



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD COP 10 CONCLUDES IN NAGOYA

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. Over 7,000 delegates representing parties and other governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental, indigenous and local community (ILC) representatives, academia and industry attended the meeting. Following intense, late-night sessions marked by numerous parallel deliberations, and down-to-the-wire negotiations on ABS, the strategic plan and Strategy for Resource Mobilization, an impressive “package” was adopted, making COP 10 one of the most successful meetings in the history of the Convention: the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, which, after seven years of negotiations, sets out rules and procedures for implementing the Convention’s third objective; the CBD Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, including a mission, and strategic goals and targets aiming to inspire broad-based action by parties and stakeholders; and a decision on activities and indicators for the implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization adopted at COP 9. Last but not least, the meeting: adopted a decision amounting to a *de facto* moratorium on geo-engineering; took a stance on the issue of synthetic biology, urging governments to apply the precautionary approach to the field release of synthetic life into the environment and acknowledging parties’ right to suspend it; affirmed the role of CBD in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and forest conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+); adopted the Tkarhwaí:ri code of ethical conduct; and established clear steps to increase cooperation among the Rio Conventions leading up to the Rio+20 Summit (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop10/>).



COP President Ryu Matsumoto gaveling to adopt the historic Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CITES Commends Authorities for Seizing Smuggled Tiger; CMS Highlights Countdown to COP *Page 2*
- **International Organizations**
UNEP GEO-5 Regional Consultations Conclude *Page 2*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
Development Banks Announce Initiatives *Page 3*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Rotterdam to Consider Proposal to List Paraquat *Page 4*
- **Sustainable Development**
UNCSD Bureau Convenes *Page 4*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
IMO Meeting Adopts Assessment Framework for Ocean Fertilization; Ramsar Workshop Evaluates Ecosystem Services *Page 4*
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC, Ozone Secretariat Release Documents *Page 5*
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD, CBD Organize Land Day 3; ITTO Hosts REDD+ Workshop *Page 6*

GUEST ARTICLE I

Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Legal Status of the Secretariats

By Professor Bharat H. Desai, Chairman, Centre for International Legal Studies and Jawaharlal Nehru Chair in International Environmental Law at Jawaharlal Nehru University

Abstract

Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) have emerged in the past four decades as a unique technique containing flexibility, pragmatism, an in-built law making mechanism as well as a consensual approach to norm-setting.

Continued on page 3

GUEST ARTICLE II

A Review of the Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats

By Balraj Sidhu, Doctoral Scholar, Centre for International Legal Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Abstract

Gorillas, the largest of all great apes, have been a source of inspiration and fascination for humans but this primate, unfortunately, as a whole remains endangered and is under renewed threat.

Continued on page 5

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► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



Photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat

CITES Commends Thai Airport Authorities for Seizing Smuggled Tiger Cub

The Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has announced that he will award Certificates of Commendation to the Airports of Thailand Public Company and the CITES Wildlife Checkpoint of the National Parks, Wild-

life and Plant Conservation Department of the Government of Thailand, at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok, for their role, on 23 August 2010, when officials of the two agencies discovered a person attempting to smuggle a live tiger cub out of the country (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml). The announcement came during a tiger conservation event that convened on the sidelines of CBD COP 10 (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sundry/2010/SG_remarks_tiger_nagoya.shtml).

CMS Newsletter Highlights Countdown to November 2011 COP

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has released a newsletter highlighting the countdown to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to CMS, to be held in Bergen, Norway from 20-25 November 2011. The newsletter provides an update on

the process regarding the future shape of the CMS, which will be under consideration at the Meeting of the Standing Committee from 23-24 November 2010. The newsletter also: describes the launching of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative; highlights that 2011-2012 will be the "Year of the Bat;" outlines the recent meetings on the CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope; and describes the 17th Meeting of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBAN) Advisory Committee, as well as a new conservation strategy to protect the dugong. Finally, the newsletter highlights the successes of the Agreement on Seals in the Wadden Sea over the past 20 years (http://www.cms.int/publications/Bulletin/2010_09_10_sep_oct.pdf).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Image courtesy of UNEP

UNEP-WCMC Launches Reports, GEO-5 Regional Consultations Conclude

The UN Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC) has launched carbon maps showing how carbon stocks in Asia, Africa and Latin America overlap with biodiversity hot spots. Launched at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), convening in Nagoya, Japan, the maps were produced with the aim of assisting governments in setting priorities for carbon investments. According to UNEP, the maps pinpoint places where investments in carbon can contribute to community livelihoods, forest conservation and fighting climate change. The maps overlay the carbon held in the vegetation and soils of terrestrial ecosystems with population density, protected areas and economic activities. UNEP launched carbon mapping publications for Cambodia, Ecuador, Argentina, Nigeria and China on carbon, biodiversity and ecosystem services (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=649&ArticleID=6783&l=en&t=long>).



Banner courtesy of UNEP-WCMC

UNEP-WCMC has also launched a resource titled A-Z on Areas of Biodiversity. Geared to assist the business community and governments, as well as nongovernmental organizations, this online resource provides information on over 30 important areas for biodiversity conservation ranging from World Heritage Sites to Key Biodiversity Areas (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>).

In other UNEP news, the regional consultations for GEO-5 have been completed. The consultations were convened in Washington DC, US (September 2), Panama City, Panama (September 6-7), Ottawa, Canada (September 9), Bangkok, Thailand (September 16-17), Nairobi, Kenya (September 20-21), Geneva, Switzerland (September 23-24) and Bahrain (October 4-5). Each

consultation sought to identify priority environmental issues and challenges for each region. Agreed priorities for North America included land use, energy, freshwater and environmental governance. Priorities agreed for Latin America and the Caribbean region included: biodiversity; climate change; freshwater; soil, land use, land degradation and desertification; seas and oceans; and environmental governance. Priorities for the Asia and Pacific region included: climate change; environmental governance; biodiversity; freshwater; and chemicals and waste. Priority issues for Africa included: climate change; soil, land use, land degradation and desertification; biodiversity; freshwater; and seas and oceans. European priorities included: air pollution and air quality; biodiversity; chemicals and wastes; climate change; and freshwater, water and water resources. Priorities for West Asia included: freshwater; soil, land use, land degradation and desertification; energy; environmental governance; and oceans and seas (http://www.unep.org/geo/GEO_Meetings.asp; <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/geo/geo5/>).



Participants at the GEO-5 Regional Consultation for Asia and the Pacific

GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

This study takes a closer look at the multilateral regulatory technique to address the sector-specific environmental *problematique* as well as the legal status of the secretariats that ‘service’ the institutionalized intergovernmental process.

The sheer necessity of the MEA, through its secretariat, to give effect to the objectives leads to a chain of legal implications involving the host institution, host country and other legal entities. Barring few exceptional cases, most convention secretariats in recent years have come to be located within an existing international institution. Interestingly, this question of ‘location’ is unaffected by physical distance – sometimes even continents apart – of the convention secretariats from their host institutions. The issue of host institution arrangements assumes considerable importance in the life of a convention secretariat.

Unfortunately, the headquarters agreements generally do not throw much light on some of these critical legal issues. As a result, a trend has grown among the secretariats to insist upon a proper relationship agreement with the respective host institution. The three such agreements so far put into place (Ramsar, CITES and CBD) indicate the preference to clearly delineate the respective roles of the host institution and the Convention secretariat. This arrangement could possibly prevent conflicts. However, it could work only if the arrangement is duly respected by the host institution. Alternatively, the COP or the Standing Committee that generally enters into the relationship agreement could assert its authority and seek clarifications from the host institution as regards the nature of the services they are providing to the Convention.

Convention secretariats have a unique position in the field of international institutional law. The four different mod-

els of convention secretariats seen in the field have their own strengths and weaknesses, and each presents its own distinct set of problems. These could be duly resolved through a spirit of solidarity and co-operation between the host institution and the COP. The convention secretariat is sandwiched between these two institutions and has to grapple with a sense of dual loyalty to the two masters. If the basic purpose of institutionalised international environmental cooperation is to be realised on a specific sectoral issue, the convention secretariat will need to be adequately strengthened as well as provided with the necessary wherewithal and the legal capacity to work smoothly both within the domestic jurisdiction of the host country as well as on the international plane. This will necessitate concerted political resolve by the COP, understanding from the host institution, as well as jettisoning of institutional egos to attain the best results.

See full article at: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle103a.html>

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Development Banks Announce New Global Partnerships and Initiatives

The World Bank announced, on 28 October 2010, a new “Global Partnership for Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services Valuation and Wealth Accounting,” which is designed to integrate ecosystem services into national accounting. Building on the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) project “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” (TEEB), the initiative seeks to bring visibility to many of nature’s services to the economy, bringing the value of natural capital to the highest level of a country’s economic decision-making. The Partnership will include developed and developing countries, international organizations such as UNEP and conservation and development non-governmental organizations as well as the global organization for legislators, GLOBE International (<http://go.worldbank.org/WM94GRKSH0>).

In related news, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank and IUCN launched, on 28 October 2010, the Save Our Species (SOS) initiative with more than US\$10 million in financing commitments, calling on businesses to help build the biggest global species conservation fund by 2015. The SOS initiative is a global response to the challenge of biodiversity loss and aims to bring together financial support from private business with international conservation expertise



L-R: Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility; Robert Zoellick, President, World Bank Group; Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN; Jean-Christophe Vié, Deputy Head of IUCN’s Species Programme and Manager of SOS; and Kirsi Sormunen, Vice President and Head of Sustainability, Nokia (photo courtesy of the GEF Secretariat)

and cooperation from countries facing species extinction. Nokia, the world’s leading mobile phone supplier has joined the initiative (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3773>).



Image courtesy of UNEP

The GEF has also launched the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, a platform for organizations engaged in integrating conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes, including forests and agricultural lands. The GEF will facilitate the use of its grant modalities, including enabling activities, Small Grants Programme, and medium and full size projects, as leveraged opportunities for activities related to the Satoyama Initiative, provided they are eligible under the GEF-5 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy, and attend to country needs and priorities (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3680>).



Hideki Minamikawa, Ministry of the Environment of Japan, during the launch of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (photo courtesy of the the GEF Secretariat)

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Marine Biodiversity Assessment and Outlook: Global Synthesis

(UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Seas, October 2010) This publication provides the first systematic overview at a sub-global scale of the state of knowledge of marine biodiversity, the pressures it currently faces and the management frameworks in place for addressing those pressures. It highlights that marine biodiversity faces increasing pressures in all regions from land sourced pollution, ship sourced pollution and impacts of fishing, and warns that, without significant management intervention, marine biological diversity is likely to deteriorate substantially in the next 20 years, with growing consequences for resources and physical security of coastal nations (<http://marinebiodiversityseries.org/reports/2-global-synthesis-report.html>).

Climate Risks and Adaptation in Asian Coastal Megacities

(Asian Development Bank, 2010) This report is the product of a two-year collaborative study by the ADB, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Bank. It highlights the impact of climate change on Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Manila under a range of climate change scenarios through 2050. The report finds that costs from major flooding events on infrastructure and the economy could run into the billions of dollars, with urban poor populations likely to be the hardest hit. It concludes that all three cities need to take targeted, city-specific and cutting edge approaches to meet these challenges (<http://go.worldbank.org/P8IU2IW370>).

Catalogue of Biodiversity-Based Products

(GEF, Small Grants Programme, 2010) This catalogue of biodiversity-based products from SGP's Latin American & Caribbean portfolio demonstrates the linkage between the sustainable use of biodiversity, community empowerment and poverty reduction. It incorporates high quality photography and offers possibilities for supporting marginalized communities in forming alliances with funders, retailers, researchers, governments and NGOs in order to improve their livelihoods and conserve biodiversity (http://sgp.undp.org/index.cfm?module=ActiveWeb&page=WebPage&s=biodiversity_case_st).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Rotterdam Convention to Consider Proposal to List Paraquat

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has received a notification of severely hazardous pesticide formulation from Burkina Faso, for the chemical paraquat. In response, the Secretariat is seeking information on the use of paraquat from parties and observers to the

Convention. Information should be forwarded to the Secretariat by 25 November 2010. Paraquat will subsequently be considered for recommended listing under the Rotterdam Convention by the Chemical Review Committee, scheduled to convene in March 2011 (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=174&sid=18&tid=42>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNCSD Bureau Discusses Recruitment of Executive Coordinators

The Bureau of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, also referred to as Rio+20), at its seventh meeting on 12 October 2010, learned that the recruitment of two Executive Coordinators has been delayed due to difficulties in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources needed for their recruitment, with funds so far only mobilized to support one Executive Coordinator. Bureau members were also informed, *inter alia*: of the plans of the high-level panel on global sustainability

established by the Secretary-General and a possible consultation between the Bureau and this panel; and that a 4 November 2010 meeting of the Principals of all UN system entities, including Specialized Agencies, Regional Commissions, Convention Secretariats, and IFIs, would seek to articulate a common Secretariat vision for sustainable development within the context of Rio+20. The next Bureau meeting is expected to take place on 18 November ([http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/bureau_doc/Minutes%20of%20the%207th%20Bureau%20Meeting%20\(Final1\).pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/bureau_doc/Minutes%20of%20the%207th%20Bureau%20Meeting%20(Final1).pdf)).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO Meeting Adopts Assessment Framework for Ocean Fertilization

The 32nd Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention) and fifth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol thereto (London Protocol) met from 11-15 October 2010, in London, UK, and adopted the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization. The Framework, which was adopted as resolution LC-LP.2(2010), is designed to assess whether proposals for ocean fertilization constitute legitimate scientific research. It was developed by the Scientific Groups under the London Convention and Protocol. The resolution follows previous discussions by parties to the London Convention and Protocol on planned operations for large-scale fertilization of the oceans using micronutrients to sequester carbon dioxide. The Assessment Framework provides criteria for an initial assessment of a proposal and detailed steps for completion of an environmental assessment, including risk management and monitoring, and does not contain a threshold below which experiments would be exempt from its assessment provisions (<http://www.londonprotocol.imo.org>; <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/Assessment-Framework-for-scientific-research-involving-ocean-fertilization-agreed.aspx>).

Ramsar Workshop on Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands Evaluates Ecosystem Services

The VIIth workshop of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands took place in San José, Costa Rica, from 29 September-1 October 2010. The main outcomes of the meeting were progress in the preparation of a project on evaluation of ecosystem services of high Andean wetlands, which will be submitted to the fifth replenishment of resources of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the addition of the Convention on Migratory Species as a member of the contact group of the strategy, and the preparation of web pages about the initiative on the Infoandina website (http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/HighAndean_Initiative_workshop_2010.pdf).



Participants of the VIIth workshop of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

The 1979 (Bonn) Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is an intergovernmental treaty that allows member States to conclude specialized species 'agreements.' In circumstances where the concerned species is in an unfavourable conservation status (the species may be listed in Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention), the Range States are required to conclude agreements to protect these species, with a view to restoring the migratory species concerned to a favourable conservation status or maintain such a status.

In 2006, the CMS requested the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, in partnership with the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) as well as in consultation with the gorilla range States and GRASP members, to develop a gorilla conservation agreement to be implemented via a regional, trans-border Action Plan. The Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and their Habitats (hereinafter called as Gorilla Agreement) was

finalized in 2007. The main objective of the Agreement is to help conserve and restore Gorilla populations and their habitats to a favourable conservation status, primarily by establishing or reinforcing coordinated trans-border activities or projects.

To generate greater publicity on the plight of gorilla, 2009 was declared as the Year of Gorillas (YoG). It was a joint initiative of UNEP-CMS, UNEP/UNESCO, Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). During the YoG, concerted efforts were made to encourage strategic and practical approaches to gorilla conservation; create awareness among people of ecosystem services (including carbon sequestration and storage) and intrinsic value of flora and fauna; provide income opportunities as an alternative to poaching, logging and mining through capacity building such as training of forest workers; and educate the wider public on gorillas and inculcate cultural attitudes conducive to the conservation of gorillas.

The Gorilla Agreement encourages as well as calls for the implementation of general conservation measures and an Action Plan, which is subject to regular monitoring. The Gorilla Agreement and the projects that will result from its Action Plan could positively contribute to promoting the long term survival of gorillas, their forest habitat and dependent human populations. However, implementation relies on voluntary contributions by the parties. The objectives laid down have an intrinsic inspirational value, but each of the Gorilla range States must put into place their own policy and legal steps to give effect to the letter and spirit of the Gorilla Agreement, as well as the promotional effect of 2009 as Year of the Gorilla.

See full article at: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle103b.html>

Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Logo courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

UNFCCC Releases Further Documents in Preparation for Cancún Climate Change Conference

The Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has released additional documents in preparation for the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP), which will be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November-10 December 2010. The 33rd meetings of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) will also convene at that time.

The latest documents include a report that synthesizes proposals made by parties and observer organizations on ways to enhance the engagement of observer organizations. This report includes a range of proposals in relation to: substantive inputs; admissions and access; registration and organizational issues; the role of constituencies; guidelines for participation; and practices taken from other processes (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/sbi/eng/16.pdf>).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published submissions from Canada, Belgium, on behalf of the EU, Japan and Norway on views on the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines. Parties had been invited to submit additional views on the revision of the UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, including the common reporting format tables, and areas in which the Secretariat can initiate work on these tables (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/sbsta/eng/misc07.pdf>).

Additional documents that have been released are submissions from Belgium, on behalf of the EU, and Belize on views on issues related to the research dialogue, including possible ways to enhance its effectiveness and the workshop to be held in conjunction with the SBSTA 34. The research dialogue is conducted between parties and regional

and international climate change research programmes and organizations. Parties were to provide to the Secretariat their views on: possible ways to enhance the effectiveness of the research dialogue in the future; the workshop to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 34; and ways to make information from research programmes and organizations available on the UNFCCC website (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/sbsta/eng/misc12.pdf>).

In other UNFCCC news, the report of the 23rd Meeting of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC), which was held from 21-23 October 2010, in Bonn, Germany, has been posted on the JI website (http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup_Committee/Meetings/023/Reports/Report.pdf).

Ozone Secretariat Releases Additional MOP 22 Documents

The Ozone Secretariat has released additional documents in the lead up to MOP 22 including: information on illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances reported by Uzbekistan; the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel Final Report, Evaluation of 2010 Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide and Related Matters; and status of licensing systems and focal points (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO Hosts REDD+ Workshop, Signs MOU with Japan at CBD COP 10

On 25 October 2010, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) hosted a workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), entitled "REDD+: A New Framework for Conservation of Tropical Forests – Monitoring, Biodiversity and Practices." The Workshop was a parallel event held during the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and was co-organized by Forests and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI). It sought to deepen discussions on REDD+ during COP 10 with presentations from experts on forest carbon monitoring, synergies with biodiversity conservation and current REDD+ practices. The presentations also included an overview of the status of international REDD+ discussions, as well as a global comparative study on REDD initiatives.

Also during COP 10, ITTO and the Government of Japan signed an MOU to facilitate the funding of biodiversity-related projects. ITTO also hosted a

number of side events during the Conference (http://www.itto.int/news_releases/id=2460).



Logo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

UNCCD, CBD Organize Land Day 3

The Secretariats of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized Land Day 3 on 23 October 2010, in parallel to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the CBD, in Nagoya, Japan. The event was part of the Rio Conventions Ecosystem and Climate Change Pavilion, and addressed the theme "The Nexus Between Biodiversity and Desertification." Panel sessions considered: how the synergistic implementation of the CBD and UNCCD fosters action at the country level; how decision makers can ensure an equal sharing of environmental benefits through sustainable use of biodiversity and land; and how scientists can

contribute to biodiversity conservation in the drylands of Eastern and Central Asia. Among the issues raised during discussions were: proposals for approaches at the country-level financing that could enhance synergy; the need to bring back small holders who had fallen off the national level agenda on synergy; organic farming as a strategy to foster synergy; the policy failure to promote synergy; how development cooperation could support the development of local business; and an over-expectation that the access and benefit sharing protocol could capture all the concerns surrounding biodiversity loss (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/landday/2010b/menu.php>).

In other UNCCD news, the Secretariat has announced that the Bureau has decided to move the location for the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Second Special session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Previously scheduled for Geneva, Switzerland, these meetings will now take place in Bonn, Germany, in February 2011 (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric9/menu.php>).



The dais during the CBD COP 10 side event on "A 360° View of Forests: People, Biodiversity, Carbon, and More" presented by the UNFF, the ITTO and the CBD. L-R: Eduardo Mansur, ITTO; Takuo Sato, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director, ITTO; Jan McAlpine, Director, UNFF; and Tim Christopherson, CBD Secretariat.

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Joint IPCC Workshop of WGII and WGIII on Socioeconomic Scenarios for Climate Change Impact and Response Assessments:** 1-3 November 2010. Berlin, Germany. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/meetings/EMs/index.html#4>
- **Climate Investment Funds Committee Meetings:** 6-12 November 2010. Washington, DC, US. http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/november_2010_cif_mtg
- **UN REDD Fifth Policy Board Meeting:** 4-5 November 2010. Washington, DC, US. <http://www.un-redd.org/PolicyBoard/5thPolicyBoard/tabid/1002/Default.aspx>
- **Montréal Protocol MOP 22:** 8-12 November 2010. Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop22/>
- **39th GEF Council Meeting:** 16-18 November 2010. Washington, DC, US. http://www.thegef.org/gef/events/39th_GEF_council