biodiversity, “we must remember that drylands are areas of enormous biological diversity and productivity...The biodiversity of dryland soil also plays a critical role in transforming atmospheric carbon into organic carbon – the Earth’s largest pool of organic carbon.” Executive Secretary Gnacadja’s statement highlighted that “Enhancing soils anywhere enhances life everywhere,” the theme for this year’s World Day to Combat Desertification, “places soil health where it needs to be: at the very foundation of our survival and well-being.” Also marking the date, Director of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Jan McAlpine promoted the role of forest conservation and management to help protect against land degradation. She noted that the UNFF Secretariat is involved in the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, an initiative that is working on mapping and analyzing the restoration potential of the billion hectares of degraded land across the world, with the goal of restoring large tracts of forests lands directly threatened with desertification (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/2010/menu.php?newch=172>;

<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/2010/menu.php?newch=171>; <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35050&Cr=desert&Cr1=>).

A number of meetings have taken place recently to follow-up on decisions by the UNCCD Conference of the Parties related to national action programmes (NAPs) and indicators. Delegates from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) parties met from 7-10 June 2010, in Prague, Czech Republic, to discuss the alignment of national action programmes (NAPs) with five operational objectives of the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD (2008-2018), adopted at COP 8 in September 2007. This meeting also considered the regional initiative on financial resource mobilization to strengthen the implementation of the Convention in CEE parties. This element focused on enabling focal points and others concerned to start the formulation of Integrated Financing Strategies relevant to the UNCCD objectives (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/announce/docs/Resolution_final.pdf; <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/announce/first-regional-NAP-alignment-meeting.php>).

Following this meeting, a meeting of the Chairpersons of the five Regional Implementation Annexes of the UNCCD convened in Prague, on 11 June 2010. Representatives from the host country, the Global Environment Facility and the European Commission also attended the meeting. The meeting was organized by the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic. It focused on the alignment of action programmes with the 10-Year Strategy, the assistance programme to be facilitated by the Secretariat in partnership with the UN Development Programme and the Global Mechanism, the fourth UNCCD reporting and review process, and support to be provided to parties in the 2012-2013 reporting and review exercise (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/announce/chairpersons-meet-prague.php>).

Also on 11 June 2010, the UNCCD Secretariat organized a meeting with relevant institutions that have experience related to the implementation of the sub-set of two impact indicators. The meeting, which took place in Bonn, Germany, sought to: discuss methodologies in use to measure the two impact indicators and provide practical recommendations on data collection, processing, monitoring and reporting methods for the production of these indicators; review availability, accessibility and quality of the necessary data for the impact indicators and identify data sources and gaps; and initiate the discussion on the technical support that the invited institutions and agencies could provide in the reporting process of the impact indicators at the global and national levels (<http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/meeting-on-methodologies-data-needs.php>).

ITTO CO-HOSTS DEBATE ON BIODIVERSITY IN HUMAN INFLUENCED AREAS

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), IUCN and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) co-hosted a public debate on biodiversity conservation in human influenced areas, held in Yokohama, Japan, on 15 June 2010. Participants representing environmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other experts in the field discussed the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests, and heard presentations on examples of, and opportunities for, biodiversity conservation in human influenced landscapes. The event was part of ongoing activities carried out during the International Year of Biodiversity (http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2341).



Emmanuel Ze Meka, ITTO Executive Director, during the debate (photo courtesy of the ITTO Secretariat)

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNDOALOS HOLDS UNCLOS STATE PARTIES MEETING

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has organized the 20th Meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in New York, US, from 14-18 June 2010. During the meeting, parties approved, *inter alia*: the 2011-2012 budget for the In-

ternational Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and salary increases for its judges; and recommendations on how the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf could better manage its growing workload (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/twentieth-meetingstatesparties.htm; <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sea1943.doc.htm>).

In related news, UNDOALOS has released the outcome of the resumed Review Conference on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, which took place in New York, US, from 24-28 May 2010 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocks-meetings/review_conference_english.pdf).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR REPORTS ON SITE DESIGNATIONS, RELEASES REPORT ON CARBON OFFSETS WORKSHOP

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that the Hawizeh Marsh Ramsar site in Iraq has been placed on the Montreux Record, which highlights sites where an adverse change in ecological character has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur, in order to draw attention at a site in need of priority conservation attention, action or support (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-mrhawizeh/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24678_4000_2__). The Secretariat has also announced that the Government of Chile has designated a High Andean site, Parque Andino Jun-



Parque Andino Juncal (photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat)

cal, as its 12th Wetland of International Importance (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-archives-2010-ramsarsitechile/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24674_4000_0__). In addition, Lao PDR has joined the Ramsar Convention, as amended by the Pro-

ocol of 1982, as its 160th Contracting Party. The Convention will enter into force for Lao DPR on 28 September 2010 (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-lao-newcp/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24672_4000_2__).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has released the report of the expert workshop “Achieving Carbon Offsets through Mangroves and Other Wetlands,” which convened in Gland, Switzerland, in November 2009 (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/DFN_report_Final.pdf). Finally, the Secretariat has launched the logo for World Wetlands Day 2011, which will be celebrated on 2 February, and will coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (www.ramsar.org/40-anniversary/).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

DEVELOPMENT BANKS APPROVE PROJECTS ON POLLUTION REDUCTION, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The World Bank approved, during the month of June, a series of projects combining loans from the Bank with grants from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on issues relating to the prevention of pollution, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation. On 10 June 2010 the Bank approved a US\$4.8 million GEF grant to help reduce the rural and agricultural pollution to the East China Sea, including activities to: manage livestock wastes comprehensively; establish rural wetland sewage treatment systems; and reduce the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides (<http://go.worldbank.org/YHYTNS09B0>).

On 17 June, the Bank also approved a US\$4.5 million GEF grant to preserve biodiversity and manage Paraguay's eastern Atlantic Forest, including activities to: establish the Mbaracayú - San Rafael corridor to preserve native forests through sustainable management practices for biological connectivity; and promote sustainable agricultural

practices to maintain biodiversity. The Project will complement a sustainable rural development programme implemented with a 2009 World Bank loan (<http://go.worldbank.org/EX-4DS39Y00>).

The Bank also approved a US\$52 million loan and a US\$8.03 million GEF grant to reduce the environmental impact of treated wastewater discharge in the Gulf of Tunis, as well as a second Natural Resource Management Project, in the amount of US\$57.84 million, which aims to curb the threat to vulnerable agricultural production systems associated with soil degradation and climate change in targeted zones, while developing options to combat land-based pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (<http://go.worldbank.org/84BXEE9UW0>).

Regarding climate change and energy-related projects, the World Bank approved, on 15 June 2010, a US\$220 million loan to support wind power development in Egypt, of which US\$150 million is to be financed from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF). The project will support the renewable energy strategy of Egypt that plans to have 20% of its installed generation capacity in the

form of renewables by 2020 (<http://go.worldbank.org/8NTHRBNZ0>). On the same day, the Bank approved a US\$700 million loan to promote private sector clean technology investments and operations and integrate principles of environmental sustainability, including climate change considerations in key sectoral policies and programmes in Turkey (<http://go.worldbank.org/04AI7GDTS0>).

Regarding adaptation, the World Bank approved, on 10 June 2010, a US\$450 million loan to promote Mexico's water sector adaptation efforts, in particular to facilitate the integrated management of water resources and the establishment of regulatory and financial frameworks, to establish the adaptation agenda for the water sector (<http://go.worldbank.org/MMB5Z6SEN0>).

In related news, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a GBP 250 million loan to DONG Energy, for the construction of the London Array, expected to be the world's largest offshore wind farm with a capacity of 630 MW (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-097-eib-signs-gbp-250-million-loan-with-dong-energy-as-for-london-array-wind-farm.htm>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **IPCC WG I Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instabilities:** 21-24 June 2010. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. <http://www.ipcc-wg1.unibe.ch/meetings/slr/slr.html>
- **11th Meeting of the Informal Consultative Process of the Law of the Sea:** 21-25 June 2010. UN Headquarters, New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/icp11/>
- **CIF Sub-Committee Meetings:** 22-24 June 2010. Washington, DC, US. http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/june_meeting_sched
- **16th Meeting of the CMS Scientific Council:** 28-30 June 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>
- **GEF Council Meeting:** 29 June-1 July 2010. Washington, DC, US. <http://thefef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/401>
- **Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Future Shape of the CMS:** 1-2 July 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>