



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

#### UNFCCC PREPARING FOR BUSY YEAR



Copenhagen countdown clock (image courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat)

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat is preparing for a busy year, which will lead to the December 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. The UNFCCC Secretariat has recently posted on its homepage (<http://unfccc.int/2860.php>) a “Countdown to Copenhagen” clock marking the days, hours, minutes and seconds to the December event. It has also updated its 2009 calendar with the correct dates for the fifth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and the seventh session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) in Bonn, Germany, from 30 March-8 April 2009, and the revised dates for the Copenhagen Conference (7-18 December 2009) ([http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc\\_calendar/items/2655.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php)). In addition, the Secretariat has posted information regarding three new vacancies within the Secretariat, for an Associate Programme Officer, a Programme Officer and a short-term consultancy (<http://unfccc.int/secretariat/employment/recruitment>). A UNFCCC press release following the December 2008 Climate Change Conference in Poznań indicates that a first draft negotiating text will be available at the June 2009 UNFCCC meeting in Bonn ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/081213\\_pressrel\\_cop14.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/081213_pressrel_cop14.pdf)).

#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change

*By the Environment and Energy Group, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

##### Introduction

Nearly all sectors of society contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and are affected by climate change.

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#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT LAWS

(FAO Legal Paper, December 2008) Authored by Elisa Morgera and James Wingard, this paper illustrates the relevant international framework and identifies design principles regarding the development of effective national legislation on wildlife management (<http://www.fao.org/legal/prs-ol/lpo75.pdf>).

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**GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)**

The magnitude and the impact of the problem will require a co-ordinated, effective response—both nationally and internationally—to both move societies towards low carbon-economies and make inroads towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The challenge of combating climate change means that every policy and investment decision will need to be assessed in light of both its greenhouse gas reduction capacity and its contribution to long-term sustainability—a challenge heightened all the more by the current global financial crisis. Moreover, policy makers must also find solutions to directly improve the well-being of millions of poor and vulnerable people adversely affected by the impacts of climate change.

At the international level, governments agreed in 2007 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process to step up their efforts to combat climate change. With the “Bali Road Map,” governments will seek to reach agreement on a number of forward-looking issues essential for ensuring a secure climate future by the 15th Conference of the Parties in December 2009 in Copenhagen. This includes the “Bali Action Plan” – the UNFCCC negotiations on long-term cooperative action, which is centered around the four thematic “building blocks” of adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and deployment, and financing.

The year ahead will therefore prove to be the most challenging year for climate change negotiations in over a decade, as the results in Copenhagen will set the stage for global action on climate change for many years to come. On the international level, developing countries will need to participate fully in the negotiating process, while, at the national level, they will need to take steps to ensure they are prepared to address climate change in a manner that will ensure their sustainable development. The UNDP Capacity Development project seeks to help support developing countries in achieving both of these important goals.

**Capacity Development for Policy Makers to Address Climate Change**

The UNDP Environment & Energy Group has launched a groundbreaking US\$7 million project to strengthen the national capacity of up to 20 developing countries to assess the magnitude

of their efforts that will be required to address climate change and to position themselves and develop policy options for addressing climate change across different sectors and economic activities. Funding has been provided from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Switzerland, Finland, Spain and Norway. UNDP is implementing the project in partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The project is a strategic and targeted capacity development initiative that will run in parallel with the Bali Action Plan. Currently, 18 countries are participating: Algeria, Gambia, Niger, Namibia, Turkmenistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Liberia, Nicaragua, Peru, St. Lucia and Togo. Participation is based upon country demand, with additional countries joining in from the Latin America and the Caribbean region as a result of regional fund-raising efforts.

**Global project strategy**

The overall goals of the project are twofold:

- To increase national capacity to coordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and
- To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities and enhance sectoral planning capacity to address climate change.

The project will support these goals by expanding the knowledge base on climate change issues and broadening access to this knowledge so that policy makers, parliamentarians, technical experts and other key stakeholders can participate and share experiences at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. As a result of this project, both the technical understanding of key climate change issues and their economic and policy implications within the context of the Convention will be enhanced.

**Outcome 1: Increased national awareness through capacity development**

Under the aegis of the project, UNDP commissioned a series of

documents that address the key issues under consideration for the Bali Action Plan building blocks, with a focus on the developing country context. A document on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), which is a key sector for many developing countries, was also included. The documents have been prepared by leading international experts – many from developing countries – and translated into all UN languages to inform policy makers across the entire spectrum of economic sectors.

The Bali Action Plan materials are used as briefing documents for national inter-ministerial workshops in the participating countries, which seek to raise awareness on the international negotiations and the positions of developing countries. However, the workshops also feature discussions on how to assess the possible steps need to combat climate change in key economic sectors identified by the host countries. The most common key sectors identified by countries are: energy (mitigation), transport (mitigation), forestry (mitigation and adaptation), agriculture (adaptation), fisheries (adaptation), tourism (adaptation), coastal zones (adaptation), health (adaptation), and water (adaptation).

**Outcome 2: Assessments of investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key economic sectors**

Each country will conduct an assessment of opportunities to expand and enhance investment and financial flows to address climate change in up to three key sectors/economic activities. UNDP is finalizing a User Guide for analyzing and assessing investment and financial flows that incorporates guidance on: 1) developing a comprehensive workplan for the assessment; 2) the methodological approach for undertaking the assessment; and 3) reporting. The User Guide, developed by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), will be available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. International and regional centres of excellence will provide technical backstopping support to countries for the duration of the assessments. The results of the assessments will be presented at a second round of national workshops in late 2009/early 2010.

*Continued on page 3*



GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

**Outcome 3: Web 2.0 knowledge platform—the UNDP Climate Community—in multiple languages**

IISD is developing a web-based knowledge platform for UNDP that will be used to disseminate materials, best practices and lessons learned to national stakeholders. The site will be dynamic, to encourage participation, with the use of RSS feeds and list-serve functions, the ability for users to upload information, and thematic forums where stakeholders can exchange views and experiences. Key sections of the knowledge platform will also be made available in French and Spanish.

**Project Milestones**

Activities to date include the development of the Bali Action Plan documents on the four building blocks and LULUCF, and their translation into all UN languages. The documents are being distributed to all participating countries and can be downloaded from the project website (see below).

The documents were also distributed as part of a UNDP package at UNFCCC COP 14, as well as at various high-level meetings that took place in 2008, e.g. the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS).

In addition, national inter-ministerial workshops were organized during 2008 for Namibia, Niger and Bangladesh to raise awareness of key decision makers. Workshops are planned in early 2009 for the remaining participating countries. In parallel, governments are preparing work plans for undertaking the investment and financial flows assessments, which will be undertaken over a six- to eight-month period, with US\$100,000 in funding per country. Each country will receive training on UNDP's User Guide for assessing investment and financial flows from the regional centres of excellence that will also provide backstopping throughout the assessment.

Finally, a global workshop was held in New York in September 2008 for the 10 pilot countries involved in the

project, to obtain early feedback on the User Guide for assessing investment and financial flows. Representatives from the UN Secretariat, UN STATs, UNFCCC, ISDR and World Bank also participated. A second workshop was held in November 2008 with the regional centres of excellence—the Pan African START Secretariat (PASS) for Africa, the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for Asia, the SEI and Oxford Consulting Partners for Turkmenistan, and Instituto Torcuato Di Tella (ITDT) for Latin America and the Caribbean—to clarify outstanding methodological issues on the User Guide.

*For more information on the project visit, visit: <http://www.undp.org/climatechange/capacity-development.html>*

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

► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

**IPCC TO ORGANIZE TWO JANUARY MEETINGS**

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is co-sponsoring a 21-23 January 2009 workshop that will address "Future Climate-Change

Response Research: Learning from the IPCC's Fourth Assessment." This meeting will take place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In addition, the first lead author meeting for the Special Report Renewable Energy Sources will take

place from 26-30 January 2009, in São José dos Campos, São Paulo state, Brazil (<http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/calendar.htm>; <http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/events/1st-author-meeting-for-the-special-report-renewable-energy-sources>).

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE



Banner courtesy of the CBD Secretariat

**CBD SECRETARIAT PUBLISHES ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, ECOSYSTEM APPROACH NEWSLETTER**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has published its report of activities on implementation of the work programme of the CBD and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, providing a summary of the main activities undertaken by the Secretariat from January - December 2008 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/cbd-report-2008-en.pdf>). The CBD Secretariat has also launched a new e-newsletter on the ecosystem approach (<http://www.cbd.int/html/ea-newsletters/ea-newsletter-2008-12.htm>).

In other CBD-related news, the report of the meeting of the legal and technical

expert group on concepts, terms, working definitions and sectoral approaches in the context of the negotiations for an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, held from 2-5 December 2008, in Windhoek, Namibia, is available online (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/abs/absgtle-01/official/absgtle-01-abswg-07-02-en.doc>).

**CMS ANNOUNCES EVENT TO MARK 2009 YEAR OF THE GORILLA**

As part of the 2009 international Year of the Gorilla (YoG), launched by Prince Albert II of Monaco during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) held from 1-5 December 2008 in Rome, Italy, ice skaters dressed



Photo courtesy of UNEP

as primates will perform on the rink at the Natural History Museum in London, UK. The 15 January 2009 event will seek to raise awareness and funds for gorillas. Funds raised throughout the YoG will support a range of projects in Africa agreed under a new Gorilla Agreement and its recently adopted action plan (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=556&ArticleID=6033&I=en&t=long>).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS TO SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

(World Bank, January 2009) The World Bank has released a practical guide that provides guidance to policy-makers and development agencies on the linkages between the design of development programmes and the objectives of adapting to climate change and limiting emissions of greenhouse gases (<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXT/EEI/Resources/DCCToolkitCRAlores.pdf>).

### A REFORMED CDM – INCLUDING NEW MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(UNEP Risø Centre, 2008) The report explores how to reform the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in a post-2012 climate regime, addressing: sustainable development and equity; institutional reform; expansion of project categories; and scaling up mitigation (<http://cd4cdm.org/Publications/Perspectives/ReformedCDM.pdf>).

### GPA OUTREACH – OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2008 ISSUE

(Stakeholder Forum, December 2008) The GPA Outreach is a quarterly newsletter that helps raise awareness on issues and activities relating to the UN Environment Programme/Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA). The October-December 2008 issue focuses on coastal areas, with articles on: the UNEP-DHI Centre on Water and Environment's efforts and next steps in the area of integrated coastal area and river basin management; UN-Water's work on the interface between fresh and seawater; and the conclusions from the International Symposium on East Asian Coastal Wetlands, which took place in Changwon, Republic of Korea, on 27 October 2008, and that highlight the importance of integrated coastal management ([http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPA\\_Outreach/GPA\\_Outreach\\_November-December\\_2008\\_FINAL\\_01.pdf](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPA_Outreach/GPA_Outreach_November-December_2008_FINAL_01.pdf)).

## ► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### DSD PREPARES FOR CSD17

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), which serves as the Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), has announced that the Government of Germany will sponsor the participation of four young people at CSD17: two African and two German youth representatives. Applications are due 15 January 2009 (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd17/mg/d-funding-csd17.pdf>).

DSD is co-organizing the High-Level Meeting on “African Agriculture in the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a Sustainable Green Revolution,” which will convene in Windhoek, Namibia, from 9-10 February 2009 (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/dissuues/africa/events/index.htm>). This



Banner courtesy of UN DESA

meeting will serve as an intersessional meeting in support of CSD17, which will take place from 4-15 May 2009, in New York, US.

Also in preparation for CSD17, advance copies of the Secretary-General's Reports have been made available, with individual reports addressing each of the session's six thematic topics: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa ([http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs\\_csd17.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd17.htm)).

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

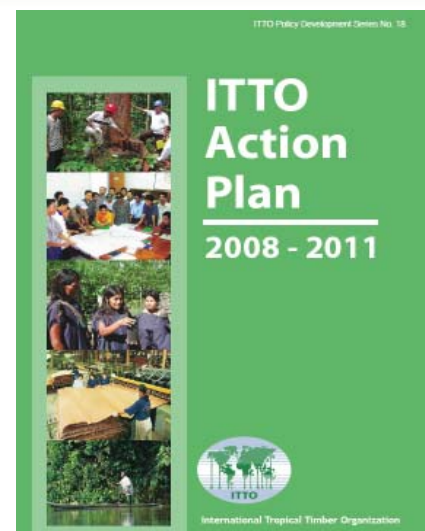
### UNCCD CONDUCTING CONSULTATIONS ON COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat is conducting consultations on the draft communication strategy through an online discussion group. Based on the group's input, the communication strategy will be redrafted in February 2009 and is expected to be sent to parties and posted online by early March 2009, for further comment.

The Secretariat has also posted its 2009 work plan, which includes meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms Task Forces from 29-31 March, a meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on reporting from 4-5 May, meetings of the Bureaus for the Committee on Science and Technology and Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in May, and regional preparatory meetings for the ninth Conference of the Parties and Scientific Meetings for each of the Convention's five regional annexes, in June and July (<http://www.unccd.int/secretariat/docs/workplan/workplan2009-eng.pdf>).

### ITTO ACTION PLAN 2008-2011 AVAILABLE

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has made available its Action Plan 2008-2001, adopted by the International Tropical Timber Council at its 44th Session, held in November 2008. The Action Plan elaborates a strategy for advancing ITTO's objectives, and as such, provides guidance on the Organization's overall direction in terms of both policy initia-



Cover courtesy of the ITTO Secretariat

tives and project activities. Related to climate change, the Plan includes activities such as: in cooperation with other organizations, monitoring the potential implications of climate change on the forest resource base and the relevance and appropriateness of policy developments in this field; and regularly assessing and reporting on markets for forest environmental services, including carbon markets, as they relate to tropical timber producing forests. It highlights as one of its strategies for implementation to include restored, rehabilitated and planted forest in the sustainably managed resource base, take non-timber forest products and environmental services into account as part of sustainable forest management, and consider the impacts and opportunities that will accrue from climate change ([http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live\\_Server/4397/ACTION\\_PLAN\\_2008\\_2011\\_E.pdf](http://www.itto.or.jp/live/Live_Server/4397/ACTION_PLAN_2008_2011_E.pdf)).



**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**ELECTRICITY SECTOR NO-LOSE TARGETS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR POST-2012: ASSESSMENT OF EMISSION REDUCTION AND REDUCTION CREDITS**

(UNEP Risø Centre, December 2008) UNEP Risø Centre's Working Paper No. 6 analyzes the sectoral no-lose targets for electricity production in seven developing countries: China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Mexico, Thailand and South Africa. The paper seeks to propose a method for formulating national sectoral baselines and crediting targets for the electricity sector for post-2012 (<http://www.cd4cdm.org/Publications/ElectricityTargetsDC-post2010.pdf>).

**► CHEMICALS AND WASTES**

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION RELEASES PIC CIRCULAR**

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has released the December 2008 (Prior Informed Consent) PIC Circular, to provide all parties through their designated national authorities with the information required to be circulated by the Secretariat, in line with articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14. The PIC Circular is published every six months, in June and December. This 402-page Circular contains information related to the period from 30 April-31 October 2008, including details of parties' new import responses to

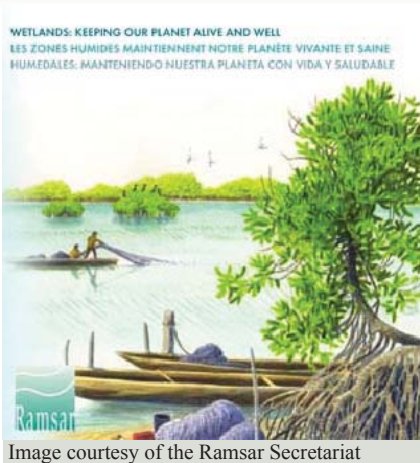
chemicals (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=50&sid=3>).

**SAICM OPEN-ENDED LEGAL AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORTS AVAILABLE**

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat has made available the final report of the Open-Ended Legal and Technical Working Group (SAICM/OELTWG.1/4; 21-14 October 2008, in Rome, Italy) and the Report of the Informal Discussions (SAICM/InfDisc/8; 23-24 October 2008, in Rome, Italy) (<http://www.saicm.org/index.php?menuid=12&pageid=102>).



**► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS**



**RAMSAR RELEASES VIDEO AND FORMS FOR REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

The Ramsar Secretariat has made available for download short and long versions of the video "Wetlands: keeping our planet alive and well," which highlights the importance of wetlands for human beings and challenges these resources are facing. It was first screened at Ramsar COP10 in Changwon, Korea (<http://www.ramsar.org/>



[index\\_bulletin.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/index_bulletin.htm)). The Secretariat has also released the forms for the submission of proposals for regional initiatives to be operated in the framework of the Convention during the triennium 2009-2012. The Secretariat invites contracting parties to submit proposals for ongoing or new regional initiatives by 28 February 2009. They will be analyzed and submitted to the 40th meeting of Standing Committee, scheduled to meet from 11-15 May 2008, in Gland, Switzerland ([http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives\\_trans\\_reg\\_init.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_reg_init.htm)). In other Ramsar news, the Secretariat has reported that the Government of China has completed the paperwork for six new Wetlands of International Importance, designated with the effective date of the last World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2008 ([http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.china\\_6newsites.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.china_6newsites.htm)).

**IMO MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE ADOPTS SOLAS AMENDMENTS**

The Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organiza-

tion (IMO) met for its 85th session from 26 November - 5 December 2008, at the Organization's headquarters, in London, UK. Among the items on its agenda, the Committee made progress in developing goal-based standards (GBS) for the construction of new bulk carriers and oil tankers. Draft amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to make GBS mandatory for such new ships were agreed, as were the draft international goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers, with a view to approval at the 86th session of the Committee, in May 2009, and eventual adoption at its 87th session, in 2010. In addition, the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC Code), and amendments to SOLAS to make the Code mandatory, were adopted and are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2011. The IMSBC Code will replace the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes, and aims to facilitate the safe stowage and shipment of solid bulk cargoes by providing information on the dangers associated with the shipment of certain types of cargo and instructions on the appropriate procedures to be adopted. Furthermore, the Committee adopted a number of proposals on ships' routing, ship reporting and other relevant measures, all aimed at enhancing the safety of navigation in areas of identified navigational hazards and environmentally sensitive sea areas ([http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic\\_id=1709&doc\\_id=10644](http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1709&doc_id=10644)).



## ► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### UNGA CONSIDERS RELATED RESOLUTIONS FROM SECOND COMMITTEE

Among the 34 development-related actions put forward by the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) at the end of December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted resolutions regarding the economic ramifications of climate change, and addressing the need for a more equitable international financial system and to bolster developing countries' resilience to financial risk. Among the climate change-related resolutions, the UNGA: proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry and emphasized that chemistry education is critical to addressing the challenge of global climate change (document A/63/414); supported international efforts and funding to prevent and manage natural disasters, as well as extreme weather patterns; called upon the international community to step up efforts for full implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo

Framework for Action; called upon the international community, the Secretary-General and relevant UN bodies to help strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño (document A/63/414/Add.3); stressed the need to further advance and implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building (document A/63/414/Add.7); called for urgent global action to address climate change for the benefit of present and future generations, and urged parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue using the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their work (document A/63/414/Add.4); urged all governments, relevant organizations, UN bodies and the Global Environment Facility to take timely action to effectively follow-up and implement the Strategy and the Mauritius Declaration, and called upon the international community to help Small Island Developing States adapt to the adverse impacts of climate

change (document A/63/414/Add.2); and reaffirmed its partnership with the Pacific Island Forum through the lens of the serious threats posed to vulnerable island States by climate change and the global economic recession (document A/63/L.56) (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/ga10802.doc.htm>).

### UNEP HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL GREEN NEW DEAL-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has highlighted decisions by Japan and the Republic of Korea to invest billions of dollars in green projects. Japan plans to provide zero-interest loans to environmentally-friendly companies, which it indicates will create up to one million jobs, while the Republic of Korea plans to invest US\$38 billion in 36 projects that it hopes will create 960,000 jobs (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=556&ArticleID=6035&l=en>).

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### GEF DEVELOPS FIVE NEW PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has highlighted a shift in the focus of its portfolio to a programme-based approach, in an effort to secure a larger-scale, and more sustained, impact on the global environment. In this regard, five new programme approaches approved by the GEF Council during its 34th Council meeting in November 2009 include: a GEF Strategic Programme for West Africa on Biodiversity, led by the World Bank, to scale-up biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the region in support of poverty alleviation and growth; a GEF Strategic Programme for West

Africa on Energy led by the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to scale up investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region; a Framework for Promoting Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Buildings led by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), aimed at promoting low-energy and low-emissions buildings, with projects submitted by UNDP and some by UN Environment Programme; a programme to Reduce Industry's Carbon Footprint in Southeast Asia through Compliance with a Management System for Energy, led by UNIDO, which aims to promote sustainable energy efficiency improvement in the industrial sector through training

at the level of systems and facilitating the introduction of energy management standards, involving five national projects in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and Malaysia; and a Strategic Programme for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin led by the World Bank, aimed at strengthening the protection and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, and also contributing to long-term innovative finance architecture for sustainable forest management in the region by supporting payment schemes for ecosystem services, public-private partnerships and the establishment/strengthening of trust funds ([http://gefweb.org/interior\\_right.aspx?id=23766](http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=23766)).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Regional Awareness Raising Workshop on Fostering Stockholm Convention Implementation in Asia:** 20-22 January 2009. Kathmandu, Nepal. <http://chm.pops.int/>
- **Future Climate-Change Response Research: Learning from the IPCC's Fourth Assessment:** 21-23 January 2009. Amsterdam, the Netherlands. <http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/calendar.htm>
- **First Lead Author Meeting for the Special Report Renewable Energy Sources:** 26-30 January 2009. São José dos Campos, Brazil. <http://www.ipcc-wg3.de/events/1st-author-meeting-for-the-special-report-renewable-energy-sources>
- **CBD Expert Group on Compliance for ABS:** 27-30 January 2009. Tokyo, Japan. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSGTLE-02>
- **Climate Investment Funds Committee Meetings:** 27-30 January 2009. Washington DC, US. <http://go.worldbank.org/58OVAGT860>
- **Fifth Session of the CGRFA ITWG-ANGR:** 28-30 January 2009. Rome, Italy. <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2009.html>
- **Capacity Development Workshop on Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Strengthening Rural Livelihoods:** 28-30 January 2009. Bangkok, Thailand. [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/work\\_bkk09.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/work_bkk09.htm)