



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNFF Country-Led Initiative Addresses Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD+



L-R: Christian Küchli, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland; Heinrich Schellenberg, Chargé d'affaires of Switzerland in Mexico; Jan McAlpine, Director, UNFF; and Carlos Torres Aviles, Rural Development Secretariat (Seder), Mexico

The Oaxaca Workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Oaxaca, Mexico, from 31 August-3 September 2010, bringing together 230 participants from 34 countries. This country-led initiative in support of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) aimed to identify trends, and facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons learned with sustainable forest management (SFM), forest governance and decentralization, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+). Participants discussed four themes: people, forest governance and forests; landscape change, forest management and REDD+; forest finance and finance for REDD+; and rights, livelihoods and forests. Participants also took part in field trips to nearby community-owned forest-related enterprises, as well as “open spaces” to discuss in more detail: payment mechanisms; forest planning; REDD+ legal frameworks; and indigenous peoples. Participants produced a report summarizing the Workshop’s deliberations, which includes recommendations to countries and the ninth session of UNFF, to be held in early 2011. The document is also expected to inform discussions during the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in late 2010 (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/forest/wfgdr/>).

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GUEST ARTICLE I

Good reasons why the ABS Protocol should include simple access procedures for non-commercial public good research on biodiversity

By Sylvia I. Martinez and Susette Biber-Klemm*

Abstract

The CBD *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing is currently negotiating the Protocol to the CBD on Access and Benefit Sharing.

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GUEST ARTICLE II

Prospects for Mainstreaming Ecosystem Goods and Services in International Policies

By Marcel T.J. Kok^{*1}, Stephen Tyler², Anne Gerdien Prins¹, László Pintér²

Abstract

In Nagoya, at its 10th session of the Conference of the Parties, the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) is due to adopt a revised and updated Strategic Plan for the Convention, including new biodiversity target(s) for the post-2010 period.

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► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



L-R: António Magalhães, Director, ICID 2010, and Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, during the launch of the UN Decade on Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification

UNCCD Launches Desertification Decade, GM Developing Web Portal

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has launched the Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification, which will run from 2010-2020 and will seek to raise awareness and action to improve the protection and management of the world’s drylands. The global launch event took place in Fortaleza, Brazil, during the Second International Conference on Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi-arid Regions (ICID 2010). The regional launch for Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Other regional launches are scheduled to take place in New York, US, in September, for the North American Region, in the Republic of Korea in October, for the Asian Region, and in November for the European region (<http://unddd.unccd.int/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/climate/icid2010/>).

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD is developing a web-based, knowledge exchange tool to strengthen the role of local stakeholders in decision-making processes related to Sustainable Land Management (SLM). The scope|acp project is a component of the UN Environment Programme’s Ca-



capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries programme, which is funded by the European Commission. This “Combating desertification” component of the programme will seek to provide national and local actors with tools for better use of existing resources and for mobilizing new and innovative financial resources for SLM. In addition, it aims to strengthen South-South cooperation, partnerships and interaction among actors at different levels to support programmes to combat desertification and poverty. The GM is currently developing the web portal’s features, and is welcoming feedback regarding its content and structure through a survey (<http://scopeacp.global-mechanism.org/>).

In other UNCCD news, the logo for the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place in October 2011, has been released (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/announce/cop-10-logo-announced.php>). And Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, met with Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, on 31 August 2010, in Bonn, Germany, to discuss tightening their institutional collaboration with a view to enhancing responses to the effects of climate change. In particular, they discussed areas of convergence in climate research and collaboration to enhance weather-related preparedness through raising public awareness and supporting efforts by the least developed

countries to adapt to climate change, as well as the role and significance of promoting effective drought portals (http://www.unccd.int/media/pressrel/show-pressrel.php?pr=press06_09_10).



L-R: Kenzo Oshima, JICA Senior Vice-president, and Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director, ITTO

ITTO and JICA Launch Tropical Forests Partnership

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an agreement on 3 September to collaborate on further promoting the sustainable use and conservation of tropical forest resources. The agreement aims to: identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forest management in countries that are assisted by JICA; promote capacity building in ITTO developing member countries; and facilitate information exchange between parties and interested countries to advance sustainable forest management in the tropics. Several areas for cooperation have been identified, including: joint project development and financing at sub-national, national and regional levels; providing services by ITTO for JICA project implementation in countries where ITTO has a comparative advantage and opportunities; and forest fire prevention and management, and development of regional early warning and detection systems. The two organizations pledged to liaise closely to raise funds for joint activities (http://www.itto.int/en/news_releases/id=2390).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD Posts Questionnaires Related to Rio+20 Preparations

The Division for Sustainable Development has posted questionnaires on experiences, success factors, risks and challenges with regard to the objective and themes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, also known as Rio+20). Questionnaires are addressed to member States, UN System Organizations, IFIs and Other Organizations, and Major Groups (http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=artic

[le&id=95:questionnaire-information&catid=62:questionnaires&Itemid=112](http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=95:questionnaire-information&catid=62:questionnaires&Itemid=112)). In his first blog entry on the website, Sha Zukang, the Secretary-General of UNCSD, invites views on the themes of the Conference, including how the concept of a “green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” is understood and can underpin a new development paradigm (http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90:welcomed&catid=36:blog&Itemid=63).



Sha Zukang, Secretary-General, UNCSD

GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

The protocol aims at regulating access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization. It is an instrument to effectively implement the provisions on access to genetic resources (Article 15) and to traditional knowledge (Article 8(j)) of the Convention and its three objectives: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out the utilization of genetic resources.

Academic researchers are important players in the ABS system. A considerable part of access to genetic resources is carried out for non-commercial research that serves the CBD goals. Therefore, not only research for commercial purposes, but also this type of public good research is affected by ABS regulations. The implementation of the ABS system for non-commercial public good research implies specific difficulties and concerns for all stakeholders involved. For a constructive debate, it is essential to better understand the underlying problems of both providers and users of genetic resources and to take account of all proposed solutions.

The research reviewed in this article identifies the needs and interests of academic researchers and provider countries. Based on the findings of the ABS program of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, we strongly recommend

the insertion of a clause into the ABS Protocol:

- 1) encouraging Contracting Parties to create conditions to facilitate and promote, non-commercial public good research on biodiversity;
- 2) obliging Contracting Parties to provide for easy access with simple procedures to genetic resources for non-commercial public good research on biodiversity;
- 3) stimulating initiatives by the Contracting Parties to create supportive instruments such as framework contracts and certification schemes; and
- 4) implementing adequate and practical measures by the Contracting Parties to control the sharing of benefits resulting from non-commercial public research.

The following arguments back these recommendations:

- Research provides the basic knowledge for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and innovation based on genetic resources. Without research, there would be neither monetary nor non-monetary benefits.
- Public non-commercial research typically aims at providing public goods and generates indispensable knowledge for the implementation of the CBD.
- Fundamental and ABS-relevant differences exist between research performed by public and private institutions (see full article).
- It is important to recognize the provider-specific concerns regarding the

control of the use of genetic resources once they have left the country and the difficulties in monitoring the benefits resulting from research. Stricter access procedures for non-commercial academic research, however, will not solve these problems.

• Academia is concerned that an overly restrictive ABS system for non-commercial public good research will be counter-productive. It might lead to the abandonment of this research in many providing countries and would negatively affect knowledge-generation, and diminish the opportunities to share benefits for education and technology transfer.

Based on our conclusions that simple access procedures for non-commercial research are possible, we developed a sample ABS agreement for non-commercial research purposes that contains model clauses.

To read the full article, visit <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle99a.html>. More information is also available on <http://abs.scnat.ch>

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► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Basel Convention Calls for Comments on Strengthening of Coordinating Centres

The Basel Convention Secretariat is seeking comments from parties on several documents related to the strengthening of Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centres (BCRCs). These include: the draft work plan for Strengthening BCRCs; a detailed list of elements for performance of core functions by BCRCs; a draft strategic framework for the financial stability of centres; and a set of indicators to measure performance and impediments in relation to the functions and impacts of BCRCs (<http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/18Aug2010.pdf>).

Stockholm Convention Amendments Enter into Force

The amendments to list additional persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Stockholm Convention, adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention at its fourth meeting in May 2009, entered into force on 26 August 2010, for

151 of the 152 parties to the Stockholm Convention. New Zealand submitted a notification of non-acceptance in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 22 of the Convention. To commemorate this milestone, a ceremony took place on 26 August 2010, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://chm.pops.int/default.aspx>).

In other Stockholm Convention news, the Government of Ireland ratified the Stockholm Convention on POPs on 5 August 2010. The Convention will enter into force for Ireland on 3 November

2010 (<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatification/tabid/252/lan-guage/en-US/Default.aspx>).

Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions Launch Joint Calendar

The Secretariat's of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions have launched a joint calendar of upcoming meetings. The calendar includes international and subregional meetings and workshops related to the sound management of chemicals (<http://www.pic.int/PublicCalendar/calendar.htm>).



GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

An important challenge for the CBD is to bring concern for biodiversity and the sustainable delivery of ecosystem goods and services (EGS) to the core of decision-making.

A widely recognised weakness of the CBD has been its limited impact so far on those underlying economic development-related factors that are amongst the most important determinants (drivers) of biodiversity loss and EGS delivery. Influencing the drivers of biodiversity loss and EGS delivery requires that the sectors affecting these drivers take better account of their impacts on biodiversity and EGS delivery. This is called *mainstreaming* (integration) of biodiversity and EGS, i.e. moving biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns beyond the traditional biodiversity constituency into relevant policy fields.

This article offers some suggestions on operationalising a mainstreaming strategy for biodiversity and EGS. Mainstreaming EGS can be approached from various entry points: local, national or international levels of decision-making and the business perspective. We explore the linkages between the local provision of EGS and the levers available in international policy processes to contribute to poverty reduction through the provision of EGS.

We argue that mainstreaming strategies can become a potentially important element of natural resource and biodiversity policies and can help to broaden the portfolio of policy options beyond environmental and biodiversity policies. We also argue that integrating EGS into the relevant international policy domains can contribute to reducing poverty while also improving EGS delivery at the local level. The policy domains we look into include development assistance, climate, trade and the role of international financial institutions.

The basis for mainstreaming EGS in various policy domains can be found in many goals and policies already agreed upon by governments. Policy coherence is critical here. While individual policies matter, consistent constellations of policies across scales and policy domains will be needed for positive impact on both poverty reduction and EGS delivery. This requires an upfront consideration of why EGS are important in a specific international policy domain and identifying policy tracks, priority issues and tools that can support mainstreaming.

An important step in mainstreaming strategies is to identify and apply tools that help catalyze a shift towards a view in which investing in EGS is seen as essential for supporting long-term development. Mainstreaming tools can be used to identify opportunities and risks and give EGS delivery the

required attention in decision-making and implementation. While there is significant literature on the tools and processes for mainstreaming the environment in general, there is much less experience with the tools for mainstreaming EGS. Nevertheless, the experience concerning mainstreaming tools for the environment can serve as a starting point for integrating EGS into international policy. What is important, from the EGS perspective, is building on existing mainstreaming experience while also highlighting the specific risks and opportunities that arise from the perspective of the EGS approach.

The full article can be accessed at <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle99b.html>. The full report on which this paper is based can be downloaded at <http://pbl.nl/en/publications/2010/Prospects-for-Mainstreaming-Ecosystem-Goods-and-Services-in-International-Policies.html>

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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.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**UNEP Announces Emissions Reductions Plan, Opens Champions of the Earth Nominations**

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released a master plan to reduce its carbon footprint. Between 2010 and 2012, UNEP has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 3% each year from 2009 levels. A key target area is work-related travel by UNEP employees, which currently accounts for over 85% of UNEP's carbon emissions. The new strategy aims to reduce employee travel by 3% each year from 2010-2012. UNEP will also introduce a 'green meetings' policy, which will require all UNEP-related conferences, events and meetings to adhere to UNEP's 2009 Green Meeting Guide (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=647&ArticleID=6740&l=en&t=long>).

UNEP has also opened nominations for the 2011 Champions of the Earth award. Members of the public from



Champion of the Earth 2010, Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Maldives, receiving a special sculpture from UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner (photo courtesy of UNEP)

across the world can nominate their own environmental heroes for the prize. Nominations will be accepted until 31 October 2010, and can be made via the awards website (<http://www.unep.org/champions/>).

The UNEP/GRID-Arendal centre has announced the "Linking Tourism and Conservation" initiative, launched in response to continuing breakages from Greenland's ice sheet. The new initia-

tive will investigate how sustainable tourism can help support the management and development of protected areas. UNEP/GRID-Arendal also plans to produce an interactive map of tourist destinations that are participating in conservation work to encourage investment in tourism projects that support conservation, and allow tourists to view a destination's green credentials before finalizing their trip (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=646&ArticleID=6717&l=en&t=long>).

In other UNEP news, UNEP is providing a carbon footprint calculator for participants in the Youth Olympics, which is being held in Singapore, for competitors aged 14 to 18. The interactive computer software will enable athletes to calculate their personal carbon footprint, and learn the exact impact of their activities on greenhouse gas emissions (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35690&Cr=unep&Cr1=>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Deep-Sea Sponge Grounds: Reservoirs of Biodiversity

(UNEP-WCMC Biodiversity Series no. 32, 2010) This report draws together scientific understanding of deep-water sponge grounds alongside the threats they face and ways in which they can be conserved. It also gives up-to-date case studies of particular deep-water sponge habitats from around the world. Despite their inherent and biotechnological value, deep-water sponge grounds have been damaged by bottom fishing. This report considers the international policy context in which deep-water sponge grounds can be conserved and concludes with a series of expert recommendations for conservation managers and international policy makers (http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/publications/UNEP_WCMC_bio_series/32.aspx).

WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

Turkey Signs IMO Ship Recycling Convention, IMO Co-Organizes Black Sea Workshop

Turkey, one of the five major ship recycling countries in the world, has signed the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. The signing ceremony took place at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, UK, on 26 August 2010. The Hong Kong Convention, adopted in May 2009, seeks to ensure that the recycling of ships does not pose unnecessary risks to the environment or human health and safety. The Convention will enter into force 24 months after the date upon which 15 States, representing 40% of world merchant shipping by gross tonnage, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the IMO Secretary General. To date, the

Convention has been signed, subject to ratification or acceptance, by France, Italy, the Netherlands, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Turkey (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=13627).

In related news, the IMO and the Black Sea Commission have jointly organized a workshop aimed to help Black Sea States prepare to ratify the IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention. The event took place from 19-21 July 2010, in Odessa, Ukraine, and brought together civil servants, legal experts and scientists from six Black Sea littoral States. It was the first joint activity within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, which aims to increase mutual support for several environmental aspects of shipping, including oil pollution preparedness, ballast water management and dumping of waste (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1859&doc_id=13610).

BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



Photo courtesy of the CMS Secretariat

CMS Organizes Latin American Workshop, Scientific Conference Marks Wadden Sea Day

From 23-25 August 2010, the UN Environment Programme/Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) organized the second workshop for policy makers of the Hispanic countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), in Panama City, Panama. The workshop "CMS as a tool for conservation of biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean" gathered representatives of 17 LAC countries, as well as NGOs, and aimed to build and strengthen the capacity of decision makers involved with the implementation of the CMS and other multilateral environmental agreements (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/08_aug/nw_LatinAmerica_biodiversity_260810.htm).

In other news of relevance to CMS and its family of agreements, the fifth Wadden Sea Day was organized by the National Park Administration Wadden Sea Lower Saxony and the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. At the event,

the Wadden Sea countries – the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark – discussed the "Quality Status Report for the Wadden Sea 2009," which reveals that a diverse range of alien species are increasing at an alarming rate in the sea; many of the species have become abundant and several can be regarded as invasive with a significant impact on the recipient ecosystem. "Second only to habitat fragmentation, invasive alien species have become a major driver of biodiversity loss," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the CMS Secretariat (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/08_aug/nw_Aliens_WaddenSea_270810.htm).

A new documentary film entitled "Bird Migration on the Bihar Plain" has been produced by the Wings over Wetlands demonstration project team in Hungary. The film documents the importance of the Bihar Plains as a breeding, wintering and stop-over area for hundreds of thousands of migratory waterbirds (<http://wow.wetlands.org/ABOUTWOW/LATESTNEWS/tabid/125/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/2385/Default.aspx>).

Finally, Russia's catastrophic wildfires have also badly affected key breeding grounds for long-distance migratory bats, as highlighted by Andreas Streit, Executive Secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (EURO-BATS) (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=646&ArticleID=6722&l=en&t=long>).

CITES Updates Sturgeon Export Quotas, Glossary

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has recently updated Kazakhstan and Russia's export quotas for specimens of *Acipenseriformes* species included in Appendix II from 1 March 2010 to 28 February 2011 (<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2010/Sturgeon-Quotas2010.pdf>).

It has also recently revised and updated the glossary of CITES terms, including improved hyperlinks for greater user-friendliness (<http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/terms/glossary.shtml>). In addition, an updated list of the staff currently working at the Secretariat has been made available online (http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/sec/staff_new.shtml).

In other CITES-related news, the Secretariat has published a notification listing the topics on which parties are expected to report on at the 19th and 25th meetings of the Plants and Animals Committees, scheduled for 18-21 April and 18-22 July 2011, respectively (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010/E027.pdf>).

Finally, the Secretariat has announced that Norway has accepted the chairmanship of the Standing Committee and has appointed Øystein Størksen of the CITES Management Authority of Norway, to serve as the Chair (<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010/E022.pdf>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



Banner courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

CBD COP Presidencies Adopt Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Action

Meeting for the first time as a group, 11 Ministers responsible for the environment, representing former and upcoming presidencies of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), met on 3 September 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Ministers adopted the Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action, which will be transmitted to the UN General Assembly high-level event on biodiversity on 22 September 2010, as well as to the ministerial meeting of CBD COP 10, to be held from 27-29 October 2010, in

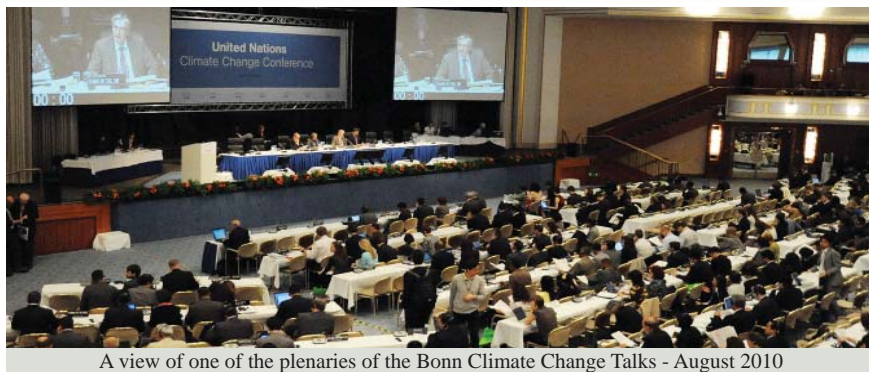
Nagoya, Japan. The Ministers declared that equal attention must be given to the three CBD objectives, and that all countries should commit themselves to a common long-term vision and short-term mission for biodiversity, and to global, regional and national targets to be achieved (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-09-03-minister-forum-geneva-en.pdf>; IISD RS sources).

In other CBD news, the list of side-events to be organized during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 5) and CBD COP 10, to be held in October 2010, in Na-

goya, Japan, has been made available online (<http://www.cbd.int/mop5/side-events/?mtg=mop-05>; <http://www.cbd.int/cop10/side-events/?mtg=cop-10>). In addition, in line with trying to minimize the environmental impacts of the Nagoya meetings, the Secretariat has announced that background meeting documents will be made available only on CD-Rom (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-156-cop10-en.pdf>).

In preparation for the fourth meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Biosafety Protocol, the Secretariat has made available the report of the third meeting of the Group, which contains the latest version of the text of the proposed supplementary protocol on liability and redress (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/bsgflr-03/official/bsgflr-03-04-en.pdf>).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



A view of one of the plenaries of the Bonn Climate Change Talks - August 2010

UNFCCC Preparations Underway for Tianjin Meeting

The reports of the 11th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 11) and the 13th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 13) have been released by the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These meetings were held in Bonn, Germany, from 2-6 August 2010 (http://unfccc.int/meetings/interessional/bonn_10_2/items/5692.php; <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg11/>).

Preparations are now underway for AWG-KP 14 and AWG-LCA 12, which will take place from 4-9 October 2010, in Tianjin, China. Notifications regarding the meeting have been issued to parties, observer States, NGO and IGOs (http://unfccc.int/meetings/interessional/tianjin_10/items/5695.php).

And the Government of Mexico has developed a host country website for

the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the sixth session of Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP), which will meet in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010, together with the 33rd sessions of the subsidiary bodies, the 15th session of the AWG-KP and 13th session of the AWG-LCA.

Also in preparation for the Cancun Climate Change Conference, the Governments of Mexico and Switzerland organized the Geneva Dialogue on Climate Finance, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2-3 September 2010. Ministers and government representatives from 46 countries and the EU, the Chair of the AWG-LCA and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary met in an informal setting to discuss finance architecture, the new climate fund, the private sector's role and sources of long-term finance (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/climate/gdcf/>).

Regarding other meetings, the 56th Executive Board meeting of the Clean

Development Mechanism (CDM) will convene in Brasília, Brazil, from 13-17 September 2010, during which the Board will discuss matters related to the operation of the CDM, including: the accreditation of operational entities; methodologies for baselines and monitoring plans; CDM afforestation and reforestation project activities; small-scale CDM project activities; the CDM programme of activities; the registration of CDM project activities; the issuance of certified emission reductions and the CDM registry; and the CDM management plan and resources for the work on the CDM (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Meetings/MeetingInfo/DB/TEF0G-PX12MLY7RQ/view>).

Multilateral Fund Releases Summary of Executive Committee Decisions

The Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol has released a summary of decisions taken by the Executive Committee, which convened for its 61st meeting, in Montreal, Canada, from 5-9 July 2010. The Committee approved investment projects and work programme activities with a value of just under US\$21.4 million, plus US\$1.6 million in support costs for bilateral/implementing agencies, and took a total of 53 decisions, including the approval of the first tranches of HCFC phase-out management plans for Cambodia, Croatia and Ghana (http://www.multilateralfund.org/summaries_of_executive_committ.htm).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Interacademy Council Delivers IPCC Review Report

The InterAcademy Council (IAC) has delivered its independent report into the processes and procedures of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report was delivered to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri during a press conference held at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 30 August 2010. The review examined the management of the IPCC, its procedures for communication with the public, the use of non-peer reviewed literature and the incorporation of various viewpoints. The IAC's recommendations will be reviewed by the IPCC at its 32nd Plenary Session, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 11-14 October 2010.

The IAC report concluded that the process to produce its assessments has been successful but that the IPCC needs to reform its management structure and strengthen its procedures. The report recommends establishing an executive committee, including members from outside the IPCC, to act on the Panel's behalf and ensure ongoing decision-making capability. It suggests the appointment of an executive director, and states that the IPCC Chair, Executive Director and Working Group Co-Chairs should be limited to one-assessment period. It highlights the need for: formal qualification requirements for the Chair and Bureau members; and a conflict of interest policy for all IPCC leaders, authors, reviewers and staff.

On the review process, the IAC concludes that the existing process is thor-

ough, but stresses the need for stronger enforcement of existing IPCC review procedures. It calls for review editors to reflect genuine controversies, and underscores the need for increased consistency in the characterization of uncertainty. The IAC also suggests the continued use of gray literature, noting that more specific guidelines for evaluating gray literature sources are required.

On the response to revelation of errors, the IAC suggests that the IPCC should implement a communications strategy that includes a plan for rapid but thoughtful responses in crisis highlighting the need for guidelines for who can speak on behalf of the IPCC (http://www.ipcc.ch/press_information/press_information.htm#11; <http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/ReportNews-Release.html>).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF Announces Funds to Establish GEF Funding Priorities

All Global Environment Facility (GEF) recipient countries can access up to US\$30,000 to undertake GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFE). These, although voluntary, will serve as a priority setting tool for countries and as a guide for GEF Agencies as they assist recipient countries. Templates are available for countries to request assistance through the Direct Access approach, whereby countries should select a national entity to undertake the exercise. Once the NPFE is complete, each country will submit a report to the GEF Secretariat summarizing: the steps followed during the preparatory process of the national portfolio; the list (and their description) of the priority projects and/or programmatic approaches that have been identified and that are eligible under the GEF-5 focal area strategies and

their estimated costs; and an outline of how implementation of these projects will contribute to the fulfillment of obligations of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The report will be shared with the Convention Secretariats for their information (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3481>).

World Bank Supports Elimination of Gas Flaring, Adaptation and CFLs

The Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation approved the World Bank's first Joint Implementation Gas Recovery Project on 12 August 2010, which will eliminate gas flaring while generating up to four million Emission Reduction Units (ERUs) by 2012 (<http://go.worldbank.org/XE96U7Y0Q0>).

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and the Ethiopian Government are also implementing a comprehensive demand-

side programme to relieve pressure from Ethiopia's electricity supply grid, including the free distribution of five million compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to consumers in exchange for their incandescent bulbs. As a result of the programme, within three months and with half the bulbs distributed, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation succeeded in reducing peak demand by 80% (<http://go.worldbank.org/O29H-KYJ2R0>).

On adaptation, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) are supporting the Government of Kiribati in adapting to climate change through planning efforts to reduce the country's vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise, for example through improved coastal protection measures and 'soft' options such as beach replenishment or mangrove planting (<http://go.worldbank.org/09JYXVFNX0>).

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **CDM-EB 56:** 13-17 September 2010. Petropolis, Brazil. <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Meetings/MeetingInfo/DB/TEF0GPX12MLY7RQ/view>
- **UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing:** 13-17 September 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>
- **11th Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board:** 16-17 September 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.adaptation-fund.org/11thAFB>
- **UNFCCC Eighth Compliance Committee Meeting:** 17-18 September 2010. Bonn, Germany. http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/compliance/plenary/items/3788.php
- **Meeting of the CBD Interregional Negotiating Group on ABS:** 18-21 September 2010. Montreal, Canada. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/absing/>
- **Millennium Development Goals Summit:** 20-22 September 2010. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>
- **Sixth Meeting of the Parties to EUROBATS:** 20-22 September 2010. Prague, Czech Republic. <http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>
- **Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries:** 20-23 September 2010. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWREDD-01>
- **UNGA High-Level Event on Biodiversity:** 22 September 2010. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/65/meetings/biodiversity.shtml>