**CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**

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

Delegates met in Bonn, Germany, from 2-6 August 2010, for the 11th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term 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 Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 13). The AWG-LCA considered a text circulated by the Group’s Chair in July 2010 (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/8). The text was intended to facilitate negotiations in preparation for an outcome at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UNFCCC in Cancún, Mexico, at the end of 2010. The text contained sections on various issues, including a shared vision on long-term cooperation, mitigation, adaptation, 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.ibat-forbusiness.org/) and for research and conservation planning (https://www.ibat-alliance.org/ibat-conservation/). Continued on page 2

**RESEARCH**

Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010


**MEA Clusters In This Issue**

- Climate and Atmosphere
  - Ozone Secretariat Releases MOP 22 Documents
  - Chemicals and Wastes
    - Basel Invites Nominations; Stockholm Welcomes 171st Party; Rotterdam Launches Website Section on Industrial Chemicals
  - Sustainable Development
    - IDSD Launches New UNCSDF Website
  - Biodiversity and Wildlife
    - CBD Publishes Biosafety Liability and Redress Meeting Report; CITES Committee Nominates Chair; CMS Circulates Forms for National Reports
  - Forests, Deserts and Land
    - UNFF Major Groups Meeting Convenes; ITTO, CBD Conference Addresses Transboundary Tropical Forests; UNCCD Invites Input
  - Trade, Finance and Investment
    - Development Banks Support Environmental Projects
  - International Organizations
    - UNEP Organizes Consultations on GEO-5
  - Water, Oceans and Wetlands
    - New Ramsar Sites Designated; UNDOALOS Releases Annotated Agenda

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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 Crocodies (C.niloticus, C. cataphractus and O. tetraspis) 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 current 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: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor; lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

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


ROTTERDAM CONVENTION LAUNCHES WEBSITE SECTION ON INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has launched a dedicated section on its website providing information 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).
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/).

CBD SECRETARIAT PUBLISHES REPORT OF BIOSAFETY LIABILITY AND REDRESS MEETING


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 Belétón Chacón (Guatemala) and Fabiola Nuñez (Peru) will be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on the Bigleaf Mahogany 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 memorandum 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).

RESEARCH (cont.)

The Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change Synthesis Report

(UNEP-WWF, 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 low-regret 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).
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 has also 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 Programme (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-UNCCD-2010). Country parties can also see draft reporting guidelines as well as input from the UNCCD Secretariat (http://www.unccd.int/science/doc-reporting-guidelines-2010E.pdf).

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/KNM212MMU0). 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/argentinias-banco-de-galicia-to-launch-sustainable-facility-with-idb-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/news-releases/2010-08/english/nicaragua-to-expand-geothermal-energy-with-idb-help-7600.html).
UNEP LAUNCHES 2011 SASAKAWA PRIZE, ORGANIZES CONSULTATIONS ON GEO-5

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Nippon Foundation (UNEP) 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 USD200,000 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.aspx?DocumentID=630&ArticleID=6689&Lang=en).


WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

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 “Kolkeliai” (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 Andalucia, 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 AGENDA 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 resolution (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