



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

ABS WORKING GROUP MEETS FOR LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION BEFORE COP 10



L-R: Co-Chairs Fernando Casas (Colombia) and Timothy Hodges (Canada) consulting with CBD's Lyle Glowka and Valerie Normand

The resumed ninth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is being held from 10-16 July 2010, in Montreal, Canada. It was preceded by informal, regional and interregional consultations, held from 8-9 July 2010. The first part of the ninth meeting was held from 22-28 March 2010, in Cali, Colombia. The Working Group

suspended the meeting and agreed to resume it at a later date. Negotiations in Montreal are focusing on the revised draft protocol tabled by the Working Group Co-Chairs in Cali, to finalize the text by isolating and resolving outstanding issues and identifying and filling any gaps to ensure its integrity and balance. The Working Group is aiming to finalize the protocol text in time for its possible adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10), to be held from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/rabs9/>).

On the occasion, the CBD Secretariat has launched the ABS Information Kit to present the basics of ABS in simple language. The information kit is to be used by a variety of actors, including parties and stakeholders, in their efforts to raise awareness on ABS within their constituencies (<http://www.cbd.int/abs/information-kit/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

A Proposal to Change the Political Strategy of Developing Countries in Climate Negotiations

By Romina Picolotti*

Abstract

Albert Einstein defined insanity as *doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results*.

We have already invested 16 years in climate negotiations under the UNFCCC process since its entry into force in 1994.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Impact of the Global Forest Industry on Atmospheric Greenhouse Gases

(FAO, 2010) Written by Reid Miner, this FAO Forestry Paper calculates a net contribution of 467 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year from the forest product chain. It traces emissions throughout the value chain, from cradle-to-gate and gate-to-grave, looks at emissions avoided elsewhere in society due to forest industry activities, and discusses the potential for forest-based materials to displace fossil fuels (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1580e/i1580e00.pdf>).

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► **BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETS, AEWA HOLDS 15th ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

The Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) held its 16th meeting from 28-30 June 2010, in Bonn, Germany. Delegates discussed the conservation status of CMS Appendix I Species and agreed to continue producing fact sheets on the species listed on the appendix. Proposals for amendments were made on adding fish species, the tiger and two beaked whales to Appendices I and II of the Convention. Key points of the meeting also included threats to endangered species such as climate change, habitat loss and artificial barriers to migration. Response to emergency situations for CMS species, the critical sites and ecological networks for migratory species as well as global bird flyways and conservation priorities were also on the agenda (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/06_jun/nw_300610_CMS_Scientific_Council.htm).

In other CMS-related news, the 15th anniversary of the African-Eurasian

Waterbird Agreement (UNEP/AEWA) was celebrated from 14-15 June 2010, at a special symposium in The Hague, the Netherlands. The symposium was followed by the sixth meeting of the AEWA Standing Committee, held from 16-17 June 2010, at the same venue (<http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/symposium/symposium.htm>).

ITPGR RELEASES CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

The Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR) has published the 2010 call for proposals under the ITPGR Benefit-sharing Fund, which is expected to invest more than US\$10 million in projects globally. The thematic focus is helping ensure sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through a targeted set of high impact activities on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. This focus is achieved within the agreed priorities

of the Benefit-sharing Fund, namely: information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building; managing and conserving plant genetic resources on-farm; and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources (ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agp/planttreaty/funding/call2010/cfp2010_en.pdf).

CITES CELEBRATES 35th ANNIVERSARY, SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES TRADE DATA DASHBOARDS

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 was held on 1 July 2010, at the Natural History Museum of the City of Geneva, Switzerland (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2010/35th_anniversary.shtml; http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml).

To coincide with the celebration, the CITES Secretariat launched the web-based CITES Trade Data Dashboards on 1 July 2010. The CITES Trade Data Dashboards, developed by UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), offer a new way of viewing the trade data submitted by CITES parties in their annual reports to the Convention. They allow the user to view data in several ways, including by: taxonomic group; type of specimen; source; year range; top species or families in trade over time; and top importers and exporters (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2010/dashboards.shtml>).

In other CITES-related news, the new Appendices in effect from 24 June 2010 have been published on the CITES website (<http://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.shtml>).



Participants of the symposium to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the UNEP/AEWA (photo courtesy of the AEWA Secretariat)

► **TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

DEVELOPMENT BANKS FUND INTEGRATED FORESTRY, ADAPTATION AND CLEAN ENERGY

The World Bank approved, on 6 July 2010, a US\$100 million loan to promote integrated forestry development in five provinces of China.



Logo courtesy of the World Bank

The project is expected to increase and diversify forest cover, and demonstrate the establishment and management of sustainable, multifunctional forest plantations with significant environmental benefits. In particular it will create forest cover in areas prone

to wind and water erosion and improve the existing plantation forests by applying the latest technology and research results to modify and transform monoculture forests into mixed species forests that are better for the environment (<http://go.worldbank.org/RSAVE9T9A0>).

The World Bank also approved, on 29 June 2010, a US\$4.9 million grant from the GEF to fund a Climate Change Adaptation Project in the Philippines, designed to enable targeted rural communities to cope with the impact of climate change. The project will also be supported with US\$40.45 million co-financing from the Participatory Irrigation Development Project and US\$10 million from

the Environment and Natural Resources Management Project (ENRMP), two on-going government projects that are also financed by the World Bank (<http://go.worldbank.org/PJL4QI0CE0>).

In related news, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced a US\$15 million investment to support clean energy projects in the Greater Mekong Subregion and South Asia through the Mekong Brahmaputra Clean Development Fund. The Fund will invest in companies engaged in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water conservation and waste recycling projects (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13274-mekong-energies-funds/>).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Developing countries call over and over again for their legitimate claims over the deteriorating climate to be heard, but fail to obtain the necessary responses for these claims in the post-Kyoto rounds of negotiations. What should we do?

At the last meeting of the Montreal Protocol signatories, a representative of the Federated States of Micronesia employed a metaphor that can help us find a way. He likened our climate desperation to a hypothetical neighborhood fire.

It's as if our house is about to be consumed by flames from a raging fire, and the city's firemen show up at the door, with no truck, no water, no equipment and begin arguing about which technique would be most suitable to put out the encroaching flames. All of a sudden a group of experienced volunteer firefighters decked out with fire equipment, a water truck, and ready to put out the fire show up behind the others. As a homeowner in desperation over advancing flames, what do you do? The answer is a no-brainer, you ask the guys with the solution to put out the fire!

The metaphor alludes to the Montreal Protocol (MP), hailed as the most successful environmental treaty to date. The delegate from the Federated States of Micronesia referred to the opportunity to regulate the production and consumption of HFCs, which would produce the equivalent carbon dioxide mitigation of more than 100 gigatons. Utilizing the maximum potential offered under the MP

to mitigate climate change, regulating the production and consumption of HFCs would require that industrialized countries and developing countries both assume "mitigation" obligations. What it means is that developed and developing countries assume the obligation to regulate the production and consumption of HFCs, which are super greenhouse gases, and by doing so we mitigate global warming.

Our largest challenge as developing countries is not to assume or not assume mitigation obligations, but rather it is *to assume them in a context that is fair, and not to assume them in the current context of the UNFCCC*. The MP has demonstrated over its 23-year history that the technology is effectively transferred, and that industrialized countries have complied with their obligations, *including financing what is needed* so that developing countries can comply with their own obligations to control ODS after a suitable grace period. We, developing countries, have a full voice and equal vote on the decision-making process under the MP financing mechanism known as the Multilateral Fund. Finally, the MP has also demonstrated that it is capable of creating the necessary confidence amongst States to take bold and continuous steps forward in compliance with all of the established deadlines.

Everything we are calling for under the UNFCCC process we have already achieved under the MP framework. Advancing with the inclusion of HFCs under the jurisdiction of the MP would substantially strengthen developing countries in a proactive forum

as countries that actively contribute to solutions in a fair agreement, and not as countries that can only claim and denounce.

The political strategy hence, is to take advantage of the opportunity that is offered by the Federated States of Micronesia proposal to advance on pro-climate actions available under the MP, and utilize the MP framework to negotiate from a different vantage point in the UNFCCC process. The latest report on the UN Millennium Development Goals recognizes that "the unparalleled success of the Montreal Protocol shows that action on climate change is within our grasp." Hopefully, we will wisely take advantage of this invaluable political opportunity that Micronesia and the Montreal Protocol are offering.

**This article was translated from Spanish. Romina Picolotti, formerly the Secretary of Environment of Argentina, heads the Center for Human Rights and Environment. She received EPA's Climate Protection Award in 2008 for her leadership in securing historic commitment to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs under the Montreal Protocol.*

To view the full guest article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle96.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.

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF COUNCIL MEETING APPROVES REFORMS IN PROJECT CYCLE

The 38th meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council took place in Washington DC, US, from 29 June-1 July 2010, and approved reforms in the project cycle aimed at helping developing countries to meet international environmental challenges, including those related to climate change and biodiversity. The reforms aim at: providing direct access to GEF resources for recipient countries looking to meet various UN convention requirements; streamlining the GEF project cycle and moving towards a more refined and strategic programmatic investment approach; and reforming the GEF's Country Support Program with US\$26 mil-

lion in funding. The Council also agreed to initiate a process to determine how best to integrate new agencies, including qualified national entities, into the GEF network (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/401>).

CIF SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS SELECT PILOT COUNTRIES

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Sub-Committee meetings took place from 22-24 June 2010, in Washington DC, US. These included meetings of the following target programs of the CIF Strategic Climate Fund (SCF): the Program for Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries (SREP); the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR); and the Forest Investment Program (FIP). Ethiopia, Honduras, Kenya,

Maldives, Mali and Nepal were selected by the SREP to undertake the first pilot programmes to scale up renewable energy, transform their energy sectors and shift the market toward renewables. Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mexico were selected as pilots for the FIP to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD), and promote sustainable management of their forests. Finally, Bolivia, Cambodia, Mozambique, Tajikistan and Yemen, which are already undertaking activities under the PPCR, were each awarded US\$1.5 million to begin preparation of their national-level Strategic Programs for Climate Resilience and build capacity for their implementation (<http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes: Background to the ‘Satoyama’ Initiative for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Human Well-Being

(CBD Technical Series no. 52, 2010) This study, published by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the UN University – Institute of Advanced Studies and the Ministry of Environment of Japan, is a collection of case studies and articles that address how relationships between humans and nature function in socio-ecological production landscapes around the world. The first part presents a selection of synthesis articles of relevance to socio-ecological production landscapes worldwide. Based on four case studies from Suriname, Cameroon, Guyana, and Thailand, the characteristics of customary sustainable use of biodiversity by indigenous peoples, and the threats customary management systems are currently facing, are highlighted. The second part presents 23 case studies of socio-ecological production landscapes around the world. The case studies are representative of various climates and geomorphic environments, as well as areas with diverse historical, cultural and socioeconomic conditions (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-52-en.pdf>).

A Framework for a Wetland Inventory Metadatabase

(Ramsar, June 2010) This technical report of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands provides a framework for a standard wetland inventory metadatabase. The metadatabase standard was developed for the Ramsar Convention by the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist. The work was undertaken for the Convention’s Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) as part of its response to key recommendations concerning the lack of access to existing wetland inventories made by the 1999 Global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory. The framework has been designed to provide the basis for the development of an on-line, web-based wetland inventory metadata system with accessible information about wetland inventories worldwide (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/lib/lib_rtr04.pdf).

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP CONVENES SAFEGUARDS AND IEG MEETINGS, PROMOTES GREEN ECONOMY IN AFRICA

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank hosted the first workshop on Safeguards in Washington DC, US, on 24 June 2010, as part of the Environment Management Group (EMG) Consultative Process. Participants, including representatives from UNEP, the World Bank, UN Development Programme and the International Finance Corporation, discussed the: terms of reference for the EMG consultative process and preliminary background information, including a rationale for a common approach to environmental and social Safeguards; agency perspectives; processes, standards, internal compliance and accountability matters; and planning the EMG Consultative Process (<http://www.unemg.org/Cooperation/EnvironmentalandSocialSafeguards/First-WorkshoponSafeguards/tabid/4615/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

In other UNEP news, the agency has launched a campaign in south Sudan, titled “Keep Juba Green.” As part of the campaign, UNEP will assist in planting one million trees across Southern Sudan in 2010 and 2011. The campaign is supported by the UK Department of International Development and the Government of Italy (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=628&ArticleID=6633&l=en>).



Image courtesy of UNEP

UNEP also hosted a side-event, titled “Fostering a Green Economy Transformation in Africa,” at the 13th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), which convened from 20-25 June 2010, in Bamako, Mali. At the event, UNEP announced the upcoming launch of a new initiative on Green Economy and Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship Development in Africa, with funding from the EU. The initiative will support a transition to a green economy and promote social and environmental entrepreneurship in Africa, through collaboration with African Governments and regional organizations (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=628&ArticleID=6633&l=en>).



Image courtesy of the UN

[unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=628&ArticleID=6632&l=en&t=long](http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=628&ArticleID=6632&l=en&t=long).

In other news, UNEP and the European Commission have released a newsletter on the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries (ACP MEAs) Project. The newsletter contains an article by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization describing efforts to strengthen capacities of participating ACP country stakeholders to dispose of obsolete stocks, and to prevent accumulation of further stocks. It also contains information on upcoming activities in the ACP project hubs (<http://www.unep.org/AfricanCaribbeanPacific/MEAs/Doc/June2010Newsletter.pdf>).

In accordance with Decision SSXI/1, the First Meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-Level Representatives on International Environmental Governance (IEG) met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7-9 July 2010. The Consultative Group comprised delegates from 60 countries and was co-chaired by John Njoroge Michuki, Minister of the Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya, and Paula Lsehtomaki, Minister for Environment of Finland. The group exchanged views on the proposals for broad IEG reform put forward by UNEP for consideration, and identified nine options of the original 24 proposed by UNEP that warrant further consideration. Participants generally agreed that there are gaps in the current environmental governance system, although there were different views about potential solutions. Many countries supported creating a global policy organization with universal membership to set, coordinate and monitor the global environmental agenda. Several advocated for a new specialized UN agency on the environment. Others argued for an umbrella organization on sustainability. Other countries opposed the creation of any new organization. While views on a new organization were divided, there was general support for other broad reforms, including the creation of a multi-scaled and multi-thematic global information network, establishing a tracking system on environmental finance, and enhancing UNEP presence within existing country offices. The Group requested the Executive Director to prepare an analysis on the options to be discussed at the Group’s second meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in late November 2010, in Helsinki, Finland. The Group also agreed to a roadmap for its work through the 2011 Governing Council (IISD RS Sources).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Christiana Figueres, new Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Secretariat

NEW UNFCCC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TAKES OFFICE

Christiana Figueres commenced her duties as the new Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Secretariat on 8 July 2010, becoming the fourth UNFCCC Executive Secretary. She was appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 17 May 2010. The appointment was endorsed by the Bureau of the Convention (<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>).



Logo courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

In other UNFCCC news, preparations are under way for the 2-6 August 2010, Bonn climate change talks, which will comprise the 13th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 13) and the 11th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 11). According to the provisional annotated agenda for the AWG-LCA, par-

ties will be invited to continue negotiating the outcome to be presented to the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties, which will convene in Cancun, Mexico, at the end of 2010 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca11/eng/09.pdf>). The UNFCCC Secretariat has published a document containing a second iteration of text to facilitate negotiations among parties. The text reflects the AWG-LCA Chair's sense of how the text could be advanced to further facilitate negotiations among parties based on the work undertaken by the AWG-LCA at its 10th session (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca11/eng/08.pdf>).

The AWG-KP's annotated provisional agenda has also been released. The AWG-KP will be invited to consider, *inter alia*, updated documents and, taking into account the outcomes of the pre-session and in-session workshops, to focus on resolving remaining issues with a view to delivering the results of its work to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties at its sixth session (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awg13/eng/08.pdf>).

Finally, the UNFCCC Secretariat organized a technical workshop on costs and benefits of adaptation options from 22-24 June 2010, in Madrid, Spain. Participants discussed how to facilitate the identification of appropriate adaptation practices and measures, and avoid maladaptation. During the workshop, participants addressed methodological issues, including those related to the assessments of costs and benefits (http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/workshops_and_meetings/items/5283.php).

IPCC COMMENTS ON DUTCH REVIEW OF FINDINGS

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has commented on the findings of the review of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) by the Dutch Government, noting that it confirms the key conclusions of the 2007 AR4, and provides recommendations for making future reports more useful and robust.

The review of the IPCC's Regional Chapters in the Working Group II (WG II) portion of the AR4 was conducted by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (Plan Bureau voor de Leefomgeving - PBL) at the request of the Dutch Environment Minister (<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press-releases/pr-pbl-05july2010.pdf>).

In other news, the IPCC has sent out its Second Order Draft of the Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation for government and expert review. The Report is being prepared under the auspices of the IPCC Working Group III, which deals with mitigation of climate change. Experts and governments will comment on the accuracy and completeness of the scientific, technical and socioeconomic content of the draft, as well as on its overall balance. They have an eight-week period to submit comments, which will then be discussed and incorporated during the fourth Lead Author Meeting to be held in Mexico, from 20-24 September 2010 (<http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/news/srren-sod-review>).

Finally, the Inter-Academy Council committee conducting an independent review of the procedures and processes of the IPCC held a meeting on 15 June 2010, in Montreal, Canada (<http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/IACIPCCMontreal.html>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CONVENES SUBREGIONAL TRAINING FOR NEAR-EAST AND ASIA

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention convened subregional training for parties in the Near East and Asian regions during June. The Asian subregional training convened from 7-11 June 2010, in Hanoi City, Viet Nam, and included training and awareness-raising for Designated National Authorities and a pilot session on the clearing-house mechanism. The subregional consultation to revise the National Action Plan or strategy for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention for the Near East (including Jordan, Lebanon, Oman,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen) convened from 20-24 June 2010, in Aleppo, Syria. A key outcome of the meeting was that participating countries will be given the opportunity to organize and convene national follow-up seminars (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77>).

BASEL CONVENTION AND UNEP ASSIST IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Basel Convention Secretariat and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have commissioned a new laboratory that is equipped to test for hazardous waste from ships entering the West African port of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The laboratory is part of a joint project between the Basel

Convention Secretariat and UNEP to strengthen national waste management systems in Côte d'Ivoire. Led by UNEP's Disasters and Conflicts Programme, the project was instigated following an incident in Abidjan in 2006, when thousands of people were exposed to toxic waste following a dumping incident. The new scientific facility is based at the Centre Ivoirien Anti-Pollution (CIAPOL) in Abidjan. Also under the project, CIAPOL staff received intensive training on techniques such as testing soil and water samples for potential contamination (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=628&ArticleID=6626&l=en&t=long>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ANNOUNCES SMALL GRANTS, REQUESTS INFORMATION

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention is calling for proposals from Stockholm Convention regional centres for capacity building and technology transfer activities through its small grants programme. Funding is being provided by the Government of Norway and the programme is in the process of being made available to Basel and Rotterdam Convention regional centres. Interested centres are invited to submit their project proposals to the Secretariat before 31 July 2010 (<http://>

chm.pops.int/Programmes/Regional-Centres/SmallGrantProgramme/tabid/630/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat is also requesting parties to submit information on the implementation of Stockholm Convention Article 3 (paragraphs 3 and 4), focusing on the regulatory and assessment schemes related to measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use. The information on the functioning of these schemes was requested by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention in or-

der to promote the implementation of this provision (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/POPsReviewCommittee/hrPOPRCMeetings/POPRC5/POPRC-5Followupcommunications/RegulatoryAssessmentSchemesArticle3para34/tabid/773/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

In other Stockholm Convention news, the Secretariat has released the first issue of its newsletter on technical assistance. This newsletter provides information on the ongoing activities in the area of technical assistance and capacity building (<http://chm.pops.int/default.aspx>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



UNFF, UN-REDD PRESENT AT COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE

Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), and Ravi Prabhu, Senior Programme Officer for the UN-REDD Programme, delivered presentations at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference, which took place in Edinburgh, UK, from 28 June-2 July 2010. The theme of the Conference, which takes place every four to five years, was "Restoring the Commonwealth's forests: Tackling climate change." McAlpine presented a 360-degree perspective on forests. She encouraged participants to promote the International Year of Forests (IYOF) 2011, unveiled the IYOF logo and highlighted preparations for related activities worldwide. She stressed the need to broaden the forest agenda beyond timber and carbon, and called for cross-sectoral cooperation to address deforestation, noting that the problems in the forestry sector are often caused by other sectors.

Prabhu's presentation was part of a special session at the Conference titled "Delivering REDD+: From Copenhagen to Cancun." This day-long session addressed all aspects of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD+). Prabhu reviewed bilateral and multilateral REDD initia-

tives and the organizations involved, and outlined the three phases of support for REDD: supporting countries to become REDD-ready; investments that transform the sector; and payments for performance. Prabhu highlighted UN-REDD's ongoing work in measurement, reporting and verification and stakeholder engagement in REDD development, and noted that it was initiating work on governance and equitable and transformational step-changes in the forestry sector (<http://www.cfc2010.org>).

ITTO PUBLISHES ON-LINE STATISTICAL DATABASE

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has published online a database on the production and trade of tropical timber. It covers all ITTO member countries for the period 1994-2009. The database, which will be updated annually, is based on data previously only available from ITTO's Annual Reviews, and it allows users to develop their own queries and extract data for their own uses (http://www.itto.int/annual_review_output/).

UNCCD CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO ORGANIZE SECOND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has announced that expressions of inter-

est for the selection of the lead institution/consortium to organize the second scientific conference will be accepted from 16 July-16 October 2010. The conference will take place in 2012 under the theme "Economic Assessment of Desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas" (http://www.unccd.int/science/docs/zero_call_organization_second_UNCCD_scientific_conference.pdf).

In other UNCCD news, the report of the 11 June 2010 "Meeting on methodologies and data needs for the sub-set of UNCCD impact indicators: land cover status and proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line" is now on-line. Among other agenda items, the Secretariat briefed participants on the process to be implemented for the refinement of the set of impact indicators provisionally accepted at COP 9. A scientific peer review will be organized, with a core group of consultants to revise the set of impact indicators and produce a draft White Paper, which will be reviewed through an e-dialogue expected to be launched in the final quarter of 2010 (http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/docs/Meeting_UNCCD_impact_indicators-Report.pdf). In addition, the Guidelines on the alignment of Action Programmes to the ten-year Strategy are available on-line (<http://www.unccd.int/regional/rcm/menu.php?newch=13>).

In related news, the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD is developing platforms to establish permanent networks in the sub-regions included in the ACP MEAs project, to exchange experiences on resource mobilization strategies and develop financial partnerships. A first version of these portals is planned for September 2010 (<http://www.unep.org/AfricanCaribbeanPacific/MEAs/Doc/June2010Newsletter.pdf>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS



ICP-11 Co-Chairs and DOALOS Secretariat during ICP 11 consultations

ICP 11 CONSIDERS CAPACITY BUILDING IN OCEAN AFFAIRS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) organized the 11th meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Consultative Process or ICP 11) from 21-25 June 2010, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Delegates discussed capacity building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science, as well as inter-agency cooperation and coordination, issues that could benefit from attention in future work of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on ocean affairs and the law of the sea, the process for selection of topics and panelists so as to facilitate the work of the UNGA, and consideration of the outcome of the meeting. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Co-Chairs' summary of ICP-11's discussions, which was prepared by Co-Chairs Amb. Paul Badji (Senegal) and Amb. Don MacKay (New Zealand). The report will be submitted to UNGA for consideration at its 65th session under the agenda item "Oceans and the law of the sea" (<http://www.iisd.ca/>

[oceans/icp11/](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm) and http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).

DOALOS has also released the draft final report of the resumed Review Conference on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, which took place from 24-28 May 2010, in New York, US. DOALOS has invited delegations to provide comments on the draft by 16 July 2010 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/reviewconf-review_conference_report.pdf).

IMO AIR POLLUTION REGULATIONS ENTER INTO FORCE

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has announced that the revised Annex VI (Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) of its International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) entered into force globally on 1 July 2010, together with important reductions in sulphur oxide (SOx) emissions in specific areas. These regulations were adopted in October 2004. To date, MARPOL Annex VI has been ratified by 59 countries, representing approximately 84.23% of

the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping fleet (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=13309).

NEW RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATED, MEDWET/COM CONVENES

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that the Government of Sri Lanka has designated the Vankalai Sanctuary, which is located North-West of Sri Lanka in the District of Mannar, as its fourth Wetland of International Importance (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-srilanka-newsite/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24723_4000_2__).

In related news, the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) met for its 10th meeting near Bastia on the shores of Biguglia lagoon in Corsica, France, from 31 May-3 June 2010. The initial session was open to the public and attracted citizen, experts and NGO representatives who came to learn about the new French National Action Plan on Wetlands. During the second part of the meeting, participants discussed, *inter alia*, water management, environmental safety, flood mitigation, biodiversity conservation, fisheries, agriculture, forestry, cultural heritage, coastal development and marine issues (<http://www.medwet.org/documents/medwet-com-meetings>; http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-medwet-corsica/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24722_4000_2__).



Vankalai Sanctuary, 4th Wetland of International Importance designated by Sri Lanka (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Robert Zoellick, World Bank President, announced the appointment of Andrew Steer as **Special Envoy for Climate Change**, a new position created for focused leadership and representation of the World Bank in the international climate change discussions (<http://beta.worldbank.org/node/5692>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **ECOSOC Substantive Session 2010:** 28 June-23 July 2010. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/substantive-session/>
- **CDM-EB 55:** 19-23 July 2010. Bonn, Germany. http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2010
- **International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests:** 21-24 July 2010. Quito, Ecuador. http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2245
- **AWG-LCA 11 and AWG-KP 13:** 2-6 August 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/4381.php>