



A newsletter on the activities of key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their secretariats Issue No. 68 | Thursday, 23 April 2009 | Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS WORK TOWARDS DEVELOPING NEGOTIATING TEXTS



Dovland at the conclusion of the meeting

The fifth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (AWG-LCA 5) and the seventh session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 7) took place from 29 L-R: Richard Kinley, UNFCCC Deputy tocol (AWG-KP 7) took place from 29 Executive Secretary, and AWG-KP Chair Harald March-8 April 2009, in Bonn, Germany. The main objective of the sessions was to

work towards developing negotiating text under both AWGs. AWG-LCA 5 concentrated on the key elements of the Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13), namely mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology, as well as on a shared vision for long-term cooperative action under the Convention. Discussions at AWG-LCA 5 focused on further elaborating elements for a draft negotiating text to be prepared by the Chair for the next AWG-LCA session in June 2009. The focus in AWG-KP 7 was on emission reductions by Annex I parties under the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012, and on legal issues, including possible amendments to the Protocol. The AWG-KP also considered the flexibility mechanisms, land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), and potential consequences of response measures. The AWG-KP reached agreement on a request to its Chair to prepare two documents for the June session: a proposal for Protocol amendments under Article 3.9 (Annex I parties' further commitments) and a text on other issues, such as LULUCF and the flexibility mechanisms. At the close of the AWG-KP, parties elected John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) as the new Chair, Harald Dovland (Norway) as the Vice-Chair, and Miroslav Spasojevic (Serbia) as the rapporteur. Both AWGs also agreed to add to their negotiating schedules an informal meeting from 10-14 August 2009, in Bonn, Germany, and a resumed session from 2-6 November 2009, at a location to be announced (http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg5/). Continued on page 2

GUEST ARTICLE

The Green Customs Initiative: **Capacity Building for Environmental Security**

By Ezra Clark, UNEP DTIE

Abstract

The issue of environmental crime and capacity building of customs officers to prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive modities is receiving increasing recognition in MEA negotiations and increased attention by many international organizations, including the World Customs Organization.

Continued on page 2

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

RAMSAR SITES OF THE WORLD

(The Ministry of Environment Korea, WWT, and UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project, 2009) This book shows exemplary conservation practices of 17 Ramsar sites around the world: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mali, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, Sweden, the UK and the US. These Ramsar sites are described by 24 wetland experts and over 40 photographers (http://koreawetland.org/en/ sub05_view.asp?page=1&stype= &sword=&gbn=DATA&idx=94).

MEA Clusters In This Issue

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- Trade, Finance and Investment GEF Earth Fund Board Convenes, Adaptation Fund Organizes Logo Competition Page 5
- Forests, Deserts and Land **UNFF8** Commences Negotiations on Financing, Forests in a Changing Environment; UNCCD Seeks Comments on Draft Communication Strategy

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The Green Customs Initiative provides coordinated and cost-effective delivery of training and awareness-raising for customs officers, and is delivered through an umbrella partnership of MEAs and other organizations with diverse mandates.

Ignorance, lack of awareness and the low-priority often assigned to environmental crime by many authorities makes it an attractive area of operation for smugglers, offering a lucrative business with low risks. National and international crime syndicates worldwide earn an estimated US\$20-30 billion dollars annually from hazardous waste dumping, smuggling proscribed hazardous materials, and exploiting and trafficking protected natural resources. Illegal international trade in "environmentally-sensitive" commodities such as ozone depleting substances (ODS), toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living modified organisms is an international problem with serious consequences. It can directly threaten human health and the environment; contribute

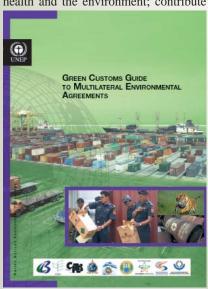


Image courtesy of UNEP

to species loss; result in revenue loss for governments; and undermine the success of international environmental agreements by circumventing agreed rules and procedures. It is also of great concern that environmental crime is often linked with other social crime and illegal activities such as money laundering and organized crime.

Customs and border protection officers constitute the front line of every country's defense against transboundary illegal trade, therefore building the capacity of these officers is vital. Training and awareness-raising are key components of such capacity building, but can be time-consuming and expensive when delivered separately for the wide range of MEA-related issues that customs officers must cover. An effective solution is coordinated training, and this is what the Green Customs Initiative aims to provide.

Green Customs is a cross-cutting initiative that supports a number of UNEP's priorities, including those on environmental governance, harmful substances and hazardous waste, environmental sustainability, and climate change. The Initiative is a partnership of international organizations cooperating to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade, and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant conventions and MEAs. This is achieved through awareness-raising on all the relevant international agreements as well as provision of assistance and tools to the enforcement community. Green Customs is designed to complement and enhance existing customs training efforts under the respective agreements.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was the most

recent organization to join the Green Customs Initiative, becoming a partner in April 2009. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), while not an MEA, is a partner in the initiative and has found this to be a good platform for collaboration and outreach to the customs community. The partnership now comprises the secretariats of the relevant MEAs with trade-related components (Basel, Cartagena, CITES, Montreal, Rotterdam and Stockholm) as well as Interpol, the OPCW, UNEP, UNODC and the World Customs Organization.

Cooperation on illegal trade is an excellent opportunity for international organizations and MEA secretariats to work together across different issue areas, as many of the problems and solutions regarding the monitoring of trade in ODS, toxic chemicals, hazardous waste, living modified organisms and endangered species are similar. Green Customs presents a practical means to facilitate such cooperation. It is a small but iconic and significant example of good environmental governance achieved through cooperation, coordination and synchronization of the activities of MEA secretariats and other partner organizations.

More information on the Green Customs Initiative, including the Green Customs Guide to Environmental Agreements, can be found at: http://www.greencustoms.org

Link to the full article: http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle68.html

Editor's note: <u>MEA Bulletin</u> 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

In other UNFCCC news, in the run up to the 30th session of the Subsidiary Bodies scheduled to take place in Bonn from 1-10 June 2009, the UNFCCC Secretariat has released two documents on capacity-building that will be examined by its Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI). The first is a compilation of submissions by parties and intergovernmental organizations containing information on their experiences and lessons learned regarding, in particular, the use of performance indicators for monitoring and evaluating capacity-building at the national and global levels (FCCC/

SBI/2009/MISC.1) (http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/misc01.pdf). The second is a compilation of submissions by Argentina, Japan and Uzbekistan on additional or updated information and views relevant to the completion of the second comprehensive review of the capacity-building framework (FCCC/SBI/2009/MISC.2) (http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/misc02.pdf).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has also released a document (FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.6) for the 30th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA30) on examples

of measures, methodologies and tools on increasing economic resilience to climate change and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors, including through economic diversification. The document contains submissions on increasing economic resilience within the context of the Nairobi Work Programme on Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change from Belize, the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Community, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbsta/eng/misc06.pdf).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

COUNTRY STUDIES ON AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(World Bank, March 2009) The country notes for Latin America and the Caribbean on climate change and agriculture identify specific climatic constraints and policy interventions related to the agricultural sector, highlighting the institutional make-up in the dialogue of climate change and agriculture (http://go.worldbank.org/Q1YTC1WIIO).

ADAPTATION OF FORESTS AND PEOPLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE – A GLOBAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

(International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), 2009) The Global Forest Expert Panel of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, led by IUFRO, has released a report presenting current knowledge about the impacts of climate change on forests and people and options for adaptation. A key message is that the carbonregulating services of forests are at risk of being lost entirely unless current carbon emissions are reduced substantially, which the assessment notes would result in the release of huge quantities of carbon to the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change (http://www.iufro.org/ download/file/3580/3985/Full_Report.pdf).

AFRICAN WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH DESIGNATIONS UNDER THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

(Georgetown International Environmental Law Review, vol XXI, issue 2, 2009) This survey is authored by Royal Gardner, Stetson University College of Law, Kim Diana Connolly, University of South Carolina School of Law, and Abou Bamba, Ramsar Secretariat. The article discusses the survey results from 26 sites in 18 countries. Benefits associated with Ramsar designation included increased support for protection and management of the sites, scientific studies, funding opportunities, ecotourism and poverty alleviation (http://www.ramsar.org/ wurc/wurc africa survey 2009. pdf).

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

OZONE PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION, RATIFICATION REPORTED

Bahrain launched a national project to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) on 8 April 2009. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are assisting with the project, which will consist of a survey

to quantify the HCFCs used by industries, data analysis, and the creation of a national strategy to phase out HCFCs and adopt alternatives (http://www.tradearabia.com/news/newsdetails.asp?Sn=ENV&artid=159330). In related news, Mozambique ratified the Montreal Protocol and the Beijing Amendment on 2 April 2009 (http://allafrica.com/stories/200904090863.html).

▶ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Delegates during the Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation for Land and Water Management

UNEP CO-HOSTS DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) co-hosted the concluding Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation for Land and Water Management, which convened at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16-17 April 2009. The Dialogue addressed the need to: tackle existing problems in land and water management to build resilience to climate change; strengthen institutions for land and water management; and increase financing targeted towards the most vulnerable people. Participants adopted the Nairobi Statement, consisting of six guiding principles on

climate change adaptation in land and water management, which synthesizes the substantive output from the Dialogue. The guiding principles address: sustainable development; resilience; governance; information; economics and financing; and partnerships in the context of climate change adaptation in land and water management. It will provide input to the negotiations leading up to the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 15), as well as tangible guidance to stakeholders involved in developing and implementing strategies for adaptation in land and water resources management beyond COP 15 (http://www. iisd.ca/climate/sdalw/).



Dais during the high-level segment. L-R: Salifa Sawadogo, Minister for Environment and Water, Burkina Faso; Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP; Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark; Ramadhan Kajembe, Assistant Minister, Environment and Mineral Resources, Kenya; and Rhoda Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union.

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CALLS FOR VIEWS ON MISUSE, MOZAMBIQUE RATIFIES

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat is requesting parties and observers to provide their views on the application of criterion (d), Annex II (taking into account that intentional misuse is not in itself an adequate reason to list a chemi-

cal in Annex III), in accordance with decision RC-4/6. Views on this issue should be provided to the Secretariat by 31 April 2009 (http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77). In other Rotterdam Convention news, Mozambique ratified the Convention on 2 April 2009 (http://allafrica.com/stories/200904090863.html).

▶ WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED, SC40 DOCUMENTS RELEASED

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced the designation of new sites by the Governments of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sudan and Congo. The Bosnian site is Livanjsko Polje (Livno karst field) (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.bosnia_livno.htm); the Sudanese sites, Dongonab Bay-Marsa Waiai and Suakin-Gulf of Agig, are located in Red Sea coastal areas (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.sudan_coastal.htm); and the two riverine Congolese sites are les Rapides du Congo-Djoué and the Sangha-Nouabalé-Ndoki (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.congo_sankha.htm).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has released the documents for the 40th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee (SC40), scheduled to take place from 11-15 May 2009, in Gland, Switzerland (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/40/key_sc40_agenda_papers.htm).

The Secretariat has also reported on the second Youth Model Ramsar Convention, which took place from 28-29 March 2009, in Changwon, Republic of Korea, and brought together over 150 high school students from various locations in the Republic of Korea to increase awareness of wetlands and wetland conservation (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.korea_changwon_youth.pdf).

IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE APPROVES DRAFT PROTOCOL TO CONVENTION ON CARRIAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES BY SEA

The Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) held its 95th session in London, UK, from 30 March-3 April 2009, and approved a draft Protocol to the 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea. The draft Protocol is designed to address practical problems that have prevented many States from ratifying the original Convention. The Convention seeks to establish a two-tier system for compensation to be paid in the event of accidents at sea, in this case involving hazardous and noxious substances, such as chemicals. One of the main

obstacles that has discouraged ratification of the Convention is the requirement for States to report the quantities of hazardous and noxious substances received to IMO, considering the range and diversity of hazardous and noxious substances that will be governed by the Convention. The IMO Legal Committee has requested the IMO Council, which meets in June 2009, to approve the holding of a diplomatic conference as early as possible during 2010 to consider the draft Protocol, with a view to formally adopting it (http://www.imo. org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_ id=1773&doc_id=11250).

UNDOALOS RELEASES NEW SUBMISSION TO CLCS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the submission made to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) by the Cook Islands concerning the Manihiki Plateau (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm). The CLCS held its 23rd session from 2 March-9 April 2009, at UN Headquarters in New York, US.



View of Livanjsko Polje (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD POSTS REVISED CSD17 ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has posted a number of documents in preparation for the 17th session of the CSD, which will convene in New York, US, from 4-15 May 2009. An updated version of the CSD17 Organization of Work has been posted (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/csd-17/csd17_organization_of_work.pdf), as has the

schedule for the Learning Centre. The latter indicates that practical teaching and training sessions are scheduled on topics including: grassroots women's innovations to securing land and housing rights; climate ethics; defining and practicing sustainable production and consumption in food and agriculture; the Marrakesh Process; ecosystem services, markets and sustainable development; pollinators and food security; economic-environmental accounting at the national level; Africa's ecological footprint – learning for national

development strategies in a resource constrained world; the role of biofuels in sustainable rural development; and from project to self-sustaining business (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_learcent.shtml).

DSD has also announced that, in addition to accessing information about CSD17 on the DSD website (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17.shtml), the session can be followed on LinkedIN Groups (http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1888615) and Twitter (UN_DSD).

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BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD AHTEG ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENES

The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convened from 18-22 April 2009, in Helsinki, Finland. Addressing the opening session, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaf stressed the importance of the work of the AHTEG with regard to the links between biodiversity, climate change adaptation and climate change-related risks and vulnerability. He added that the AHTEG is expected to provide policy-relevant input to the UNFCCC process under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to help shape future actions (http://www.cbd.int/ doc/?meeting=AHTEG-BDCC-02-02; http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2009/ sp-2009-04-18-bdcc-en.pdf).

In other CBD-related news, the preliminary gap analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing interfaces and coordination among them at all spatial scales, including the added value of a potential new mechanism, called for by the meeting on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), is available online (http://www.ipbes.net/Documents/UNEP_GC_25_INF_30.pdf).

In biosafety-related news, registration for the Online Forum on Standards for Shipments of living modified organisms (LMOs) is open. The Online Forum will run from 18-29 May 2009, and is intended to: identify the relevant standards with regard to handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs; identify existing gaps; and suggest possible modalities to fill these gaps (https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/registration_art18.shtml).

CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE CONSIDERS MARINE SPECIES

The 24th meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)



Thomas Althaus, Animals Committee Chair (Switzerland) has his binoculars again this year to better view participants' flags in the back of the room.

is convening from 20-24 April 2009, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting's agenda includes the recent international expert workshop on non-detriment findings (NDF), conservation and management of sharks and stingrays, proposals for amendments to the Appendices for possible consideration at the 15th Conference of the Parties of CITES, and Review of Significant Trade (RST) in specimens of Appendix II species. During its first working day, the Committee established six working groups on: the RST; ranching; periodic review; sturgeon; sharks; and sea cucumbers (http://www.iisd.ca/cites/ac24/).



The NDF Working Group discusses how to address the outcomes of the International Expert Workshop on NDFs and the 18th session of the Plant Committee's proposed draft resolution on the matter

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF EARTH FUND BOARD CONVENES, ADAPTATION FUND ORGANIZES LOGO COMPETITION

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Earth Fund Board, a private sector advisory group to the GEF Council, met on 8 April 2009, to provide strategic guidance to the GEF. Since it was first launched last year, the fund has attracted several partners and is expected to grow to as much as \$150 million in its first round of financing (http://gef-web.org/interior_right.aspx?id=24540).

The GEF has announced that the Adaptation Fund (AF) has opened a logo competition to provide the Fund with its own outlook and increase public consciousness about its existence and on-going operationalization. The AF was established by the Kyoto Protocol parties to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to meet the costs of adaptation in form of concrete adaptation projects and programmes (http://www.adaptation-fund. org/).

In other GEF news, a Sub-Regional Workshop for GEF Focal Points convened in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7-9 April 2009, to review GEF policies and procedures and main projects in the Asian region. Twenty-seven focal points from 13 countries attended the workshop, which addressed, among other issues, the status of negotiations on the fifth GEF replenishment and funding under the resource allocation framework (RAF), adaptation funds and co-financing (http://www.gefcountrysupport.org/report_detail.cfm?projectId=225).

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



L-R: Jan McAlpine, Director, UNFF Secretariat, and Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

UNFF8 COMMENCES NEGOTIATIONS ON FINANCING, FORESTS IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

The eighth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF8) opened on 20 April 2009 at UN Headquarters in New York, US, and will continue until 1 May. The

main topics to be discussed at UNFF8 are: forests in a changing environment, including forests and climate change, reversing the loss of forest cover and degradation, and forests and biodiversity conservation; and means of implementation. Delegates are expected to adopt one of the three proposed options for financing sustainable forest management: a dedicated fund; a facilitative mechanism; or a combination of the two. Other agenda items include: a multi-stakeholder dialogue, with a panel discussion on forests, women and fuelwood; regional inputs; enhanced cooperation; progress towards achieving SFM; and forest law enforcement and governance as a cross-cutting is-(http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/ unff8/).

UNCCD SEEKS COMMENTS ON DRAFT COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat is

seeking comments on the draft Communication Strategy that it has prepared, following Decision 3 of the eighth Conference of the Parties, which took place in September 2007. The 43-page draft Strategy includes sections regarding: communication objectives and expected results; messages; tools; branding and corporate identity; and modalities. Comments are requested by 30 April 2009 (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/commstrategy/menu.php).

The UNCCD Secretariat has also announced the dates for the regional preparatory meetings for the ninth Conference of the Parties, which will take place from 21 September-2 October 2009, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Latin America and Caribbean annex will hold the first regional meeting, from 29 June-3 July 2009, in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the Africa annex will hold the final regional meeting, from 20-24 July, in Tunis, Tunisia (http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/docs/work-plan/workplan2009-eng.pdf).



▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- UNFF8: 20 April-1 May 2009. New York, US. http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html
- Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF: 25-26 April 2009. Washington, DC, US. http://www.imf.org/external/spring/2009/index.htm
- Special High-Level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and UNCTAD: 27 April 2009. New York, US. http://www.un.org/ecosoc/
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF: 28-30 April 2009. Rome, Italy. http://stapgef.unep.org/activities/stapmeetings/April2009
- UNFCCC Technical Workshop on Increasing Economic Resilience to Climate Change and Reducing Reliance on Vulnerable Economic Sectors through Economic Diversification: 28-30 April 2009. Cairo, Egypt. http://unfccc.int/adaptation/adverse_effects/items/4781.php
- COP4 for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants: 4-8 May 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/pops/cop4/
- CSD17: 4-15 May 2009. New York, US. http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd17/

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