



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE DISCUSSES 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET, LIAISON GROUP MEETS, CBD AND UNEP-WCMC SIGN JOINT WORK PROGRAMME



CBD and UNEP-WCMC sign joint work programme: (from left) Jon Hutton, Director of UNEP-WCMC, Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary-General of CITES, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of CBD (signing agreement) and Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP. Photo courtesy of CBD.

The Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target convened for its first meeting on 15 September 2006, in Gland, Switzerland. The founding document for the Task Force was signed during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in March 2006. The Task Force includes representatives of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and

UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as well as the CBD, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, IUCN-the World Conservation Union, WWF and the Future Harvest centres represented by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). The 15 September meeting discussed areas for collaboration between the agencies on the 2010 target and identified focal points within each agency for this collaboration. A full report of the meeting is expected to be available next week.

Immediately prior to the Heads of Agencies Task Force meeting, Ramsar hosted the fifth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions (14 September 2006, Gland, Switzerland). In his report to the Heads of Agencies Task Force regarding the 14 September

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

PROTECTING OUR PLANET TO BENEFIT THE POOR

(UNDP, 2006) The UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator's 2006 Annual Report presents UNDP's work on Environment and Energy. The report illustrates UNDP's activities supporting countries' efforts to protect the environment and manage their resources efficiently, and promoting cooperation among countries in tackling common environmental challenges (http://www.undp.org/publications/annualreport2006/protect_environment.shtml).

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GUEST ARTICLE

MEAs: Evolution Not Ossification

*By Mukul Sanwal**

Abstract

The environmental movement has undergone a profound shift since its origins in the middle of the last century. The first phase of this shift, evidenced at the Rio Conference in 1992, was from local concerns to broader stock/flow systemic issues.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

MAKING POVERTY REDUCTION IRREVERSIBLE: DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS OF THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

(IIED, 2006) This paper, authored by Steve Bass, identifies the major developmental implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and calls for action in four areas: information, institutional reform, international cooperation, and investment vehicles and budgets (<http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=11050IIED>).

INSIGHTS FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

(IWMI, 2006) This report contains the findings of the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture that were presented and discussed at the 2006 World Water Week in Stockholm. The assessment results, which evaluate the benefits, costs and impacts of the past 50 years of water development, are expected to be published in late 2006 (<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/press/Insights%20of%20Stockholm%20World%20Water%20Week%202006.pdf#search=%22Insights%20from%20the%20Comprehensive%20Assessment%20%22>).

FINAL REPORT AND SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT OF THE FOURTH WORLD WATER FORUM

(World Water Council, September 2006) The Final report and synthesis document of the Fourth World Water Forum, which took place in Mexico from 16-22 March 2006, and was organized around the theme "Local actions for a global challenge," are now available online (<http://www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx/files/report/FinalReport.pdf>; <http://www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx/files/report/SynthesisoftheForum.pdf>).

SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE WORLD BANK

(WRI, 2006) This policy note by Frances Seymour of the World Resources Institute (WRI) examines the implications of the merger of the World Bank's environment and infrastructure units and raises questions about whether and how the Bank will promote environmental sustainability (http://pdf.wri.org/sustaining_environment_wb.pdf).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

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meeting, Ramsar Secretary General Peter Bridgewater reported that discussions had focused on the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the need to better engage the public by improving the Conventions' outreach activities, both individually and collectively. Participants also agreed to begin a collective planning process for the decade beyond 2010. Other subjects discussed included the assessment of progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines on Sustainable Use, progress made in the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas, cooperation among the scientific bodies of the conventions, knowledge management and capacity development, and technical assistance for achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The report of this meeting is also expected to be available next week (IISD Sources).

During these meetings, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif and Director of UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) Jon Hutton signed a joint work programme between the two institutions. The programme identifies areas in which UNEP-WCMC can assist the CBD in building capacity for implementing the Convention, including the 2010 biodiversity indicators, protected areas, national reporting, assessments of status and trends of biodiversity, technical support and capacity building, the Convention's Clearing-House Mechanism, and the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (<http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/press/photos.shtml#2006-09-15-unesp-wcmc>).

The CBD Secretariat has also released the calendar of CBD meetings for the next biennium, including meetings of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and of the Working Groups on Review of Implementation, Article 8(j) and related provisions, Access and Benefit-sharing,

Protected Areas, and Liability and Redress under the Biosafety Protocol, as well as CBD COP-9 and the Biosafety Protocol COP/MOP-4 (<http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/default.shtml>).

NEW CMS MOU TO CONSERVE PACIFIC ISLAND WHALES AND DOLPHINS – YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN 2007 CAMPAIGN

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been negotiated under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species to protect whales and dolphins (cetaceans) and their habitats in the Pacific Island region. Signed on 15 September 2006, in Noumea, New Caledonia, the MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region provides an institutional framework for regional cooperation on cetacean issues. The signing ceremony was held during the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Environment Ministers Meeting (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/sprep17_prE_sep06.pdf).

Related news, CMS, with the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), in partnership with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and the tourist group TUI, have launched the Year of the Dolphin 2007 campaign, to emphasize the need to protect dolphin species (http://www.yod2007.org/en/Start_page/index.html; http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/Year_of_the_Dolphin.pdf).



Photo courtesy of Year of the Dolphin

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ANNAN URGES UNGA TO INCORPORATE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET IN MDGs

In his 2006 Report on the Work of the Organization, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has asked the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to incorporate the 2010 biodiversity target into the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs.) The target "to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth" was adopted as part of the Strategic Plan for the CBD by COP-6 and was endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In paragraph 24 of the report, Annan states that: "World leaders agreed to several other important targets at the 2005 World Summit. I am therefore recommending the incorporation of these commitments into the set of targets used to follow-up on the Millennium Declaration. This includes: [...] a new target under Millennium Development Goal 7: to "Significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010" ([http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/61/1\(SUPP\)](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/61/1(SUPP))).

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***AN INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT: A PROGRESS REPORT**

(World Bank, September 2006) In this progress report on the development of an investment framework for clean energy and development, the World Bank analyses the energy needs currently conditioning development and the achievement of the MDGs. It also addresses the transition to a low-carbon economy and adaptation, noting financing needs and proposing alternative financial instruments to funnel resources for clean energy and development. It highlights that the current financing gap for the energy sector in developing countries requires deeper and broader policy reforms to attract the private sector, as well as additional concessional support to meet the energy access challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa. It underscores the importance of a long-term stable global regulatory framework, with differentiated responsibilities, to stimulate private investments and provide predictability to longer-term investments in clean energy sources. ([http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21046509/DC2006-0012\(E\)-CleanEnergy.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DEVCOMMINT/Documentation/21046509/DC2006-0012(E)-CleanEnergy.pdf)).

HOW THE WORLD BANK'S INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK SELLS THE CLIMATE AND POOR PEOPLE SHORT

(Friends of the Earth and others, September 2006) In response to the World Bank's investment framework for clean energy, a group of NGOs prepared this report to present their arguments for increased support from governments and international financial institutions for renewable energy technologies. Their report notes that while renewable energy will not be able to address all energy needs of developing countries, it could go a long way to cover the basic energy needs of the world's poor. In their estimates, the basic electricity needs of one billion people could be covered with low or no-carbon technologies, would cost an estimated \$100 billion dollars and would have a positive impact not just for poverty reduction, but also for combating climate change (<http://www.foe.org/camps/intl/EnergyReportDraft091406.pdf>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSES AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN MEETINGS

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner has addressed regional meetings in Africa and Europe, underscoring the link between transport, climate change and biodiversity. During the Africities Summit-4, the fourth Pan-African edition of Local Government Days, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18-22 September 2006, Steiner urged African leaders to seek funding from the Global Environment Facility for infrastructure projects that aim to reduce pollution, tackle climate change, fight poverty and help in achieving the MDGs. He further encouraged African countries to call for increased access to global funds to fight climate change and the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=487&ArticleID=5357&I=en>).

Executive Director Steiner also addressed a conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation, held in Paris, France, on 19 September 2006. During that meeting, Steiner underscored that the target on reversing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 will not be achieved without also meeting climate change commitments, and suggested including projects related to ecosystem conservation or rehabilitation in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). In relation to the European development cooperation contribution to achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, he called attention to the links between biodiversity and climate change and adaptation, infrastructure development, and economic policy instruments and trade (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=490&ArticleID=5356&I=en>).



Logo courtesy of UNEP

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

IMF-WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETING CONSIDERS GOVERNANCE AND CLEAN ENERGY, NEW ILLEGAL LOGGING DIALOGUE LAUNCHED

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Annual Meetings were held on 19-20 September in Singapore and addressed, among other issues, the impact of governance on development and poverty reduction, the need to spur investments in clean, efficient and affordable energy, and the prospects for the Doha round of trade negotiations. On energy needs, the joint World Bank-IMF Development Committee approved a report on an Investment Framework for Clean Energy and Development, and in its Communiqué from 18 September, highlighted that the global community faces a major challenge in securing affordable and cost-effective energy supplies to underpin economic growth and poverty reduction while preserving the local and global environment. A civil society forum met in parallel to the meeting and addressed several related issues (<http://www.imf.org/external/am/2006/index.htm>).

A new international initiative on forest governance was launched during the IMF-World Bank meetings. The "G8 Illegal Logging Dialogue" will bring together stakeholders from the G8, China, India and other major timber producing nations, as well as senior timber industry representatives and civil society organizations. The initiative aims to develop a plan of action to address illegal logging and plans to present recommendations to the G8 in 2008. Co-Chairs of the Dialogue, Barry Gardiner (UK) and Egbe Achuo Hillman (Cameroon), said in a joint statement, "these recommendations

will be developed outside of formal international discussions and with the support of progressive industry and NGOs." The plan will focus on the introduction of financial transparency, support for progressive companies committed to sustainable production and the development of a discerning market for legal and sustainable timber in the EU and G8 markets. The Dialogue will be facilitated by GLOBE (Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment) and Com+ Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development, with the support of the World Bank, the UK Department for International Development and a number of socially responsible companies (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTARD/EXTFORESTS/0,,contentMDK:21055714~menuPK:985797~pagePK:64020865~piPK:149114~theSitePK:985785,00.html>).

ADB FUNDS AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION

The African Development Bank Group (ADB) signed a loan and a grant agreement amounting to US\$19.48 million to finance rural development and the National Avian Influenza control Programme in Burkina Faso. Through its African Development Fund, it also approved a US\$3.75 million grant to finance Togo's Avian Flu Control Programme and capacity building support project. (http://www.afdb.org/portal/page?_pageid=293,174339&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&press_item=4992220&press_lang=us;http://www.afdb.org/portal/page?_pageid=293,174339&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&press_item=4774222&press_lang=us).



Logo courtesy of the ADB



Logo courtesy of IMF

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The current phase, beginning with the Johannesburg Conference in 2002, focuses on ecosystem management and is based on considerations different to those involved in determining policy.

Implementation alters the relationship between science and policy, because consensus on principles, which science was instrumental in helping to forge, breaks down in practice. Decision-makers have very different concerns, and the new information to inform public policy will come from science *and* from practitioners – the impact on other policy arenas; the choices, technologies and forms of organization to be adopted by governments, the private sector and civil society; and through the scaling up of “good practices.”

Deliberations within the MEAs over the last decade have shaped the way the issue is framed, problem-solving strategies defined, and results evaluated. Instead of describing what could happen, they now seek new approaches for agreement on what should be done. Such a perspective to environmental policy focuses on outlining a desirable goal into the future. These can be strategic policies integrating reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases as a key element of energy policies, announced by the United Kingdom. They can be strategic plans, as in the case of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A recent study advocates re-examination of global biodiversity and forest conservation conventions and mechanisms to ensure that these foster and support community conservation, through new institutional models. As a result of globalization and the recognition that investment, technology and trade are essential means of implementation, the context within which future actions to protect the environment will be undertaken has changed.

Environmental policy requires an agreed long-term strategic focus, a set of approaches to understand *how* to bring about the desired changes, and new forms of collaboration. Technology will be the key driver for change, linking knowledge to action. Since local problems attain global environmental dimensions when they are caused by human impacts whose scale is deep and scope is wide, they require strategic and sectoral rather than unit, or project-level, technological and institutional change.

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▶ WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

RAMSAR LAUNCHES “TOOLKIT,” ANNOUNCES NEWLY DESIGNATED SITES

The Ramsar Secretariat has launched the third edition of the Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands. This “Ramsar Toolkit” was first published in 2000 and includes relevant guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP), along with additional material from COP information papers, case studies and other relevant publications to illustrate key aspects of the guidelines. It was developed to assist those who are interested or involved in implementing the Convention at the international, regional, national, subnational or local levels. The Secretariat anticipates that 17 volumes of guidance will be prepared in all; five volumes are currently completed and available. The volumes will be grouped under the following topics: Wise Use of Wetlands; Ramsar Sites; and International Cooperation (http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_handbooks2006_e.htm).

The Ramsar Secretariat has also announced that Uganda and the UK have named new Wetlands of International Importance. Uganda named nine such wetlands in sites that afford protection to the habitats of endangered species such as the globally vulnerable Shoebill, the Papyrus Gonolek, and the Sitatunga. The sites also have a cultural and socio-economic value, as the livelihoods of local communities depend on them (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.uganda_nine.htm). The UK’s newest Wetland of International Importance is located on the Isle of Man, a UK crown dependency in the Irish Sea. Of particular significance, Ballaugh Curragh supports populations of marsh orchids and a high diversity of breeding birds. The biodiversity of the site is known to have contributed to its cultural importance as an early settlement, and hence to its considerable value as an archaeological resource (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.man_ballaugh.htm).



Lake Bisina Wetland System, Uganda. Photo courtesy of Wetlands Inspection Division, Uganda.

UNDOALOS RELEASES REPORTS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the Report of the Secretary-General, “The Impacts of Fishing on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems: actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements to give effect to paragraphs 66 to 69 of General Assembly resolution 59/25 on sustainable fisheries, regarding the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems” (A/61/154). The report describes some of the most vulnerable marine ecosystems, some fishing practices that, in specific circumstances, may be harmful, and the types of damage that may be caused, either directly or indirectly, by certain fishing practices ([http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_as-](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/general_as-)

[sembly_reports.htm#A/61/154](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly_reports.htm#A/61/154)). UNDOALOS has also issued the Advance, Unedited Text of the Addendum to the Report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (to be issued as Document A/61/63/Add.1). The report has been prepared as an addendum to the main annual report in order to present the General Assembly with an overview of developments relating to the implementation of UNCLOS and the work of the organization, its specialized agencies and other institutions in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea since the preparation of the main report in February 2006 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/documents/a61_63_add_1_advance.pdf).

SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF GPA OUTREACH RELEASED

The UNEP/ Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) Coordination Office has announced the release of the September issue of the *GPA Outreach* newsletter. *GPA Outreach* supports the preparatory process for the Second Intergovernmental Review (IGR-2) Meeting of the GPA, scheduled to take place in Beijing, China from 16-20 October 2006. The September edition includes: an update on the final preparations for IGR-2; an overview of IGR-2 Official Documents; a review of the consultation on the GPA held at World Water Week in Stockholm; partnership spotlights; and a roundup on the third GEF Assembly (<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPAOutreachSeptember.pdf>).

IMO MEETING STRENGTHENS SECURITY, SAFETY OF NAVIGATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN STRAITS

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and government of Malaysia organized a Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, which took place from 18-20 September 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the meeting, the littoral States of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and user States agreed to support, *inter alia*: the removal of wrecks in the Traffic Separation Scheme in the straits; cooperation and capacity building on hazardous and noxious substance; preparedness and response in the straits; setting up tide, current and wind measurement systems for the straits to enhance navigational safety and marine environment protection; and replacement of aids to navigation damaged by the tsunami disaster of December 2004. Delegates also agreed that the littoral States, user States, the shipping industry and other stakeholders should cooperate towards the establishment of a mechanism for voluntary funding for the agreed projects and the maintenance and renewal of aids to navigation in the Straits (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=7007).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The strategic nature of such change points to entirely new policy instruments oriented towards partnerships between public and private institutions in research and policy development to galvanize investments and markets.

Such a reversal of the conceptual framework requires a focus on institutional innovation and mechanisms for managing change for achieving a consensus on a strategic direction, rather than just on science-based standards or targets. The value added of the United Nations system lies in developing these new perspectives for international cooperation.

Read the Full Article at:
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle13.htm>

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 Research Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

* Mukul Sanwal is a staff member of the United Nations. These are his personal views.

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD CONTRIBUTES TO YOUTH AND DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Governments of Finland, Germany, Italy and Mali, organized the International Conference on Youth and Desertification, which met in Bamako, Mali, from 4-6 September 2006, and attracted 150 delegates from 45 countries. Participants at this meeting approved the "Bamako Statement," which calls on governments to ensure that young people are involved in the management of natural resources and decision-making processes, and to give priority to creating youth employment as a matter

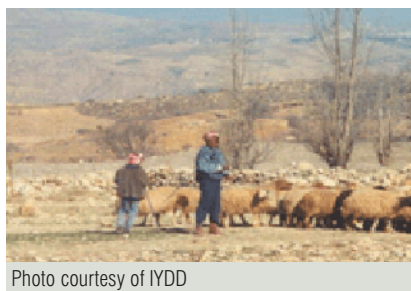


Photo courtesy of IYDD

of national urgency. They further agreed to establish a UNCCD Youth Partnership Network to facilitate the exchange of information among young people and to ensure that their concerns are brought to the attention of decision makers (<http://www.iydd.org/pages/bamako.htm>).

ITTO-SPONSORED CONGO BASIN WORKSHOP CONVENES

Organized by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), a sub-regional workshop on the reinforcement of forestry training institutions in the Congo Basin convened from 26-27 September 2006 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The meeting took into account relevant ongoing initiatives regarding the implementation of training programs on forest management and forest concession management, and aimed to contribute to the development of a strategy for the reinforcement of the Network of Central African Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=223&id=1623>).

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC JOINT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE KICK-STARTS "TRACK 2," SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR NAIROBI CONFERENCE

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) met from 13-15 September 2006, in Bonn, Germany, during which it took a series of decisions that allow for "Track 2" of the Kyoto mechanism to become operational. According to the UNFCCC Secretariat, "Whilst the JI's Track 1 process may only be applied if the host Party fully meets all eligibility requirements, the Track 2 provision allows Parties to issue and transfer emission reduction units if only the basic eligibility requirements are met, provided the projects go through the verification procedures under the JISC (Track 2)." The JISC also agreed on its Management Plan, but noted the significant shortfall in supplementary funding and recognized the need to encourage contributions from Parties (http://unfccc.int/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/items/3782.php).

Preparations for the UN climate change conference in Nairobi in November are continuing, with the UNFCCC Secretariat recently posting an updated overview of all the meetings scheduled, as well as other relevant documents. The draft schedule anticipates that the Kyoto Protocol's new subsidiary body, the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, will meet during the first week, and the UNFCCC Dia-

logue on long-term action on climate change will meet at the end of the two-week meeting (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_12/agendas/application/pdf/cop12_overview_schedule0920.pdf). The Secretariat has also just released a number of reports, including one on national communications from Annex I Parties to the Convention and another on budget performance for the biennium 2006-2007 (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/misc14.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2006/sbi/eng/15.pdf>).

Newly appointed UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer attended the First International Conference on the CDM, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 19-21 September 2006, where he told participants that market-based mechanisms such as the Kyoto Protocol's CDM could generate as much as US\$100 billion in annual investments in developing countries, and that "None of the other types of financial resources available to these countries have a potential of this scale."



Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary

(http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060919_riyadh_press_release_vs5.pdf; <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/cdmsa/>).

OZONE SECRETARIAT POSTS INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING MEETING

In preparation for the 18th Meeting of the Parties, which will convene from 30 October – 3 November in New Delhi, India, the Ozone Secretariat has released: the draft decisions and proposed adjustments to be considered at the meeting; the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional agenda; notes by the Secretariat regarding issues for discussion at the meeting, treatment of stockpiled ozone depleting substances (ODS) relative to compliance, and the Secretariat workshop on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) / Technology and Economic Assessment Panel's (TEAP) special report; and a document on compliance and data regarding very small quantities of ODS (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.asp>). The issues for discussion at the meeting will include, *inter alia*: essential- and critical-use exemptions; sources and possible reduction of carbon tetrachloride emissions; the report of the workshop on the IPCC/TEAP special report; manufacture of metered-dose inhalers using chlorofluorocarbons in developing countries; stockpiles of ODS relative to compliance; and disclosure of interest guidelines for TEAP and its technical options committees.

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

SAICM AFRICA MEETING FINALIZES REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Authority (EEAA) organized an African Regional Meeting on SAICM in Cairo, Egypt, from 11-14 September 2006. This was the first regional meeting on SAICM to be held since the adoption of the Strategic Approach at the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai in February 2006. Preparations for the meeting were undertaken by the African Core Group (ACG) – a group of 11 countries established at the first session of the Preparatory Committee on SAICM in Bangkok, in November 2003. The meeting provided a forum for over 120 participants, including representatives from 38 African governments, 4 SAICM Regional Focal Points, 5 intergovernmental organizations, 18 nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders in chemicals management, to discuss strategic priorities, share technical experience and exchange information crucial to the region's efforts to implement SAICM. Key outcomes of the meeting included the finalization of the African regional action plan, agreement on a regional position regarding financial considerations associated with SAICM implementation, the formal endorsement and composition of the ACG as a regional coordination mechanism and the development of ideas for regional projects

for submission for possible funding under the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP). The meeting also agreed on the terms of reference for the ACG, the African SAICM regional focal point and the African regional representatives serving on the QSP Executive Board. In addition, the meeting discussed the recent dumping of toxic waste in Côte d'Ivoire and agreed on a statement condemning the act (IISD sources) (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/africaregionalmeeting.htm>).

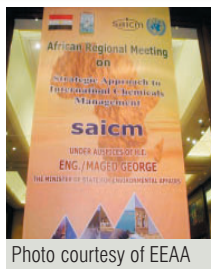


Photo courtesy of EEAA

BASEL CONVENTION SECRETARIAT ISSUES UPDATE ON COTE D'IVOIRE HAZARDOUS WASTE CRISIS

The Basel Convention has posted an update regarding its assessment of legal responsibilities and the possible use of the Convention's trust fund to support clean-up operations of the toxic material that was dumped in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The update notes that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has confirmed that a request for international assistance was made on 4 September, for a short and medium-term response plan that requires US\$13.5 million, and an inter-agency task force has been established in the coun-

try to coordinate UN agencies' response to the situation and the Government's request for assistance (<http://www.basel.int/press/pr120906.doc>).

The Secretariat has also posted two drafts, for which it has requested comments: the draft revised version of the forms for the notification document and movement document and related instructions, which were prepared by Germany as lead country (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/harmonization/germany-forms-120906.doc>); and the third draft on the Regional Strategy for the Environmentally Sound Management of used lead acid batteries in Central America, Colombia, Venezuela and the Caribbean Island States (<http://www.basel.int/stratplan/oewg1/projdocs/elsalvador/regstrat150906.doc>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION SECRETARIAT PREPARES FOR POPs REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has posted meeting and information documents for the Second Meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC). Meeting documents include the annotated provisional agenda, draft risk profiles of seven chemicals, and summaries of five chemicals proposals. The information documents include a scenario note for the meeting, a tentative schedule, comments and other proposals (http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc_2/meeting_docs.htm).

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD PARTICIPATES IN SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT EVENTS, PREPARES FOR MEETINGS

The UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) participated in the Marrakech Task Force meeting on sustainable public procurement, which met from 18-19 September 2006 in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting was held back-to-back with the EcoProcura 2006 (20-22 September 2006), an initiative of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) that brings together public and private stakeholders to exchange ideas and experience and develop common strategies for sustainable procurement at a global level. DSD also participated in EcoProcura 2006.

DSD is also preparing for a number of upcoming meetings. Together with the government of Iceland, DSD is convening an International Seminar on the Hydrogen Economy for Sustainable Development from 28-29 September 2006, in Reykjavik, Iceland, to follow-up the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) with the aim of bringing together stakeholders to explore the role and future of the hydrogen economy in the context of sustainable development (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/hydrogen_seminar.pdf). The first bureau meeting for CSD-15 will convene on 1 October 2006. In addition, an Expert

Group Meeting on Indicators will convene in New York, US, from 3-4 October 2006, with the objective of finalizing the revision of the 2001 set of CSD Sustainable Development Indicators (CSD-ISD) (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/egmOct06/egm.htm>).

DSD has also redesigned its Major Groups web pages and added a navigation menu, direct access to the e-DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) information portal and links to all the Division's databases, and streamlined the archives of major groups' participation in the CSD process (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mgroups.htm>).

▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **31ST MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES STANDING COMMITTEE:** 28-29 September 2006. Bonn, Germany. http://www.cms.int/bodies/StC/31st_stc_meeting/31st_stc_documents.htm
- **INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 28-29 September 2006. Reykjavik, Iceland. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/hydrogen_seminar.pdf
- **54TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE:** 2-6 October 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/sc54.shtml>
- **THIRD CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION (PIC COP-3):** 9-13 October 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.pic.int/en/ViewPage.asp?id=420>
- **EIGHTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS:** 13-14 October 2006. Beijing, People's Republic of China. http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/RS_Global_Meetings/default.asp