



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY YEAR KICKS OFF



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Logo courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

In an effort to curb the unprecedented loss of the world's species and ecosystems due to human activity, the UN is marking 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. Although initial celebrations began in November under the slogan "Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is our life," the official launch took place on 11 January 2010, in Berlin, Germany. The first major event of the Year, a high-profile meeting at the Paris headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), will take place from 21-22 January 2010. Several other events will follow throughout the year in venues around world, culminating in a high-level meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, US, at the start of the General Assembly's 65th annual General Debate in September and an official closing in Kanazawa, Japan, in December 2010 (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33393&Cr=environment&Cr1=>; <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=608&ArticleID=6441&l=en&t=long>; <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>).

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Prepares for Meetings; CITES Prepares for COP 15; CMS Sharks Negotiations Continue Page 2
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
SAICM Develops Concept Note on Health Sector Engagement; Meeting on Basel Effectiveness Convened; Orientation for Rotterdam Chemical Review Committee Convened Pages 2-3
- **Sustainable Development**
DSD Preparing for CSD 18 Page 3
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
GEF Assembly, Development Bank Meetings on the Horizon Page 4
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC Organizing Meetings; IPCC Prepares for Expert Meetings; Ozone Secretariat Marks CFC Phase-Out Page 5
- **International Organizations**
UNEP Publishes ACP MEAs Project Update Page 5
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNFF, ITTO Prepare for 2010; UNCCD Launches SLM Champions Programme Page 6
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
UNDOALOS Releases Meeting Information; New Ramsar Sites Designated Pages 6-7

GUEST ARTICLE

The Sustainable Development Timeline

By IISD

Abstract

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was published in 1962. Many consider the book's release a turning point in our understanding of the interconnections among the environment, the economy and social wellbeing. Since then, many milestones have marked the journey toward sustainable development. This timeline captures some of them. Excerpts are listed below; the full timeline can be viewed at http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2009/sd_timeline_2009.pdf.

Continued on page 4

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

TOWARD A GLOBAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(UNU-MERIT, 2009) This policy brief, by the UN University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research and training centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), suggests that the global community should accelerate and coordinate investments in R&D that reduce marginal costs of greenhouse gas emissions control (http://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/pb/unu_pb_2009_4.pdf).

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.

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD PREPARES FOR MULTIPLE MEETINGS

The Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has a busy calendar for the first half of 2010, with the International Year of Biodiversity and preparations for the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (11-15 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan) and the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (18-29 October 2010, Nagoya). Key meetings include: the Friends of the Co-Chairs meeting in the framework of the negotiations for the international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) (26-29 January 2010, Montreal, Canada); the international workshop on innovative financial mechanisms (27-29 January 2010, Bonn, Germany); the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, to be hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (1-5 February 2010, Trondheim, Norway); the second meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs in the framework of the negotiations on liability and redress under the Biosafety Protocol (8-12 February 2010, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia); the ninth meeting of the Working Group on ABS (22-28 March 2010, Santiago de Cali, Colombia), preceded by an inter-regional informal consultation hosted by Working Group Co-Chairs (16-18 March 2010); the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (10-21 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya); and the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation (24-28 May 2010, Nairobi) (<http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>).

CITES PREPARES FOR COP 15

Preparations are underway for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to be held from 13-25 March 2010, in Doha,



The Sheraton Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, venue for CITES COP 15

Qatar. The provisional agenda and working documents, the proposals for amendment of the appendices and the Secretariat's provisional assessments of the proposals are available (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/cop15/index.shtml>).

CITES COP 15 will be preceded by the 59th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, to be held on 12 March 2010, at the same venue (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/59/index.shtml>).

CMS NEGOTIATIONS ON SHARKS TO CONTINUE

During the first half of 2010, the calendar of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and agreements concluded under its auspices includes: the third meeting on international cooperation on migratory sharks (8-12 February 2010, Manila, the Philippines); the seventh meeting of the signatories to the Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (7-10 March 2010, Tehran, Iran); Working Group meetings and the fifth Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) (8-17 April 2010, Mar del Plata, Argentina); the 17th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) (21-23 April 2010, Cornwall, UK); the fourth meeting of the Standing Committee and the 15th meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats (3-6 May 2010); and the second meeting of signatories to the Aquatic Warbler MoU (13-14 May 2010, Biebrza, Poland) (<http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>).

POLICY SEMINAR LOOKS AT FUTURE DIRECTION FOR THE ITPGR

A policy seminar on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR), held from 15-18 December 2009, in Bari, Italy, addressed global challenges and future direction for the ITPGR. Participants assessed the Treaty's role in addressing the global challenges of agricultural biodiversity, food security and climate change. Among others, they identified a strong need for advocacy on the Treaty's role as a central instrument for climate change adaptation policy, and on the crucial role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as the basis for global food security in the climate change context. Implementation of the benefit-sharing fund of the Treaty's Funding Strategy received a boost, as Spain announced a contribution of two million Euros. The outcomes of the seminar will be forwarded to a high-level round table on the Treaty, to be organized by the Italian Government in 2010 (http://www.planttreaty.org/policyseminar_en.htm; IISD RS sources).

The first Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) and the Multilateral System was held from 18-19 January 2010, in Rome, Italy. The meeting addressed implementation questions raised by users of the Multilateral System and the SMTA (http://www.planttreaty.org/meetings/AC-SMTA-MLS1_en.htm).

The ITPGR calendar for the next six months includes the first Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Compliance (2-3 February 2010, Rome, Italy) and the second Meeting of the Capacity-Building Coordination Mechanism (16-17 March 2010, Rome, Italy) (http://www.planttreaty.org/gbnex_en.htm).

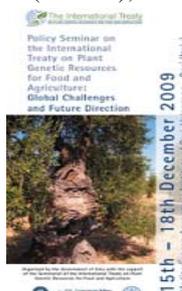


Image courtesy of FAO

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SAICM SECRETARIAT DEVELOPS CONCEPT NOTE ON STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT OF THE HEALTH SECTOR

At its second session, in 2009, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) requested the development of a strategy for strengthen-

ing the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), in consultation with the World Health Organization. The SAICM Secretariat has released a concept note on the development of the strategy. The Secretariat is facilitating consultation with regional groups

through a series of SAICM regional meetings. In August 2010, the draft strategy will be made available for consultations with all SAICM stakeholders. The strategy will then be considered by the third session of the ICCM in 2012 (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?content=meeting&mid=92&menuid=&def=1>).

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SECOND MEETING TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BASEL CONVENTION CONVENES

The Second Meeting of the Swiss-Indonesian Country Led Initiative to Improve the Effectiveness of the Basel Convention convened from 12-15 January 2010, in Wildhaus, Switzerland. Participants discussed an analysis of possible reasons for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes where environmentally sound management cannot be ensured, a draft paper containing a preliminary analysis of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes impacts on human health and the environment, and potential approaches for a way forward to improve the effectiveness of the Convention (IISD RS sources).

Looking ahead, the Seventh meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group to the Basel Convention will convene from 10-14 May 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/meetings.html>).

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS OF THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE CONVENES

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat convened an Orientation Workshop for members of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) from 8-10 Decem-



Participants of the orientation workshop (photo courtesy of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat)

ber 2009, in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting was attended by 23 members of the CRC and provided an opportunity to review the role and mandate of the Committee, as well as the working papers and policy guidance developed to facilitate its work. Participants also examined the work of the intersessional task groups for the preliminary review of candidate chemicals as well as that of the drafting groups established to prepare decision guidance documents (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77>).

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat is also preparing for the Sixth Meeting of the Chemical Review Committee, which will convene from 15-19 March 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland.

MERCURY PROGRAMME PREPARES FOR INC 1

Preparations are underway for the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global, legally binding instrument on Mercury, to be held from 7-11 June 2010, in Stockholm, Sweden (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/OEWG/Meeting.htm>).

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Photo courtesy of UNDESA

DSD PREPARING FOR CSD 18 WITH SEMINAR SERIES, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE AND INTERSESSIONAL MEETINGS

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), is organizing a seminar series on the CSD 18 thematic cluster. The Series will take place at UN Headquarters in New York, in the lead up to CSD 18 (2-14 May 2010, in New York, US), and is designed to inform CSD 18 participants about the latest research, data, case studies and challenges related to the thematic cluster of issues to be discussed during the CSD 18 Review

Session (transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns) (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_seminar_series.shtml). On 12 January 2010, the first seminar addressed waste management. A Chair's Summary highlights key points raised during the presentations and subsequent discussion, including the role of legislation for extended producer responsibility in relation to e-waste and the potential for waste to be converted into profitable materials. DSD has launched an online e-discussion on this topic (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/sustdevtopics/sdt_wasthaza_ss0110_presentations.shtml).

Another innovation established by the Secretariat for this cycle will be the convening of the first Multi-stakeholder dialogue, on 1 February 2010, to revisit the decisions taken at CSD 17 and their implementation (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_followup.shtml). DSD is also contributing

to upcoming intersessional meetings in the Republic of Korea and Japan: Waste Management, Japan, 17-18 March 2010; and International Expert Group Meeting: United Nations Forum on Climate Change Mitigation, Fuel Efficiency and Sustainable Urban Transport, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 16-17 March 2010 (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_meetothe.shtml).

Preparations are also underway for the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in September 2010, with regional meetings scheduled for February and March and a one-day PrepCom during CSD 18 (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_aofw_sids/sids_index.shtml). And, following the UN General Assembly's December 2009 decision calling for convening a UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012 (Rio+20), the DSD will also organize its first PrepCom, from 17-19 May 2010.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

1962. *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson, brings together research on toxicology, ecology and epidemiology to suggest that agricultural pesticides are building to catastrophic levels, linked to damage to animal species and human health.

1968. Biosphere. Intergovernmental Conference for Rational Use and Conservation of the Biosphere (UNESCO) is held; early discussions occur on the concept of ecologically sustainable development.

1969. Partners in Development and IDRC (1970). Report of the Commission on International Development. This is the first of the international commissions to consider a new approach to development, focused on research and knowledge in the South.

1971. Polluter pays principle. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Council says those causing pollution should pay the resulting costs.

1972. UN Conference on the Human Environment and UNEP. The Stockholm conference is rooted in the pollution and acid rain problems of northern Europe. It leads to the establishment of many national environmental protection agencies and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

1975. CITES. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna comes into force.

1976. Habitat, the UN Conference on Human Settlements, is the first global meeting to link the environment and human settlement.

1980. Global 2000 report is released. It recognizes biodiversity for the first time as critical to the proper functioning of the planetary ecosystem.

1987. Our Common Future (Brundtland Report). Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development weaves together social, economic, cultural and environmental issues and global solutions. It popularizes the term "sustainable development."

1988. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is established to assess the most up-to-date scientific, technical and socioeconomic research in the field.

1992. Earth Summit. UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) is held in Rio de Janeiro. Agreements are reached on the action plan Agenda 21 and on the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the non-binding Forest Principles.

1994. Global Environment Facility is established, restructuring billions of aid dollars to give more decision-making power to developing countries.

1995. World Trade Organization (WTO) is established, with formal recognition of trade, environment and development linkages.

1999. Third WTO Ministerial Conference held in Seattle. Thousands of demonstrators protest the negative effects of globalization and the growth of global corporations. Along with deep conflicts among WTO delegates, they scuttle the negotiations. The first

of many anti-globalization protests, the demonstrations signal a new era of confrontation between disaffected stakeholders and those in power.

2000. UN Millennium Development Goals. The largest-ever gathering of world leaders agrees to a set of time-bound and measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, to be achieved by 2015.

2002. World Summit on Sustainable Development is held in Johannesburg, marking 10 years since UNCED.

2005. Kyoto Protocol enters into force, legally binding developed country parties to goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions, and establishing the Clean Development Mechanism for developing countries.

2006. NASA reports that the ozone layer is recovering, due in part to reduced concentrations of CFCs, phased out under the Montreal Protocol.

2009. Copenhagen climate negotiations. The domestic targets and actions of large emitters such as the United States and China take centre stage, but the outcomes of the Copenhagen negotiations are unclear.

To view the full Timeline, visit http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2009/sd_timeline_2009.pdf

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.

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF ASSEMBLY, DEVELOPMENT BANK ANNUAL AND SPRING MEETINGS ON THE HORIZON

In addition to a number of annual meetings, international development banks will also organize a number of special events during the first half of 2010. In March, the Inter-American Development Bank will hold its Annual Meeting in Cancun, Mexico. In May, the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank will hold their annual meetings in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, respectively. The World Bank and Inter-

national Monetary Fund (IMF) will hold their Spring meetings in April.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council Meeting will convene in June-July, while discussions regarding the Fifth GEF Replenishment will meet in Rome, Italy, in February, following a meeting of the GEF's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). The GEF Assembly will meet in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in May.

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) have scheduled several meetings in

March. Its Partnership Forum will meet in Manila, the Philippines, preceded by parallel learning events for countries involved in the Clean Technology Fund and Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience. The CIF Trust Fund Committee meetings will also take place during March.

The Financing for Development (FfD) process has scheduled a High-Level Dialogue on FfD on 16-17 March. Other related meetings include the G-20 Summit, which will take place in Toronto, Canada, in June 2010, and the World Economic Forum, which will meet in Davos, Switzerland, during January.



Logo courtesy of the GEF Secretariat

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC ORGANIZING MEETINGS IN BONN

A number of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings will take place during the first half of 2010, in Bonn, Germany. The 52nd meeting of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board will meet from 8-12 February 2010, to consider, *inter alia*: accreditation of operational entities; methodologies for baselines and monitoring plans; matters relating to the programme of activities; matters relating to the registration of CDM project activities; and matters relating to the issuance of certified emission reductions and the CDM registry. The management plan and resources for the work on the CDM will also be addressed. Additional CDM meetings will take place in March and May. The 20th meeting of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) will take place from 23-24 February 2010, to consider issues including: matters relating to JI-Accreditation Panel Chair and Vice-Chair; outcome of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol; and work plan. Other JISC meetings will convene in April and June. The 32nd session of the UNFCCC Convention subsidiary bodies will meet from 31 May-11 June 2010.

In other news, a technical workshop on collaboration among regional centers and networks under the Nairobi work programme work areas of methods and tools, data and observations, and climate modeling, scenarios and down-scaling will convene in Apia, Samoa, from 2-5 March 2010. The workshop will enable around 100 representatives from parties, relevant organizations, regional centers and networks, communities and experts to share climate data and information available in the public domain, exchange views on cli-

mate data and information needs within the context of adaptation planning, and possible roles of regional centers and other knowledge intermediaries in improving the provision, dissemination and application of climate data and information (http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php).

IPCC PREPARES FOR EXPERT MEETINGS

During the first half of 2010, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will convene a joint working group I (WGI) and WG II Expert Meeting on Assessing and Combining Multi-model Climate Projections in Boulder, Colorado, US, from 25-27 January 2010. From 1-2 February 2010, a WG III Expert Meeting on Renewable Energy will take place in Washington, DC, US. A WG III Expert Meeting on Scenarios will convene from 28 February-1 March 2010, in Oxford, UK. From 2-5 March 2010, the third Lead Author's Meeting for the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation will take place at the same venue. From 22-25 March 2010, WG II – second Lead Author's Meeting for the IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation will convene in Hanoi, Viet Nam. A joint (Group on Earth Observation) GEO-IPCC Expert Consultation will convene from 17-19 May 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of the meeting will be how the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) could serve the data needs of the climate impacts and adaptation research communities and support the IPCC assessments. A WG I Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Ice Sheet Instability will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 21-24 June 2010 (http://www.ipcc.ch/calendar_of_meetings/calendar_of_meetings.htm).

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES MOP 21 REPORT, CFCs PHASED OUT

The Ozone Secretariat has released the report of the 21st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which convened in Port Ghalib, Egypt, from 4–8 November 2009. The report is available in all UN languages (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/21mop/MOP-21-8E.pdf).

In other ozone news, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Ozone Action Branch marked the global phase-out of the production of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons, on 1 January 2010, with the release of video messages. The messages, from ministers, key officials, industries, academia and civil society, reflect on this defining achievement and hopes for the future (<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonAction/events/2010-reality/index.htm>).

The ozone calendar for the next six months includes the 30th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group to the Montreal Protocol, scheduled to convene from 21-25 June 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand (<http://ozone.unep.org/Events/meetings2010.shtml>).

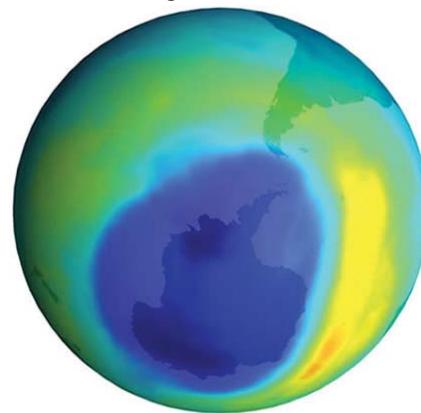


Image courtesy of UNEP

► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP PUBLISHES ACP MEAs PROJECT UPDATE, PROMOTES ONLINE ACCESS TO RESEARCH

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission have released a newsletter on the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries (ACP MEAs) Project. The newsletter contains an article by the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), describing the GM's efforts to strengthen capacities of participating ACP country

stakeholders by building partnerships on key cross-cutting and horizontal thematic issues that support the implementation process of the UNCCD. The newsletter also provides information on upcoming activities in the African, Caribbean and Pacific project hubs (<http://www.unep.org/AfricanCaribbeanPacific/MEAs/>).

In other UNEP news, the organization is continuing to promote the use of the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE), working together with Yemen's Environmental Protection Authority, Ministry of Water and Environment, and the World Health Organization

to train 30 Yemeni researchers, scientists, planners, and lecturers in use of OARE (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=606&ArticleID=6432&l=en&t=long>).

UNEP is also preparing for the first Extraordinary Meeting of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, which will convene in Bali, Indonesia, in coordination with the 11th special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, from 22-26 February 2010 (<http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xi/>).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNFF, IT TO PREPARE FOR 2010 ACTIVITIES

In the first half of 2010, the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat will be actively preparing for the International Year of Forests 2011 (IYF). In the coming months, the Secretariat plans to release a concept paper outlining a strategy for IYF activities at the country level, and expects to launch the IYF website during the northern summer. Also tentatively planned are events in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) linking IYF with the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, as per a recently signed memorandum of understanding between the two organizations.

In preparing for UNFF 9 in 2011, the *ad hoc* expert group on finance will convene in the second half of 2010. This group was mandated by the UNFF 9 Special Session to, over the next four years, analyze existing financing strategies for sustainable forest management and explore ways to improve access to funds, including the option of establishing a voluntary global forest fund. In the meantime, a “facilitative process” on forest financing, aiming to address the special needs of countries that have faced a 20-year decline in forest financing, is ongoing, and a series of workshops in small island developing States and low forest cover countries are being planned for the second half of 2010. These workshops will focus on gathering and analyzing information on the state of forest financing at the national level, as well as mapping opportunities and strategies for financing.

In other UNFF activities, a country-led initiative on forest governance, decentralization and reducing emissions on deforestation and forest degradation

(REDD) in Latin America will convene in Mexico from 30 August-3 September 2010 (IISD RS sources).

In addition to its usual project implementation activities, the International Tropical Timber Organization will be preparing for an international conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests, which it will co-organize with the CBD, IUCN and the Government of Ecuador from 14-17 July 2010, and the 46th Council session, to be held in December 2010 (IISD RS sources).

UNCCD LAUNCHES SLM CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has launched a Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Champions programme, through which appointed “Champions” will mobilize and raise awareness about SLM among decision-makers, the media and the general public. Amb. Kwon Byong Hyon (Republic of Korea) was named as an SLM Champion for the next two years (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/pressrel/showpressrel.php?pr=press12_01_10).

In other UNCCD-related news, the First Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/DGEF project “Enabling paradigm shift on monitoring and assessment within the UNCCD,” which is piloting the reporting of the performance indicators, best practices, and financial flows, met in Bonn, Germany, from 18-20 January 2010. The Bureau of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), which was tasked by COP 9 to undertake and supervise an evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism and their legal



L-R: Amb. Kwon Byong Hyon (Republic of Korea), and UNCCD Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja (photo courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat)

and financial implications, for presentation to COP 10, among other activities, is expected to convene in February 2010. The UNCCD Secretariat also is: preparing events to mark the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020), World Day to Combat Desertification, which is celebrated annually on 17 June, and African Environment Day (3 March 2010, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania); organizing the second “Land Day” during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2010; and participating, from 12-19 June 2010, in the Shanghai Expo, which has the theme of “Better City, Better Life” (<http://www.unccd.int/>; IISD RS Sources).

The Global Mechanism is, *inter alia*, contributing its economic SLM valuation in Cambodia, among other studies, to the International Land Coalition’s initiative to examine the key forces and impacts influencing the current wave of large scale land acquisitions. It will also co-host the Platform General Annual Assembly, which will convene from 26-27 January 2010, in Rome, Italy (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

UNDOALOS RELEASES INFORMATION FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY AND FISH STOCKS MEETINGS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released information for participants to the third meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, which will be held from 1-5 February 2010, in New York, US, to provide recommendations to the General Assembly (<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/biodiversity-workinggroup/infoparticipants3mtg.pdf>; [\[diversity-workinggroup/biodiversity-workinggroup.htm\]\(http://www.un.org/Depts/los/biodiversity-workinggroup/biodiversity-workinggroup.htm\)\). UNDOALOS has announced that, on 22 December 2009, Palitha Kohona \(Sri Lanka\) and Liesbeth Lijnzaad \(the Netherlands\) were appointed as the Co-Chairpersons of the Working Group. The Co-Chairpersons will propose a provisional agenda for the meeting, as well as an annotated provisional agenda, including organization of work. These documents will be posted on the UNDOALOS website as soon as available.](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/bio-</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

In addition, UNDOALOS has released some advance and unedited material in preparation for the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the

Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Fish Stocks Agreement) (ICSP8/UNFSA/REP/INF.6), which will take place from 24-28 May 2010, in New York, US. The document contains: an overview of the status and trends of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, discrete high seas stocks and non-target, associated and dependent species; a review and analysis of the extent to which the recommendations of the Review Conference have been implemented; and conclusions (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/rev_conf2010advance-mat.pdf).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced that the Governments of Brazil and El Salvador have designated new Wetlands of International Importance. Brazil has designated Rio Doce State Park (Parque Estadual do Rio Doce), a rainforest lake system (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-437^24311_4000_0__), and El Salvador has designated Laguna de Olomega (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-437^24290_4000_0__).

Looking ahead, the Ramsar Secretariat is preparing for World Wetlands Day, which is celebrated on 22 February. It will also organize the midterm meeting of the Scientific and Techni-

cal Review Panel (STRP), from 22-26 February 2010, in Gland Switzerland, and the 41st meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, along with the Management Working Group, from 26-30 April 2010, in Kobuleti, Georgia (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-405_4000_0__).

IMO PREPARES FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE SESSION

The 60th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) will convene in London, UK, from 22-26 March 2010. The Committee will address, *inter alia*: harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water; recycling of ships; prevention of air pollution from ships; and identification and

protection of Special Areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (http://www.imo.org/includes/blastDataOnly.asp/data_id%3D26826/1.pdf).

GPA COORDINATION OFFICE CONTRIBUTING TO REPORT ON WASTE WATER

The Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) is currently working with UNEP/GRID-Arendal on a rapid assessment report on waste water, to be published on 22 March 2010, World Water Day. The Office is also preparing for an event to be held from 22-24 March 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya (IISD RS Sources).



Image courtesy of IRC



Parque Estadual do Rio Doce (left) and Laguna de Olomega (right) (photos courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **UNESCO IYB Biodiversity Science-Policy Conference:** 25-29 January 2010. Paris, France. http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7998&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
- **ABS Friends of the Co-Chairs Meeting:** 26-29 January 2010. Montréal, Canada. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>
- **International Workshop on Innovative Financial Mechanisms:** 27-29 January 2010. Bonn, Germany. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSIFM-01>
- **Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Implementing Sustainable Development:** 1 February 2010. New York, US. http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd17_followup.shtml
- **Ad Hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction:** 1-5 February 2010. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/marinebiodiv3/>
- **Sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity:** 1-5 February 2010. Trondheim, Norway. <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/biodiv/tcb6/>