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Our feature article, demonstrating how a cross-cutting issue has been discussed in various negotiations. This month, “**Year of the Oceans**”



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1996: THE "YEAR OF THE OCEANS" AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Nearly four years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the international community is in the midst of reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21, the blueprint for action adopted in Rio. This review has been taking place within the context of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which at its forthcoming meeting in New York from 18 April - 3 May 1996, will review Chapter 9, on atmosphere, and Chapter 17, on oceans. This meeting, and its highlight on oceans issues, will represent the culmination of a series of international developments on oceans that have taken place since, and as a result of, UNCED and Agenda 21. No other field has received more attention or witnessed more developments and

Chapter 17 represents one of the most fully implemented chapters of Agenda 21, with the convening of the conferences on straddling fish stocks, small island developing states and land-based sources of marine pollution.

Chapter 17 has served as an impetus to all oceans negotiations since 1992, and benefited from a series of other developments that fueled the implementation process. The considerable progress on ocean issues was reflected at the recent intersessional working group of the CSD, where the delegates deliberated a report by the UN Secretary General on Protection of the oceans, contained in documents E/CN.17/1996/3 ([gopher://gopher.undp.org:70/00/ecosocdocs/csd/1995-96/sector/96-3.en](http://gopher.undp.org:70/00/ecosocdocs/csd/1995-96/sector/96-3.en)) and E/CN.17/1996/3/Add.1 ([gopher://gopher.undp.org:70/00/ecosocdocs/csd/1995-96/sector/oceanadd](http://gopher.undp.org:70/00/ecosocdocs/csd/1995-96/sector/oceanadd)). This report presents a snapshot of the current state of the marine environment and notes the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the adoption of the Straddling Stocks Agreement, the FAO Code of Conduct, the FAO Compliance Agreement, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based



Activities, the Jakarta Mandate on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity (the Earth Negotiations Bulletin report can be found at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/vol09/0939008e.html>), a cooperative programme framework for Integrated Coastal Area Management, and the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (the full ENB report on the SIDS Conference can be found at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/vol08/0828000e.html>). These instruments cover the essential areas of progress toward achieving the conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources, marine biodiversity and the protection of the marine environment.

Developments in the management of living marine resources

The Entry Into Force of the Law of the Sea Convention - [gopher://gopher.un.org:70/11/LOS/UNCLOS82](http://gopher.un.org:70/11/LOS/UNCLOS82)

Chief among these developments was the entry into

force of UNCLOS, a virtual “Constitution for the Oceans” that regulates almost all uses of ocean resources. The Convention has been open for signature since 1982, but some of its provisions, contained in Part XI of the Convention and dealing with deep sea-bed mining, proved so controversial that an implementing agreement was re-negotiated and finalized in 1994. This instrument naturally complemented Agenda 21 and Chapter 17 and provided a jurisdictional framework, under which all the following negotiations would take place. It also provided the Parties involved with a heretofore unknown degree of certainty over the ocean legal regime. While the modification and the entry into force of UNCLOS was a major breakthrough, it essentially represented the codification of what had become customary international law, and the implementing agreement signed in 1994 did not affect the fisheries provisions of the Convention. Nevertheless, the new Law of the Sea boosted the ongoing negotiation efforts of the Parties. Furthermore, with the certainty achieved with regard to the management of the resources within the 200 mile limit, all States had an even stronger interest to attempt to solve their differences, and adopt a



stronger regime for the management of the resources outside zones of national jurisdiction.

The Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks - gopher://gopher.un.org:70/00/LOS/CONF164/164_37.TXT

The first of these efforts was the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which led to the adoption, in August 1995, of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Straddling Stocks Agreement). This remarkable outcome represents the result of intense negotiations between coastal States and distant water fishing nations, which both have very strong, and often conflicting, interests in these stocks (straddling stocks are stocks which are found both in one or more EEZs and the high seas beyond national jurisdiction, while highly migratory stocks are defined by the dis-

tances they travel and are listed in Annex I of the Law of the Sea Convention). Not only does the Straddling Stocks Agreement establish a regime for these stocks in areas beyond national jurisdiction, it also represents the second implementing agreement to the Law of the Sea, and thus contributes to the development of the Convention. The Agreement takes an essentially regional approach whereby, for each region and the specific stocks it holds, coastal States and States with an interest in the stocks join in a regional arrangement or organization and cooperate to conduct scientific research, establish Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and agree on enforcement measures.

The FAO Code of Conduct and Compliance Agreement

Whereas the Conference and its Straddling Stocks Agreement were restricted to the two specific kinds of stocks, the FAO developed a parallel process, whereby more general provisions were developed to attempt to put an end to overfishing worldwide. The first of these efforts was the negotiation and adoption of the FAO Agreement



to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement). This Agreement aims to address the issue of vessels flying the flags of States not party to the regional arrangements or organizations that undermine conservation and management measures (this practice is commonly referred to as flying a “flag of convenience,” and aims at avoiding fishing management measures as well as crew safety regulations or other pollution responsibilities). The FAO Compliance Agreement addresses this problem by imposing, upon all States fishing on the high seas, obligations designed to make the activities of their vessels consistent with the conservation and management measures, and by increasing the transparency of all high seas fishing operations through the collection and dissemination of data.

The Compliance Agreement is part of the broader FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which regulates fishing activities both within areas of national jurisdiction and on the high seas. In other words, the Code regulates the activities of vessels fishing under the flag of a State Party, wherever they may be. The Code

consists of six thematic articles on Fisheries Management, Fishing Operations, Aquaculture Development, Integration of Fisheries into Coastal Area Management, Post-Harvest Practices and Trade, and Fisheries Research. It strongly emphasizes the application of the precautionary approach, under which conservation and management measures are not postponed or undermined by a lack of complete scientific certainty.

The Straddling Stocks and the FAO Code of Conduct were negotiated concurrently and the two are intended to be complimentary. The two agreements refer to one another extensively, and the full implementation of one will require implementation of the other. As such, they are key pieces in the new mosaic of international instruments that are being negotiated, concluded and implemented to set up a new regime for fisheries worldwide, a regime that is based on the Law of the Sea Convention, but goes further in establishing greater responsibilities for all the States involved, within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction.



Developments in marine biodiversity

The Jakarta Mandate

At its first Conference of Parties (COP), the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decided to consider coastal and marine biodiversity at the second COP. This focus on marine ecosystems reflected the realization by the Parties that marine biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics are very different from their terrestrial counterparts, and thus deserve particular attention. The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was convened in Paris in September 1995, and adopted a set of recommendations, which were then forwarded to the second meeting of the COP, held in Jakarta in November 1995. The Conference of Parties adopted some of the SBSTTA recommendations, in what is now known as the “Jakarta Mandate”. These decisions can be found in documents UNEP/CBD/COP/2/19 (<http://www.unep.ch/bio/cp2-19.html>) and UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5 (<http://www.unep.ch/bio/cp2-5.html>)

The Jakarta Mandate can be divided in three parts. One provides a series of concrete measures that Parties are encouraged to take, and particularly with regard to integrated marine and coastal area management, mariculture, alien species, living marine resources, and marine protected areas. The second is an invitation to international bodies to improve activities and develop new actions to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. This increased cooperation will take place prominently with the UN General Assembly, UNEP, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the CSD, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the UN Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), and the FAO for the development of implementing guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Finally, the Jakarta Mandate envisions a three-year programme of work for the CBD to address the most urgent threats to coastal and marine biodiversity (The Biodiversity Action Network - BIONET - will post a



user-friendly guide to the Jakarta Mandate on their WWW site at <http://www.access.digex.net/~bionet/>) The programme of work is still being developed by the Executive Secretary, which will then solicit input from all Parties and other countries and relevant bodies. The Executive Secretary will form a roster of experts and convene, as appropriate, meetings of experts, drawn from the roster, to support his work. The Executive Secretary will then transmit advice and options generated by the experts to SBSTTA. The SBSTTA will in turn transmit its own advice and recommendations to the COP, which will consider and adopt some of those options.

The International Coral Reef Initiative

Another noteworthy development is the establishment of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). This initiative represents a partnership among nations and organizations seeking to implement Chapter 17 and other international conventions and agreements, for the benefit of coral reefs and related ecosystems. It was announced at the first Conference of Parties of the Convention on

Biological Diversity in December 1994, and at the high-level segment of the CSD intersessionals in April 1995. ICRI currently comprises a Call to Action and a Framework for Action. The former provides wide principles aimed at unifying the participants in a partnership and to set the direction for a workshop which was held in the Philippines from 29 May through 2 June, 1995. Participants to this workshop developed the Framework for Action, which aims to mobilize governments and the wide range of stakeholders whose actions are required to implement the Call to Action. (Information on ICRI can be found at <http://coral.aoml.erl.gov/icri/icri.html>)

Developments in the protection of the marine environment

The Washington Conference on Land Based Activities and Marine Pollution

Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 recognized the importance of land-based sources of marine pollution and called for the convening of a conference that would address these



issues. The Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities was adopted in November 1995 at the end of the UNEP International Conference, held in Washington D.C. This Programme will provide the basis for national and international action to reduce marine pollution from land-based sources, contributing inter alia to improvement of coastal habitats and productivity, reduction of threats to food security and safety, reduction of hazards to human health, and increased control over coastal activities to stop and reverse the alteration of the coastal zone.

The Programme of Action is not self-implementing, however, and a good deal of the negotiations at the oceans inter-sessional meeting were on the point of knowing what agency would be the lead in the implementation process. The Conference recommended giving UNEP a prominent role as the secretariat for the follow-up, a clearing-house mechanism and an intergovernmental forum for protection of the seas from land-based sources of pollution. A draft resolution on “Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action” will be transmitted to the CSD for

further negotiations, to be further considered for approval by the UN General Assembly at its fifty-first session. Another important next step will be the development of a legally binding instrument for the reduction and/or elimination of emissions, discharges and, where appropriate, the elimination of the manufacture and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). (Information on TOCOEN '96, the 3rd symposium on the Fate of Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Environment and the workshop on Advances and Trends in Environmental Chemistry of POPs can be found at <http://www.sci.muni.cz/~michal/TOC96.html> and <http://www.sci.muni.cz/~michal/POPs.html>)

The Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

A set of countries that depend to the greatest extent on oceans resources and a healthy marine environment are small island developing States. This was recognized in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, which called for the convening of a Conference on their sustainable development.



This Conference was held in Barbados in May 1994, and a Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was adopted. The Programme is now being implemented and gives a high priority to the issues of fisheries management and protection within zones of national jurisdiction, integrated coastal area management (ICAM), and climate change and the threat of sea-level rise for low-lying islands.

The CSD at a Crucial Point

While most of the debate at the recent interessionals was devoted to the discussion of technical points, the meetings of the CSD will be the forum in which Parties need to take a number of political decisions. Now that the series of conferences that were called for have been convened, the negotiators are going to have to prove their good faith by implementing in earnest the various programmes of action that were adopted. It is now, at the implementation stage, that the Parties will attempt to conciliate the follow-up to the various processes. In the field of fisheries, the negotiations them-

selves, have been coordinated, and implementation should not prove too troublesome: the FAO compliance agreement is part of the FAO Code of Conduct, and the Code of Conduct and the Straddling Stocks agreement are immediately compatible and designed to be implemented together. The implementation of the Jakarta mandate on the biodiversity of marine and coastal areas will draw heavily on the Code of Conduct and the Straddling Stocks agreement. Under the terms of the CBD, Parties have to ensure full participation in all the relevant international processes, so implementation of the Code and the Agreement is essential.

However, much remain to done to fulfill the obligations of Parties under the CBD. One of the strongest steps toward conserving marine biodiversity will be complete implementation of the Washington Programme of Action. All the instruments are intricately linked, designed to be complementary and refer to one another extensively. Because of the nature of marine and coastal ecosystems, it is inconceivable to act only with regard to fisheries, or protection of key species, or even all land-based sources of marine pollution. This is made abun-



dantly clear in the Barbados Programme of Action, where all the sectoral aspects are reviewed in the successive chapters. The Barbados Programme of Action may be specifically tailored for SIDS, but in its comprehensive approach, it recognizes the linkages between uses in marine areas, which in turn require utmost coordination in implementation by the Parties of their various obligations.

This article was contributed by Charlotte deFontaubert, Ph.D. candidate in marine policy at the University of Delaware. She is currently working with the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), World Wildlife Fund-US (WWF) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to produce a Handbook on the Application of the Convention on Biological Diversity to Marine and Coastal Areas. The last draft of the Handbook will be circulated at the upcoming session of the CSD and will be distributed at the next session of

SBSTTA, which will be held in Montreal in September 1996. She can be reached for comments and questions at acvdf@udel.edu or at CIEL, 1621 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20009, USA. T: +1 (202) 332-4840; F: +1 (202) 332 4865; e-mail: cielus@igc.apc.org .



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UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVICE

The UN Convention on Climate Change's Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) held their second meetings in Geneva from 27 February through 4 March 1996. The SBSTA considered scientific assessment and cooperation, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Second Assessment Report (SAR), reporting by Annex I and non-Annex I Parties, activities implemented jointly (AIJ) and the Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs). On the SAR,

some delegations drew attention to findings that they said should be communicated to Convention bodies, particularly the AGBM, and said the findings underlined the necessity for urgent mitigation action. Other delegations said it is premature to highlight the conclusions contained in the SAR, and that the list is highly selective, limited and presents a biased view. Delegates agreed that a G-77/China position paper would serve as the basis for the adoption of guidelines and format for preparation of initial communications for non-Annex I Parties. The decision adopted on AIJ includes an initial reporting framework for AIJ projects and invites reports from Parties. The framework defines who reports, the frequency of reporting and contents. Regarding TAPs, SBSTA could not agree on modalities and decided to request guidance from COP-2. For a full report, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/> . For the IPCC Synthesis and Summaries, try <http://www.unep.ch/jpcc-o.html/> or <http://www.wmo.ch/> .



SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The SBI considered in-depth reviews of national communications, matters related to the financial mechanism, financial and technical cooperation, transfer of technology, arrangements for the relocation of the Secretariat to Bonn and COP-2. The SBI took note of the actions of the GEF Council, in particular the adoption of its operational strategy. The SBI also concluded, inter alia, that the GEF should provide expeditious support for the preparation of national communication by developing countries and implement enabling activities and expedite the disbursement of resources. Regarding financial and technical cooperation, SBI instructed the Secretariat to prepare a report for its next session on possibilities for strengthening and expanding CC:INFO and CC:FORUM. The SBI adopted draft conclusions that state, inter alia, that the SBI: recognized the need to improve the comprehensiveness, comparability and detail of information provided by Annex II Parties; recognized the complementary roles of the public and private sectors and urged improved private sector participation; re-

quested SBSTA to prepare recommendations on the guidelines for national communications by Annex I Parties for consideration at SBI-3; requested that the Secretariat prepare a report on technology transfer cooperation by the private sector. Delegates agreed to a ministerial segment at COP-2, but did not resolve the question the membership of the COP Bureau. For more information, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/> . For information on the GEF operational strategy, try the World Bank Home Page at <http://www.worldbank.org> .

AD HOC GROUP ON THE BERLIN MANDATE

The third session of the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM 3) was held in Geneva from 5-8 March 1996. Delegates heard a number of new, specific proposals on new commitments for Annex I Parties, including a two-phase CO₂ emissions reduction target proposed by Germany. They also discussed how Annex I countries might distribute or share new commitments, and whether those should take the form of an amendment or protocol.



Developing countries raised questions on whether policies and measures under discussion would represent barriers to trade. Delegates agreed to compile proposals for new commitments for consideration at the next session of the AGBM, and to hold informal roundtable discussions on policies and measures as well as on quantitative emissions limitation and reduction objectives. For more information try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>.

FIFTH ASIA-PACIFIC SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Fifth Asia Pacific Seminar on Climate Change was held in Sendai, Japan from 23-25 January 1996 and was attended by experts from 17 countries and eight international organizations. The major objectives of the seminar were: to disseminate information about recent progress in international efforts such as the IPCC Second Assessment Report; to exchange views and information relating to the preparation of national communications under the UNFCCC; and to facilitate cooperation among

countries of the Asia-Pacific region in coping with climate change and its impacts. For information contact: the Environment Agency of Japan, 1-2-2, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100 Japan. T:81-3-3581-3351; F: 81-3-3581-3341.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON THE ASSESSMENT OF TECHNOLOGY NEEDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The International Experts Meeting on the Assessment of Technology Needs for Sustainability was held from 5-7 February 1996 in Scheveningen/the Hague, the Netherlands by the governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland. The meeting was convened to provide a contribution to the ongoing discussions on the subject of technology transfer and capacity building, in particular in the framework of the CSD and the OECD/IEA Climate Technology Initiative. Roughly 40 experts from national governments, international organizations, industry and research institutes participated in the meeting, which resulted in a number of conclusions and recommenda-



tions regarding the use, strategy and methodology of National Needs Assessments (NNAs) for technological capacity building. The conclusions have been elaborated into a “Guidance Document on NNAs regarding Environmentally Sound Technologies,” which aims to provide guidance on the use of NNAs, to countries or organizations planning to initiate or strengthen their capacity building efforts. For a full report contact: Ms. Petra Loeff, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, PO Box 30945, 2500 GX, the Hague, the Netherlands. T: 31-70-3391291; F: 31-70-3394080.

The Montreal Protocol

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

The Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held at the Austria Center, Vienna, from 5 to 7 December 1995. Delegates considered the following reports: the Report of the Assessment Panels; the Report

of the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the outcome of the Preparatory Meeting on the issues before the Seventh Meeting of the Parties, including the financial report for 1994 and the revised 1995 and 1996 budgets and the proposed 1997 budget for the Montreal Protocol Trust Fund; the Report of the President of the Implementation Committee; and the Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. A general debate was held on these reports and the report of the Executive Director. Decisions were taken on further adjustments and reductions to controlled substances listed in Annex A, B, C and E to the Protocol. Parties also took decisions, inter alia, on the provision of financial support and technology transfer; the definition of “quarantine” and “pre-shipment applications,” the reduction of methyl bromide emissions, trade in methyl bromide and review of its controls, basic domestic needs; and the continued uses of controlled substances as chemical process agents after 1996. A declaration on hydrochlorofluorocarbons and methyl bromide were attached to the report of the meeting. For a full report,



try: <http://www.adu.ucar.edu/gdpf/ozone/mp/mop7-report-index-html> .

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The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Convention to Combat Desertification

INC-8

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD) met for its eighth session in Geneva, Switzerland, from 5-15 February 1996. The INCD is currently functioning during the interim period between the conclusion of the Convention and its entry into force and is preparing for the first Conference of the Parties (COP). During the course of

the session, delegates reviewed the status of ratification, the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds, and the implementation of the resolution on Urgent Action for Africa, as well as action in other regions. The working groups dealt with preparations for the first Conference of the Parties, which is expected to take place in about nineteen months. Delegates began negotiations on crucial issues, including the global mechanism, the designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning, financial rules and the rules of procedure. While the meeting was criticized for making little progress on decisions, important steps were taken on organization of scientific and technological cooperation. For a full report, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/> .

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IPF-2

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) held its second session from 11-22 March, 1996 in Geneva. Delegates conducted their first substantive discussions of six programme elements: underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation; fragile ecosystems affected by desertification and the impact of air pollution on forests; needs and requirements of countries with low forest cover; international cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer for sustainable forest management; assessment of the multiple benefits of all types of forests; and methodologies for proper valuation of the multiple benefits of forests. The substantive discussions were based on Secretary-General's reports prepared by the IPF Secretariat and UN agencies participating in the Interagency Task Force on forests. Delegates also completed initial consideration of the remaining programme elements: progress through national forest and land use plans; traditional forest-related

knowledge; criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management; trade and environment in relation to forest products and services; and international organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms. During the final two days of the meeting, delegates considered the Co-Chairs' summaries. They labeled these transitional in nature to signify that the summaries did not represent negotiated text. Delegates agreed to begin negotiations at IPF-3 on items that had received substantive consideration at this session, although another substantive discussion is scheduled on the programme element on financial assistance and technology transfer. Delegates left Geneva satisfied that they had expressed national positions on a range of forest issues, but somewhat frustrated that all of their positions were not reflected in the report of IPF-2. For a full report, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/> . For information on the IPF, try the UN Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD) Home Page at <http://www.un.org/DPCSD> . Also try the Tree Link Time Page at <http://webonu.fastnet.ch>.



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE MONTREAL PROCESS GROUP

The Working Group on Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montreal Process) held its seventh meeting in Auckland, New Zealand, from 30 October - 4 November 1995. This was the first meeting since the endorsement of the Santiago Declaration and the comprehensive list of criteria and indicators in February 1995. Montreal Process countries underscored the importance of future cooperation among countries on national level implementation of criteria and indicators, particularly among neighboring countries or those with similar forest conditions. In this regard, it was agreed that each country would report on its approach to data requirements, including collection, and its approach to reporting on each indicator at the next meeting of the Montreal Process. Participants also exchanged views on the relationship between national level criteria and indicators and certification. Montreal Process countries reaffirmed that the criteria and indicators have been developed for the assessment of sustainable forest man-

agement at the national level. Australia will host the eighth meeting of the Working Group in June 1996. For more information contact: the Montreal Process Secretariat, tel: + 61 6 272 4500 or 4330; fax: +61 6 272 3201.

INFORMAL PAN-EUROPEAN ROUND-TABLE MEETING

This meeting, which was convened in Brussels from 13-14 November 1995, was held as part of the follow-up activities to the second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe. Participants focused on the linkages with the IPF process and the process initiated by the Ministerial Conference. The different European country initiatives that were proposed at the first sessions of these two processes were presented to the round-table participants. Potential input of the round table to the IPF was also discussed.

SWISS -PERUVIAN INITIATIVE ON FORESTS (SPIF)

Peru and Switzerland are co-sponsoring a study on



the work of international organizations, multilateral institutions and instruments in the forest sector. An independent international group of experts (IEG) is given the task to elaborate a study on the work carried out by international organizations and multilateral institutions and under existing legal instruments related to forest issues. The first meeting of the expert group took place in Geneva from 5-8 March 1996, co-chaired by Augusto Freyre (Peru) and Dr. Franz Schmithussen (Switzerland). The first session of the IEG was attended by experts from Australia, Belarus, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Finland, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Russia and the US as well as by three experts nominated by the NGO community from India, Peru and the UK. During the first session of the IEG/SPIF experts focused their attention on the developments regarding forest issues since the UNCED and on the agenda and decisions taken by CSD and IPF. Experts discussed at length the different approaches and methodologies to be used for the preparation of the study to be submitted on Item V.1 of the IPF agenda. Part of the session was dedicated to exchange of information with some of the most relevant international

organizations, multilateral institutions and conventions. A progress report will be presented to the IPF at its second session. For more information contact: Livia Leu Agosti, Mission of Switzerland to the UN, T: +1-212-421-1480; F: +1-212-751-2104; Italo Acha, Mission of Peru to the UN, T: +1-212-687-3367; T: +1-212 927-6975; or Bernardo Zentilli, Coordinator, Swiss/Peruvian Initiative, T: +41 22 749 2437; F: +41-22-749-2454, e-mail: bzentil@iprolink.ch .

WORLD COMMISSION ON FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING

The independent WCFSO is convening hearings to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to present their differing perceptions on the role of forests and to work toward consensus on integrating developmental and conservation objectives. The first of five public hearings was held in Jakarta, 3-8 March 1996. Approximately 300 groups attended from business, government sector and NGOs. The Commission considered, inter alia: conflict-



ing views on forests; empowering local people; institutional arrangements for securing local participation; preservation of biodiversity; independent third party certification; controlling migratory logging operations; conservationists concerns about plantation forestry; controversial timber production and trade policies; and North/South concessional transfers and environmental taxation policies. For information: WCFSD Secretariat, Geneva Executive Center, C.P. 51, 1219 Châtelaine/ Geneva, Switzerland. T: (41-22) 979.9165/69; F: (41-22) 979.9060; e-mail: dameena@iprolink.ch . Also try the WCFSD Home Page at <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/wcfsd> .

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Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR)

6TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE

CONTRACTING PARTIES

The meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to RAMSAR was held in Brisbane, Australia on 19-27 March 1996. As part of their Strategic Plan, RAMSAR will undertake a program to increase the awareness of the general public, organizations, and governments with regards to the importance of preserving and managing wetland sites. The ecological importance of fish was acknowledged with the announcement that wetlands sites that are central to the survival and perpetuation of fish will be added to the list of wetlands of international importance. All aspects relating to the perpetuation and survival of fish can be used as determinants for the listing of new wetland sites. The achievements of individuals, organizations, and governments will be recognized by the RAMSAR, in the form of the newly announced RAMSAR Wetlands Convention Award, which will acknowledge those who have contributed significantly to wetland conservation and wise use. Delegates recommended the economic values of wet-



lands be identified, measured and publicized in order to increase international and national awareness of the benefits provided by wetland preservation. They also took decisions on the benefits of coral reef preservation, the value of wetlands with relation to their hydrological function review and the impact toxins have on wetlands. For more information, try <http://w3.ipro/ink.ch/iucnlib/themes/ramsar/ramsar-home.html> , or contact the RAMSAR Convention Bureau at ramsar@hq.iucn.ch .

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Commission on Sustainable Development

**CSD WORKING GROUP ON FINANCE AND
PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION**

The Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Finance and Production and Consumption opened on 4 March 1996 at UN Headquarters in New York. During the course of the week-long session, delegates discussed reports from the Secretary-General on Chapters 4 (changing consumption and production patterns) and 33 (financial resources and mechanisms) of Agenda 21, which will be considered by the CSD at its fourth session (CSD-4) in April 1996. During the first two and a half days of the meeting, delegates discussed the contents of reports from the Secretary-General. The last two and a half days of the meeting focused on discussion of the Chair's Draft Report. The Working Group was able to complete discussion of the Report on changing consumption and production patterns, but left several sections unresolved. The Secretariat was asked to consult interested parties about these paragraphs so that the Chair's Report will be completed in time for CSD-4. Delegates offered their views on major issues in the Draft Report on financial



resources and mechanisms, but final drafting of the Report was left to the Chair. For a full report, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>

CSD WORKING GROUP ON SECTORAL ISSUES

The Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Sectoral Issues opened on Monday, 26 February 1996 at UN Headquarters in New York. During the course of the week-long session, delegates discussed reports from the Secretary-General on Chapters 17 (oceans) and 9 (atmosphere) of Agenda 21, which will be considered by the CSD at its fourth session in April 1996. During the first three days of the meeting, delegates discussed the contents of reports from the Secretary-General, and created a drafting group to consider a draft UNEP proposal regarding implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities, drafted at the November 1995 Washington Conference. The last two days of the meeting focused on discussion of the Chair's Draft Report.

The Working Group was unable to complete consideration of the Draft Report, and sent some of it to the CSD's upcoming meeting as discussed text and some as the Chair's summary of delegates' comments. For a full report, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>.

WORKSHOP ON METHODOLOGIES FOR INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Environmental Agency of the Government of Japan organized and sponsored a meeting between 5-8 February 1996 in Glen Cove, NY to discuss methodologies for indicators of sustainable development. This was the third in a series of meetings organized by governments and NGOs to further the indicator work of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development (UN-CSD). Attendees included delegates from 29 national governments, United Nations organizations and other NGOs Building on the recommendations of Agenda 21, Chapter 40 (Information for Decision-Making) the



UN-CSD adopted a work programme on developing indicators of sustainable development. The objectives of this Workshop were to provide specific guidance on the improvement and use of methodology sheets on indicators, and to discuss experience and further national scale testing of indicators in the planning process. During the workshop six Working Groups reviewed various subsets of the methodology sheets and prepared detailed recommendations that the DPCSD is asked to take into consideration. The Workshop recommended that the CSD invite national governments, on a voluntary basis, to test and further develop the indicators in the context of sustainable development and provide feedback about their experience. For more information contact: Mr. Toshiro Hirase, Environment Agency of Japan; T: (81-3) 3580-1704; F: (81-3) 3581-5951; e-mail: QGB01573@niftyserve.or.jp .

AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TECHNOLOGY NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES

AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

In response to a request from the CSD, the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the DPCSD and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) co-organized this workshop, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 17-19 January 1996. It focused on the assessment of technological needs of particular sectors of countries of the African region. The overall objective was to advance the understanding of the role of technology needs assessments as a supportive tool in the transfer and management of ESTs and for the improvement of international cooperation regarding ESTs, under the conditions and needs of African countries. Workshop participants decided to make the report of the workshop available to the fourth session of the CSD, New York, 18 April-3 May 1996. The workshop was organized around three working sessions and held over a three-day period. It was attended by 31 experts from 15 African countries and 6 representatives from international organizations. The discussion address areas such as the linkages be-



tween technology needs assessment and technology assessment, specific cases in Africa where technology needs assessment was part of technology transfer or acquisition activities/arrangements, application of technology needs assessment, experiences exist in developing methodologies for technology needs assessment in support of the transfer of ESTs that have proven to be useful under the conditions and needs of countries in the African region, and experiences of public and private sector managers with regards to the usefulness of technology needs assessment. For more information contact: Mr. Dirk Pilari, Division for Sustainable Development. T: +1 (212) 963-6757; F: +1(212-963-1267; e-mail: pilari@un.org .

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/UN COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Volume 1 Number 2 - 1 April 1996

The UN Commission on Population and Development held its twenty-ninth session on 26 February - 1 March 1996 in New York to discuss follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. The Commission, inter alia: underlined the need for all the reports prepared as part of its multi-year work programme and the need to ensure that its deliberations fully reflect its updated and enhanced mandate, taking into account the integrated, multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; welcomed the newly constituted ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services; and invited participation of NGOs at its thirtieth session in 1997. The Commission also produced a resolution on the work programme in the field of population, which states: the Commission regards the work of the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis as being of considerable importance to the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action; stresses the priority of the elements of the work programme that relate directly to the monitoring and of

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the Programme of Action; and requests the Director of the Population Division to consult with the Commission. For the report of the meeting try: gopher://gopher.undp.org:70/00/ungopher/popin/unpopcom/29thsess/resolutions/resolut.asc



/WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Committee on Trade and the Environment (CTE)

The CTE held a series of formal and informal meetings from 26 to 29 February 1996 on several Items of its work programme. Proposals were tabled under Item 1 by the European Community (EC) and New Zealand on ensuring the compatibility of trade measures taken pursuant to MEAs; and Item 3 by Canada on the applicability of the TBT Agreement and possible need for

further disciplines and transparency regarding eco-labeling. The three proposals consider that in order to avoid disputes from arising, either in the context of MEAs or eco-labeling, WTO provisions should be extended to accommodate the reality of WTO-inconsistent environment-related trade measures. The EC proposal outlines a significant move away from the status quo to amend Article XX and permit discriminatory trade restrictions to be applied against non-parties to MEAs, subject only to the possibility of challenge through dispute settlement under the Article XX headnote language. The New Zealand proposal sets out procedural and substantive criteria for the accommodation of certain, specified WTO-inconsistent trade measures in MEAs. Many delegations stated that trade measure are not a first-best means to achieve environmental objectives and current WTO provisions (Article XX) are already accommodate environmental objectives. Several delegations supported maintaining the status quo with possibly some form of guidelines on the use of WTO-inconsistent trade measures in MEAs or a more cautious, case-by-case approach through the use of an Article IX waiver. Con-



cern was raised regarding any modification of WTO rights that would limit the right of Members which are non-parties to an MEA to WTO dispute settlement procedures. A proposal by Canada outlines an extension of the coverage of the TBT Agreement to cover voluntary eco-labeling programmes. It states: that eco-labeling programmes are covered by the TBT Agreement to the extent that they are based on standards that relate to product characteristics or their related processes and production methods (PPMs); that coverage applies to all eco-labeling programmes, voluntary and mandatory, governmental or non-governmental; that eco-labeling programmes are established by standardizing bodies and such bodies should accept the TBT Agreement's Code of Good Practice; and that the scope of the TBT Agreement should be interpreted to cover the use of certain standards based on non-product-related processes and production methods (PPMs) in eco-labeling programmes, provided these standards strictly adhere to multilaterally-agreed eco-labeling guidelines. Delegates could agree on most of the proposal, but controversy ensued around the use of eco-labeling criteria based on non product-related PPMs,

and the implications that extending coverage of the TBT Agreement to such PPMs would have for the WTO as a whole. Most delegations agree that guidelines on the development of eco-labeling programmes could usefully be furthered. The EC has suggested a WTO Code of Conduct on eco-labeling to increase transparency. The CTE met on 25-27 March to consider Item 6, the effect of environmental measures on market access, especially in relation to developing countries, in particular to the least developed among them, and environmental benefits of removing trade restrictions and distortions, and Item 8, consideration of the work programme envisaged in the Decision on Trade in Services and the Environment and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. For more



information, try the WTO WWW server at <http://www.unicc.org/wto/trade+env/tocte.html> or send inquiries to webmaster@wto.org.

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/UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT II)

Prepcom-3

The third session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom III) for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) met at UN Headquarters in New York from 5-16 February 1996, to continue preparations for Habitat II, which will take place from 3-14 June 1996, in Istanbul, Turkey. Among the outstanding organizational issues addressed were NGO and local authority accreditation and financial resources. Negotiations on the draft Statement of Principles and Commit-

ments and the Global Plan of Action (GPA) commenced at PrepCom III. The session was limited by both financial and time constraints. Lack of translation services precluded the possibility of informal night and weekend sessions. Delegates also spent a considerable amount of time debating issues unique to Habitat II's process, such as NGO participation in informal sessions. Substantive debates related to Habitat II included whether to identify a "right to housing" and the role of UNCHS in follow-up. Additional debates focused on issues discussed at previous UN conferences, such as "sustainable development," "equal" and "equity," and "gender." The volume and disparity of new proposals also resulted in lengthy discussions over the need for and availability of drafting groups. During the final days of negotiation, three Subgroups of Working Group II (the negotiating body for the text) and several informal negotiating bodies operated simultaneously. One section of the text, regarding capacity building, still has not been addressed in a first reading. The closing Plenary ran out of translation time before it could approve reports on all sections of the negotiated text. The combined effect of these factors resulted in the output of PrepCom III: a slightly im-

proved but heavily bracketed text for Istanbul. For a full report, try the Linkages WWW-server at <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/> .

Intersessional Activities

SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNAL MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR HABITAT II

The UN Population Fund sponsored a scientific symposium from 24-26 January in New York on internal migration and urbanization in developing countries, which brought together internationally recognized experts to address the linkages between population dynamics, urbanization and human settlements and provided policy guidance. The symposium produced recommendations for Habitat II on: goals and principles; vulnerable groups; sustainable land-use; poverty reduction and employment creation; environmentally sustainable and healthy human settlements; improving urban economies; balanced development in rural settlements; decentraliza-

tion; metropolitan planning and management; and information and communication.

UN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT-UK COMMITTEE (UNED-UK) SEMINAR OF INSTITUTIONAL FOLLOW-UP TO HABITAT II

The UNED-UK Seminar on Institutional follow-up to Habitat II, held in London on 29-30 January, brought together NGOs, local authority representatives, the UK government and representatives from the EU Presidency, other governments and UN agencies. In addition to discussing the UNED-UK paper on follow-up, the seminar had presentations on the role and structure of UN bodies, and discussed how to ensure the enactment of the Habitat II Global Plan of Action when it was agreed. The seminar also discussed the role of the Centre for Human Settlements and the Commission on Human Settlements. For more information contact: UNED-UK, c/o UN



Association, 3 Whitehall Court London SW1A 2EL. T:
0171 930 2931; F: 0171 930 5893; e-mail:
una@mcr1.poptel.org.uk .

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/BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**The UN Convention on Biological Diversity
UPDATE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Executive Secretary Dr. Calestous Juma has issued a report, dated 15 March 1996, on the administration of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The report covers the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat, including

progress in staffing, location of the Permanent Secretariat, implementation of the work programme, monitoring of other inter-governmental processes, and the trust fund of the Secretariat. For more information contact: the CBD Secretariat, World Trade Centre, 413 St. Jacques Street, Office 630, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9. T: +1 (514) 288 22 20; F: +1 (514) 288 65 88; e-mail: biodiv@mtl.net .

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/OECD

**5TH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE OECD
ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

The OECD Environment Policy Committee marked its 25th Anniversary on 19-20 February, 1996, with its fifth meeting at the Ministerial Level. Ministers reviewed



the evolution of environmental policy in OECD countries over 25 years; discussed common actions required to address the priority environmental problems of today; identified strategies and policy tools needed to meet the environmental challenges to the year 2000 and beyond; and addressed the role of the OECD. Ministers identified several issues requiring intensified cooperation at an international level, including climate change, ozone layer depletion, air and water quality, oceans, seas and coastal zones, waste management, chemical safety, nuclear safety, loss of biodiversity, sustainable management of forests, and desertification and land degradation. Ministers also agreed on the need for more results-oriented strategies, welcomed the emerging dialogue on sustainable consumption and production, and identified eco-efficiency as a highly promising strategy. They also welcomed the expanding use of market-based instruments, voluntary or negotiated agreements between government and industry, and efforts to reform regulatory approaches to improve their environmental- and cost-effectiveness. Ministers reaffirmed the commitments on financial assistance, including development aid, and

welcomed the progress made by the GED and the adoption of its organizational strategy. For more information contact the OECD Communications Division, T: (33 1) 45 24 80 88/89; F: (33 1) 45 24 80 03; news.contact@oecd.org.

OECD MINISTERIAL SEGMENT NGO CONSULTATION

Prior to the Ministerial Meeting, a separate consultation was held with international environmental NGOs. Ministers welcomed the proposal of NGOs for the establishment of an NGO environmental advisory body to the OECD. They invited interested NGOs to submit a formal proposal for such a body, which would act as the principal channel of communication between the OECD and relevant NGOs, and would ensure a broad degree of representation. Ministers strongly urged the OECD Council to examine any such proposal favorably. The discussion covered four main areas: environmental space and equitable use/access to natural resources; policy dialogue relationship within the OECD and in relation to



other international fora, such as export credit and lending agencies; public participation at the national level and international level, e.g. WTO; alliances and mandates. Under alliances and mandates, NGOs stressed how, frequently, they were the most important allies for environment ministers. There is, however, a growing perception in the NGO community that globalization and the difficult budgetary situation facing many governments was encouraging a privileged relationship between business and government. For more information contact Benchmark Environmental Consulting, 49 Dartmouth Street, Portland, ME 04101, USA. T: 1 (207) 775-9078; F: 1 (207) 772-3539; e-mail: benchmark@interramp.com

OECD CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES

The Berlin Conference on Sustainable Cities, organized by OECD and the German government, was held in Berlin between March 19-21 and attended by more than 300 representatives from 29 countries. On the basis of the OECD work programme in urban affairs and as a contribution to Habitat II, participants prepared conclusions

that state, inter alia: sustainable human settlements are a priority aim for action at national, subnational and local, as well as international levels; industrialized and developing countries have a shared responsibility for the future of the world; the OECD Report on the Ecological City demonstrates that innovation to integrate environmental considerations into urban development is both necessary and feasible; the promise in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights of an adequate standard of living for all human beings, including adequate housing, remains to be fulfilled in many countries; a sustainable city is one where all people, including women, are entitled to participate fully in the life of the city where they live; nations are entitled to development; rural and urban areas are interdependent economically, socially and environmentally; local leadership will be fundamental for sustainable urban development; NGOs should be strengthened as partners for sustainable development; the commitment of the international community to respond to the challenges of global urban growth will be judged against



the outcome of Habitat II. For more information contact: Dirk Hoffmann, Tel./Fax: +49-30-336 92 79. Also contact the OECD Communications Division, T: (33 1) 45 24 80 88/89; F: (33 1) 45 24 80 03; news.contact@oecd.org.

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/TOXICS

PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (PIC)

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure was held in Brussels on 11-15 March. Roughly 80 governments attended the negotiating session, which ultimately aims to produce an agreement that will help countries currently importing and using hazardous chemicals and pesticides to make better decisions

about how to manage them. It will also ensure that these toxic chemicals and pesticides are not exported to countries whose governments decide they do not want them. The “Prior Informed Consent” procedure helps importing countries learn more about the characteristics of the hazardous chemicals that may be shipped to them and allows them to make decisions about future imports of these chemicals. Exporting countries are then notified which products the importing countries no longer want to receive and can take measures to ensure that illegal exports do not occur. As of 1 March 1996, 145 countries are participating in the voluntary PIC procedure, which is implemented by the FAO/UNEP Joint Programme on the operation of the PIC procedure. This sessions aimed to make the existing voluntary procedure mandatory and more widely applied by transforming it into a legally binding instrument. Official documents from the meeting



are available on the Internet at <http://irptc.unep.ch/pic/> .
For more information, contact Michael Williams, UNEP (Geneva), T: (41-22) 979 9242/44, F: (41-22) 797 3464, e-mail: mwilliams@unep.ch; or Erwin Northoff, FAO (Rome) T: (39-6) 5225 3105, F(39-6) 5225 4974, e-mail Erwin.Northoff@fao.org.

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[/UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA](#)

[INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY](#)

The Assembly met in Kingston, Jamaica, from 11-22 March 1996. Delegates agreed after two years of negotiations on the composition of the governing council of the International Seabed Authority. The issue of membership of the 36-member council has hindered other deliberations such as agreement on a budget and selection of a general secretary. Delegates had agreed to allocate the

council seats on a regional basis but remained dead-locked over the number for each region. They agreed on “floating seats,” which will alternate between regions every two years. Developing countries feared being outnumbered by developed countries and vice-versa. Latin America and the Caribbean wanted equal seating with western Europe and nations involved in exploratory seabed mining wanted special rights. The International Seabed Authority was established to oversee implementation of the UNCLOS, signed by some 160 countries. The convention came into force in 1992, 10 years after it was opened for ratification. The treaty covers delimitation of maritime boundaries and economic zones and regulates deep seabed mining operations. For information try [gopher://gopher.un.org:70/11/LOS](http://gopher.un.org:70/11/LOS) .



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THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

COP-2 will be held 8-19 July 1996 in Geneva. The session will open in plenary the first day, then suspend the plenary until Wednesday, 17 July to allow for the sessions of the four subsidiary bodies (AGBM, SBSTA, SBI and AG13) to take place. The subsidiary bodies will provide inputs, including draft decisions, for the various items on the COP-2 agenda. The plenary will reconvene to conclude negotiations and adopt decisions on 17-19 July. For more information contact the UNFCCC Secretariat; T: (41-22) 979 9111; (41-22) 979 9034; e-mail: Secretariat.unfccc@unep.ch .

IPCC WORKSHOPS

The IPCC is convening three workshops for the further development of the Guidelines for National GHG Inventories on the following topics: sources and removal by sinks of greenhouse gases from land use and forestry (Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo, 21-22 March 1996); emissions from fuel combustion and industrial processes (Abingdon, UK, 29-30 March 1996); and, methane emissions from rice cultivation (Bangkok, Thailand, 30 April - 2 May 1996). The results will be incorporated as additions and/or revisions to the guidelines, and approved at IPCC-12, scheduled for the week of 9 September 1996 in Mexico. For more information contact: IPCC Secretariat, WMO, 41 Av. Giuseppe-Motta, C.P. N 2300, 1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland, tel: +41 22 7308 215/254/284, fax: +41 22 7331 270 OMM CH, e-mail: narasimhan.sundararaman@itu.ch.



CONFERENCES ON ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY (AIJ)

Regional Conference on Joint Implementation for Countries in Transition.

This Conference will be held from 17-19 April 1996 in the Hotel Ambassador, Vaclavske, n-m 5-7, 111 24 Prague, Czech Republic and is sponsored by the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, the governments of the Netherlands and Norway. The Conference is organized under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. Further information is available from SEVEN, Mr. Milos Tichy, P.O. Box 39, 120 56 Prague 2, Czech Republic, tel: +42 2 2424 7552; fax: +42 2 2424 7597; email: seven@earn.cvut.cz. Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.org.ji>.

UNEP Conference on Activities Implemented Jointly under the UNFCCC: Structuring Opportunities for Building Consensus and Promoting International Cooperation.

The Conference is being organized by the UNEP and the World Foundation for Environment and Development (WFED) and will be held 20-24 May 1996 at the Herradura International Conference Center, San Jose, Costa Rica. For more information contact: UNEP Conference on AIJ, c/o WFED, 1101 30th Street, NW-Suite 500, Washington, DC 20007 USA. Fax: +1-202-686-3771.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

A Workshop on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation in Latin America will take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 22-24 April 1996. The workshop is sponsored by the US Country Studies Program (USCSP), the Comision Nacional sobre el Cambio Global and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (invited). For more information contact: Annie Hareau or Cecilia Ramos-Mane Comision Nacional sobre el Cambio Global, Cuidadela 1414, Piso 6, Montevideo 11100, Uruguay, Tel/Fax: +598-2 932088 or Tel/Fax: +598-2 922416, e-mail: iaiuy@attmail.com;



or Christopher B. Bordeaux or Jack Fitzgerald , USCSP,
1000 Independence Ave., SW, PO-63, Washington, DC
20585, USA, tel: +1-202 426-1637, fax: +1-202 426-
1551, e-mail: cbordeaux@igc.apc.org or
jfitzgerald@igc.apc.org.

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FORESTS

IPF-3

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests will hold its third session from 9-20 September 1996 in Geneva and hold its fourth session in 1997 in New York. For more information contact: Elizabeth Barsk-Rundquist, IPF Secretariat.. T: +1 (212) 9963-3263; F: +1 (212) 963-1795; e-mail: barsk-rundquist@un.org .

COUNTRY-LED FOREST INITIATIVES

International Conference on Certification and Labeling of Products from Sustainably Managed Forests: Australia will sponsor this conference from 26-31 May 1996 in Brisbane. The conference intends to advance international dialogue on the issue of certification and labeling as a means for achieving sustainable forest management and will contribute to the IPF through agreed, non-binding “options for actions.” For more information, contact: Conference Logistics, T: +61 6 281 6624; F: +61 6 285 1336.

Certification of Forest Products and International Trade

Germany and Indonesia will host a joint expert working group meeting from 12-16 August 1996 in Bonn. The group will address the impact of certification and labeling on trade, market access and the achievement of sustainable forest management. For more information



contact: Hagen Frost, German Federal Ministry of Economics, tel: +49-228-615 3947, fax: +49-228-615 3993; Rainald Roesch, Mission of Germany to the UN, tel: +1-212-856-6295, fax: +1-212-856-6280; or Dr. Untung Iskandar, Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, tel: +21-5701114, 5730680, fax: +21-5738732, 5700226.

Implementing the Forest Principles: Promotion of National Forest and Land Use Programmes

Germany will sponsor this international experts consultation from 16-22 June 1996. It will focus on the integration of international and national forest-related activities into a country-specific forest programme. The consultation will produce options to be considered at IPF-3. For information, contact Christian Mersmann, German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), tel: +49 6196 79 3452; fax: +49 6196 79 7333; e-mail: 101562,31@CompuServe.com.

Workshop on Financial Mechanisms and Sources of Finance for Sustainable Forestry

This Workshop, sponsored by Denmark, South Africa and UNDP, is scheduled for 4-7 June 1996 in South Africa. It will focus on: costs, incentives and obstacles for implementing sustainable forest management; status of financial assistance for sustainable management programmes; innovate funding mechanisms; and effectiveness of funding and in-country coordination between financing institutions. For more information contact: Susan Becker, UNDP Natural Resources Management Unit, Sustainable Energy and Environment Division, fax: +1-212- 906-6973.

Long-term Trends in Supply and Demand for Wood Products and Possible Implications for Sustainable Forest Management

This ongoing activity, sponsored by Norway and managed by the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the



Norwegian Forest Research Institute (NISK), is conducted by an international team of experts representing various disciplines from 1 December 1995 to 1 July 1996. The process will prepare a synthesis paper on: factors affecting long-term trends of non-industrial and industrial supply and demand for wood; main trends and prospects in non-industrial and industrial supply and demand for wood; and possible implications for sustainable forest management. The final results will be reported to IPF-3. For more information contact: Mr. Jostein Leiro, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, T: +47 2224 3608, F: +47 2224 9580/81; Mr. Svein Aass, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, T: +1-212-421-0280; F: +1-212-688-0554; EFI, T: +358 73 252 020; F: +358 73 124 393; e-mail: efi.joensuu.fi; Internet: <http://www.efi.joensuu.fi> .

Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management:

Finland will sponsor this seminar to be held from 19-

22 August 1996 in Helsinki. The Seminar will aim at promoting and encouraging national implementation of criteria and indicators and study the feasibility of their further development as well as their comparability and international compatibility. For more information, contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; ISCI Secretariat, T: +358 0 160 2405; F: +358 0 160 2430; e-mail: isci@mmm.agrifin.mailnet.fi; Internet: <http://www.mmm.fi/isci/home.htm>

Experts Meeting on Rehabilitation of Forest Degraded Ecosystem

Portugal, Cape Verde and Senegal, in cooperation with the FAO, will sponsor this meeting from 24-28 June 1996 in Lisbon. The meeting will analyze afforestation, reforestation and restoration of forests, especially in countries with fragile ecosystems affected by drought or desertification. It will identify practical measures for promoting integrated strategies for sustainable forest management. For information contact: Mr. Fernando Mota, tel: +351 1 347 1411 or 347 4358; fax: +351 1 346



9512; or Miguel Jeronimo, Mission of Portugal to the UN, tel: +1-212-759-9444; fax: +1-212-355-1124.

International Experts Group Study on International Organizations, Multilateral Institutions and Instruments in The Forest Sector

Switzerland and Peru are co-sponsoring this international expert group study on the work carried out by international organizations and multilateral institutions, and under existing legal instruments related to forest issues. The first meeting took place in Geneva from 5-8 March, and the second is scheduled for July 1996. For more information contact: Livia Leu Agosti, Mission of Switzerland to the UN, 757 3rd Ave., 21st Floor, New York, NY, 10017. T: (212) 421-1480; F: (212) 751- 2104; Italo Acha, Mission of Peru to the UN, 820 2nd Ave., Suite 1600, New York, NY, 10017. T: (212) 687-3367; F: (212) 927-6975; Bernardo Zentilli, Coordinator, Swiss/ Peruvian Initiative, 9-11 rue Varembe, PO Box 60, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. T: +41 22 749 2437; F: 41-22-749-2454.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED APPLICATION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Canada, Japan, the FAO, and one or two developing countries, to be identified, will jointly host is workshop scheduled for November 1996 in Japan. The precise location and date will be determined later. The workshop will discuss practical applications of policy dialogue conducted within IPF, with particular emphasis on SFM practices at the field level, and will consist of presentations in plenary by experts, discussions in sub-groups and plenary discussion on the range of possible practical applications. For information contact: Takeshi Goto, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo 100, Japan. T: 03-3502-8111 (6212) or 03-3591-8449; F: 03-3593-9565. David Drake, Natural Resources Canada, 351 St. Joseph Blvd., Hull, Quebec, Canada, K1A 1G5. T: (819) 997-1107, ext. 1947; F: (819) 994-3461; e-mail: <DDRAKE@AM.NCR.FORESTRY.CA>



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND LAND USE: THE PROCESS OF CONSENSUS BUILDING

Sweden, Uganda and the FAO will organize this seminar scheduled for October 1996 in Stockholm, Sweden as a follow-up to the seminar by Germany. The workshop will consist of presentation and discussion of country case studies, discussion of some identified key issues and plenary sessions. Funds have been secured to allow invitation of about 20 participants from developing countries. About the same number will be invited from international organizations, NGO and developing countries. For more information contact: David Harcharik, Assistant Director-General, FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy. T: 39-6-5225-3550; F: 39-6-25555-5137; e-mail: david.harcharik@fao.org.

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SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS

WORLD COMMISSION ON FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WCFSD)-REGIONAL HEARINGS.

The independent WCFSD will convene hearings to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to present their differing perceptions on the role of forests and to work toward consensus on integrate developmental and conservation objectives. The second regional public hearing will be hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Winnipeg, Canada, 29 September-5 October 1996, For more information contact : WCFSD Secretariat, Geneva Executive Center, C.P. 51,



1219 Ch,telaine/Geneva, Switzerland. T: (41-22)
979.9165/69; F: (41-22) 979.9060; e-mail:
dameena@iprolink.ch; Internet: <http://iisd1.iisd.ca/wcfsd>

**SUSTAINING ECOSYSTEMS AND PEOPLE IN
TEMPERATE AND BOREAL FORESTS -
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
INTEGRATING CONSERVATION OF
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WITH SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC GOALS**

This conference is co-sponsored by Canada and the Province of British Columbia and is scheduled for 8-13 September 1996 in Victoria, British Columbia. For more information contact: Conference Secretariat, Connections Victoria Ltd., tel: +1-604- 382-0332; fax: +1-604-382-2076; Internet: <http://www.octonet.com/connvic/econmain.html>

**ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
ISSUES IN CERTIFICATION OF FORESTS
MANAGEMENT**

This experts group meeting will be jointly conducted by the University of British Columbia and the Fakulti Perbutananat, University of Pertanian, Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur from 12-16 May 1996. This meeting will contribute to the development of objective, systematic and scientifically-based standards for certification of forestry operations, focusing on the ecological, social and political issues in certification of forest management.

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE NON-
MARKET BENEFITS OF FORESTS**

This symposium, scheduled for 23-29 June 1996 in Edinburgh, Scotland, will be sponsored by the Forestry Commission of the UK. The meeting will explore the latest developments in measuring and valuing the non-market outputs of forestry and examine ways to use the information in making decisions about forest manage-



ment and in the development and implementation of forestry policy. For more information, contact: Ann Alexander, Forestry Commission, T: +44 131 334 0303; F: +44 131 334 2819.

THIRD EXPERT LEVEL FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE

The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe will convene this meeting from 30-31 May 1996 in Geneva.

MONTREAL PROCESS WORKING GROUP ON CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TEMPERATE BOREAL FORESTS

This meeting will be held in Brisbane, Australia, and is scheduled for 3-7 June 1996. For information, contact:

Montreal Process Secretariat, tel: + 61 6 272 4500 or 4330; fax: +61 6 272 3201.

XX SESSION OF THE ITTC AND XVIII SESSIONS OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES

These meetings will take place from 15-23 May 1996 in Manila, the Philippines. For more information contact: ITTO Secretariat, tel: +81-45-223 1110; fax: +81-45-223 1 11; e-mail: sarre@itto.or.jp.

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE PAPER INDUSTRY - MAKING INFORMED CHOICES

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association will sponsor a full-day session on 2 May 1996 in New York to encourage the development of a better informed forest products marketplace. For more information contact: Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Trade and Government Affairs, F: +1-514-866-3686.





DESERTIFICATION

INCD-9

The next session of the INCD is scheduled for 3-13 September in New York. For more information contact the Interim Secretariat CCD; F: (41-22) 979 9030/1; e-mail: Secretariat.incd@unep.ch .

INCD-9 PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES. AFRICAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

West African NGO Meeting will be held 25-27 April in Praia, Cape Verde. The meeting intends to raise awareness of the CCD and to discuss and NGO action plan to implement the Convention. For more information contact: Sylvia Jampies, NGO Liaison, GEC, 11/13 Chemin

Rue des Anemones-BP 76, 1219 Chatelaine/Geneva-Switzerland. T: (41-22) 979-9410; F: (41-22) 979-9030/31; e-mail: sjampies.incd@unep.ch .

IGADD and the subregion's NGOs will hold a workshop on cooperation in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification in June 1996, possibly in Uganda. Contact: Roselyn Amadi, PO Box 2653, Djibouti. Tel: +253 354050, Fax: +253 356284/353195.

SADC NGOs will hold a regional workshop on preparation of the subregional action programmes in Harare, Zimbabwe from 31 July to 2 August. Contact: Roben Penny, Environment Monitoring Group, Wyecroft Street, PO Box 123 Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa. Tel: +27 21 448 3900, Fax: +27 21 479 784, E-mail: envmongr@wn.apc.org.

The Sahelian NGOs Regional Forum will be held in Bamako, Mali. Contact: Falaye Doumbia, CCA-ONG, 330, Porte 119 Hippodrome, BP 1721, Bamako, Mali. Tel: +223 230414/222112. Fax: +223 222359.

The West African NGO/CBO Subregional meeting will take place on 25-27 April 1996 in Lome, Togo.



Contact: Masse Lo, ENDA-TM, 55 rue Carnot, BP 3330, Dakar, Senegal. Tel: +221 225983/222496, Fax: +221 235157/222695, E-mail: masselo@endak.gn.apc.org.

ASIAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

A regional meeting is planned to be held on the Asian Annex in India before INCD-9. For information contact, at the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests, Director K. Sethuraman, Tel/Fax: +91 11 436 2746, or Joint Secretary Alok Jain, Tel: +91 11 436 0894, Fax: +91 11 436 0678. A meeting inviting delegates from the Arab States and Asia is to be held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, during the third week of May to discuss the Asian Annex and awareness raising. It is a joint project of the INCD Secretariat, UNEP, the Islamic Bank and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). For further information, contact G. de Kalbermatten at the INCD Secretariat, Tel: +41 22 979 9111, Fax: +41 22 979 9030, E-mail: secretariat.incd@unep.ch.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

The second regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Mexico in June. For information contact: Lic. Diana Ponce Nava, Unidad de Cooperacion Internacional, Subsecretaria de Recursos Naturales, Secretaria de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAP), Av. Progreso 5, Col del Carmen, Coyoacan, 04100 Mexico, D.F. Tel: +52 658-4853, Fax: +52 658-6059. The Dominican Republic will host a subregional meeting on island ecosystems and desertification scheduled for 18-20 April at the Hotel Hamaca Boca Chica, Santo Domingo. For further information contact Hilton N. Cabral Burgos, Secretariado Technico de la Plantificacion, Oficina Nacional de Planificaci n, Oficinas Gubernamentales, Anexas al Palacio Presidencial, Bloque A-B, 2da Planta, Av. Mexico, Santo Domingo, R.D. Tel: +1 809 221-5140, ext. 214, Fax: +1 809 221-8627.



OECD ACTIVITIES

The OECD Group will meet at the end of June to prepare its positions for INCD-9. For information, contact Marilyn Yakowitz at OECD, 2 rue des Anémones, F-75116, Paris, France. Tel: +33 1 4524 9058, Fax: +33 1 4524 9031.

WMO SEMINARS

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) will conduct a seminar on Drought Preparedness and Management in Rabat, Morocco, in April 1996. Contact Dr. Yeves Ruiz of WMO for further information. WMO will also host a Workshop on Desertification and Drought from 23-28 May in Bet Daga, Israel. Contact N.G. Kove, WMO, Tel: +41 22730-8274, Fax +41 22 734-2326 for additional information.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

The IFAD and the CCD will conduct a symposium on 5-6 June in Rome to discuss ways in which local area development programmes can integrate the Convention's principles. For more information contact: Sylvia Jampies, NGO Liaison, GEC, 11/13 Chemin des Anémones-BP 76, 1219 Chatelaine/Geneva-Switzerland. T: (41-22) 979-9410; F: (41-22) 979-9030/31; e-mail: sjampies.incd@unep.ch.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The Chair plans to hold consultations with the Bureau and Secretariat during the month of July on the negotiations and, specifically, on the Global Mechanism.





/UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat II)

HABITAT II

The Conference, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on 3-14 June, will adopt the Habitat Agenda including a Statement of Principles and Commitments and a Global Plan of Action. These documents will address key issues facing the world's towns and cities during the next two decades, and focus on remedial action in the next five years (1996-2000). For more information contact UNCHS, PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya. T: +254-2/623033; F: +254-2/624266/7; e-mail: habitat@unep.no. Also try <http://www.undp.org/un/habitat>

HABITAT II NGO FORUM

The NGOs of Turkey have formed a Host Committee to facilitate and increase worldwide participation and to organize an NGO Forum to be held from 30 May - 11 June 1996 in Istanbul. The Host Committee has nine subgroups working on various aspects of the forum, as well as caucuses on women, children, youth, culture, health and environment. NGOs wishing to attend the official conference must be accredited by the Habitat Secretariat. Unaccredited NGOs may attend the NGO Forum but must register. For formal NGO accreditation, contact: UNCHS, PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya. T: +254-2/623033; F: +254-2/624266/7; e-mail: habitat@unep.no. The NGO Host Committee can be reached through Dr. Alev Caglar, Habitat II NGO Host Committee of Turkey, Foundation for Support of Women's Work, Galipded Caddesi 149-4, 80030 Beyaglu, Istanbul, Turkey. T: +90-212/249 0070, 243 2879, FL +90-212/249 1508, e-mail ngat@ibm.net. Also contact: Dr. Sule Aytac, Director, NGO Liaison, Habitat II Coordination Unit, 7-8 Kisim 1-7 B Blak Daire 12,



Atakoy, Istanbul, Turkey. T: +90-212/559 9755, 559 9761, or 559 3508; F: +90-212/559 0509; e-mail: habitat@yunus.mam.tubitak.gov.tr .

HABITAT II REGIONAL FORUM EAST CENTRAL EUROPE

Organized by the government of Hungary/USAID/Habitat, 8-10 April, in Budapest, Hungary. For more information contact UNCHS, PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya. T: +254-2/623033; F: +254-2/624266/7; e-mail: habitat@unep.no.

THE NEXT MILLENNIUM - CITIES FOR PEOPLE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD

Organized by UNDP/UNCHS/Government of Turkey, 19-24 April, in Marmara, Turkey. For more information contact UNCHS, PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya. T: +254-2/623033; F: +254-2/624266/7; e-mail:

habitat@unep.no.

“METROPOLIS FOR THE PEOPLE” - SEEKING SOLIDARITY AMONG WORLD CITIZENS

Organized by Metropolis, World Association of the Major Metropolises/Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 23-26 April, in Tokyo, Japan. Contact Mr. M. Torikai, Director General, Metropolis '96 Organizing Committee Secretariat, c/o General Affairs Division - Bureau of City Planning, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 8-1, Nishishinjuku 2-chome-Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 163-01, Japan. Tel: +81-3-5388-3218, Fax:+81-3-5388-1358.



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/CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)

13th Meeting of the CITES Animals Committee

The Animals Committee will meet in the FLORET Congress Centre of Pruhonice, Czech Republic, from 23-27 September 1996. Parties wishing to include specific items on the Agends must send their request and accompanying documentation to the Chair of the Committee before 23 June 1995. Parties wishing to receive information on the main topics should contact the Chair: MR. R.W.G. Jenkins, Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) PO Box 636, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. T: (6162) 500392; F: (6162) 500243. Non-Party states and NGOs wishing to participate in the meeting need to receive prior approval by the Chair and pay a registration

fee of US\$80. For more information contact: the CITES Secretariat, GEC, 15, Chemin de AnÈmones, CP 456, CH-1219 Ch,telaine-Geneva, Switzerland. T: (+41) 22 979-9139/40; F: (+41) 797-3417; e-mail: cites@unep.ch .

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/COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD-4

The fourth session of the CSD is scheduled to meet from 18 April - 3 May 1996 at UN Headquarters in New York. The proposed schedule is to open the session with a presentation of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, to be followed by a discussion on cross-sectoral issues not dealt with by the ad hoc working groups (technology transfer, education, capacity building, trade, poverty, population, decision-making, major



groups and national reporting). During the week of 22-26 April, the CSD will begin with a presentation of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Finance and Consumption and Production Patterns, followed by a panel and discussion. On Tuesday, there will be a presentation on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sectoral Issues, followed by a panel and discussion. During the rest of the week, the CSD will examine implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action and exchanges of national experiences on coastal zone management and sustainable development strategies. Three drafting groups will begin their work on Thursday and conclude the following Tuesday. No more than two groups will meet at the same time. The High-Level Segment will take place from Wednesday through Friday, 1-3 May. For more information, contact Andrey Vasilyev, Division for Sustainable Development, tel:+1-212-963-5949, fax: +1-212-963-4260, e-mail: vasilyev@un.org.

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/PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

**THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE ON PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES**

The Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (CPGR), to be held in Leipzig, Germany, from 17-23 June 1996. The Conference will adopt a global plan of action to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO has asked countries to designate focal points, prepare country reports, and convene subregional meetings. Based on the resulting information, FAO has now developed a database of plant genetic resources conservation and utilization activities, national programmes, national priorities and national needs. The Commission on Plant



Genetic Resources will meet from 22-26 April 1996 in Rome, which will serve as the PrepCom for CPGR. For information contact: Bo Zheng, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, I-00100 Rome, Italy. T: +39-6/5225 3134; F: +39-6/5225 5533; e-mail: bo.zheng@fao.org .

CONFERENCE NGO ACTIVITIES

German NGOs have set up an office to coordinate NGO activities for the CPRG. An NGO forum for Leipzig is planned for 14-16 June before the official conference. Participation is encouraged from groups active in conservation and use of plant genetic resources. Organizers hope some funding will be available to help groups take part in the Leipzig meeting. For information contact: Alfans Ullentbergh, Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung, BUKO Agrar Koordination, Nernstweg 32-34, D-22765, Hamburg, Germany. T: +49-40/392526; F: +49-40/390 7520.

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BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD will convene a number of intersessional meetings prior to COP-3. The meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on a Biosafety Protocol is scheduled for 22-26 July in Aarhus, Denmark. The Second Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) is scheduled for 2-3 September to discuss the preparations for the third COP in Montreal. The SBSTA Bureau will meet on 1 September. COP-3 is scheduled for 4-15 November 1996 in Buenos Aires. For more information contact: The CBD Secretariat, World Trade Centre, 413 St. Jacques Street, Office 630, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9. T: +1 (514) 288 22 20; F: +1 (514) 288 65 88; e-mail: biodiv@mtl.net .



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/GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

GEF COUNCIL MEETING

The GEF Council Meeting is scheduled for 2-4 April 1996. The GEF will consider statements on behalf of Biological Diversity Convention, Climate Change Convention and STAP. Regarding the Work programme, GEF will consider: a Secretariat Note on Operational Policy and Programmatic Analysis; Proposed Work Programme; Analysis of the PDF; Proposal for approval of GEF Work Programs. Other items on the agenda include: Monitoring and evaluation; Public involvement in GEF projects; GEF strategy for engaging the private sector; GEF Administrative Budget; and Relations with Conventions. For more information contact the World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA. T: +1 (202)

473-5787; F: +1(202) 522 2632. Also try the World Bank Home Page at <http://www.worldbank.org> .

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/WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

FAO Regional Conferences

The World Food Summit, scheduled for 13-17 November in Rome, Italy, is expected to renew international commitment to eradicating hunger and malnutrition and achieving food security, and to adopt a policy and plan of action document. The FAO has planned five regional conferences to discuss the draft summit document. Each of the FAO Regional Conferences will have as its principal agenda item the World Food Summit. Participants will review and comment on the revised draft Policy Statement & Plan of Action, as well as a background document on food security issues in the region,



and will produce a specific regional contribution to the Summit preparatory process. NGOs are invited to participate. The FAO Regional Conference for the Near East and North Africa was held on 26-30 March in Rabat, Morocco. The remaining conferences are scheduled for: Africa, 16-20 April in Burkina Faso; Europe, 29 April-3 May in Israel; Asia and the Pacific, 14-18 May in Western Samoa; Latin America and the Caribbean, 2-6 July in Paraguay. The Committee on World Food Security is scheduled for September in Rome. For information contact: the World Food Summit Secretariat, FAO, viale delle Terme di Caracalla, I-00100, Rome, Italy. T: +39-6/5225 2932; F: +39-6/5225 5249; e-mail: food-summit@fao.org . Also try the World Food Summit Web site at <http://www.fao.org>.

NGO CONSULTATIONS AND FORUM

The conference Secretariat is working to organize an NGO Consultation prior to each of the Regional Conferences. For more information about the series of NGO

consultations, contact Ms. Maria Grazia Quieti, e-mail: mariagrazia.quieti@fao.org. Italian NGOs are studying the feasibility of organizing a separate NGO meeting immediately prior to the summit, for which they are seeking funds. For more NGO information contact the NGO Support Committee: Gary Sealy, Global Network on Food Security Secretariat, 130 Slater Street, Suite 900, Ottawa, Canada. T: +1 (613) 232-5751; F: +1 (613) 563 2455; e-mail: unac@magi.com; Also try <http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/ip/social.services/global-food> .

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UNCTAD

UNCTAD IX

UNCTAD's ninth quadrennial ministerial conference will be held in Midrand, South Africa, from 27 April to 11 May (UNCTAD IX). The Secretary-General, in his Report to UNCTAD IX, has made proposals for a



more focussed work programme based on a selection of a few priorities to which UNCTAD can make a meaningful contribution. He also suggests that new actors in the world economy, including NGOs and the private sector, be involved to a greater extent in UNCTAD's work. The Conference will deal with the following topics: development policies and strategies in an increasingly interdependent world economy in the 1990s and beyond; assessment of the development problematique in the current context; policies and strategies for the future; promoting international trade as an instrument for development in the post-Uruguay Round world; promoting enterprise development and competitiveness in developing countries and countries in transition; future work of UNCTAD in accordance with its mandate; and institutional implications. For more information, contact: Rene Vossenaar, Chief, Trade and Environment Section, International Trade Division, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, T: +41-22/ 907 5679; F: +41-22/ 907 0044; e-mail: rene.vossenaar@unctad.org. Also try the UNCTAD IX Home Page at <http://www.unicc.org/unctad/en/enhome.html>.

HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON TRADE-RELATED ISSUES AFFECTING SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

UNCTAD, in collaboration with DPCSD, has organized this panel, which is scheduled for April 1996 in New York. For more information contact: Mr. Anthony Ngororano, UNCTAD. T: +41 22 907 1234, F: +41 22 907 4260.

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/UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES TO UNCLOS

The next meeting of the Parties, which will take place in New York from 29 April - 10 May 1996, will



deal with organizational matters of the Tribunal and election of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. The Parties will elect the judges of the Tribunal when they meet in New York from 29 July - 2 August 1996. For information try: gopher://gopher.un.org:70/11/LOS.



/WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE)

The CTE will meet 20-30 May to consider Item 2, the relationship between environmental policies relevant to trade and environmental measures with significant trade effects and the provisions of the multilateral trading system, and Item 4, the provisions of the multilateral

trading system with respect to the transparency of trade measures used for environmental purposes and environmental measures and requirements which have significant trade effects. CTE will also review the work programme and planning for the Singapore Ministerial Conference in December. For information contact webmaster@wto.org.



/IUCN

WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The meeting of IUCN members, partners, and other conservationists, will take place at the Palais de Congress, Montreal, Canada from 12-24 October 1996. The three-and-a-half day workshop programme aims to find new and innovative ways to tackle the challenges that



face the Earth, to harmonize views and action plans and to formulate tangible ways to move ahead and make a difference. There will be some 20 to 30 workshops in all, organized in nine streams around the following issues: enhancing sustainability; conserving vitality and diversity; protecting and managing land for conservation; sharing nature's bounty; implementing strategies for sustainability; involving people in conservation; using economics as a tool for conservation; acting on global issues and learning from the Canadian experience. For more information, contact: Ricardo Bayon, Special Assistant to the Director General, 28 Rue de Mauverney, 1196, Gland, Switzerland; T: (41 22) 999 0001, F: (41 22) 999 0002; e-mail: rib@hq.IUCN.ch . Also try <http://w3.iprolink.ch/iucnlib> or <http://www.IUCN.org> .



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/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“*View from the Center - Supercities Conference*” and “*Supercities - Environmental Quality and Sustainable Development.*” Atmospheric Environment, 1996, Vol. 30, No.5, pp.675-677 and pp.679-680. R.A. Corrigan and J.B. Knox (California) review the Supercities Conference (26-30 October 1992) organized by the Pacific Basin Study Center (PBSC) founded by San Francisco State University and the University of California. The Conference played a key role in the definition of the PBSC research program and the establishment of a Pacific Basin network of researchers and planners committed to the pursuit of sustainable development.

“*Catalysis in the 21st. Century - The Next Frontier.*” Studies in Surface Science and Catalysis, 1995, Vol. 92, pp.3-10. J.A. Cusamano (California) examines the role of

catalytic science and technology in resolving the paradox of rising economic expectations and the global environmental crisis, dealing with health care, food supply, energy and materials.

“*Biotechnology for Environmental Quality - Closing the Circle.*” Biodiversity and Conservation, 1996, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp.1-25. A.T. Bull (England) examines the impact of biotechnology for enhancing environmental quality, particularly in creating clean production processes and products. The article deals with clean technology options in the industrial, agroforestry, food, raw materials, and minerals sectors.

“*Marine Science and Technology for Sustainable Development.*” Sea Technology, 1996, Vol. 37, No.2, p.129 (Editorial).

“*Sustainable Development in the Mega-City.*” Current Anthropology, 1996, Vol. 137, No. 1, pp. 131-133 and 131-132. J.Goode and U. Wikan (USA) discuss sustainability in the context of the mega-city.

“*The United Nations and Civil Society - Creative Partnerships for Sustainable Development.*” Alternatives - Social Transformation and Humane Governance, 1996,



Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 93-122. RA. Coate, CF. Alger and RD. Lipschutz (USA) discuss the historical and contemporary roots of civil society's role in implementing sustainability.

“Sustainable Development and Social Development - Necessary Partners for the Future.” Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare, 1996, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp.75-91. JM. Kramer and CD. Johnson (USA and Canada) discuss the impediments to achieving global sustainability and social development.

“Intellectual Property in International Relations - Technology Transfer.” Science Communication, 1996, Vol. 17, No. 3, pp. 326-337. P. Karani and JB. Djwang (USA and Kenya) explore linkages between intellectual property in international relations and sustainable development.

/FORESTS

“Measuring Tropical Deforestation - Development of the Methods” Environmental Conservation, 1995, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp.229-240. M.W. Downton (USA) traces the

controversy over measurements of deforestation in Brazil's Legal Amazon and the resulting confusion and exaggeration of research findings. Accurate estimates of world-wide tropical deforestation are required to assist in monitoring compliance with protocols arising from the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change.

“Effects of Changes in Biodiversity on Ecosystem Function in Tropical Forests.” Conservation Biology, 1996, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp.17-24. W.L. Silver, S. Brown, and A.E. Lugo (USA) present a framework for examining the effects of changes in biodiversity on ecosystem function in natural managed, and damaged tropical forests.

/BIODIVERSITY

“Effects of Human Activity on Global Extinction Risk.”

Conservation Biology, 1995, Vol. 9, No.6, pp.1528-1538. J.T. Kerr and D.J. Currie (Canada) attempt to quantify the magnitude of current anthropogenic influences on the extinction process.



“*One World, One Experiment - Addressing the Biodiversity Economics Conflict.*” *Ecological Economics*, 1995, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp.181-192. J.M.Gowdy and C.N.McDaniel (USA) outline the bases of the conflict between biological and economic activity and suggest policy approaches that will enhance the chances of creating economically and environmentally sustainable cultures.

“*Biodiversity Conservation Information Network - A Concept Plan.*” *Current Science*, 1995, Vol. 69, No. 11, pp.906-914. C.P. Geevan (India) outlines a hypothetical information network model (Conservation Information Network -CiNet), to meet the requirements of bioresources conservation, mapping, inventorying and monitoring on a large scale. It is argued that such a network will be required to realize the objectives set out in the Convention on Biodiversity (COB).

“*Fisheries Agencies and Marine Biodiversity.*” *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*, 1996, Vol. 83, No. 1, pp. 29-36. M. Vecchione and B.B. Collette (Washington,DC) present an argument for closer cooperation between fisheries and systematics to facilitate the

development of knowledge and skills necessary for assessing and maintaining marine biological diversity.

“*Issues in Biodiversity including the Role of Local Communities.*” *Environmental Conservation*, 1995, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 216. C.A. Tisdell (Australia) argues for specific incentives to ensure that local communities support (or at least do not sabotage) biodiversity conservation.

“*The Facilitator - Proposing a New Mechanism to Strengthen the Equitable and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.*” *Environmental Conservation*, 1995, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 211-215. A.F. Krattiger and W.H. Lesser (Geneva) propose a ‘Facilitating Mechanism’ to facilitate opportunities and responsibilities arising from the Convention on Biological Diversity in the areas of conservation, sustainable use of biota, and equitable sharing of the benefits. The ‘Facilitator’ would act as a conduit for information, initially relevant to bioprospecting and related legal, institutional, scientific, conservation, and business aspects.

/DESERTIFICATION



“Desertification in Russia - Problems and Solutions.” Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 1995, Vol. 37, No.1-3, pp. 347-363. I.S. Zonn (Moscow) uses a case study on the Republic of Kalmykia-Khalmg Tangch to argue that the desertification problem can be solved only by a wholesale change in agrarian policy, and that a desertification control program must become an integral part of economic and social development.

/CLIMATE CHANGE

“Selected International Efforts to Address Climate Change.” Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 1995, Vol. 38, No.2-3., pp.141-153. M.Seki and R. Christ (UNEP) review international and national initiatives to address climate change, including the World Climate Change Program, the IPCC, the UN Framework Convention, and UNEP.

“Economic and Environmental Choices in the Stabilization of Atmospheric CO2 Concentrations.” Nature, 1996, Vol. 379, No. 6562, pp.240-243. TML. Wigley, R.

Richels and JA. Edmonds (California) note that Working Group 1 of the IPCC made no attempt to determine whether implied emission targets for stabilizing atmospheric CO2 might constitute a realistic transition away from the current heavy dependence on fossil fuels. The writers devise new stabilization profiles that explicitly incorporate considerations of the global economic system, estimate the corresponding anthropogenic emissions requirements, and assess the significance of the profiles in terms of global-mean temperatures and sea level changes.

“Solar Power and Climate Change Policy in Developing Countries.” Energy Policy, 1996, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp.9-16. TE. Brennan, JD. Erickson, and D. Chapman (USA) examine the economic competitiveness of photovoltaic (PV) systems and conclude that without significant technological breakthroughs the economics of PV applications are unlikely to allow for an unsubsidized, widespread adoption of the technology. Policy recommendations are put forward, including a sustained research and development program.



“The Economic Value of the Earth’s Resources.”

Trends in Ecology and Evolution, 1996, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp.135-140. G.Chichilnisky (USA) argues that resource-intensive patterns of growth and trade are inefficient for the world economy, and lead to tragic maldistribution of the earth’s resources. They should be replaced by knowledge-intensive patterns of growth. Information technology and the environmental agenda are two of the most important trends in the global economy.

*“The Embodiment of Carbon Associated with Brazilian Imports and Exports.”*Energy Conservation and Management, 1996, No.6-8, pp.955-960. R. Schaeffer and A.L. Desa (Brazil) examine the implications of the argument that national statistics designed to determine domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions usually do not take into account the embodiment of carbon in international trade flows, thus failing to reflect that countries indirectly emit GHG by importing non-energy good Compiled by Peter Doran, University of Kent,



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Continued on next page



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Selected Sustainable Development Meetings

April 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		GEF Council Meeting - Washington, DC				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Commission on Sust. Dev. - New York		
				Mtg. on Island Ecosystems & Desertification - Dominican Rep.		
			Conf on Joint Implementation for Countries in Transition - Prague			
Intl Workshop on Indicators of Sustainable Development - Bilthoven, the Netherlands						
		Mediterranean Conf on Hazardous Wastes - Izmir, Turkey				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
					UNCTAD IX - Midrand, South Africa	
		5th Metropolis World Congress - Tokyo				
	FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources - Rome					
	Commission on Sustainable Development - New York					
28	29	30				
	UNCTAD IX - Midrand, South Africa					
	Mtg of States Parties to UNCLOS - ...					
	Commission on Sust. Dev. - New York					

Selected Sustainable Development Meetings

May 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Mtg of States Parties to UNCLOS - New York			
			Commission on Sust. Dev. - New York			
			UNCTAD IX - Midrand, South Africa			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Mtg of States Parties to UNCLOS - New York					
	UNCTAD IX - Midrand, South Africa					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			International Tropical Timber Council - Manila			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		First Regional Conference on Climate Change - Tehran				
		Commission for Social Development - New York				
		International Tropical Timber Council - Manila				
		WTO Committee on Trade and Environment - Geneva				
		UNEP Conf. on Activities Implemented Jointly under the FCCC - Costa Rica				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
				3rd Follow-up Mtg - Helsinki Conf - Geneva		
	WTO Committee on Trade and Environment - Geneva					
	Commission for Social Development - New York					
Intl Conf on Certification and Labelling of Products from Sustainably Managed Forests - Brisbane, Australia						

Selected Sustainable Development Meetings

June 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			IFAD Symposium on the CCD - Rome			
		Workshop on Financial Mechanisms & Sources for Sustainable Forests - South Africa				
	Montreal Process Working Group on Criteria & Indicators for Temperate Boreal Forests - Brisbane, Australia					
	Habitat II - Istanbul					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Habitat II - Istanbul					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	4th Int'l Technical Conf. on Plant Genetic Resources - Leipzig, Germany					
	Expert Meeting on Implementing the Forest Principles - Germany					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Experts Mtg on Rehabilitation of Forest Degraded Ecosystems - Lisbon					
	Intl Symposium on the Non-Market Benefits of Forests - Edinburgh, Scotland					
30						

Selected Sustainable Development Meetings

July 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
	Expert mtg. on introduction of alien species - Trondheim, Norway					
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
	Climate Change Convention COP-2 and Subsidiary Bodies Mtgs - Geneva					
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
	Climate Change Convention COP-2 and Subsidiary Bodies Mtgs - Geneva					
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
	Ad Hoc Working Group on a Biosafety Protocol - Aarhus, Denmark					
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			