



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNCCD COP 8 ADOPTS TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, DELAYS BUDGET DECISION



UNCCD Executive Secretary-designate Luc Gnacadja (Benin) is scheduled to assume his duties on 1 October 2007

The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) convened in Madrid, Spain, from 3-14 September 2007. In addition to the work of the COP, UNCCD parties also attended the sixth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 6) and the eighth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 8). The COP approved twenty-nine decisions before the final gavel at 7:43 am on Saturday, 15 September. The decision on the ten-year strategic plan attracted the most attention from COP 8 delegates, because they saw it as an opportunity to refocus the Convention with the goal of furthering implementation. The CRIC decision to ask the Secretariat, in consultation with the Global Mechanism, to revise the format of national

reports and the CST decision to convene future sessions in a conference-style format contributed additional efforts to reform the UNCCD's implementation mechanisms in the coming decade. The decision on programme and budget, however, was not adopted. Japan ultimately indicated that it could not accept the 5% increase in the euro value of the Secretariat's core budget that was incorporated into the draft decision, and called for an Extraordinary COP to take place in New York, US, during the UN General Assembly to finalize this element of the decision. As a result, delegates left the conference center early Saturday morning feeling disappointed that they were not able to deliver all of the elements within the COP's purview that were necessary to enable the Convention to progress (<http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop8/>).

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNFF Increasing Focus on Climate Change; ITTO Workshop Addresses Forest Law *Page 2*
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CBD Expert Group Focuses on Technology Transfer; CITES Selects Committee Members; Interlaken Conference Adopts Global Plan of Action and Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources *Page 2*
- **Sustainable Development**
UNSD Organizes Meeting on Carbon Capture and Storage *Page 3*
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
UN Prepares for High-Level Dialogue on FfD; GEF Seeks Projects on Clean Lighting Technology for Africa *Page 3*
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
Ship Discharge Requirements to Enter into Force; CLCS holds 20th Session; UNEP/GPA Coordination Of ce to Provide Services to Partnership *Pages 3-4*
- **Climate and Atmosphere**
UNFCCC Talks Take "Successful Step" Towards Bali; Montreal Protocol Celebrates 20th Anniversary *Pages 4-5*
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Stockholm Committee to Consider Endosulfan; Basel Sets Road Map for Public-Private Partnership *Page 5*
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UN Environmental Reform Meeting Reviews IEG Options Paper; Green Customs Initiative Training in Asia/Pacific; DPI/NGO Conference Focuses on Climate Change *Page 6*

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

AGRICULTURE, WATER AND ECOSYSTEMS

(Swedish Water House Policy Brief, SIWI, 2007) In this Policy Brief, the Swedish Water House, the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the International Water Management Institute suggest concrete management plans to stretch water resources in order to nourish both the world's ecosystems and food supplies. By 2050, it suggests that double the current amount of food will be needed to feed the global population ([http://www.worldwaterweek.org/Downloads/Policy Brief - Agriculture Water and Ecosystems.pdf](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/Downloads/Policy%20Brief%20-%20Agriculture%20and%20Ecosystems.pdf)).

Continued on page 2

GUEST ARTICLE

Poverty and Ecosystems: Prototype assessment and reporting method - Kenya case study

By Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, Chief, Ecosystem Services Economics Unit, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), UNEP, Former Director, Economic Policy, IISD, and Marlene Roy, Working Group on Poverty and Environment, IISD

Abstract

While the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have set a direction for human development efforts with concrete targets

Continued on page 3

The *MEA Bulletin* © is a publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) <info@iisd.ca>, publishers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org>. This issue was researched and written by Soledad Aguilar, Melanie Ashton, Alice Bisiaux, Reem Hajjar, Amber Moreen, Renata Rubian, Chris Spence, Elsa Tsionmani, Cecilia Vaverka and Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Diego Noguera. The Editor is Lynn Wagner, Ph.D. <lynn@iisd.org>. The Deputy Director of IISD Reporting Services is Chris Spence and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The *MEA Bulletin* is published by IISD in cooperation with UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DEL/C). Opinions expressed in *MEA Bulletin* are those of the authors and not the publishers. Excerpts from the *MEA Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on IISDRS publications, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 212 East 47th St. #21F, New York, NY 10017, USA.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES *(cont.)***LOCAL GOVERNMENT TIMBER PROCUREMENT POLICIES**

(Chatham House, August 2007) This paper by Duncan Brack lists case studies from regions in England of local authorities' timber procurement policies, together with recommendations for promoting the use of local government timber procurement policy to source legal and sustainable timber (http://www.illegal-logging.info/uploads/Local_government_timber_procurement.pdf).

THE UN CHRONICLE SPECIAL ISSUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE: GREEN OUR WORLD!

(UN DPI, No. 2, June 2007) This journal, produced by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), includes articles by, among others, Ban Ki-moon, Achim Steiner, Kemal Dervis and Helen Clark, and offers a comprehensive overview of where the international community stands with regard to climate change (<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207cont.htm>).

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2007) Officially presented at the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (3-7 September 2007, Interlaken, Switzerland), this report is the result of a process initiated in 2001, on the basis of 169 Country Reports. It is organized into sections related to: the state of agricultural biodiversity in the livestock sector; livestock sector trends; the state of capacities in animal genetic resources management; state of the art in the management of animal genetic resources; and needs and challenges in animal genetic resources management (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1250e/a1250e00.htm>).

ON THE VERGE OF A NEW WATER SCARCITY: A CALL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN INGENUITY

(Swedish Water House Policy Brief, SIWI, 2007) This Policy Brief updates the global water scarcity debate, and says a clear distinction must be made between "apparent" scarcity, where there is plenty of water, albeit inefficiently and wastefully used, and "real" scarcity due to lack of rain. The authors indicate that these distinctions are important because they imply different responses by government. They also offer a set of distinctions and conclude with structured policy suggestions (http://www.worldwaterweek.org/Downloads/SIWI_PB_Water_Scarcity.pdf).

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO WORKSHOP ADDRESSES FOREST LAW COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNANCE

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines (DENR), organized a workshop on improving forest law compliance and governance. The workshop, which convened from 11-13 September 2007, in Manila, the Philippines, brought together stakeholders from across the region, including forestry authorities, civil society and the private sector, to promote dialogue among them and identify their different perspectives on obstacles to progress in building institutional capacity and rationalizing forest policy and the

legal framework. More information on the outcomes of the workshop will be posted to ITTO's website (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageId=223&id=3488>).

UNFF SECRETARIAT SIGNALS INCREASING FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Pekka Patosaari, Director of the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), has indicated that the Secretariat will increasingly focus its attention on the issue of climate change. Patosaari announced that discussions between the UNFF and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change were underway, and highlighted the important role that well-managed forests can play in combating climate change (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-aprjul07.html>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CBD EXPERT GROUP FOCUSES ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in cooperation with the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the UN Environment Programme, the CBD *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation met from 10-12 September 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland. Participating experts focused on: collection, analysis and identification of ongoing tools, mechanisms, systems and initiatives to promote the implementation of Articles 16-19 of the Convention (access to and transfer of technology, exchange of information, technical and scientific cooperation, and handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits); development of strategies for practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation; and development of an indicator for technology transfer as part of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=EGTTSTC-02>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2007/sp-2007-09-10-ahtegtt-en.pdf>).

CITES SELECTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS, PUBLISHES APPENDICES

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has published lists of members of the Animals and Plants Committees, and the Standing Committee, as well as the new Convention appendices as

adopted at the fourteenth Conference of the Parties (<http://www.cites.org/eng/com/AC/member.shtml>; <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/PC/member.shtml>; <http://www.cites.org/eng/com/SC/member.shtml>; <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/E-Sep13.pdf>).

INTERLAKEN CONFERENCE ADOPTS GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION AND DECLARATION ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

The first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture convened from 3-7 September 2007, in Interlaken, Switzerland. This was the first intergovernmental conference to focus exclusively on animal genetic resources (AnGR). During the meeting, delegates convened in a scientific forum to hear presentations and discuss scientific aspects of AnGR, and negotiated the draft Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and on the Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources. After lengthy negotiations, the Global Plan was adopted, including a section on implementation and financing that had been the subject of considerable discussion. Delegates also adopted the Interlaken Declaration, which stresses the importance of AnGR and confirms the adoption of the Global Plan. The successful completion of the Global Plan and Interlaken Declaration provides a framework for future action and represents the beginning of a process for countries and the FAO to sustainably manage the world's AnGR for food and agriculture (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/angr/>).



The dais during the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

and timelines and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has demonstrated levels of ecosystem degradation worldwide and how these are linked to human well-being, neither initiative provides the detailed road-map needed by governments. IISD developed an integrated poverty-ecosystems framework with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP framework) that can be used at multiple levels, but the framework required testing. To answer whether it offers the guidance that governments need to help them improve the lives of their citizens, we applied the framework to Kenya. The result is a prototype report that assesses sustainable development in Kenya, thus helping us answer our initial question and find ways to improve both the method and the report.

Sen's capabilities approach (Sen 1999) with the addition of ecological surety was used to assess human well-being in Kenya and link human development to ecosystems. To clarify poverty-ecosystem links, we identified predominant ecosystem-people interactions and related them to instrumental freedoms by pointing out some policy response options in Kenya's 'Poverty Reduction Strategy' that address these interactions and support development at the same time.

By using instrumental freedoms to assess the well-being of people in Kenya, we took the approach that poverty is best alleviated through the enlargement of human capabilities rather than economic growth. As a result only support-led development processes and responses were analyzed.

The most effective PRSP responses for controlling land-use and land-cover change, habitat and resource consumption, demographic and economic drivers included the implementation of domestic environmental legislation including the Forestry Act, the National Environment Action Plan and others; stimulating economic facilities by subsidizing the agriculture sector and more specifically pastoralists in ASALs; empowering communities through the provision of health care, education, water, roads, energy and housing; and empowering women by mainstreaming gender.

Continued on page 4

► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UNSD ORGANIZES MEETING ON CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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), convened an expert meeting on carbon capture and storage (CCS) from 10-11 September 2007, in New York, US. Presentations addressed, *inter alia*: required steps to allow the potential of coal-based technology with carbon capture to become a commercial reality at the scale needed; areas of legal concern with regard to CCS technologies and mechanisms and regulatory options that could eventually resolve these issues; CCS activities in Nor-

way, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Brazil, China, Germany, Japan and India; the public perspective and environmental issues; and a framework for monitoring and assuring long-term CCS performance (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/energy/op/ccs_egm/ccs_egm_presentations.htm).

The Chair of CSD 16, Francis Nhema (Zimbabwe), has released a message highlighting the relevance of the session's thematic areas of agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification to the thematic area of Africa (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd16/csd16_chairmessage.pdf).



CSD 16 Chair
Francis Nhema
(Zimbabwe)

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

UN PREPARES FOR HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

The UN has presented a note on the organization of work for the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (23-24 October 2007, New York, US). It will consist of plenary and informal meetings on the status of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and tasks ahead. Six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables will also be held (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/IntergovernmentalFollowUp/GeneralAssembly/HighLevelDialogue/HLD%202007/SG%20NOTE%20AUV.pdf>). Civil Society organizations can register to attend the High-level Dialogue and informal interactive hearings taking place on 22 October 2007 (<http://www.un-ngls.org/ffd/sign.php>).

On 10 August 2007, a report by the UN Secretary-General on the implementation status of the agreements reached at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development was released. The report notes positive developments relating to developing countries' progress in macroeconomic and fiscal management, while expressing con-

cerns over lack of progress in reducing poverty levels and improving wealth distribution, as well as a significant increase in the total debt of developing countries. In addition, the report notes that current and projected levels of ODA for the period 2006-2010 still fall short of targets to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>).

GEF SEEKS PROJECTS ON CLEAN LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY FOR AFRICA

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank have launched a "Lighting Africa Development Marketplace Grant Competition" to provide grants for projects addressing the off-grid lighting needs of Sub-Saharan Africa, including alternative distribution models, new clean lighting technology, stronger production chains and improvement of the policy environment. A total of US\$ 2.5 million in awards will be allocated to 10-20 winning projects, for a maximum duration of 18 months. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2007 (<http://lightingafrica.org/index.cfm?Page=DM&dp=main>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

STRINGENT REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON DISCHARGE FROM SHIPS TO ENTER INTO FORCE

Three annexes to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention, relating to pollution by oil, noxious liquid substances and garbage from ships, define certain sea areas as "Special Areas" in which, for technical reasons, a higher level of protection from operational discharges are mandated. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has reported that, following the provision of adequate reception and treatment facilities in the two "Gulf area" Special Areas, the stringent requirements for the discharge of certain

ship-generated wastes will take effect within a year. Similarly, the IMO has announced that the new discharge requirements will take effect in August 2008 in Southern South African waters following the installation of adequate reception facilities in this Special Area (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1472&doc_id=8466).

CLCS HOLDS 20TH SESSION, UNDOALOS RELEASES REPORTS

The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) held its twentieth session from 27-31 August 2007, at UN headquarters in New York, US. The CLCS seeks to facilitate the implementation of the UN

Continued on page 4

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

Other responses rated as effective, though not used as frequently, included domestic legislation outside the environmental sector such as enacting the Micro Finance Institutions Act; anti-corruption measures; and financial/monetary measures that include delivering micro-credit and supporting new SMEs, undertaking community-based ecotourism and wildlife conservation. Command-and-control interventions were not used in the PRSP. Given the level of poverty in Kenya, it is doubtful that this policy response, which uses monetary penalties, would work.

PRSP responses to drivers also address instrumental freedoms. The implementation of domestic environmental regulation is, for example, linked to ecological surety and social opportunities. Such synergies provide guidance to policy-makers on how to develop in more sustainable ways.

For full references and to link to the full report: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guest-article32.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.

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

Continued from page 3

Convention on the Law of the Sea in respect to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. The 20th session elected Alexandre Tagore Medeiros de Albuquerque as Chair of the Commission, and Lawrence Folajimi Awosika, Harald Brekke, Yuri Borisovitch Kazmin, and Yong-Ahn Park as Vice-Chairs. A Statement of the Chairman is expected to be released, based on the August discussions.

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the advance and unedited Report of the Secretary-General on Sustainable Fisheries (A/62/50). This report contains information on steps and initiatives taken or recommended by the international community to improve the conservation and management of fishery resources and other marine living resources and emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of international fisheries conservation instruments as well as cooperation among States.

In addition, the report on the eighth meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which was held at UN headquarters in New York, US, from 25-29 June 2007, has been issued (A/62/169) (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm).

UNDOALOS has also released the advance and unedited Addendum to the Report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of

the Sea (A/62/66/Add.1). This addendum provides an updated overview of developments relating to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 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 2007 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/general_assembly/documents/oceans_los_addendum1_advance_unedited.pdf).

UNEP/GPA COORDINATION OFFICE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO PARTNERSHIP

The UNEP/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based pollution (GPA) Coordination Office has reported it will provide "secretariat services" to a partnership whose overall goal is to promote the reduction of the impacts of nutrient over-enrichment, in particular from excessive releases of reactive nitrogen, in coastal and marine ecosystems and their associated watersheds. The partnership was formed by participants to an informal brainstorming meeting on nitrogen in the environment (21-22 June 2007, The Hague, the Netherlands). Preliminary tasks of the Coordination Office will include: establishing an information sharing system between partnership participants; maintaining the partnership activity matrix; and organizing and convening partnership meetings (http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents/nitrogen_meeting_june_2007_english.pdf).

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

UNFCCC VIENNA CLIMATE TALKS TAKE "SUCCESSFUL STEP" TOWARDS BALI

The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 4) and fourth workshop under the "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action" under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened in Vienna, Austria, from 27-31 August 2007. Participants reported that they provided a successful step towards constructive negotiations at COP 13 (3-14 December 2007, Bali, Indonesia), on a long-term international framework for climate change.

The fourth Convention Dialogue workshop focused on bringing together ideas from the

previous workshops and addressing overarching and cross-cutting issues, including financing. Delegates elaborated on building blocks for long-term cooperative action on climate change and next steps to take the process forward. The co-facilitators will give their report on the entire workshop series to COP 13.

The fourth session of the AWG focused on the analysis of mitigation potentials and the identification of possible ranges of emission reductions for Annex I parties. After lengthy informal consultations, the AWG adopted conclusions referring to some of the key findings by Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including that global greenhouse gas emis-

sions need to peak in the next ten to fifteen years and be reduced well below half of 2000 levels by the middle of the 21st century in order to stabilize their concentrations in the atmosphere at the lowest levels assessed by the IPCC to date in its scenarios. The AWG's conclusions also recognize that, to achieve the lowest stabilization level, Annex I parties as a group would be required to reduce emissions by a range of 25-40% below 1990 levels by 2020. (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/awg4/>).

In other UNFCCC news, the Secretariat has posted advance versions of the draft agenda and organization of work for the Bali conference (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cop13/eng/01.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cmp3/eng/01.pdf>). The Secretariat has also posted other documents relevant to the Bali conference, including submissions from parties on a second review of the Kyoto Protocol under Article 9 and documents on deforestation and economic diversification (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cmp3/eng/misc01.pdf>, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/sbsta/eng/misc14.pdf>; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/sbsta/eng/misc15.pdf>).



The dais during the fourth workshop under the "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention (Convention Dialogue)"

Continued on page 5

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Dais during the UNFCCC Workshop on Adaptation Planning and Practices under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change (NWP)

Continued from page 4

The UNFCCC also held a workshop on adaptation planning and practices under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change (NWP). The workshop, which took place at UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 10-12 September 2007, focused on adaptation planning and practices, one of the nine areas of work under the NWP. The workshop aimed to identify action pledges from organizations to fill capacity gaps and address challenges and develop recommendations in adaptation planning and practice. The report of the workshop will be forwarded to the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to consider at its 28th session in June 2008 (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cawro/>).

The UNFCCC Secretariat has also reported that, during the 34th meeting of the Clean Development Mechanism's (CDM) Executive Board, which was held in Bonn, Germany, from 12-14 September 2007, the Board approved a methodology that opens the way for projects that improve the "efficiency of fossil fuels." According to the Secretariat, the Board was able to find a way to prevent such projects from inadvertently prolonging the use of fossil fuels or of competing against renewable sources of energy (http://unfccc.int/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20070914_cdm_press_release_fuel_efficiency_projects.pdf; <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/034/index.html>).

On 5 September 2007, the UNFCCC and the UN Environment Programme launched a web

portal to facilitate the exchange of information among buyers, sellers and service providers involved with the Kyoto Protocol's CDM (http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/20070904_cdm_bazaar_joint_release.pdf).

MONTREAL PROTOCOL CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY, BEGINS MOP

The twentieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was commemorated on Sunday, 16 September 2007, with a seminar entitled "Celebrating 20 Years of Progress." The day's celebrations included a range of panel discussions on the history, development and implementation of the Montreal Protocol, ozone science, links with other environmental issues, and future challenges (<http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop19/anniversary.htm>; http://ozone.unep.org/Events/ozone_day_2007/

<http://www.multilateralfund.org/news/1189884371958.htm>).

The Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP 19) is also taking place this week in Montreal, Canada. Delegates will consider issues including an accelerated phase-out of hydrochloro fluorocarbons (HCFCs), critical and essential-use exemptions from the phase-outs of chloro fluorocarbons (CFCs) and methyl bromide, transboundary movements of ozone-depleting substances; and key challenges to be faced by parties in the future protection of the ozone layer (<http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/mop19/>). On 15 September 2007, informal consultations on the proposals to phase out HCFCs were held in Montreal, Canada.

IPCC POSTS 2008 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

The IPCC has posted its draft programme and budget for 2008, as well as the draft report from its 26th session held earlier this year. The IPCC's 27th session, which is expected to formally adopt the Fourth Assessment Report, will take place in November in Valencia, Spain (http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/session27/Doc_4_-_Budget_document.pdf; http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/session27/Doc_2_-_DRAFTREPT26.pdf).



The dais during the Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 19)

CHEMICALS AND WASTES

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION REVIEW COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ENDOSULFAN

The third meeting of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) will convene from 19-23 November 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland. The POPRC will consider draft risk profiles and risk management evaluations for ten chemicals under its consideration. The POPRC will also review a proposal by the EU to consider Endosulfan. Endosulfan is a synthetic organochlorine compound, widely used as an agricultural insecticide and the EU proposal, in accordance with Annex D of the Convention, includes information on its: persistence; bioaccumulation; potential for long-range environmental transport; and adverse effects (<http://www.pops.int/docu->

[ments/meetings/poprc/docs/chem_review.htm](http://www.pops.int/docu-ments/meetings/poprc/docs/chem_review.htm)).

BASEL CONVENTION SETS ROAD MAP FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The sixth session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal convened from 3-7 September 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland. Delegates considered: the need to review Basel Convention regional and coordinating centers; information received on gaps between the Basel Convention and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL); technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of used

tires; harmonization and coordination; and environmentally sound recycling of ships. The OEWG decided to further consider the roles and responsibilities in the new International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, which is being negotiated under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization. Delegates made significant progress on the development of a strategic partnership on increasing the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment. A roadmap was agreed for Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), which will be launched at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (June 2008, Bali, Indonesia) (<http://www.basel.int/press/pr110907e.doc>).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN ENVIRONMENTAL REFORM MEETING REVIEWS IEG OPTIONS PAPER

UN member States gathered at a UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting on 10 September 2007, at UN headquarters in New York, US, to respond to the June 2007 Options Paper that was presented by the Co-Chairs of the UNGA consultations on the UN's environmental activities, Claude Heller (Mexico) and Peter Maurer (Switzerland). The Options Paper is based on States' contributions during the consultation process and identifies seven building blocks where progress can be made to strengthen international environmental governance (IEG), in addition to dealing separately with a broader transformation of the IEG system. Speakers identified a range of positions, from indicating there was no need for a significant transformation of the IEG system, to favoring an approach that would deal with the seven building blocks and the issue of broader transformation simultaneously, to preferring to pursue the practical steps in the building blocks, to supporting an ambitious agenda, including upgrading the UN Environment Programme into a UN Environment Organization (UNEO) (<http://www.centerforunreform.org/node/274>; IISD RS Sources).



Claude Heller (Mexico) (Photo courtesy of the UN)

NO AGREEMENT REACHED ON UN REFORM FOLLOW-UP

In a letter dated 14 September 2007, UNGA President Sheikh Haya draws atten-

tion to the fact that no agreement has been reached on the follow-up of the report entitled *Recommendations contained in the Report of the High-level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment: Report of the Secretary-General*, and stresses that she will propose an oral decision for UNGA adoption to ensure that the consultations among member States continue in UNGA's 62nd session (<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/letters/PGA-Letter-14Sept07-SWC.pdf>).

GREEN CUSTOMS INITIATIVE FOCUS OF TRAINING IN ASIA/PACIFIC REGION

A UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-supported Green Customs Workshop gathered customs officers from Thailand, Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5-7 September 2007. The workshop sought to increase participants' capacity to tackle illegal trade in environmentally hazardous goods and endangered plants and animals by focusing on, *inter alia*, the multilateral environmental agreements under which a number of chemicals, including persistent organic pollutants and chemicals that deplete the ozone layer, are controlled, banned or subject to phase-outs. The workshop was part of the Green Customs Initiative, which, as outlined in the Bali Strategic Plan, offers a coordinated approach for providing capacity building to help enforcement of customs monitor trade in environmental goods (<http://www.roap.unep.org/press/NR07-13.html>).

In other UNEP-related news, it has been announced that the ninth Global Civil Soci-

ety Forum (GCSF) will take place in Monaco on 19 February 2008, prior to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), to be held on 20-22 February 2008. Six regional consultation meetings preparing for GCSF-9 will convene from October-November to discuss policy issues related to: globalization and the environment; mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge; UNEP's Medium Term Strategy; enhancing Major Groups' participation at UNEP's governance level; and Global Environment Outlook 4th Assessment issues (http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF/index.asp).

DPI/NGO CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON CLIMATE CHANGE, PREPARATIONS FOR GCSF

The Sixtieth Annual DPI/NGO Conference, organized by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) in cooperation with associated non-governmental organizations (NGOs), was entitled *Climate Change: How it Affects us All*. The event brought together 2,500 civil society representatives from 90 countries at UN headquarters in New York, US, from 5-7 September 2007, to review the latest scientific evidence on climate change, including its impact on vulnerable populations, water security, land use, and the politics of energy. In a Conference Declaration, participants committed themselves to a Framework for Action over the next year that would propose NGO solutions on, *inter alia*, developing and implementing plans for adaptation and mitigation (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ngo624.doc.htm>; <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/pdfs/60thDPIINGODeclaration.pdf>).

▶ COMINGS AND GOINGS

- On 3 September 2007, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) endorsed the proposal by the UN Secretary-General to appoint Luc Gnacadja (Benin) as the new **UNCCD Executive Secretary** (<http://www.unccd.int/documents/sg.pdf>).
- Veerle Vandeweerd (Belgium) has been appointed to be **UNDP's Practice Director for Environment and Energy** in New York, US. She previously served at UNEP as coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
- Tony Hill, the **UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service's (UN-NGLS) Coordinator**, will depart this position on 30 September 2007. Elisa Peters, the current Deputy Coordinator and Chief of the New York UN-NGLS office, will take on this role (IISD RS Sources).



Veerle Vandeweerd

▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE REVENUES FOR SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:** 21 September 2007. New York, US. http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/institutional_arrangements/egm2007/index.htm
- UN HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE:** 24 September 2007. New York, US. <http://www.un.org/climatechange/2007highlevel/index.shtml>
- GLOBAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE FOURTH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK REPORT (GEO-4):** 24-26 September 2007. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.unep.org/GEO/>