



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

#### Interregional Negotiating Group on ABS Continues Negotiations on Protocol

The Interregional Negotiating Group (ING) on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) met from 18-21 September 2010, in Montreal, Canada, to continue the negotiation of a protocol on ABS under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The ING was established by the CBD's *Ad hoc* Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to finalize the negotiation of the protocol, with a view to having it ready for adoption by the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10). The results of the September meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/9/ING/1) will be transmitted to the ABS Working Group, which will reconvene in Nagoya, Japan, on 16 October 2010, immediately prior to COP 10. The meeting considered outstanding issues on several parts of the draft ABS protocol, including: provisions relating to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization; the concept of utilization of genetic resources and how it should be defined in the context of the protocol; access and benefit-sharing with regard to traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources as well as provisions for access and benefit sharing in cases where such resources and knowledge are held by indigenous and local communities; compliance and related measures; and institutional clauses. The meeting also considered provisions on scope, relationships with other instruments and considerations for access to genetic resources for non-commercial research and access to pathogens in emergency situations, without making much progress. The meeting achieved some progress towards an improved common understanding on key elements of the international ABS regime, most notably on the concept of utilization of genetic resources and its relation to derivatives. Some headway was also made on provisions on benefit-sharing and access. Nevertheless, key issues are still outstanding and most delegates expressed concern about the prospect for concluding the negotiation of an ABS protocol during COP 10 (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/absing/>).



The dais during ABS ING in Montréal

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### GUEST ARTICLE

#### Nordic Expert Symposium: "Synergies in the biodiversity cluster"

By Niko Urho, Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Environment of Finland

#### Abstract

During the past decade, numerous meetings and conferences have been held to identify means to enhance the international environmental governance (IEG)-system.

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### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

#### Green Economy: A Brief for Policy Makers on the Green Economy and the Millennium Development Goals

(UNEP, 2010) This report cites several cases where green strategies have paid multiple dividends in respect to achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The report also concludes that investing and re-investing in forests would assist in meeting the MDGs as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked with deforestation ([http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/30/docs/policymakers\\_brief\\_GEI&MDG.pdf](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/Portals/30/docs/policymakers_brief_GEI&MDG.pdf)).

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► **BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

**Heads of Biodiversity-Related Conventions Meet**

Meeting on 1 September 2010 at a retreat at Chateau de Bossy, Switzerland, the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), a representative of the World Heritage Convention and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed that the CBD strategic plan for the period 2011-2020, which is expected to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, to be held in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, could serve as a useful framework for all biodiversity-related conventions (<http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/report-hlr-2010-09-01-en.pdf>).

**Cordoba Seminar Focuses on Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change**

Held from 13-15 September 2010, in Cordoba, Spain, the International Seminar on the Role of Agricultural Biodiversity in Addressing Hunger and Climate Change was organized in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity and in commemoration of World Food Day. The Seminar was organized by the Chair of Studies on Hunger and Poverty at the University of Cordoba, Bioversity International, the CBD, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR), the Government of Spain, and local and provincial authorities. It aimed to: promote awareness raising and dialogue among public institutions, universities, scientists, civil society and the private sector; catalyze action and projects; and contribute to defining priorities and



Photo courtesy of Commonwealth of Australia

developing policies at all levels (<http://www.uco.es/catedrasyaulas/cehap/seminarioeng.pdf>).

**CMS-related Meetings Address Conservation Strategy for the Saiga Antelope**

The second meeting of the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Saiga Antelope, developed under the auspices of the CMS, was held from 9-10 September 2010, in Ulanbataar, Mongolia. It was preceded by a technical meeting on the Saiga Antelope, held from 7-8 September 2010. During the meeting, Mongolia signed the MOU, including the populations of the Mongolian Saiga antelope in the framework of international cooperation on Saiga in Central Asia and the Russian Federation. The Saiga antelope



Photo courtesy of UNEP/Ratislav Stach

is protected under both the CMS and CITES (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=647&ArticleID=6747&l=en&t=long>).

In other CMS-related news, five Pacific island States and territories signed the CMS MOU for the conservation of marine turtles, cetaceans, dugongs and sharks, on the occasion of the 21st meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, held from 6-10 September 2010, in Madang, Papua New Guinea ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/09\\_sep/dugong\\_press\\_notice.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/09_sep/dugong_press_notice.pdf)).

**CITES Secretariat Circulates Plants Committee Agenda, Sturgeon Exporters Register**

The CITES Secretariat has circulated the agenda of the 19th meeting of the CITES Plants Committee, to be held from 18-21 April 2011, in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/19/index.php>).

In addition, the register of licensed exporters of processing and repackaging plants for specimens of sturgeon and paddlefish species was updated on the CITES website ([http://www.cites.org/common/resources/reg\\_caviar.pdf](http://www.cites.org/common/resources/reg_caviar.pdf)).

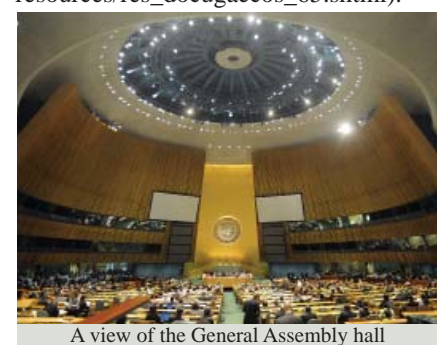
► **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**DSD Calls for Papers on Green Economy**

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) has circulated a call for papers for the special issue of *Natural Resources Forum: A United Nations Sustainable Development Journal* that will focus on "Green Economy or Sustainable Development?" Articles submitted for this special issue should revolve around the relationship between green economy and sustainable development, and should be submitted by 1 December 2010 ([\[linelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\\(ISSN\\)1477-8947\]\(http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1477-8947\)\).](http://on-</a></p>
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DSD has also posted the Secretary-General's background papers for the 65th session of the General Assembly related to sustainable development. The papers include advance unedited documents on the: Mid-Decade Review of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014; midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action: Water for Life 2005-2015; and implementation of UN environmental

conventions ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_docugacos\\_65.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_docugacos_65.shtml)).



A view of the General Assembly hall

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

Clustering of thematically related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has been highlighted numerous times as a bottom-up solution for increasing coherence in the IEG-system. Recently, significant work has been done to enhance synergies among three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions). Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the biodiversity-related MEAs is seen by many as the logical next step.

Against this backdrop, a Nordic symposium on synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs met in Helsinki on 8-9 April 2010. The symposium was arranged by the Ministry of Environment of Finland together with colleagues from other Nordic ministries of the environment, with funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The symposium brought together 50 experts from governments, MEA secretariats (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)) and other relevant UN bodies (UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and UN University (UNU)).

Participants broadly viewed enhancing national implementation as the top priority for creating synergies among the biodiversity-related MEAs. Consensus also existed on the understanding that system-wide cooperation and

coordination can only be driven by the parties to the MEAs. Many participants also highlighted the importance of secretariat commitment for achieving effective synergies. However, there are a few potential stumbling blocks, including the fact that some parties have not ratified all relevant agreements, each MEA has its own culture, the MEAs are administered by different organizations, and their secretariats are located in different parts of the world.

The following biodiversity-related agreements and processes featured in the symposium discussions: CBD and the Cartagena Protocol, CITES, CMS, World Heritage Convention (WHC), Ramsar Convention, UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), ITPGRFA and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. These were all considered important in the biodiversity context, however, it was understood that the biodiversity cluster must be clearly defined and limited in size to keep it manageable.

Six conventions were considered to form a manageable and coherent cluster: CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC and ITPGRFA. The importance of enhancing synergies among the three Rio conventions (CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) was also supported, in particular, to better integrate biodiversity with climate change issues.

One of the main conclusions was that the focus should be primarily on

enhancing synergies on issues of substance, rather than on administrative issues, because the secretariats are dispersed and administered by different organizations. Possible areas for joint action were identified and include, the science-policy interface, harmonization of reporting, streamlining of meeting agendas, joint information management, and awareness raising and capacity building. The issue of funding was also discussed, and the fact that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) functions as a financing mechanism for the CBD, but not the other biodiversity-related MEAs, was considered by many as a significant factor that will need to be taken into account. Symposium participants also discussed the possibility of achieving synergistic benefits based on substantive issues, rather than creating a fixed biodiversity cluster.

Regional workshops were recommended for identifying national needs for synergies. The 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, which will take place from 18-29 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, would be an opportune occasion for launching a biodiversity-related synergies process.

For more information see: <http://www.biodivcluster.fi/>. To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle100.html>

*Editor's note: MEA Bulletin invites articles from practitioners, MEAs and academics on issues that are of interest across the MEA community. Please contact the Editor, [lynn@iisd.org](mailto:lynn@iisd.org), for further information.*

## ► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

### Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Secretariats Seek Executive Secretary

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is seeking to recruit a senior manager to fill the position of Executive Secretary of the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP-part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariats. The responsibilities of the D2 position include the direction and management of the three secretariats, as well as acting as an advisor to the UNEP Executive Director and to the Presidents and the Bureaus of each convention. The closing date for applications is 12 October 2010 ([https://inspira.un.org/psc/UNCA-REERS/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM.HRS\\_CE.GBL?Page=HRS\\_CE\\_JOB\\_DTL&Action=A&JobOpe](https://inspira.un.org/psc/UNCA-REERS/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpe)

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### Basel Convention Announces Probo-Koala Programme in Africa, Central American Basel Centre to Develop Clearinghouse

The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has announced a joint initiative with UNEP to assist African countries in the development of national legislation and enhance enforcement capacity for chemicals conventions, entitled the "Probo Koala Programme." According to the Secretariat, the Programme aims to assist Côte d'Ivoire in the aftermath of the dumping of hazardous waste from the Probo Koala vessel in Abidjan, through a series of training courses for implementation and en-

forcement authorities. Activities will also be extended to other African countries, including Morocco, Madagascar, Gabon, Kenya, Djibouti and Tanzania.

In other regional Basel news, the Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Center for Central America has announced it is developing, in partnership with the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, a hazardous materials "clearinghouse" for Central America, to be used by designated contact points of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, as well as those of the Montreal Protocol and the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM). The clearinghouse is expected to be launched in December 2010 (<http://www.basel.int/press/bulletin01Sep2010.pdf>).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion 2010

(UNEP and World Meteorological Organization, 2010) The report offers the first comprehensive update on ozone depletion in four years, and provides new information on the effects of climate change on the ozone layer, as well as the impact of ozone changes on the Earth's climate. According to the report, an important remaining scientific challenge is to project future ozone abundance based on an understanding of the complex linkages between ozone and climate change ([http://www.unep.org/PDF/PressReleases/898\\_ExecutiveSummary\\_EMB.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/PressReleases/898_ExecutiveSummary_EMB.pdf)).

### Focused Action: Priorities for Addressing Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific

(ADB, 2010) This paper, by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), describes climate change priorities for Asia and the Pacific, including to: expand the use of clean energy, encourage sustainable transport and urban development, manage land use and forests for carbon sequestration, and promote climate-resilient development (<http://www.adb.org/documents/brochures/climate-change-priorities/default.asp>).

### The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Local and Regional Policy Makers

(UNEP/TEEB, September 2010) Planned as an advisory tool for local and regional policy makers, administrators and managers, this report explores and gives practical guidance on how to deal with the challenge of biodiversity loss at the local and regional levels. The report calls on local policy makers to understand the value of natural capital and the services it provides and to apply a focus on nature's benefits in local policy areas such as urban management, spatial planning and protected areas management. It calls for local authorities to take a stepwise approach to assessing options that factor nature's benefits into local policy action, including: assessing ecosystem services and expected changes in their availability and distribution; identifying which ecosystem services are most relevant to particular policy issues; and assessing impacts of policy options on different groups in the community (<http://www.teebweb.org/ForLocalandRegionalPolicy/tabid/1020/Default.aspx>).

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### UNFF Expert Group Discusses Forest Financing

The open-ended intergovernmental *Ad Hoc* Expert Group (AHEG) on Forest Financing held its first meeting from 13-17 September 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya. The AHEG is mandated to make proposals to the 10th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), in 2013, on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM), the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund. More than 160 experts from 60 countries and 20 international and regional organizations, as well as major groups, heard presentations in plenary and parallel sessions on topics including: the cross-sectoral importance of forest financing for achieving internationally agreed development goals; national and regional experiences; policies and strategies on forest financing; the activities undertaken by forest-related financing mechanisms; and the work of the UNFF facilitative process. Experts also explored various national, regional and international actions to mobilize resources for SFM in two breakout groups. The Co-Chairs' Summary of the meeting includes proposals for intersessional actions and activities including: inviting substantive input on forest financing options; inviting the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Advisory Group on Finance to undertake a series of studies and analyses related to forest financing; the UNFF Secretariat to undertake a feasibility study on forest financing options; holding an informal consultation; inviting the CPF to hold an organization-led initiative; and requesting the UNFF Facilitative Process to implement all its functions and to continue with its current work on low forest cover countries and small island developing States. The report of the meeting, which takes note of the Co-Chairs' Summary, will be submitted to UNFF 9, to be held in January 2011 (<http://www.un.org/esa/>

[forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html](http://forests/adhoc-forestfinance.html); IISD RS Sources).

### UNCCD and UNDP Release Report on MDG Achievement in the Drylands, PRAIS Submissions Due by 15 October

During the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit at UN Headquarters in New York, US, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) released their report titled "The Forgotten Billion: MDG Achievement in the Drylands." The report maps the 'forgotten billion' drylands inhabitants from a natural endowments perspective. It suggests that, to achieve the Goals set for 2015, a strong coalition must pursue five drylands-focused policy approaches: country-led development and effective governance addressing the specific needs and conditions of drylands populations; inclusive and pro-poor economic growth policies that improve farming systems and soil productivity; climate adaptation to help small holder farmers manage risk and reduce climate-driven shocks; tailored and targeted interventions for social assistance; and investment in education, health and basic services (<http://www.unccd.int/media/docs/Forgotten%20Billion.pdf>).

In other UNCCD news, the Secretariat has requested that accredited civil society organizations should ensure their contact information is up to date with the Secretariat, to ensure that they will receive a password to access the PRAIS (performance review and assessment of implementation system) portal, so they can upload their information on best practices. The deadline for submitting the information is 15 October 2010 (<http://www.unccd.int/cso/menu.php?newch=15>). And the Report on the Training of Caribbean UNCCD National Focal Points on use of the PRAIS Portal has been posted. The 5-9 July 2010 meeting took place in St. Lucia, and was attended by 20 country representatives. Submission of reports by country Parties is also due by 15 October 2010 (<http://www.unccd.int/prais/>).



## THE FORGOTTEN BILLION

### MDG ACHIEVEMENT IN THE DRYLANDS

Image courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### Next Round of UNFCCC Talks to Open on 4 October

The 14th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 14) and the 12th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 12) are due to take place in Tianjin, China, from 4-9 October 2010. In continuing preparations, the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has published several additional documents. Under the AWG-KP, the agenda for the meeting indicates that parties are expected to consider a draft proposal by the Chair, on which they were invited to submit their views to the Secretariat. The draft proposal contains sections on: amendments to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 9; land use, land-use change and forestry; emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms; other issues; and potential consequences (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awg14/eng/12.pdf>). The UNFCCC Secretariat has also published seven submissions from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Japan, Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea, and the Russian Federation on the draft proposals by the Chair (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awg14/eng/misc06.pdf>).

In the AWG-LCA scenario note, the AWG-LCA Chair proposes that the

group should work towards presenting a balanced set of draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties (COP) for adoption at its 16th session. The note also indicates that the Chair will consult informally with negotiating groups during this session, in coordination with the Presidency of COP 16, on the elements of the outcome. Annex I of the scenario note consists of an analysis of the issues in the negotiating text undertaken by the Chair. In a number of cases, suggestions have been made by the AWG-LCA Chair on how negotiations at AWG-LCA 12 could be advanced to help parties to embark on negotiations (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/awglca12/eng/13.pdf>).

Looking towards Cancun, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published the provisional annotated agendas for COP 16 and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 6), which will take place in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November-10 December 2010.

Under COP 16, items for consideration include: the report of the AWG-LCA; consideration of proposals by parties under Article 17 of the Convention (adoption of protocols under the Convention); second review of the adequacy of Article 4, paragraph 2(a) and (b) (developed country commitments); review of implementation of commitments and other provisions of the Con-

vention; and administrative, financial and institutional matters. The session will also include a high-level segment, which will commence on 7 December and continue until 10 December. Under COP/MOP 6, parties will consider, *inter alia*: reports of the subsidiary bodies and decisions and conclusions arising therefrom; report of the AWG-KP; consideration of proposals by parties for amendments to the Kyoto Protocol; issues relating to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); issues relating to Joint Implementation (JI); matters relating to compliance under the Kyoto Protocol; Adaptation Fund; and review of implementation of commitments and of other provisions of the Kyoto Protocol (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/01.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cmp6/eng/01.pdf>).

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat has published clarifications to “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) about the CDM and JI. These FAQ lists are offered by the Secretariat as a convenience to members of the public wishing to learn more about these flexibility mechanisms. The lists explain issues such as the meaning of the CDM and JI, their modalities and procedures, as well as issues relating to their operation in the post-2010 period. The two lists also address post-2012 issues (<http://cdm.unfccc.int/faq/index.html>; <http://ji.unfccc.int/FAQ/index.html>).

## ► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### UN Celebrates International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, UNEP Organizes Regional Consultations for GEO-5

The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was celebrated on 16 September. Celebrations included national events around the world and the release of a new report titled “Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion 2010” ([http://www.unep.org/PDF/PressReleases/898\\_ExecutiveSummary\\_EMB.pdf](http://www.unep.org/PDF/PressReleases/898_ExecutiveSummary_EMB.pdf)).

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is organizing seven regional consultations to bring together stakeholders and the UNEP Secretariat to agree on priority environmental issues

and challenges within each region, and to select internationally agreed goals to address them. The consultations will also address the development of the regional chapters in the GEO-5 report and the GEO-5 process. The Regional Consultation for Asia and the Pacific took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 16-17 September 2010, where participants identified regional priority environmental issues and challenges as follows: climate change; environmental governance; biodiversity; freshwater; and chemicals and waste (<http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/geo/geo5/>).

In other UNEP news, UNEP has joined the Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves, an initiative launched at

the 65th Session of the General Assembly, which seeks to reduce deaths linked with indoor emissions by boosting the efficiency of approximately three billion cook stoves across Africa, Asia and Latin America (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=647&ArticleID=6756&l=en&t=long>).

And UNEP and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) have announced the implementation of the Rwandan Climate Change and Development Project - Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability (CC DARE). The project involves relocating human settlements from Rwanda's sloping Gishwati Forest, an area that has suffered severe environmental degradation, exacerbated by extreme weather events. The joint UNEP/UNDP CC DARE programme aims to complement and strengthen ongoing and planned adaptation and risk management activities, based on national priorities (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=647&ArticleID=6752&l=en>).



The dais during the GEO-5 Asia and the Pacific Consultation

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### WTO Public Forum Discusses “The Shaping Forces”

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum 2010 took place from 15-17 September 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland, around the theme “The Shaping Forces.” The Forum provided an opportunity for stakeholder groups to take stock of the latest developments impacting the multilateral trading system. Pascal Lamy, WTO Director General, noted the need to rebalance the rules of the multilateral trading system in favor of the poor through the completion of the Doha Development Agenda, and to “climb ever higher mountains” by tackling emerging issues such as energy, climate change and electronic commerce. Lamy also commented on the Forum’s theme, highlighting that the WTO’s multilateral trading system is one of the most advanced engines of global governance. Noting that other institutions have battles over their governance structure and the relative importance of the North and the South, he

underscored that the WTO is a fairly democratic institution where “the voice of the small cannot be ignored.” Panels during the Forum considered policies to promote sustainable energy use, and measuring, pricing and standards for carbon dioxide emissions, among others ([http://www.wto.org/english/forums\\_e/public\\_forum10\\_e/public\\_forum10\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum10_e/public_forum10_e.htm)).

### Development Banks Support Waste-to-Energy Project and Agro Biodiversity Conservation

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is financing a Euro 75 million project in Lahti, Finland, that will convert municipal waste into heat and power through the large-scale use of a novel method involving waste gasification, gas cleaning and high-efficiency combustion. The project, launched on 3 September 2010, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and landfill disposal in the region (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-141-finlande-la-bei->

[soutient-un-projet-innovant-de-valorisation-energetique-des-dechets-a-lahti.htm](http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-145-eib-and-unicredit-lend-eur-550-million-for-smes-and-environmental-projects.htm)). The EIB is also financing loans for Euro 200 million to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Italy (<http://www.eib.org/projects/press/2010/2010-145-eib-and-unicredit-lend-eur-550-million-for-smes-and-environmental-projects.htm>).

In related news, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved, on 17 September 2010, a US\$14 million programme for the conservation of the Andean agro ecosystems, and to promote the value of Ayllus sustainable local soil and water conservation practices. Ayllus are prehispanic structures of territorial organization that still exist in the Andean region of Bolivia. The project includes Global Environment Facility and IDB funding (<http://www.iadb.org/news-releases/2010-09/english/idb-approves-14-million-for-biodiversity-conservation-program-for-bolivia-7921.html>).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### Ramsar Co-organizes Pacific Islands Workshop, New US Site Designated

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Envi-

ronment Programme (SPREP) co-organized a workshop in Nouméa, New Caledonia, to review the implementation of the 1999 Regional Wetlands

Action Plan for the Pacific Islands, and to develop a new Action Plan for the coming three years. The event took place from 2-4 August 2010, and was followed by a series of training sessions, from 5-6 August, on Ramsar implementation processes and accession procedures ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-newcaledonia-workshop/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24793\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-newcaledonia-workshop/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24793_4000_0__)).

In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has reported that the US Government has listed its 27th Wetland of International Importance, the Roswell Artesian Wetlands (Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lakes State Park) ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-new-usa/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24795\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-news-rs-new-usa/main/ramsar/1-26%5E24795_4000_0__)).



Participants of the Nouméa workshop (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

## ► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- The World Bank has announced the appointment of Daniel M. Kammen as the organization’s **Chief Technical Specialist for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**, a new position created to provide strategic leadership on this topic within the Bank (<http://go.worldbank.org/909HZ1SXH0>).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Third Meeting of the Indonesian-Swiss Country-Led Initiative to Improve the Effectiveness of the Basel Convention:** 23-28 September 2010. Hilterfingen, Switzerland. <http://www.basel.int/meetings/meetings.html>
- **UNEP GEO-5 Regional Consultation for Europe:** 23-24 September 2010. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/geo/geo5/>
- **MSI+5 High-Level Review:** 24-25 September 2010. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/sids/msi+5/>
- **Second Meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not Included in Annex I to the Convention:** 27-29 September 2010. Manila, Philippines. [http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc\\_calendar/items/2655.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php)
- **International Scientific Conference on Advanced Scientific Tools for Desertification Policy:** 28-29 September 2010. Rome, Italy. <http://www.noveltis.net/desurvey/conference/>