



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Climate Change Negotiators Open Talks in Cancún

The UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún opened on 29 November 2010 and is scheduled to conclude on 10 December 2010. The conference will include the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UNFCCC and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 6). The conference also comprises the 33rd sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, the 15th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 15), and the 13th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UNFCCC (AWG-LCA 13).



Mexican President Felipe Calderón addresses the conference

The focus of the conference is on a two-track negotiating process aiming to enhance long-term international climate change cooperation under the Convention and the Protocol. The original deadline for completing these negotiations was the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, held in December 2009, but as many issues remained outstanding, the mandates of the two AWGs were extended until Cancún, where they are expected to report their respective outcomes to COP 16 and COP/MOP 6 (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/>).

Continued on page 2

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Climate and Atmosphere**
Ozone Secretariat Releases ImpCom Report Page 2
- **International Organizations**
UNEP IEG Consultative Group Forwards Recommendations Page 2
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNCCD Invites Comments on Consultancy Reports Page 3
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm Requests Information; Basel Supports Crackdown on Illegal Hazardous Waste Shipping Page 4
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
IMO Circulates Proposed Amendments; New Ramsar Sites Designated Page 4
- **Sustainable Development**
CSD 19 Bureau Convenes Page 5
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
GEF Council Expands Small Grants Programme; Climate Investment Funds Approve Resilience Projects; World Bank Launches Corporate Responsibility Website Page 5
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime Created; CMS Standing Committee Convenes; CBD Secretariat Releases Newsletters Page 6

GUEST ARTICLE

Making Progress in Water and Health Related Issues Across the Pan-European Region

By Sonja Koepfel and Tomasz Juszczak, UNECE/WHO-EURO Joint Secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health

Abstract

The second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health took place on 23 -25 November 2010 in Bucharest at the invitation of the Government of Romania and co-chaired by Norway and Romania.

Continued on page 3

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Solar Lighting for the Base of the Pyramid: Overview of an Emerging Market

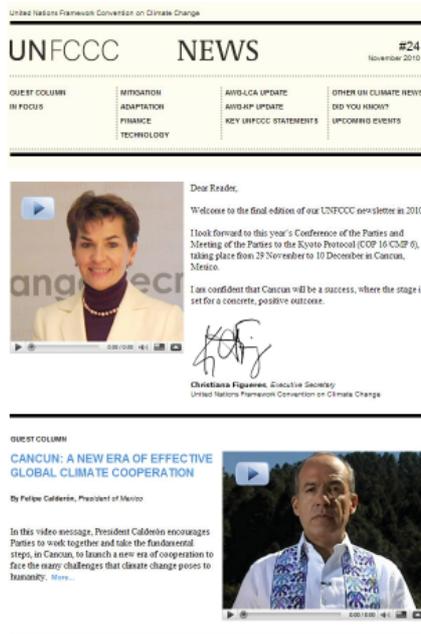
(World Bank, November 2010)
This report by Lighting Africa, a joint initiative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank, underlines that, by 2015, solar portable lights could provide access to clean and safe lighting to an estimated 65 million Africans who are currently either un-electrified or under-electrified ([http://www.lightingafrica.org/files/Solar_Lighting_for_the_BOP-overview_of_an_emerging_mkt_\(2\).pdf](http://www.lightingafrica.org/files/Solar_Lighting_for_the_BOP-overview_of_an_emerging_mkt_(2).pdf)).

Continued on page 4

The *MEA Bulletin* © is a publication of IISD <info@iisd.ca> publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was researched and written by Soledad Aguilar, Asheline Appleton, Melanie Ashton, Alice Bisiaux, Reem Hajjar, Renata Rubian, Elsa Tsioumani, and Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. <lynn@iisd.org>. The Deputy Director of IISD Reporting Services is Chris Spence and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The *MEA Bulletin* is published by IISD in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). Opinions expressed in *MEA Bulletin* are those of the authors and not the publishers. Excerpts from the *MEA Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on IISDRS publications, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11A, New York, NY 10022, United States of America.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

Continued from page 1



Cover of UNFCCC News - Issue #24 (image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat)

The UNFCCC Secretariat has published its final newsletter for 2010. The newsletter features a video message from Felipe Calderón, President of Mexico, titled “Cancún: A New Era of Effective Global Climate Cooperation,” and an article on a pre-COP ministerial meeting, which convened in Mexico City from 4-5 November 2010, and was

attended by representatives from all negotiating groups. The newsletter also includes pieces on: adaptation; mitigation; finance; technology; and updates on the AWG-KP and on the AWG-LCA (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=ky4phal0&s=hkomb5gqcozcnwd>).

In other UNFCCC news, the Secretariat has released the “Synthesis report on the National Economic, Environment and Development Study (NEEDS) for Climate Change Project.” The report synthesizes the information provided by the countries involved in the NEEDS project, namely: Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Maldives, Mali, Nigeria and Philippines. It includes an assessment of the financial resources needed to implement mitigation and adaptation measures in 2020 and 2050, and an assessment of the available and potential financial and policy instruments, including financial flows, to support climate change measures (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/sbi/eng/inf07.pdf>).

The annual report of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board to the COP/MOP are now available on the UNFCCC website. The JISC report to the COP/MOP covers the work of the JISC during the period from 24 October 2009-23 October 2010, and includes

an annexed report on the JISC’s experience in implementing JI. The CDM Executive Board report to the COP/MOP covers the work of the Board during the period from 17 October 2009-14 October 2010. It highlights that, during the reporting period, the Board finalized 631 requests for registration and 588 requests for issuance, and there are now more than 6,300 CDM project activities in the CDM pipeline (including registered projects and those seeking registration) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cmp6/eng/10.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cmp6/eng/09.pdf>).

Ozone Secretariat Releases ImpCom Report

The Ozone Secretariat has released the advance report of the 45th Meeting of the Implementation Committee (ImpCom) under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol, which convened from 4-5 November, in Bangkok, Thailand. The outcomes of the ImpCom were adopted by the 22nd Meeting of the Parties (MOP 22) (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/impcom/IMPCOM45-4.E.pdf). The Ozone Secretariat has also released an advance copy of the decisions adopted by MOP 22 (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/22mop/MOP22-Decisions.pdf).

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP IEG Consultative Group Makes Recommendations to Governing Council

The Second Meeting of the Consultative Group of Ministers and High-Level Representatives on International Environmental Governance (IEG) convened from 21-23 November in Espoo, Finland. In response to Decision SS.XI/1, the Consultative Group considered the broader reform of the IEG system, building on the set of options developed during the Belgrade Process, but remaining open to new ideas. The Consultative Group identified the following system-wide responses to the challenges in the current IEG system: strengthening the science-policy interface; developing a system-wide strategy for environment in the UN system; encouraging synergies between compatible multilateral environment agreements; creating a stronger link between global environmental policy making and financing; developing a system-wide capacity-building framework for environment; strengthening strategic engagement at the regional level to strengthen UNEP Regional Offices; and, for the Governing Council (GC), considering the contribution of UNEP to identifying the implementation

of and follow up of these approaches. The Consultative Group also considered institutional forms that would best serve to implement the aforementioned responses, with differing views expressed on this matter. In reference to five of the options for put forward by the Belgrade Process, the Consultative Group recommended that establishing a new umbrella organization for sustainable development and reforming the UN Economic and Social Council and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development would be best addressed in the wider sustainable development context. The Group also suggested that existing institutions be “strengthened and enhanced” and that the options of enhancing UNEP, establishing a specialized agency such as a world environment organization, and enhancing institutional reforms and streamlining existing structures were potential options. The Group recommended that the UNEP GC should consider how to “secure political momentum” and “efficient follow-up of the IEG process” (<http://www.unep.org/environmental-governance/Portals/8/NairobiHelsinkiFinalOutcomeEdited.pdf>).

In other UNEP news, a joint initiative by UNEP and the World Customs Orga-

nization, titled Sky-hole Patching II and involving over 80 countries, has resulted in the confiscation of over 7,500 cylinders of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), and other ozone depleting substances. Most seizures took place in the Asia and Pacific region, notably in China, Thailand, Hong Kong and India (<http://insecsecretariat.wordpress.com/2010/11/15/joint-wcounep-operation-nets-large-haul-of-ozone-depleting-substances/>).

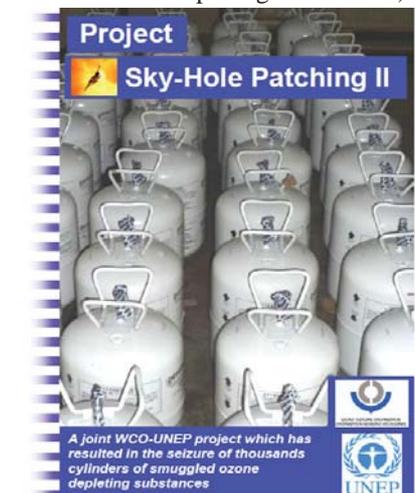


Image courtesy of the World Customs Organization

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Delegates representing 33 countries, several UN, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations gathered in Bucharest to assess progress achieved and agree on actions to tackle future challenges in the field of water and health.

The UNECE/ WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. It aims to attain access to safe drinking water and provision of sanitation for everyone.

The Bucharest meeting adopted the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*, a document elaborated to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol. The Guidelines illustrate the steps that need to be taken when setting targets, implementing relevant measures and reporting on the progress achieved with respect to protecting human health and well-being and the sustainable management of water resources, in accordance with articles 6 and 7 of the Protocol. In spring 2010, Parties reported for the first time on their targets set as well as planned measures to achieve them. At the Meeting, Parties reviewed the results of this first reporting exercise.

There are more than 170,000 cases of water-related disease in the Pan-European region every year. In order to reduce this much too high number, Parties adopted a *Policy and a Technical Guidance on water-related disease surveillance*.



L-R: László Borbély, Minister of the Environment and Forests, Romania, and Attila-Zoltán Cseke, Minister of Health, Romania

Extreme weather events and disasters such as floods and droughts represent an additional challenge to the sustainable management of water resources and the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation. Parties recognized these challenges already in 2007 and developed a *Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events*, which was adopted at the meeting.

The Protocol guides its Parties on how to translate the human right to water, recently recognized by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, into practice, and how safe, acceptable, affordable, accessible and sufficient water can be provided. In Bucharest, Parties decided upon future activities to promote the exchange of experience on measures supporting equitable access to water. The meeting also discussed the specific challenges of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems and decided how to further support Parties in this area.

Implementing the Protocol is a complex and challenging process. To help Parties to comply with their obligations, a comprehensive framework for mutual assistance between Parties

has been established. This framework includes the Compliance Committee and the Project Facilitation Mechanism. The meeting reviewed progress under the latter and the Chairperson of the Protocol's Compliance Committee presented the Committee's report to the Meeting of the Parties. The meeting adopted a decision on general issues of compliance prepared by the Committee, and elected four new independent members of the Compliance Committee.

Finally, Parties agreed upon an innovative cooperation with the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) regarding public participation in water and health issues.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle105.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.

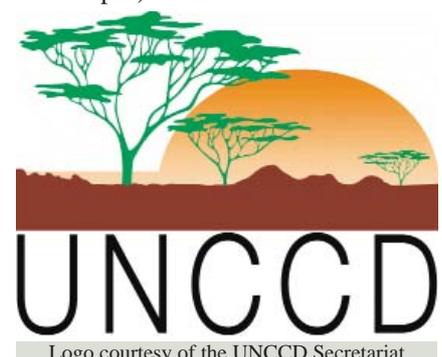
► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD Invites Comments on Consultancy Reports on Impact Indicators

The Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) requested that two consultancy papers should be subject to a scientific review process, and the UNCCD Secretariat has announced that comments will be accepted through an eforum until 31 December 2010. The reports address the subset of impact indicators in preparation for the UNCCD national reporting process in

2012 (<http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/eforum.php>).

In related news, the UNCCD Secretariat is organizing a technical workshop from 16-17 December 2010, in Bonn, Germany, to contribute to the refinement of the UNCCD set of impact indicators provisionally accepted at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (<http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/ImpactIndicators.php>). The agenda includes a discussion of ongoing parallel work on indicators in other bodies, indicator suite refinement and testing (<http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/docs/Draft%20Agenda%20191010.pdf>).



Logo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: A State of Knowledge Review

(CBD Technical Series No. 55, 2010) This publication contains reviews presented to the symposium "Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction: What, Why and How?" held in April 2010, in London, UK. Conclusions include that: the poor depend disproportionately on biodiversity for their subsistence needs, both in terms of income and insurance against risk; and biodiversity conservation can be a route out of poverty under some circumstances (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-55-en.pdf>).

Global Ocean Protection: Present Status and Future Possibilities

(IUCN, the Nature Conservancy, UNEP-WCMC, UNU-IAS and Agence des aires marines protégées, 2010) This publication provides evidence-based recommendations on improving and accelerating actions on delivering ocean protection and management through marine protected areas. Facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned, the report aims to assist in finding new and better solutions to address the various threats to the marine biological diversity and productivity (http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/publications_doc/publications/?6500/Global-ocean-protection--present-status-and-future-possibilities).

Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention

(World Bank, United Nations, 2010) This joint World Bank and UN report analyzes disasters from an economics perspective, stressing the need for prevention to reduce countries' vulnerability to natural hazards in order to enable their sustainable and cost-effective development. It outlines a number of measures to prevent death and destruction from natural hazards such as earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding and estimates that annual global losses from natural disasters could triple to US\$185 billion by the end of this century, without calculating the impact of climate change (<http://www.gfdr.org/gfdr/node/281>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

Stockholm Convention Requests Regulatory and Trace Contaminant Information

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat is requesting information from parties on regulatory and assessment schemes for new and existing chemicals, for identifying chemicals with POPs properties. The Secretariat is also seeking information related to quantities of a chemical occurring as unintentional trace contaminants in products and articles, examples of how national regulation defines unintentional trace contaminants in products and articles, and national experiences in applying these clauses in practice (<http://chm.pops.int/Convention/POPsReviewCommittee/POPRCMeetings/POPRC6/POPRC6Followupcommunications/RegulatoryandAssessmentSchemesArt3p3and4Request/tabid/828/language/en-US/Default.aspx>; <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/POPsReviewCommittee/POPRCMeetings/POPRC6/POPRC6Followupcommunications/UnintentionaltracecontaminantsRequestaddinfo/tabid/827/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

IMO Circulates Proposed Amendments Ahead of Cancún

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has circulated proposed draft regulations to make mandatory technical and operational measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from international shipping, further to a request by a number of States parties to Annex VI (Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships (MARPOL) to circulate the draft text. The proposed amendments would make mandatory, for new ships, the Energy Efficiency Design Index and the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan, which have been previously disseminated by IMO for voluntary use.

The circulation of the proposed amendments is part of the IMO's preparation to participate in the Cancún Climate Change Conference, where it



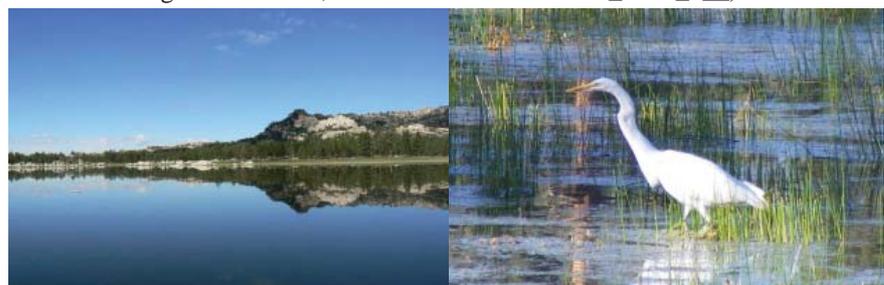
Basel Convention Secretariat Supports Crackdown on Illegal Hazardous Waste Shipping

The Basel Convention Secretariat provided support to the International Hazardous Waste Inspections Exercise at Seaports, an initiative coordinated by the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement's (INECE) Seaport Environmental Security Network (SESN). Over a dozen countries participated in the initiative, which includes 72 targeted inspections. Results indicated that 54% of inspection detected infringements, and that the most commonly encountered illegal waste streams were: e-waste wrongly declared as second hand goods; waste batteries incorrectly described as plastic or mixed metal scrap; and cathode ray tubes from television and computer monitors wrongly classified as metal scrap (http://inece.org/seaport/docs/GlobalCrackdown_Press%20Release_Nov2_final.pdf).

will seek to ensure that the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change continue to entrust IMO with developing and enacting global regulations to control GHG emissions from ships engaged in international trade (<http://www.imo.org/OurWork/Environment/PollutionPrevention/AirPollution/Pages/IMO-at-COP-16.aspx>; <http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/GHG-amendments-circulated.aspx>).

New Ramsar Sites Designated in Mexico

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported that the Government of Mexico has designated five new Wetlands of International Importance, bringing Mexico's total number to 119 Ramsar Sites covering 8,225,476 hectares (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-5newrsmexico/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24847_4000_2__).



Laguna de Hanson, one of the five new Wetlands of International Importance (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries on the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture

(FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department; November 2010) These technical guidelines on the ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EEA) were developed to support mainly Articles 9 and 10 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). Their main objective is to assist countries, institutions and policy makers in the development and implementation of a strategy to ensure the sustainability of the aquaculture sector, integration of aquaculture with other sectors and its contribution to social and economic development (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1750e/i1750e.pdf>).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD/DESA Announces Special Journal Issue on Transport, CSD 19 Bureau Holds Second Meeting

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) has announced that the November 2010 special issue on transport of *Natural Resources Forum, a United Nations Sustainable Development Journal* has been published. Articles present transportation-related case studies from the Rhine, Australia, China, Chile and South Africa. Additional articles address governance of sustainability at airports and climate instruments for sustainable transport in developing countries (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/narf.2010.34.issue-4/issuetoc>).

In related news, the second meeting of the Bureau for the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

(CSD 19) convened on 16 November 2010, in New York, US. Among other topics, participants discussed recent and upcoming meetings that will feed into the discussions at the May 2011 CSD 19 session. In reference to the January 2011 High-Level intersessional meeting on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in Panama, participants were informed that DSD/DESA in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme is preparing two background documents for the meeting. These documents, which are expected by mid-December, will: examine the six potential institutional arrangements for the 10-year framework of programmes on SCP (10YFP) against a pre-established criterion; and compile programmes with potential for scaling up ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Minutes-of-the-Second-Bureau-Meeting\(CSD-19\).pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_pdfs/csd-19/Minutes-of-the-Second-Bureau-Meeting(CSD-19).pdf)).

TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF Council Meeting Expands Small Grants Programme

The 39th Meeting of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Council, at its 16-18 November 2010 meeting in Washington, DC, US, approved US\$134 million for the next phase of the Small Grants Programme (SGP), which awards up to US\$50,000 in funds for projects by civil society and community-based organizations. The Council also approved several projects, as well as a Results-based Management and Knowledge Management Work Plan for GEF-5, and agreed to establish a pilot process with the goal of building a new framework to expand the number of accredited institutions that are eligible to receive funding to assist countries to prepare and implement projects on the ground (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/meetingdocs/97/402>).

In other GEF news, during the International Tiger Forum, which took place in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 21-24 November 2010, the GEF indicated it will provide up to US\$50

million in grants to save the tiger, through contributions to be invested by developing countries using their GEF allocations in biodiversity, supplemented by investments from its REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable use of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks) Program. The GEF commitment on this issue complements the recently launched "Save Our Species" (www.SOSpecies.org) initiative, a partnership between the GEF, the World Bank and IUCN to attract private sector investments in species conservation and expected to become one of the largest and most comprehensive funds to protect globally-threatened species. The GEF will also collaborate with the World Bank and other development partners in the Global Tiger Recovery Program (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3879>).

Climate Investment Funds Meetings Approve Climate Resilience Projects

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) meetings took place from 6-12 November 2010, in Washington DC, US, and adopted several grants and concessional loans, adding up to US\$270 million for country-wide plans for resilience against climate impacts. For example, the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) will provide US\$50 million grants to the Governments of Bangladesh, Tajikistan and Niger to pilot climate resilience strategies and integrate climate risk into their economic plans (http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/november_2010_cif_mtg).

World Bank Approves Initiatives for Mexico, Launches Corporate Responsibility Website

The World Bank approved, on 3 November 2010, a package of three initiatives totaling US\$713.24 million to bolster Mexico's efforts to "green" its economy. The initiatives include a loan for public policy development aimed at supporting government efforts to meet the climate change mitigation and adaptation goals set forth in its Climate Change Special Program; a package for the Efficient Lighting and Appliances Project; and a GEF grant for the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Wetlands Climate Change Impact Adaptation Project (<http://go.worldbank.org/ANYQRB-FPV0>).

In related news, the World Bank has launched a new Corporate Responsibility website showcasing its efforts to reduce its environmental footprint since 2002. The Bank is also developing ways to measure its greenhouse gas emissions from its energy, transport and forestry projects globally (<http://crinfo.worldbank.org/>).

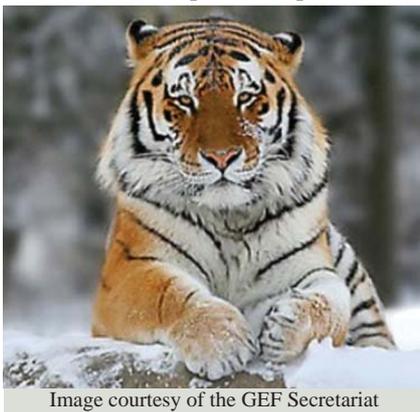
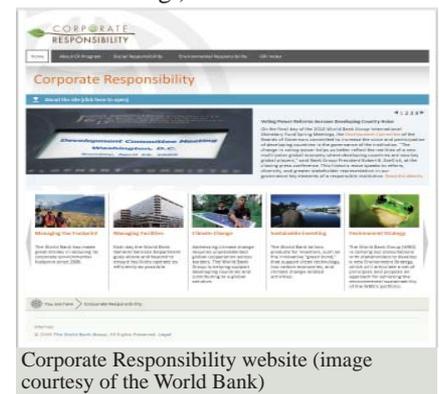


Image courtesy of the GEF Secretariat



Corporate Responsibility website (image courtesy of the World Bank)

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



L-R: John Scanlon, Secretary-General, CITES, and Ronald Noble, Secretary-General, Interpol (photo courtesy of the CITES Secretariat)

International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime Created During Tiger Summit

During the International Tiger Forum, held from 21-24 November 2010, in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretary-General of ICPO-INTERPOL, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the President of the World Bank and the Secretary-General of the World Customs Organization signed a Letter of Understanding to bring into effect the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime.

The Tiger Forum was hosted by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and World Bank President Robert Zoellick, and was the result of years of efforts by the Global Tiger Initiative. Participating tiger range countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand and Viet Nam endorsed the St. Petersburg Declaration and the Global Tiger Recovery Program, agreeing to double tiger numbers by 2022. Furthermore, the 13 countries agreed to strengthen international collaboration, improve scientific monitoring to help restore the species' habitats and transboundary corridors, and halt poaching and illegal trade of tigers and tiger products, as well as create incentives for local people to protect tigers (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml; http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=651&ArticleID=6841&l=en&t=long; http://www.tigersummit.ru/eng/index).

CMS Standing Committee Concludes Session

The 37th Meeting of the Standing Committee to the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 23-24 November 2010. Among other issues, the Committee discussed conservation instruments under development, including agreements on the Houbara Bustard and Central African Elephants; the process on the future shape of CMS; and three draft resolutions on marine debris, ecological networks and response to emergencies, which will be further examined before submission to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS. The Committee also endorsed a paper on CMS Campaigns, CMS Ambassadors and other honorary roles and awards presented by the Secretariat.

In the margins of the Standing Committee meeting, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice signed a cooperation agreement to support an independent review and the development of guidelines for mitigating and avoiding the conflict between migratory birds and electricity power grids in the African-Eurasian region (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/11_nov/nw_

StC_291110.htm; http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/rwe_aewa_cooperation.htm).

CBD Secretariat Releases Newsletters

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has issued a notification requesting the submission of information on activities supporting, facilitating, regulating or promoting technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation of relevance to the Convention, by 1 May 2011 (http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/nf-2010-207-ttcc-en.pdf).

The CBD Secretariat has also recently released: the November volume of its REDD+ and Biodiversity newsletter, including, among others, reports on REDD-related decisions of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the CBD and a webinar on REDD biodiversity benefits held on 15 November 2010; its Monthly Bulletin of Activities for September 2010 including a report on the high level meeting on biodiversity held in the framework of the UN General Assembly on 22 September 2010; and information, including links to presentations, videos and photos, from the inaugural Rio Convention's Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion, held on the margins of CBD COP 10 (http://www.cbd.int/forest/newsletters/redd-12.htm; http://www.cbd.int/doc/mba/2010/mba-2010-09-en.pdf; http://ecosystemspavilion.org/).

REDD-plus & Biodiversity e-Newsletter Volume 12 - November 2010. Includes sections: NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, and a list of articles such as 'The tenth anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity' and 'High Level Meeting on Biodiversity'.

REDD-plus & Biodiversity e-Newsletter (image courtesy of the CBD Secretariat)

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SEPTEMBER 2010. Includes sections: High Level Meeting on Biodiversity, Other high-level events organized in the margins of the COP 10, and a list of activities such as 'High Level Meeting on Biodiversity' and 'High Level Meeting on Biodiversity'.

Bulletin of Activities of the CBD (image courtesy of the CBD Secretariat)

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Cancún Climate Change Conference:** 29 November-10 December 2010. Cancún, Mexico. http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/
- **12th Meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board:** 13-15 December 2010. Cancun, Mexico.
- **ITTC 46:** 13-18 December 2010. Yokohama, Japan. http://www.itto.or.jp
- **UNCCD Technical Workshop on Impact Indicator Refinement:** 16-17 December 2010. Bonn, Germany. http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/ImpactIndicators.php