



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK CONVENES "ENERGY WEEK"



The World Bank Group's Energy Week (6-9 March 2006, Washington DC, US) gathered policy makers and practitioners to engage on issues related to energy and development (<http://www.worldbank.org/energyweek>).

Energy Week 2006 combined a three-day executive conference with information sharing events. World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz opened the meeting and highlighted the renewed focus on the interaction between energy, the environment and poverty. He said rich and poor countries alike need to apply energy-efficient technology to cut future greenhouse gas emissions and to meet the energy needs of the developing world. He said the World Bank will make proposals to accelerate investment in clean energy so that developing countries can meet energy demand for growth and for poverty alleviation in an environmentally sustainable way. An example of this effort is a proposal currently under consideration for a new Clean Energy Financing Vehicle, which would blend grants and carbon finance to support the use of clean energy technologies.



Paul Wolfowitz, President, The World Bank Group (Photo courtesy World Bank)

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▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

• CMS Secretariat Releases Central Asian Flyway Action Plan, Participates in Sea Turtle Campaign - Page 2



Photo courtesy UNEP

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Research and Resources Related to Great Apes

OUTCOMES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON GREAT APES AND FIRST GRASP COUNCIL MEETING

(UNEP, 2005) This website (<http://www.unep.org/grasp/Meetings/IGM-kinshasa/Outcomes/index-reports.asp>) offers links to the Kinshasa Declaration on Great Apes, a report of the September 2005 Intergovernmental Meeting and First GRASP Council meeting in Kinshasa, and GRASP Partnership information.

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GUEST ARTICLE

Is GRASP – The United Nations Great Ape Survival Project – A New MEA?

By Stanley Johnson, Advisor to GRASP

Abstract

On 12 September 2005, *The Independent*, a leading UK newspaper, devoted the whole of its front page, two of its inside pages, and an editorial, to the "international agreement on the conservation of the great apes" signed in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), that same month. The author of the article described the agreement as being "on a par with the 1982 whaling moratorium and the 1997 Kyoto protocol on climate change." Should the Kinshasa Declaration, along with the other documents approved in Kinshasa, be seen as a new multilateral environmental agreement?

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

WORLD ATLAS ON GREAT APES AND THEIR CONSERVATION

(UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2005) This atlas (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/index.html?http://www.unep-wcmc.org/species/GRASP/~main>) offers the first comprehensive review of what is currently known about great apes, including a description of their ecology, distribution and the key threats that they face. It also includes an assessment of the great apes species in each of the countries where they are found, together with an overview of current conservation action and priorities.

PRIMATELIT DATABASE

(University of Wisconsin, ongoing) This database (<http://primatelit.library.wisc.edu/>) provides bibliographic access to the scientific literature on nonhuman primates for the research and educational communities.

Research and Resources Related to the Convention on Biological Diversity**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TRIPS AGREEMENT AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

(WTO Secretariat, February 2006) This document (http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/ipcw368_e.doc) reviews the ongoing debate and positions on the relationship between WTO and the CBD on intellectual property rights. It is divided into three sections: general views on the relationship between the TRIPS agreement and the CBD; patentability of genetic resources and the CBD; and the TRIPS agreement and prior informed consent/benefit-sharing.

AN ANALYSIS OF TRADE RELATED INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD AND THEIR EFFECTS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(IFPRI, February 2006) This paper (<http://www.ifpri.org/divs/eptd/dp/eptdp147.asp>), authored by Guillaume P. Guèrè, reviews current trade-related regulations of genetically modified (GM) food and discusses their effects on developing countries.

SUSTAINABLE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

(European Environment Agency, January 2006) Authored by Stephan Moll, Mette Skovgaard and Philipp Schepelmann, this report (http://reports.eea.eu.int/eea_report_2005_9/en) focuses on humanity's ability to continue to provide for its needs by drawing on the resources of the natural world, considering patterns of resource use, the growing pressure on resources, and some possible policy options and strategic responses.

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▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK CONVENES "ENERGY WEEK"

Continued from page 1

During the week, sessions were held on energy security, clean and low carbon energy, governance and anti-corruption strategies in the power sector, and energy as a vehicle for growth and poverty reduction in Africa. Parallel "knowledge sharing" sessions also focused on lessons learned from energy and development projects.

Side events addressed other relevant issues like how to integrate energy considerations into national development strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals. A training session was also held on carbon finance in energy projects, strategic environmental

assessments in the energy sector and how to improve efficiency in energy sector regulation.

Jamal Saghir, Director, World Bank, and JoAnne DiSano, Director of Sustainable Development, UN and Head of the CSD Secretariat, co-chaired the closing session and presentation of conclusions, which will be made available to participants and forwarded to CSD-14.

The World Bank also has launched a new tool to improve the design and implementation of Renewable Energy initiatives in developing countries, entitled *Renewable Energy Toolkit: An Operational Guide for Electric Services (REToolkit)* (<http://www.worldbank.org/retoolkit>).

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

BIO SAFETY NEGOTIATIONS RESUME IN BRAZIL

The 132 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety gather this week (13-17 March 2006, Curitiba, Brazil) (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/bs-copmop3/>) to provide guidance and review progress in implementation. The most controversial issue on the agenda of the Third



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary

Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is documentation requirements for living modified organisms for food, feed or for processing, affecting a large volume of agricultural commodities. The second meeting of the Parties was not able to adopt a decision on the issue, as specified by the Protocol, "no later than two years after the date of entry into force of this Protocol" (Article 18.2(a)) and adoption of the decision was deferred to the third meeting. Main areas of disagreement included: requirements to specify which LMOs a shipment may contain; and thresholds for adventitious or

technically unavoidable presence of LMOs and whether or not they trigger the documentation requirement.

CMS SECRETARIAT RELEASES CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY ACTION PLAN; CAMPAIGN TO CONSERVE SEA TURTLES LAUNCHED

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species has released the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/nw013206_CAF_APhm). The Action Plan, which is the outcome of six years of work, including two intergovernmental meetings, will provide the basis for the region's 30 Range States to take individual and coordinated region-wide activities, and manage the threats to migratory waterbirds by human activities and emerging threats such as avian influenza. The text remains to be adopted by the Range States.

CMS has also been involved with the launch of an international campaign to conserve sea turtles (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=471&ArticleID=5150&I=en>) The campaign, which was launched on 1 March 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand, has been organized by the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean – South-East Asia (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding, a specialized intergovernmental agreement concluded under the auspices of the CMS (http://www.ioseaturtles.org/feature_detail.php?id=110). The campaign is being undertaken in collaboration with Thailand's Department of Marine and Coastal Resources. The Year of the Turtle involves a series of public events and activities in 25 countries of the region throughout 2006 under the banner "Cooperating to Conserve Marine Turtles: Our Ocean's Ambassadors."



The dais during the opening ceremony of COP/MOP-3

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

LEARNING MODULE: LAW AND POLICY OF RELEVANCE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

(SGRP, IPGRI, IFPRI, 2005) This learning module (<http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/training/policytrainingmodule/>), first published in 2003, has been revised to include a regional learning plan on review of regional policy instruments, developments and trends. It is aimed at managers of plant genetic resources and policy makers.

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS: ENSURING MUTUAL SUPPORTIVENESS BETWEEN THE WTO TRIPS AGREEMENT AND THE CBD

(IUCN, ICTSD, CIEL, IDDRI and QUNO, November 2005) This collection of essays (http://www.iprsonline.org/resources/docs/Disclosure_req_book.pdf), written by experts in the field, aims to shed light on the utility of disclosure requirements as a means for integrating biodiversity concerns into intellectual property systems.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: AN OVERVIEW OF KEY ISSUES AND CURRENT DEBATES

(Wuppertal Institute, 2005) Authored by Carolina Lasén Diaz, this paper (http://www.wupperinst.org/globalisierung/pdf_global/intellectual_property.pdf) aims to provide a comprehensive background and overview of key issues, debates and positions related to the international regulation and application of intellectual property rights over biological resources.

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD BUREAU MEETS; MATRIX RELEASED

The Bureau for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) met for the third time on Monday morning, 6 March 2006, to continue preparations for CSD-14 in May 2006 (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/bureau_mtg_0306.pdf). With several Bureau members unable to be in New York, the meeting was held via audio/video conference, with CSD-14 Chair Aleksis Aleksishvili chairing the meeting via video link from Tbilisi. Among other items, the Bureau emphasized the need for Ministers of Energy and Industry to attend CSD-14.



Aleksis Aleksishvili
(Photo courtesy UN-CSD)

Following the meeting, Bureau Vice-Chair Javad Amin-Mansour (Iran) briefed interested parties at UN headquarters in New York. At the briefing, which was attended by about 100 representatives of governments and civil society, Vice Chair Amin-Mansour indicated that preparations were "on track" for CSD-14, with Bureau members agreeing on modalities for regional discussions, making minor alterations to the organization of work, discussing the partnership fair and other events, and assigning work among the Bureau members. Responding to questions from the G-77/China about a "matrix" that was being prepared covering the issues to be reviewed at CSD-14, Vice-Chair Amin Mansour clarified that the Bureau considered the matrix to be simply

a reference/information tool that was a "work in progress." The US thought the matrix presented an opportunity to share information, and for the UN to act as a clearinghouse of specific and useful information. JoAnne DiSano, Director of the CSD Secretariat and Division for Sustainable Development, said the matrix was intended to be a non-negotiated information tool. She added that a revised document outlining the draft organization of work would be posted online within a few days. Delegates also discussed the Secretary-General's report for CSD-14 and NGO participation. The Bureau will meet again on 30 April, the day before CSD-14 begins.

The CSD Secretariat has posted the CSD-14 Matrix to its website (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd14/documents/matrixCSD14.pdf>). The Secretariat prepared the Matrix at the request of the Bureau to offer an informational tool to facilitate thematic discussions during CSD-14. It is based on information submitted by Governments, UN agencies, Major Groups, and on the Secretary-General's reports and Partnerships for Sustainable Development registered with the CSD Secretariat. It is also based on information emerging from the regional implementation meetings. It will be updated to reflect discussions during CSD-14, and is not an official draft outcome document for CSD-14.

The CSD Secretariat also provided input to the World Bank for its recent Energy Week (6-9 March 2006) (see report of this meeting under the "Trade, Finance and Investment" cluster).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

KYOTO MECHANISMS REGISTER PROGRESS

The UNFCCC Secretariat has reported progress with the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms. On 10 March, the first ever Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) under the Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism were forwarded to the account of a project participant by the UNFCCC CDM Registry Administrator (http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/3665.php). In addition, the second meeting of the Protocol's Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee has also taken place. The meeting (8, 10 and 11 March 2006, Bonn, Germany) focused on the Committee's work plan and on the development of procedures and guidance on the criteria used for baseline setting and monitoring of projects (http://ji.unfccc.int/Sup_Committee/Meetings/Sup_Committee/Meetings/002/index.html). Finally, the Kyoto Protocol's compliance system has started operating, with the Compliance Committee electing the chairs of its Enforcement and Facilitative Branches at a meeting

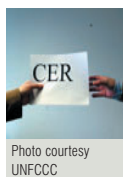


Photo courtesy UNFCCC

held in Bonn on 3 March. Raúl Estrada Oyuela (Argentina) was elected Chair of the Enforcement Branch, while Hironori Hamanaka of Japan was elected Chair of the Facilitative Branch (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20060303_compliance_committee_1st_meeting.pdf). The compliance system, which was formally adopted by Parties to the Protocol on 30 November 2005, is considered to be one of the stronger ones agreed to date.

In other news, the UNFCCC Secretariat recently posted several new documents on its webpage for the upcoming 24th sessions of the UNFCCC's subsidiary bodies in May, including further information on the first session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties (<http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb24/items/3648.php>). Reviews of the latest greenhouse gas inventories submitted by Japan, Australia and several other Parties have recently been posted on the UNFCCC website (http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/3594.php - search for "Individual reviews of GHG Inventories").

OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES CALL FOR EXPERTS, ADDITIONAL OEWG DOCUMENTS

The Ozone Secretariat has released an information note for participants in the July 2006 Twenty-sixth Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, containing information on the venue, registration, financial assistance and visas (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/26oewg/26oewg-InfoNote.pdf). The Secretariat has also posted the proposal on disclosure of interest for the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and its Technical Options Committees (TOCs) and an invitation for experts to serve on the TEAP and its TOCs in the fields of methyl bromide and chemical and industrial applications (http://ozone.unep.org/Information_for_the_Parties/Decisions/Other_Decs/MOP-17-CRP:2E-for_comts.pdf, <http://ozone.unep.org/teap/TEAP-Nominations.asp>). Comments on the disclosure of interest proposal are requested by 15 May 2006.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)



L-R: Samy Mankoto, Secretary General of GRASP, Professor D. E. Musibono, Chair of the IGM, Klaus Töpfer, UNEP Executive Director, and Melanie Virtue, GRASP Secretariat, at the Intergovernmental Meeting on Great Apes

Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP, launched the United Nations Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and quickly realized that the Kinshasa meeting could ensure that the initiative matured and prospered. Though the Kinshasa texts are not legally binding in the way that the Kyoto Protocol on climate change or the International Whaling Convention are, they share certain features of those instruments in the sense that they provide a framework of strategic objectives and, more particularly, an institutional framework within which those objectives are to be pursued. GRASP has a governing Council, an Executive Committee, a Scientific Commission and a secretariat, jointly provided by UNEP and UNESCO. Since Kinshasa, a detailed work programme has been prepared and will be considered by the Executive Committee. Some funding has already been made available, on a voluntary basis, by several donor nations and the European Union. More is being sought.

GRASP, like MEAs such as CBD, CMS and Ramsar, is playing its part towards the attainment of the target of halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts to save the great apes have to be seen within the context of other mechanisms and development priorities, including poverty reduction. And GRASP is working closely with these MEAs on joint programmes towards these goals, such as the CMS' new gorilla agreement initiative.



In many ways, therefore, GRASP has the attributes of an MEA. It may not be legally binding, but provided results are obtained, that should not matter. If GRASP can play its part in the battle to ensure the survival of the great apes, the precise legal status of the texts adopted in Kinshasa may come to seem of secondary importance.

Read Full Article:
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle2.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 and article guidelines.

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

IPCC-25 DOCUMENTS POSTED, MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat has posted documents relating to IPCC-25 (26-28 April 2006, Mauritius). These include an annotated revised provisional agenda, report on the IPCC's programme and budget for 2006 to 2009, and hotel information (<http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/session25.htm>).

Prior to this meeting, a closed Meeting on New Emissions Scenarios will take place (20-22 March 2006, Seville, Spain). The meeting will consider proposals by the Task Group on New Emissions Scenarios (<http://www.ipcc.ch/mandate.pdf> and <http://www.ipcc.ch/TGNESmembers.pdf>) and will formulate a plan of work that will be presented to IPCC-25.

► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL WORKING GROUP PREPARATIONS CONTINUE; COMMENTS ON REVISED FORMS REQUESTED

In preparation for the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (3-7 April 2006, Geneva, Switzerland), the Secretariat has posted the provisional agenda (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/owwg/owwg5/docs/r01e.doc>) and preparatory documents for the session (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>). Among the documents are a note on financial matters, resource mobilization and sustainable financing (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/owwg/owwg5/docs/02a5e.doc>); a report on resolutions of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on ship recycling (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/owwg/owwg5/docs/i14e.doc>); and a report of the status of cooperation with the World Trade Organization (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/owwg/owwg5/docs/03e.doc>).

Decision OWG-IV/4 requested that the Secretariat, in consultation with a small intersessional working group, prepare revised forms for the notification and movement documents as well as related instructions for filling in these forms, for consideration by OWG-5. Very few Parties have nominated participants for the working group, so Germany has offered to serve as lead country for this item and has requested written comments by 20 March 2006 (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/harmonization/germany-comm-220206.doc>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ENDS INTERIM PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE

The Interim Prior Informed Consent Procedure adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which was to apply from the entry into force of the Convention for a period of two years, ended on 24 February 2006. During the transition period, the Secretariat received submissions from non-Parties, circulated this information to all governments via the PIC Circular, and made it available on the website. Information relating to non-Parties concerning DNA contact details, import responses and notifications that is on file with the Secretariat as of 24 February 2006 will be retained by the Secretariat and made available on the Rotterdam Convention website, accompanied by a note indicating the date of publication, absence of updates and lack of liability accepted for the use of the information (http://www.pic.int/en/viewpage.asp?Id_Cat=143&mTitre=WHAT%60S+NEW).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION PREPARES FOR OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP

In preparation for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Non-Compliance (28-29 April 2006, Geneva, Switzerland), the Secretariat has posted a document on the Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for determining non-compliance (http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/owwg_nc/meeting-docs/default.htm).

► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

UNCLOS-RELATED REPORTS RELEASED

The Secretary-General has released an advance, unedited version of his annual comprehensive report on developments and issues relating to oceans and the law of the sea, for presentation to the 61st session of the General Assembly (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/documents/advance_material_oceans_los61.pdf). The report will also serve as a basis for discussion at the seventh meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the

Sea and contains information on developments and issues relating to ecosystem approaches and oceans.

The advance, unedited report on the work of the United Nations *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (13-17 February 2006) is now available (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/biodiversityworkinggroup/advance_report_workinggroup_biodiv.pdf).

► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

RAMSAR CONVENTION SIGNS MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION WITH EEA AND IWMI; CONFERENCE ON DANUBE DELTA CONVENES

The Ramsar Secretariat has signed two memoranda of cooperation (MOC). Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, and Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA), signed a memorandum of cooperation, effective 27 February 2006 (http://www.ramsar.org/moc/key_eec_moc_2006.htm), that covers a number of areas chiefly relating to the improvement, exchange, and use of Ramsar sites data. Peter Bridgewater and Frank Rijdsberman, Director General of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), signed a memorandum



Ramsar signs MOC with IWMI (Photo courtesy Ramsar)

of cooperation (http://www.ramsar.org/moc/key_iwmi_moc_2006.htm) on 28 February 2006, updating their previous MOC of January 2004. IWMI recently became the Convention's fifth International Organization Partner (joining BirdLife International, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Wetlands International and WWF International) following Resolution IX.16, on the Convention's International Organization Partners, at COP-9 in November 2005.

A group of international organizations with an interest in the Danube Delta, including the Ramsar Secretariat, UNESCO, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, WWF, IUCN, and Wetlands International, provided support in the organization of the International Conference on the Danube Delta (27-28 February 2006, Odessa, Ukraine). Participants discussed the state of the delta, mechanisms for cooperation, visions for the conservation and sustainable development of the delta, and how to achieve this vision. The conclusions of the Conference are available at: http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_danube_conference2006a.pdf

The Ramsar Secretariat has also released the documentation for the 34th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee (http://www.ramsar.org/sc/34/key_sc34_agenda_papers.htm), which will convene from 10-13 April 2006.

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP PUBLISHES IWRM SURVEY

The Global Water Partnership has completed and published the results of its second informal survey of the status of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development target for countries to develop national integrated water resources management (IWRM) and Water Efficiency Plans by 2005 (<http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/IWRMSurvey-final.pdf>).

IMO PROTOCOL INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN RULES ON DUMPING OF WASTES AT SEA SET TO ENTER INTO FORCE

The IMO Secretary-General announced that the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 is set to enter into force (http://www.londonconvention.org/Documents.htm#Texts_of_the_London_Convention). Mexico's 22 February 2006 ratification means that the requisite number of ratifications for the Protocol to enter into force has been reached. The Protocol, which will enter into force on 24 March 2006, will prohibit dumping except for materials on an approved list. The previous approach was to permit dumping of wastes at sea, except for materials on a banned list.



Logo courtesy of the London Convention 1972

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

SHORTLIST FOR UNEP'S NEXT DIRECTOR RELEASED; UNEP PREPARES FOR CBD COP-8

With UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer concluding his tenure on 31 March 2006, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has revealed a shortlist of selected candidates for the position. The list, which was announced on 1 March 2006, includes: Børge Brende, Norway's former Environment Minister; Carlos Manuel Rodríguez Echandi, Costa Rica's Minister of Environment and Energy; Shafqat Kakakhel (Pakistan), UNEP Deputy Executive Director; Rajendra Pachauri, Director-General of The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) in India; and Achim Steiner (Germany), Director-General of IUCN-the World Conservation Union (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17666&Cr=unep&Cr1>). The Secretary-General has noted that, given the similarities between the UNEP position and the vacant position of Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the eligibility of some of the candidates for both positions, he might conclude that one of the candidates for UNEP is more suitable for UNFCCC or vice versa and, therefore, could make the appointment in consultation

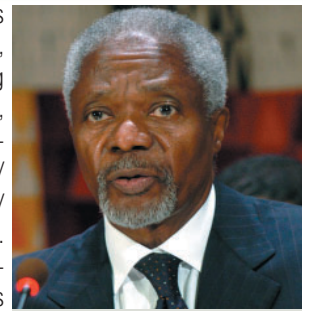
with the Bureau of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sg2108.doc.htm>).

In preparation for CBD COP-8, the UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC) has uploaded the second draft of its issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs (<http://www.svs-unebib-mdb.net/>). DEC is also starting, prior to the COP, the second peer review of these modules. The modules aim to provide a structured overview of the treatment and requirements concerning inland waters, invasive alien species, sustainable use and climate change across biodiversity-related agreements.

ANNAN PROPOSES REFORM OF UN MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

As a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called for a major overhaul of UN management structures and practices. On 7 March 2006, he presented to the General Assembly his report "Investing in the United Nations for a Stronger Organization Worldwide" (A/60/692), which includes 23 proposals on staff recruitment, career development and mobility, leadership, information and com-

munications technologies, delivering services, budget and finance (<http://www.un.org/reform/report.html>). Several countries



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

welcomed the report, with the G-77 calling for further discussions in the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, before submitting the report to the General Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary (Fifth) Committee. The EU and the US preferred considering the report in the framework of the General Assembly's plenary meetings (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=17720&Cr=UN&Cr1=reform>). On 9 March, the UN staff union endorsed a vote of no confidence in Kofi Annan, expressing serious concerns on the proposed reform, particularly with regard to schemes for staff buyout, outsourcing of labor and job mobility (<http://www.cnn.com/2006/POLITICS/03/09/un.annan.ap/index.html>).

▶ COMINGS AND GOINGS

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Mark Malloch Brown (UK), the UN Secretary-General's Chief of Staff and former Administrator of the UN Development Programme, has been appointed **Deputy Secretary-General** as of 1 April 2006, when Louise Fréchette steps down from that post (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sga984.doc.htm>). Additional high-level appointments include Alicia Bárcena Ibarra (Mexico) as the Secretary-General's **Acting Chief of Staff** (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sga986.doc.htm>); Vijay Nambiar (India) as Special Adviser with the rank of Under-Secretary-General (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sga985.doc.htm>); and Larry D. Johnson (US) as **Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs** (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/sga987.doc.htm>).

Mark Malloch Brown
(Photo courtesy UN News Centre)
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Peter Schei, an experienced negotiator on biodiversity issues and current Chair of BirdLife International and Director of the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen Institute, has been named **Convention on Migratory Species Ambassador**. He will also chair a UNEP seminar on Avian Influenza, the Environment and Migratory Birds (10-11 April 2006, Nairobi, Kenya) (<http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/nw020306Schei.pdf>).

Peter Schei
(Photo courtesy CMS)
- Carolina Hoyos has joined the **Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere** (CREHO) as Institutional Development Officer (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.creho_hoyos.htm).
- The Oversight Committee of Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has appointed the members for the **Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel** for the triennium 2006-2008. Heather Mackay (South Africa), the Vice Chair from 2003-2005, was appointed Chair of the Panel, and Rebecca D'Cruz of Malaysia was named Vice Chair. The full list of the committee members is available at: http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.strp_2006.htm.
- Kai-Uwe Barani Schmidt has been named the new Manager for the **CDM Section in the Project-Based Mechanisms Programme of the UNFCCC** Secretariat. He has worked for a number of years in the secretariat's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) area.

▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL COP/MOP-3:** 13-17 March 2006. Curitiba, Brazil. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is organized by the CBD Secretariat. <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=MOP-03>; <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/bs-copmop3/>
- CBD EXPERT WORKSHOP ON PROTECTED AREAS:** 17-18 March 2006. Curitiba, Brazil. This workshop, which is organized by the CBD Secretariat, will discuss implementation of the CBD work programme on protected areas. <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=PAWS-01>; <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/paws/>
- CBD COP-8:** 20-31 March 2006. Curitiba, Brazil. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, organized by the CBD Secretariat, will include a ministerial segment, to be held from 26-29 March. <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=COP-08>; <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop8/>
- REGIONAL INDUCTION WORKSHOP ON REPORTING AND DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION:** 22-24 March 2006. Tunis, Tunisia. UNEP and WHO will hold an Induction Workshop on Reporting and Data requirements for Countries that use or potentially will use DDT for Disease Vector Control in the East Asian and Mediterranean Region. <http://www.pops.int>
- REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION FOCAL POINTS FOR ASIAN AND THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES:** 27-31 March 2006. Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.pops.int>
- FIFTH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE BASEL CONVENTION:** 3-7 April 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. Agenda items for consideration at this meeting include the Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention, the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, and ship dismantling. <http://www.basel.int>
- WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 7-8 April 2006. New Delhi, India. This workshop will explore the linkages between climate change and sustainable development, and its deliberations will be reported to CSD-14. It is organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and The Energy Research Institute (TERI), with the support of the Government of India. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/climate_change/climateChange_inter.htm
- FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BASEL CONVENTION:** 8-9 April 2006. Geneva, Switzerland. The Fourth Session of the Basel Convention's Compliance Committee will be a closed meeting. <http://www.basel.int/>