



A newsletter on the activities of key multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and their secretariats Issue No. 98 | Thursday, 12 August 2010 | Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

### **RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES**

### **CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**

BONN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS END IN LIMITED PROGRESS ON SHAPE OF CANCUN OUTCOME

Delegates met in Bonn, Germany, from 2-6 August 2010, for the 11th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Longterm Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 11) and the 13th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kvoto Protocol (AWG-KP 13). The AWG-LCA considered a text circulated by the Group's Chair in July 2010 (FCCC/AW-GLCA/2010/8). The text was intended to facilitate negotiations in preparation for an outcome at the 16th session of Executive Secretary, during a the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UNFCCC in press briefing



Cancún, Mexico, at the end of 2010. The text contained sections on various issues, including a shared vision on long-term cooperation, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building. Parties proposed many new additions and options to the text. The AWG-KP focused on the scale of emission reductions from Annex I parties to the Protocol. It also considered legal issues, including a possible gap between the Protocol's first commitment period (2008-2012) and subsequent commitment periods. As well, delegates addressed land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), the flexibility mechanisms and the potential consequences of response measures of climate change. The AWG-KP closed with an agreement to forward a Chair's proposal (FCCC/ KP/AWG/2010/CRP.2) for further discussion at its next session. The text contains various draft decisions for the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/ MOP 6), setting out many different options and proposals from parties. These decisions, which are not yet agreed, focus on the following topics: amendments to the Protocol under Article 3.9 (subsequent commitment periods); LULUCF; emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms; methodological issues; and the potential environmental, economic and social consequences of Annex I parties' response measures to climate change. The AWG-LCA and AWG-KP texts that were developed in Bonn are expected to form the basis for negotiations in Tianjin, China, in October, where delegates will seek to narrow down options and produce outcomes to be considered in Cancún (http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg11/).

### RESOURCE FOCUS

### **Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)**

(UNEP-WCMC, Birdlife International, Conservation International and IUCN, 2010) IBAT facilitates access to up-to-date biodiversity information to support critical business decisions, and research and conservation planning needs. The resource has two entry points: for business (https://www.ibatforbusiness.org/) and for research and conservation planning (https:// www.ibat-alliance.org/ibat-conservation/).

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### RESEARCH

### **Forest Products Annual Market** Review, 2009-2010

(UNECE/FAO, July 2010) The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/ UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010 provides general and statistical information on forest products markets in 2009 and early 2010 in the UNECE region (http://timber.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/sp-25. pdf).

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### **RESOURCE FOCUS (cont.)**

**TEMATEA: Issue-Based Modules** for Coherent Implementation of **Biodiversity-Related Conventions** (UNEP and IUCN) The TEMATEA Project on Issue-Based Modules seeks to support better and more coherent national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions following a two-track approach. The "Issue-Based Modules" web-based tools provide an issue-based framework of commitments and obligations that have been developed through negotiations related to regional and global biodiversity-related agreements. The modules cover commitments and obligations related to: Access and Benefit Sharing; Biodiversity and Climate Change; Inland Waters; Invasive Alien Species; Protected Areas; and Sustainable Use. A Marine and Coastal Biodiversity module is under development. In addition, use of the Issue-Based Modules is supported at the country level to promote national cooperation and communication across sectors and conventions (http://www.tematea. org/).

African Crocodile Survey Database (IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group and UNEP-WCMC, 2010) This database contains information on more than 1000 surveys of Crocodiles (C.niloticus, C. cataphractus and O. tetrapsis) in Africa undertaken since 1956. The surveys can be viewed in a list, or in a Google map of Africa, both of which are fully searchable by country, location, species, date and author. The site also contains some basic information on survey methodology and a blog where users can exchange experiences (http://www.crocsurveys.net).

### Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool

(Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project, 2010) This Tool was launched on 14 June 2010, at an International Waterbird Conservation Symposium that took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, to mark the 15th Anniversary of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). It provides comprehensive information on 294 waterbird species from 3,020 sites. It brings together the most cur-

rent information available internationally on the species and the sites they use, and provides enhanced support to governments and others in recognizing and managing key wetlands for waterbirds, including those designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (http://dev.unep-wcmc.org/csn/default.html).

#### **FAOSTAT**

(FAO, 2010) The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has phased out the subscription service for this database and is now offering free access to the online database of food, hunger and agricultural information known as FAOSTAT. The database contains over one million data points covering some 200 countries (http://faostat.fao.org/default.aspx).

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**

# OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES MOP 22 DOCUMENTS, MULTILATERAL FUND RELEASES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Ozone Secretariat has released documents in advance of the 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, scheduled to convene in Kampala, Uganda, from 8-12 November 2010. Documents released include: the provisional agenda (UNEP/

OzL.Pro.22/1); draft decisions for the consideration of MOP 22 (UNEP/OzL. Pro.22/3); a proposed amendment to the Montreal Protocol, submitted jointly by Canada, Mexico and the US (UNEP/OzL.Pro.22/5); and a proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol submitted by the Federated States of Micronesia (UNEP/OzL.Pro.22/6) (http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml).

In other Ozone news, the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund has released the

report of the 61st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which convened from 5-9 July 2010. The 126-page report details decisions taken by the Executive Committee, including on: status of contributions and disbursements; resources and planning; 2010-2014 business plans; programme implementation; project proposals; and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (http://www.multilateralfund.org/files/61/6158.pdf).

### ▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

## BASEL CONVENTION INVITES NOMINATIONS TO WORKING GROUP ON MERCURY WASTE

The Basel Convention Secretariat is seeking nominations to the Small Intersessional Working Group on the Development of Technical Guidelines on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of Mercury Waste. The draft technical guidelines on the ESM of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury are also available for comment (http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html).

### STOCKHOLM CONVENTION WELCOMES 171st PARTY

The Government of Somalia acceded to the Stockholm Convention on Per-

sistent Organic Pollutants on 26 July 2010. The Convention will enter into force for Somalia on 24 October 2010 (http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatification/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

### ROTTERDAM CONVENTION LAUNCHES WEBSITE SECTION ON INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has launched a dedicated section on its website providing informa-

tion on industrial chemicals, which are used in formulations, articles and other products for applications other than as pesticides, food additives or pharmaceutical products. Both pesticides and industrial chemicals have been included in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention because they have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by parties to the Convention (http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=100&sid=100).



### RESEARCH (cont.)

# The Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change Synthesis Report

(World Bank, 2010) This Report estimates the costs of adaptation will be between US\$70-100 billion per year between now and 2050. Among the lessons from seven case studies and a global study, the report highlights that eliminating poverty is central to both development and adaptation, since poverty exacerbates vulnerability to weather variability as well as climate change. The study argues that investments should start with lowregret options, including measures that tackle the weather risks that countries already face such as increased investment in water storage in drought-prone basins or protection against storms and flooding in coastal zones and/or urban areas (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/ EXTCC/Resources/EACC Final-SynthesisReport0803\_2010.pdf).

### Count Me In: Surveying for Tenure Security and Urban Land Managemen

(UN-HABITAT, 2010) This report focuses on participatory planning and on engaging urban poor communities in upgrading initiatives. The report describes how participatory enumerations, a surveying method used to gain better knowledge of the needs and priorities of the community, can be applied. It presents and analyzes existing and novel applications of participatory enumerations to enhance tenure security and improve urban land management in various country cases such as Brazil, East Timor, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Philippines, Somalia and Thailand (http://www. unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails. aspx?publicationID=2975).

#### **▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**





Banner courtesy of UNCSD Secretariat

### DSD LAUNCHES NEW UNCSD WEBSITE

The UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) has launched a new website for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012 (also referred to as "Rio+20").

The UNCSD 2012 website uses a content management system with interactive features, and includes sections for: a newsletter; videos; a calendar; a blog by UNCSD Secretary-General Sha Zukang; a news feeds; RSS; polls; and surveys (http://www.uncsd2012.org/).

### **▶** BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### CBD SECRETARIAT PUBLISHES REPORT OF BIOSAFETY LIABILITY AND REDRESS MEETING

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has made available the report of the third meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held from 15-19 June 2010, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/bsgflr-03/official/bsgflr-03-04-en.pdf).

In other biosafety news, Somalia has acceded to the Protocol, bringing the number of parties to 160 (http://bch.cbd. int/protocol/parties/).

### CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE NOMINATES CHAIR OF MAHOGANY WORKING GROUP

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has circulated a notification announcing that, following nomination by the Plants Committee, César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala) and Fabiola Nuñez (Peru) will be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Ma-

hogany and Other Neotropical Timber Species established by the 15th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2010/E020.pdf).

In other CITES-related news, the Secretariat has made available the final version of the summary records of the 59th and 60th meetings of the CITES Standing Committee (http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/index.shtml).

### CMS CIRCULATES ELECTRONIC FORMS FOR NATIONAL REPORTS

The Secretariat of the UNEP Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) has made available, on the website, the electronic forms for the national reports 2009-2011, which are due by 31 January 2011 (http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop10/national\_report/report\_form\_blank e.doc).

In other CMS-related news, Luxembourg has signed two CMS memoranda of understanding: the memoranda on the Aquatic Warbler and on migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/07\_jul/nw\_190710\_CMS\_aquatic\_warbler\_birds prey signing.htm).

### ▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### ITTO, CBD CONFERENCE ADDRESSES TRANSBOUNDARY TROPICAL FORESTS

The Government of Ecuador, the International Tropical Timber Organiza-



Logo courtesy of the ITTO Secretariat Natura Conser

Internacional-Ecuador co-hosted an

imber Organization (ITTO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), IUCN and Fundación Natura and Conservación co-hosted an

international conference on biodiversity in transboundary tropical forests in Quito, Ecuador, from 21-24 July 2010. The 100 participants reviewed the status and ways ahead for the conservation, management and financing of biodiversity in tropical transboundary conservation areas (TBCAs). They exchanged information and experiences on TBCAs, including their capacity to meet the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and reviewed the social, economic and political implications and impacts of

TBCA projects. The participants produced a message from the conference, which highlights the importance of TBCAs in tropical forests, and outlines key lessons in the areas of governance, local participation, landscape planning, institutions, financing, climate change, and monitoring and research. The message concludes with a series of recommendations to stakeholders, governments, and ITTO, CBD and other international organizations and donors (http://www.itto.int/news\_releases/id=2381).

### ▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Photo courtesy of the MGI Forest Workshop

### UNFF MAJOR GROUPS MEETING ADDRESSES FOREST MANAGEMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Major Groups met in Accra, Ghana, from 26-30 July 2010, to discuss the theme "Applying Sustainable Forest Management to Poverty Reduction: Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholder Approach within UNFF." Seventy participants from 30 countries representing the Major Groups Non-governmental organizations, Children and Youth, Women, Farmers and small forest land owners, Scientific and technological community, and Forest workers and trade unions developed recommendations to the ninth session of the UNFF, identified challenges and strengths of the UNFF Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, and discussed Major Groups initiatives associated with the International Year of Forests. Participants developed recommendations on, inter alia, tenure rights, access and benefit sharing, traditional forest-related knowledge, communitybased forest enterprises and leadership in SFM for women, and indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups. Participants also recommended encouraging research based on the needs of forest communities, and called for sharing case studies that demonstrate innovative practices and successful implementation, and to use such case studies to inform policy (http://www.mgi-forests.org/home; IISD RS Sources).

### UNCCD INVITES CONSORTIUM PROPOSALS AND SURVEY RESPONSES

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has invited the submission of proposals to organize the UNCCD Second Scientific Conference, which will take place in 2012 under the theme "Economic Assessment of Desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas." Applications to serve as the lead institution/consortium should be submitted by 16 October 2010 (http://www.unccd.int/science/announce/scientific-conference.php).

The Secretariat also has launched an on-line survey seeking views on the best way forward for providing support to countries parties as regards alignment of their National Action Programmes (NAP) to the 10-Year Strategy. The survey questionnaire was developed in collaboration by the Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) as an element in the process of designing and implementing a programme for the alignment of all NAPs. Country parties are requested to complete the questionnaire (https://www. surveymonkey.com/s/UNCCD-Status-NAP) within four weeks of 3 August 2010, following which the Secretariat,

in consultation with stakeholders, will finalize a programme of possible areas of support to country parties (http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/announce/nap-alignment.php).

In addition, the UNCCD Secretariat is seeking views in an effort to support the inclusion of civil society as a reporting entity into the national reporting and review process. Another online survey is collecting the views of accredited counterparts from civil society, with a view to compiling them into a document to be tabled at the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9), which will consider draft reporting guidelines for possible adoption at COP 10. Civil society organizations (CSOs) are requested to comment on three areas: the proposed reporting structure, content and modalities; the CSO-driven consultation process on best practices due to be launched at CRIC 9; and the effective implementation of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) from the point of view of civil society contribution to the process. CSOs are requested to complete the web-based questionnaire by 20 August 2010 (https://www. surveymonkey.com/s/questionnaireC-SO\_english; http://www.unccd.int/cso/ menu.php?newch=news).





### UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR DESERTS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DESERTIFICATION

The UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification will be launched on 16 August 2010 (banner courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat)

### **▶** TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### DEVELOPMENT BANKS SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS, GREEN CREDIT LINES, GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND SOLID WASTE COMPOSTING

On 5 August 2010, the World Bank approved a US\$75 million loan aimed at consolidating environmental institutions in Peru, in particular the Ministry of Environment, with a focus on mining, fishing and urban transportation (http://go.worldbank.org/KNM2I2MMU0). The World Bank also approved the first African Program of Activities under the Clean Development Mechanism of

the Kyoto Protocol, with a Municipal Waste Compost Program in Uganda. The new programme helps Ugandan municipalities set up waste composting facilities that are financially sustainable because of the revenues generated from the sale of both compost and carbon credits (http://go.worldbank.org/01QC5370N0).

In related news, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved, on 3 August 2010, a US\$30 million loan to Banco de Galicia y Buenos Aires to create an innovative sustainable facility to scale up private sector financing for projects in the areas of

renewable energy, energy efficiency and agriculture, among others (http:// www.iadb.org/news-releases/2010-08/ english/argentinas-banco-de-galiciato-launch-sustainable-facility-withidb-support-7602.html). On 2 August 2010, the IDB also approved a project to fund the expansion of geothermal power generation capacity in Nicaragua, with a US\$40 million loan to build a 72 MW power plant that will provide a stable and low-cost supply of electricity (http://www.iadb.org/newsreleases/2010-08/english/nicaragua-toexpand-geothermal-energy-with-idbhelp-7600.html).

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### **▶ INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### UNEP LAUNCHES 2011 SASAKAWA PRIZE, ORGANIZES CONSULTATIONS ON GEO-5

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Nippon Foundation have announced the opening of the 2011 Sasakawa Prize, to identify the most innovative environmental project in the developing world. The 2011 theme is "Forests for People and for Green Growth," in support of the 2011 International Year of Forests. The US\$200,000 cash prize is awarded annually to a grassroots organization judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the protection and management of the environment and to social development. In 2011, the jury will be particularly interested in projects that: promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests; contribute to a meaningful reduction in carbon emissions caused by deforestation or forest degradation; maintain forest ecosystems to improve resilience to climate change; support development among forest-dependent

communities; and conserve biodiversity and help protect ecosystems in forests. Nominations will be accepted until 30 September 2010 (http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=630&ArticleID=6689&l=en).

In other UNEP news, UNEP and the Chinese Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) co-hosted the Nature of Cities-Low Carbon Transformation and Chinese Enterprises Forum on 29 July, at the 2010 Shanghai Expo in China. The Forum brought together green business leaders, government officials, and specialists on low-carbon transformation, with the aim of encouraging the development of a lowcarbon economy driven by Chinese entrepreneurs, and demonstrating the competitiveness of low-carbon enterprises in China (http://www.unep.org/ Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp? DocumentID=630&ArticleID=6693& l=en)

UNEP is also organizing consultations and other elements related to Global Environment Outlook 5 (GEO-5). Almost 500 nominations were received from governments and other stakeholders for roles as authors and working group members. The selection of authors, members of the Science and Policy Advisory Board and members of specialist groups will be posted on the GEO website. UNEP is organizing regional consultations on GEO-5 in September and October, and expects to hold the first GEO-5 Production and Authors Meeting in November 2010. The regional consultations will seek to, inter alia: identify and agree on the priority environmental issues/challenges within each region; select internationally agreed goals that are directly related to the priorities identified by each region; discuss relevant existing policy instruments that have shown to be effective in addressing the priority challenges identified; discuss key target audiences for GEO-5; and discuss the next immediate steps for the assessment (http://www.unep.org/geo/).

### **▶** WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS



Reserva Natural Lagunas de Archidona (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

### NEW RAMSAR SITES DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat has reported the designation of new Wetlands of International Importance in Belarus, Lithuania and Spain. The Governments of Belarus and Lithuania have added the existing Ramsar Sites "Kotra" (designated in 2002) in Grodno Oblast, Belarus, and "Čepkeliai" (designated in 1993) in Alytus county, Lithuania, to the list of Transboundary Ramsar Sites (http://www.ramsar.org/

cda/en/ramsar-news-trs-lith-bel/main/ramsar/1-26^24758\_4000\_0\_\_). In addition, the Government of Spain has designated four new Nature Reserves and one Natural Area as Wetlands of International Importance in Andalucía, south of the country. Spain now has 68 Ramsar Sites totaling 284,725 hectares (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-spain-5newsites/main/ramsar/1-26^24750\_4000\_0\_\_).

### UNDOALOS RELEASES ANNOTATED A GENDA FOR REGULAR PROCESS MEETING

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the annotated provisional agenda and the format for the meeting of the General Assembly *Ad Hoc* Working Group of the Whole on the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine

environment, including socio-economic aspects, which will take place from 30 August-3 September 2010, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. The meeting of the Working Group is mandated by General Assembly resolution 64/71 of 4 December 2009 to further consider and make recommendations to the Assembly at its 65th session on the modalities for the implementation of the Regular Process, including: key features; institutional arrangements and financing; objective and scope of its first cycle; key questions to be answered; primary target audiences; and the terms of reference for the voluntary trust fund and the scholarship fund referred to in paragraph 183 of the reso-(http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ global reporting/global reporting format.pdf; http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ global\_reporting/global\_reporting\_annotated agenda.pdf).

### **KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS**

- Launch of UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification: 16 August 2010. Fortaleza, Brazil. http://www.unccd.int/media/pressrel/showpressrel.php?pr=press05\_08\_10 and http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/climate/icid2010/
- Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on New POPs, the Process for Reviewing and Updating NIPs, and Reporting Requirements under the Stockholm Convention for English-speaking Africa: 16-19 August 2010. Ibadan, Nigeria. <a href="http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/TechnicalAssistance/hrTrainingWorkshops/Africa/AfricaAnglophoneIbadan2010/tabid/777/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/100/xmid/3420/language/en-US/Default.aspx">http://chm.pops.int/Programmes/TechnicalAssistance/hrTrainingWorkshops/Africa/AfricaAnglophoneIbadan2010/tabid/777/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/100/xmid/3420/language/en-US/Default.aspx</a>
- Second Regional Workshop for Policy Makers of the Latin American and Caribbean Region: 23-25 August 2010. Panama City, Panama. http://www.cms.int/bodies/meetings/workshops/panama\_2010/taller\_agosto.htm
- Scoping Meeting for the IPCC AR5 Synthesis Report: 25-27 August 2010. Liege, Belgium. http://www.ipcc.ch/meeting documentation/meeting documentation ar5 syr sm.htm

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