



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UN STARTS SERIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE MEETINGS IN LEAD-UP TO BALI

A series of UN climate change meetings are scheduled from August through to December as negotiators prepare for the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP-13) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the third Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP-3) in Bali, Indonesia, from 3-14 December 2007 (http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4049.php). These UN events started in late July with an informal thematic debate of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the subject of "Climate change as a global challenge." The discussion, which took place from 31 July-2 August 2007, at UN headquarters in New York, US, focused on both the adaptation and mitigation aspects of climate change, as well as on the UN negotiations designed to reach an agreement for the post-2012 period, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends. The post-2012 period will be a critical issue under consideration in Bali, and a number of speakers added that a high-level event on 24 September 2007 called by the UN Secretary-General should provide political momentum for an agreement at the Bali conference in December 2007 on a "roadmap" for completing post-2012 negotiations by 2009 (http://www.iisd.ca/climate/unga/UNGA_Climate_Change_briefing_note.html).



Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, addressed the UNGA on "Climate change as a global challenge" (IISD RS file photo)

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

INTERNATIONAL WATERS PROGRAMME: DELIVERING RESULTS

(UNDP/GEF, 2007) This publication showcases results achieved by the UNDP-GEF International Waters programme during the past 15 years, including: the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast programme; the creation and/or strengthening of 14 multi-country marine/coastal, river and lake basin commissions; the establishment of the world's first two Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions for the Benguela Current and Guinea Current; and the reduction in the pollution of the Danube/Black Sea basin (http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/publications/IW_deliveringresults.pdf).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Strengthening the Montreal Protocol at the 20th Anniversary MoP in Montreal: Maximizing the Climate Mitigation Potential of Ozone Protection¹

By Donald Kaniaru, Rajendra Shende, Scott Stone and Durwood Zaelke

Strengthening the Montreal Protocol to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs will speed recovery of the ozone layer. It also will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and delay reaching the tipping point for abrupt climate change—a tipping point that may be only 10 years away and that will lead to catastrophic and irreversible impacts that will hit hardest on the world's poor.²

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

TURNING UP THE HEAT ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

(The Forum, Vol. 5, Issue 2, Art. 8, 2007) This article by Peter Haas reviews alternative reform proposals for international environmental governance, and the role of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in a new international environmental architecture. It advocates streamlining UNEP as a scientific hub within a broader international network of linked actors involved in environmental governance (<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol5/iss2/art8/>).

MEASURING POLICY COHERENCE BETWEEN THE MEAs AND THE MDGs

(IISD, 2007) Against the backdrop of about 13 global multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and more than 500 international treaties related to the environment, this report, issued by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), argues that coherence is necessary to avoid inefficiencies, overlap and duplication of goals and programmes. Highlighting that little is being done to find coherence between environmental agreements and development initiatives, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the report offers a methodology for evaluating and measuring policy coherence (http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2007/measuring_policy.pdf).

RAMSAR HANDBOOKS FOR THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS

(Ramsar, 2007) The third edition of the Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands contain guidelines on various matters adopted by the parties to assist those with an interest in implementation of the Convention at all levels. This edition replaces the series published in May 2004 and includes guidance adopted by the seventh (1999), eighth (2002) and ninth (2005) Conferences of the Parties (COP), as well as selected background documents presented at these COPs (http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_handbooks2006_e.htm).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Dais at the Vienna Climate Change Talks 2007 - AWG 4 and the Dialogue 4

Continued from page 1

From 27-31 August 2007, the fourth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 4) and the fourth workshop under the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention (the Convention Dialogue) is taking place in Vienna, Austria. AWG 4 will continue the analysis of mitigation potentials and policies started at AWG 3 in May 2007. The AWG will also review its work programme and develop a timetable to guide the completion of its work so as to avoid a gap between the first and second commitment periods. The fourth and final workshop under the Convention Dialogue will focus on bringing together ideas and proposals put forward during the Dialogue and exploring how they fit together. It will also address overarching and cross-cutting issues, including financing. After the fourth workshop, the co-facilitators will prepare a report on the Convention Dialogue to COP-13 in Bali (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/awg4/>).

On 24 September 2007, an informal high-level UN event is scheduled to take place in New York, US, at UN Headquarters. The event is being convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and is taking place on the margins of the General Assembly. It is expected that many high-level political leaders will attend and that participants will explore "possible ways to move the international community toward negotiations on a new global agreement on climate change" in Bali (<http://www.un.org/climatechange/2007/highlevel/>).

From 12-17 November 2007, in Valencia, Spain, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will hold its 27th session. The meeting is expected to result in the adoption of the synthesis report of the Fourth Assessment Report, which will mark the culmination of six years' work on climate change science and assessment involving 2500 expert reviewers from more than 130 countries. The reports of the IPCC's three working groups were adopted earlier this year (<http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

In addition to these meetings, the UN-FCCC Secretariat is organizing several other climate-related events during the coming months (http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php).

MONTREAL PROTOCOL PREPARES TO MARK 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The 19th meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol will convene from 17-21 September 2007 in Montréal, Canada. MOP-19 is expected to consider a range of issues, including an accelerated phaseout of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), critical use exemptions for the use of methyl bromide, essential use exemption for the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and future challenges to be faced by the Protocol (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/19mop/MOP-19-1-Ad1E.pdf).

MOP-19 will be preceded by the 20th Anniversary Celebration Seminar on the Montreal Protocol, which will be held on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September 2007 (http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/mop/19mop/Provisional_programme-20th-anniv-Seminar.pdf; http://ozone.unep.org/Events/ozon_day_2007/index.shtml). In celebration of the 20th anniversary, many agencies and organizations are reflecting on the significant achievements of the Protocol, and the challenges that remain (<http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction/information/mmcfiles/3139-e-oanspecialissue20th-anniversary.pdf>; <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=38863>).

MULTILATERAL FUND'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

The 52nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol took place from 23-27 July 2007. The Committee considered, *inter alia*, progress reports on funded programmes and projects, the Fund's accounts, and an evaluation study of incentive programmes for retrofits in the refrigeration services sector. The Committee also approved US\$ 33.4 million for investment projects and activities in 32 developing countries and US\$ 2.7 million to support implementing agencies, and took 48 decisions, including on: the status of the Fund's resources and contributions; 2007 business plans; and developing countries' prospects for achieving compliance (http://www.multilateralfund.org/summaries_of_executive_committ.htm; <http://www.multilateralfund.org/news/1186702617430.htm>).

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

MARKET MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HOW DO THEY FIT IN THE VARIOUS POST-2012 SCENARIOS?

(IISD, July 2007) This paper by Aaron Cosbey, Deborah Murphy, and John Drexhage examines ways in which a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)-like scheme might fit into the various proposed post-2012 climate change regime possibilities. It contemplates how proposed changes in the post-2012 CDM may affect the nature of the overall regime and the development impact of this mechanism (http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2007/market_mechanisms.pdf).

WATER, WETLANDS, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ramsar and Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariats, 2007) This poster entitled "Water, Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change: Managing the avoidable and avoiding the unmanageable" is the result of a joint Ramsar/Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) expert workshop that convened in March 2007, in the framework of the fourth CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan. The poster summarizes the importance and role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.climate_change_poster.pdf).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

RAMSAR'S NEW SECRETARY GENERAL TAKES HIS POST, MOU SIGNED WITH UNEP-DELC

At the beginning of August, Anada Tiéga took over as Secretary General of Ramsar (http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.sg_welcome2007.htm). Also in August, the Ramsar Secretariat announced that it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UN Environment Programme's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC) to fund the development



Anada Tiéga, Ramsar's new Secretary General (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

of a Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Action Planning toolkit. The toolkit will be developed by IUCN's Learning and Leadership unit in collaboration with the Commission on Education and Communication and through consultation with a number of Ramsar's CEPA Focal Points. The toolkit should be available online by December (http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm).

During the September-December period, the Ramsar Secretariat will organize two events as part of the Secretariat's series of regional meetings in preparation for the tenth Conference of the Parties in 2008: the Fourth Pan American Regional Meeting (18-21 September 2007, in Merida, Venezuela), and the Pan-African Regional Meeting (tentatively scheduled for 3-7 December 2007, in Yaoundé, Cameroon).

UNDOALOS RELEASES REPORTS, ANNOUNCES RATIFICATIONS

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the report of the seventeenth meeting of States parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which was held at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 14 June and from 18-22 June 2007 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/forthcomingmeetingstatesparties.htm), as well as the advance and unedited text of the report on the work of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea at its eighth meeting, which was convened at the same venue from 25-29 June 2007 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).

UNDOALOS has also announced that Uruguay ratified the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS, and Romania has acceded to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_agreements.htm).

During the coming months, UNDOALOS will, among other activities, finalize the reports of the Secretary-General for the General Assembly and the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Biodiversity, and service the informal consultations of States on the resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea (omnibus resolution), which will be held from 1-5 October and from 26-30 November 2007, and those on the draft resolution on sustainable fisheries from 8-11 October and 13-21 November 2007 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/tentative_schedule.pdf).

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

GEF FUNDS CBD PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS, SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS UNDERWAY

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) announced on 10 July 2007, the approval of a US\$ 9.4 million project on "Supporting Country Action on the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Programme of Work on Protected Areas." This initiative has been designed to help countries – particularly Least Developed Countries and small island developing States – fill short-term needs in their Protected Area activities. It will be implemented by the UN Development Programme in partnership with the CBD Secretariat. A toolkit has been developed for countries seeking to apply for funding under the project (http://www.undp.org/gef/05/spotlight/press_cbd.html; http://www.undp.org/gef/05/documents/publications/InfoKit_for_Countries.pdf).

The initiative "Sustainable Organic Farming and Rabbit-Rearing Project," funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), was launched on 4 July 2007, by the St. Paul's Primary School Parent Teachers Association in Barbados. The project aims to demonstrate how sustainable farming can take place in high-density urban areas with limited land space. It combines rabbit rearing with vegetable production, and is linked to the school curriculum and a micro-business enterprise (<http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom/2007/july/Barbados-farming-20070730.enReports>). The Center for Renewable Energy's campaign "Light for All" in Nepal was also initiated with support of GEF Small Grants Programme. The campaign seeks to displace kerosene lamps by introducing solar tukis, which are low cost white light emitting diode based lamps that are charged by a solar panel, and is reported to have already resulted in the installation of more than 6000 solar tukis



Solar tuki users (Photo courtesy of UNDP - Nepal)

in over 21 Nepalese districts (<http://www.undp.org.np/successstories/successstories.php?StoryID=69&showStory=1>).

During the September-December period, international finance institutions will hold their regular meetings, with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meeting from 20-22 October 2007 (<http://www.imf.org/external/am/2007/index.htm>), and the GEF Council meeting from 12-16 November 2007 (<http://www.thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=268>), in Washington DC, US.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

The Montreal Protocol is widely recognized as the world's most effective international environmental treaty, successfully phasing out about 95% of global production of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances and placing the ozone layer on a path to recovery later this century.

In addition to depleting the ozone layer, CFCs are also potent greenhouse gases, thousands and, in some cases, tens of thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the planet.

As a result, their phase-out under the Montreal Protocol has resulted in extraordinary benefits to the climate, reducing emissions by 135 billion tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent (GtCO₂-eq.) between 1990 and 2010.³ This is delaying radiative forcing by up to 12 years. If efforts during the 1970s to limit CFCs in response to the ozone warning of Drs. Mario Molina and F. Sherwood Rowland are taken into account, the delay in radiative forcing is 35-41 years.

Accelerating the HCFC phase-out in a way that promotes energy efficiency and climate change objectives could reduce emissions by 17.5 to 25.5 GtCO₂-eq. by 2050 and further delay climate change.⁴ This is significant when compared with the reductions expected under the Kyoto Protocol during its first commitment period from 2008 to 2012.⁵

The climate reductions actually realized depend upon the successful management of the transition out of HCFCs and into substitutes that have zero or low Global Warming Potentials (GWPs). This requires policy leadership and active management of the transition, including a focus on improving energy efficiency in air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, as the climate emissions from the energy use can be up to 80-90% of the environmental impact, under a Life Cycle Climate Performance analysis.

To date, there has been strong support for an accelerated HCFC phase-out. Developed countries are signaling a willingness to provide financial assistance to developing countries through the Multilateral Fund and to explore how to leverage additional financial resources to help cover any additional costs of using zero and low GWP substitutes and technologies to replace HCFCs.

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▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD LOOKS TOWARD COP-8, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY APPOINTMENT

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is making final preparations for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8) and two subsidiary bodies, which will convene in Madrid, Spain, from 3-14 September 2007. (<http://www.unccd.int/cop/cop8/menu.php>). In preparation for COP-8, the XII Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Meeting convened in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 31 July-3 August 2007. Participants discussed the Intersessional Intergovernmental Working Group's report, the regional coordinating units, the budget presented by the Secretariat, the relationship between the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism in the region, and the implementation of regional activities. Delegates expressed their support for the Ten-year Strategy report and recommended its approval "*in totum*" during COP-8. Regarding the budget, delegates expressed their support for an increase and expressed concern that the Ten-year Strategy is not contemplated in the budget presented by the Secretariat (IISD RS Sources; <http://www.unccd.int/regional/lac/meetings/meetings.php#regional>).

Regarding the selection of the next UNCCD Executive Secretary, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has reportedly developed a short-list of candidates, based on applications received, and is conducting interviews this week. It is anticipated that he will submit a nomination to the COP Bureau at its 2 September 2007 meeting, immediately prior to the opening of COP-8.

In addition to following-up on the COP-8 decisions during the September-December 2007 period, the Secretariat is also expected to follow the preparatory events for the sixteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (5-16 May 2007, New York, US), which will focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS FROM UNFF-7 RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED

The UN Secretary-General has submitted a report on the programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the UN Forum on Forests' seventh session (UNFF-7). The document, dated 19 July 2007, indicates that the budgetary implications include a call for an additional US\$ 1,450,700, to cover the cost of activities that would follow the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the Multi-Year Programme of Work (2007-2015), both of which were negotiated at and adopted by UNFF-7. Included in this budget are resources for: convening an *ad hoc* expert group to

develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, tentatively scheduled for December 2008; convening expert group meetings on, *inter alia*, forests and climate change, biodiversity conservation and regional inputs; and the creation of five new posts within the UNFF Secretariat (<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2007/L.22>). The UNFF-8 Bureau is scheduled to hold its first meeting from 6-7 September 2007, during which Bureau members will discuss the UNFF-7 outcome and preparations for UNFF-8 (20 April-1 May 2009, New York, US). The UNFF Secretariat has posted a provisional agenda for UNFF-8 (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session-agenda.html>).

ITTO RELEASES TROPICAL FOREST UPDATE, STUDY ON COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The latest edition of Tropical Forest Update, a quarterly newsletter from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), was released in August. It includes articles on tropical wood markets in the US, model forest experiences in Cameroon, forest rehabilitation in Brazil, and the next ITTO Executive Director Emmanuel Ze Meka's vision for the organization (http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/3453/tfu.2007.02.e.pdf).

In other ITTO news, the study entitled "Community-based Forest Enterprises: Status and Potential," discussed at an international conference on this subject in July 2007, has been released. Published by ITTO, the Rights and Resources Initiative and Forest Trends, this study identifies shared trends for the emergence and development of community forest enterprises in a range of different tropical countries. It points to internal constraints and market barriers, as well as regulatory and policy barriers, as major constraints to community forest enterprise emergence and growth (http://rightsandresources.org/blog/CFE_Report_English.pdf).

During the September-December period, Emmanuel Ze Meka will take up the post of ITTO's Executive Director, as Manoel Sobral Filho steps down prior to the 43rd session of the International Tropical Timber Council (5-10 November 2007, Yokohama, Japan). ITTO will also co-organize several workshops during this period, including workshops on non-timber forest products and services (19-21 September 2007, Beijing, China) and teak wood products (25-28 September 2007, Peechi-Kerala, India) (<http://www.iisd.ca/upcoming/linkagesmeetings.asp?id=6>).



The ITTO's next Executive Director, Emmanuel Ze Meka

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

At this year's G8 Summit, the G8 countries committed to accelerating the HCFC phase-out "in a way that supports energy efficiency and climate change objectives," further recognizing that "[i]mproving energy efficiency worldwide is the fastest, the most sustainable and the cheapest way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance energy security..."⁶

Developing countries also are expressing support for the accelerated HCFC phase-out, acknowledging both the environmental and economic benefits of making the transition into zero and low GWP substitutes and more energy efficient equipment, provided that financial assistance is made available through the Multilateral Fund.

This consensus on HCFCs was evident at the mid-year Open-Ended Working Group meeting in Nairobi in June 2007, where the Parties recognized a "clear need to accelerate the timetable for the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances, in particular HCFCs."⁷

Despite this momentum going into the 20th Anniversary Meeting of the Parties in Montreal in mid-September, reaching consensus on an accelerated HCFC phase-out presents challenges to the Parties. Key issues include how aggressive the accelerated phase-out should be, how to promote climate-friendly substitutes and energy efficiency through the proposed "superior/significant environmental benefits" provision or otherwise, and how to develop additional funding sources to cover any extra costs to secure maximum energy efficiency and other climate benefits.

But the history of the Montreal Protocol has been to meet such challenges with confidence, and to continuously strengthen and improve the treaty. Indeed, the first negotiations for the Montreal Protocol occurred in just three one-week sessions over a nine-month period, in a context with great uncertainty about the theory of ozone destruction and empirical confirmation that came too late to influence the negotiations, with no knowledge of substitutes or alternatives, and with no funding mechanism yet developed.⁸

What the Parties did have was leadership and confidence that they needed to take a precautionary approach to address a serious global problem.

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▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION BEGINS WORK ON REGIONAL CENTRES

In follow-up to decision SC-3/12 on the process for selecting Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technology, taken at the third Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP-3), the Stockholm Convention Secretariat is accepting nominations from interested institutions. Nominated institutions will be formally recognized as "nominated Stockholm Convention Regional Centres" until the Conference of the Parties considers their endorsement at its next meeting in 2009. Nominations should be made to the Secretariat by 30 November 2007 (http://www.pops.int/scrc/SCRC_request_letter-En.pdf).

During the September-December 2007 period, the third meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant review committee (PO-PRC) will convene, from 19-23 November 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland. It will consider five chemicals under review for the preparation of risk management evaluations, five chemicals for the preparation of risk profiles, and one newly proposed chemical (<http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc/poprc.htm>).

BASEL CONVENTION DEVELOPING DIRECTORY OF TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

The Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention is developing a directory of training institutions offering courses to assist parties in dealing with cases of illegal traffic under the Convention. These may be university colleges offering training in environmental law and institutions that train customs officers, environmental inspectors or border guards. Institutions interested in being included in the directory are invited to complete a questionnaire (<http://www.basel.int/legalmatters/compcommittee/questionnaire.doc>).

During the September-December period, the sixth session of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group will convene, from 3-7 September 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/oewg/oewg6/index.html>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION SETS DATES FOR REGIONAL MEETINGS AND NAP CONSULTATIONS

For the September-December 2007 period, the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat will organize thematic meetings for Asia

on Trade Related Issues under the Convention, from 22-26 October 2007, in Beijing, China, and for Latin America and the Caribbean on Severely Hazardous Pesticides, from 5-9 November 2007, in Quito, Ecuador. Consultations for the Development of National Action Plans (NAPs) are scheduled for: Mexico, from 2-5 October 2007; for Gambia, Ghana and Liberia, from 17-21 September 2007, in Ghana; for Mali and Senegal, from 5-9 November 2007, in Dakar, Senegal; and for Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon, from 19-23 November 2007, in Gabon (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=52&sid=2>).

ROTTERDAM CONVENTION



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Logo courtesy of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat

FIRST SAICM INTERNATIONAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CONVENES

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) International Project Steering Committee (PSC) met for its first meeting via teleconference on 12 July 2007. The



Logo courtesy of UNEP Chemicals

PSC is developing a proposed reporting mechanism for measuring, assessing and reporting on progress for implementing SAICM. The reporting mechanism will be presented at the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM-2), tentatively scheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11-15 May 2009. The teleconference reviewed draft indicator questions developed by the consultant, Resource Futures International (RFI), for measuring progress on SAICM implementation. RFI presented four draft questionnaires to solicit information from four SAICM stakeholder categories: national governments, international government organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations. RFI will revise the indicators/questionnaires and a second PSC meeting will be held in mid-September 2007 (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/Reporting/JULY12%20Teleconf.draft.JULY20.doc>).

Also in September, the third round of applications to the SAICM Quick Start Programme (QSP) Trust Fund closes on the 14th. The fourth meeting of the SAICM QSP Trust Fund Implementation Committee will convene and consider applications from 30-31 October 2007, in New York, US (<http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/qsptf.htm#Applications%20to%20QSP>).

GUEST ARTICLE (*cont.*)

Against all odds, they succeeded in reaching consensus on what has become the world's most successful environmental treaty.

The challenge today is actually easier than past challenges faced by the Montreal Protocol, while the stakes are even higher—with the tipping point for abrupt climate change as close as ten years away. Agreeing on an adjustment that promotes energy efficiency and climate change benefits will mark the first time that both developing and developed countries accept binding international commitments to mitigate climate change, as well as to protect the ozone layer.

Links to further reading can be found at <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle31.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 Editor, lynn@iisd.org, for further information.

¹ Adapted from Donald Kaniaru, Rajendra Shende, Scott Stone & Durwood Zaelke, Frequently Asked Questions: Strengthening the Montreal Protocol by Accelerating the Phase-Out of HCFCs at the 20th Anniversary Meeting of the Parties in THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS – OZONE LAYER AND CLIMATE PROTECTION, Donald Kaniaru, ed. (forthcoming 2007) at <http://www.igsd.org/about/publications/FAQFinal16July.pdf>.

² Mario Molina, "The ozone treaty can do much more for the planet," FINANCIAL TIMES (24 August 2007) available at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ad5a4ba2-51da-11dc-8779-0000779fd2ac.html>. See also James Hansen *Scientific Reticence and Sea Level Rise*, ENVIRON. RES. LETT. 2 (2007) at http://www.iop.org/EJ/article/1748-9326/2/2/024002/erl7_2_024002.html.

³ Guus J. M. Velders, et al., *The Importance of the Montreal Protocol in Protecting Climate*, 104 PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES 4814 (2007) at <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/104/12/4814>.

⁴ Donald Kaniaru, Rajendra Shende, Scott Stone, & Durwood Zaelke, *Strengthening the Montreal Protocol: Insurance Against Abrupt Climate Change*, 7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW & POLICY 3 (2007) at <http://www.igsd.org/about/publications/Strengthening-the-Montreal-Protocol-Mar2007.pdf>.

⁵ The required emissions reduction under the Kyoto Protocol is 5.8 percent of its baseline of 18.4 GtCO₂-eq. or 0.97 GtCO₂ eq yr⁻¹ by 2008–2012. UNFCC, *Key GHG Data: Highlights from Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data for 1990–2003* (Nov. 2005).

Continued on page 7

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ECOSOC SUSPENDS JULY SESSION

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) met in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2-27 July 2007, for its annual substantive session and suspended the session on the final day. This year marked the launch of two new elements: the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum. Over the course of the July meeting, ECOSOC adopted texts on, *inter alia*, the UN's role in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all, the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, and ECOSOC's role in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

On 19 July, delegates debated the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development. During discussions, developing countries noted great challenges for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and highlighted the need for full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Many countries also emphasized that efforts to promote dialogue among the Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN should continue. On 23 July, delegates considered a text concerning sustainable development. It adopted decisions on the dates of the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during its 2008/2009 cycle, took note of the CSD's report on its fifteenth session and approved the provisional agenda for CSD-16. ECOSOC also decided, *inter alia*, that there should be an intervening period of at least two weeks between the closing of the sessions of relevant intergovernmental bodies and the beginning of the CSD session. Delegates postponed consideration of the UNFF7 report

to its next substantive session (<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/news.shtml>).

UNEP PLANS FOR GEO, FINANCE INITIATIVE ROUNDTABLE, UNGA TO OPEN 62ND SESSION

Among anticipated UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-related events during the September-December 2007 period are the Second Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Fourth Global Environment Outlook report (GEO-4), which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24-26 September 2007 (<http://www.unep.org/geo/>), and the Fifth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, hosted by the Norwegian Government in cooperation with UNEP which will take place in Trondheim, Norway, from 29 October-2 November 2007. This conference aims to provide input to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) preparations for the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP-9), to be held in Germany in 2008 (<http://www.trondheimconference.org/>). In addition, the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) 2007 Global Roundtable: Awareness to Action – Sustainable Finance for Today's Global Markets, will convene in Melbourne, Australia, from 24-25 October 2007. The Roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss the latest sustainability issues with a focus on emerging markets (<http://www.unepfi.org/events/2007/roundtable/programme/index.html>).

The general debate of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) will take place from 25 September-3 October 2007, at UN headquarters, New York, US, giving heads of State and other high-level political leaders of all UN Member States the opportunity to address the General Assembly.

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



CMS Gorilla Initiative (Photo courtesy of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences)

CMS WELCOMES NEW PARTIES, PREPARES TO HOLD MEETINGS ON VARIOUS SPECIES

With the recent accession of Costa Rica and Antigua and Barbuda to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Convention's membership has reached 104 parties.

Anticipated CMS-related activities during the September-December period include the third meeting of the parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) (22-25 October, Dubrovnik, Croatia) and the 32nd

meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (8-9 November, Bonn, Germany), as well as: the CMS Scientific Symposium and meeting to develop an agreement for the conservation and management of small cetaceans in Tropical West Africa (16-20 October, Santiago del Tenerife, Canary Islands); the first Negotiation Meeting on a CMS N'GAGI Gorilla Agreement (22-24 October, Paris, France); the CMS meeting to identify and elaborate on options for international cooperation on African-Eurasian migratory raptors (22-25 October, Scotland, UK); the first meeting of the Signatories to the Dugong Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (28-31 October, Abu Dhabi, UAE); the second meeting of the Signatories to the Great Bustard MOU (15-17 November, Ukraine); and the CMS meeting to identify and elaborate an option for international cooperation on migratory sharks (11-13 December, Mahé, Seychelles) (<http://www.cms.int/news/events.htm>).

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

This translates to an aggregate emissions reduction of 5 GtCO₂-eq. The actual emissions reduction under Kyoto Protocol is expected to be about 10 GtCO₂-eq., in aggregate, if avoided emissions based on a business-as-usual trajectory of 6% growth over that time-frame are considered.

⁶ G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, *Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy, Summit Declaration* (7 June 2007), at paragraphs 59 & 46 at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/g8/2007/g8agenda.pdf>.

⁷ UNEP, Report of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, UNEP/OZL.Pro.WG.1/27/9 (18 June 2007), at 25 at http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/27oewg/OEWG-27-9E.pdf.

⁸ See Sherwood Rowland and Mario Molina, *The CFC-Ozone Puzzle: Environmental Science in the Global Arena*, The John H. Chafee Memorial Lecture on Science and the Environment, Presented at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC (7 Dec. 2000); Mostafa Tolba with Iwona Rummel-Bulska, *The Story of the Ozone Layer*, GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY: NEGOTIATING ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE WORLD, 1973-1992, at 55-88 (MIT Press 1998); Richard Benedick, *The Improbable Montreal Protocol: Science, Diplomacy, and Defending the Ozone Lawyer Policy*, Case Study Prepared for the 2004 Policy Colloquium of the American Meteorological Society (2004).

▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD PREPARES FOR BUSY SEASON

In preparation for the fourth meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which will take place in 2008, the September-December 2007 CBD calendar will be full. It includes the fifth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held from 8-12 October, the fifth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, to be held from 15-19 October, and the fourth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group of Legal and

Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the context of the Biosafety Protocol, to be held from 22-26 October, all in Montreal, Canada. Other meetings include: the meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation (10-12 September, Geneva, Switzerland); the expert workshop on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection (2-4 October, Azores, Portugal); and the fourth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Biosafety Protocol (21-23 November, Montreal, Canada) (<http://www.cbd.int/meetings/default.shtml>).

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD ANNOUNCES DATES FOR EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has announced the dates for three expert group meetings in New York, US: carbon capture and storage (10-11 September 2007); the use of non-renewable resource revenues for sustainable local development (21 September 2007); and innovative finance for sustainable development (18-19 October 2007) (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/calendar.htm>). Also during the coming months, major groups have been

invited to submit, by 21 September 2007, input to the UN Secretary-General's reports for CSD-16 (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/mg/input_sg_reports). These reports are expected to be released in December 2007. In addition, five Regional Implementation Meetings will be organized by the UN Regional Commissions in coordination with DSD, to prepare for CSD-16 (5-16 May 2008, New York, US). The UN Economic Commission for Africa will host the first meeting from 22-25 October 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the UN Economic Commission for Europe will host the final meeting from 28-29 January 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/rim.htm>).

▶ COMINGS AND GOINGS

- The **UN Environment Programme is recruiting a Deputy Executive Director** at the level of Assistant Secretary-General of the UN. The application deadline is 23 September 2007 (http://www.unep.org/vacancies/ded.asp?vac_level=DED).
- Maged Younes, **Head of the UNEP/DTIE Chemicals Branch**, is departing UNEP as of 31 August 2007, and taking a new position with the World Health Organization.
- Three retirements will bring changes to the **UN Division for Sustainable Development**. Director JoAnne DiSano will leave in September 2007. Energy and Transport Branch Chief Kui-Nang Mak and Water, Natural Resources and SIDS Branch Chief Manuel Dengo are also retiring (IISD RS Sources).



Maged Younes



Antonio Carlos do Prado

A number of changes also have been reported in the **UNFF Secretariat**. Antonio Carlos do Prado has resumed his duties at the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and Marie Luderer has joined the UN Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. Peter Csoka has rejoined the UNFF Secretariat, after a two-year absence during which he served as the Head of the Department of Natural Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary. Daphnis Novoa has moved from the UN Department of Management's Capital Master Plan office to support the UNFF Secretariat's communication and outreach activities (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-aprj107.html>).

▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **UNCCD REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION AND NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER COUNTRIES:** 31 August-1 September 2007. Madrid, Spain. <http://www.unccd.int/>
- **FIRST INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE:** 3-7 September 2007. Interlaken, Switzerland. <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/angr/>
- **SIXTH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE BASEL CONVENTION:** 3-7 September 2007. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.basel.int/meetings/frsetmain.php>
- **EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD):** 3-14 September 2007. Madrid, Spain. <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop8/>
- **EXPERT GROUP MEETING: CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** 10-11 September 2007. New York, US. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/op/ccs_egm/ccs_egm.htm
- **NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL:** 17-21 September 2007. Montréal, Canada. http://ozone.unep.org/events/19mop_advance_info.shtml