



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

#### UNCCD ORGANIZES LAND DAY

On 6 June 2009, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat hosted “Land Day” at the Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, in Bonn, Germany. The event, attended by 170 participants, aimed to help climate change negotiators and other stakeholders attending the concurrent Bonn climate change talks consider the linkages between climate change and desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). During the opening session, Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, argued that soil restoration and soil carbon sequestration offer “win-win-win” opportunities for climate change, biodiversity and desertification, and Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, highlighted possibilities including: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD); improved crop and grazing management; and restoration of organic soils. Jeffrey Sachs, Earth Institute Director, Columbia University, called for, *inter alia*: better science on the effects of climate change in dryland regions; increased understanding of human systems, such as the impacts of climate change on herders’ livestock assets; and increased understanding of intervention measures that are needed for adaptation and climate change preparedness.



L-R: Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary and Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, greet one another prior to the opening of Land Day.

Participants then attended three panels, entitled: “How does sustainable land management support climate change adaptation?”; “What options can soil carbon sequestration offer for mitigating and adapting to climate change?”; and “Sustainable land management in climate change policy frameworks: what is the way forward?” Executive Secretary Gnacadja closed the event by highlighting that: adaptation financing is a sound way to secure everybody’s future; synergies will not occur by accident but must be promoted and monitored; carbon sequestration is measurable, cost-effective and provides multiple co-benefits; agriculture must be integrated into a future climate regime; and a comprehensive study on the economics of sustainable land management should be conducted (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb30/enbots/06.html>).

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#### GUEST ARTICLE

##### **GlobalSoilMap.net – A New Digital Soil Map of the World**

By Alfred Hartemink, ISRIC - World Soil Information, Wageningen, The Netherlands, et al.\*

#### Abstract

Knowledge of global soil resources is fragmented and dated. There is a need for accurate, up-to-date and spatially referenced soil information, as frequently expressed by the modeling community, farmers and land users, and policy and decision makers.

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#### RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

##### **THE NATURAL FIX? THE ROLE OF ECOSYSTEMS IN CLIMATE MITIGATION**

(UNEP, 2009) UNEP released this Rapid Assessment report to mark World Environment Day, on 5 June 2009. According to the report, boosting investments in the conservation, rehabilitation and management of the Earth’s forests, peatlands, soils and other key ecosystems could deliver significant cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and avoid even more being released to the atmosphere ([http://www.unep.org/publications/search/pub\\_details\\_s.asp?ID=4027](http://www.unep.org/publications/search/pub_details_s.asp?ID=4027)).

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GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

This need coincides with an enormous leap in technologies that allow for accurately collecting and predicting soil properties. A digital fine-resolution global soil map would enable climatologists, hydrologists, crop modelers, foresters and agricultural scientists, among others, to better predict the effects of climate change or new technologies on food production and environmental health.

We are working on a new digital soil map of the world using state-of-the-art and emerging technologies for soil mapping and predicting soil properties. Our aim is to map the global land surface in five years. The resulting maps will depict the primary functional soil properties at a grid resolution of 90x90 m. They will be freely available, web-accessible and widely distributed and used.

*GlobalSoilMap.net* is being developed to provide primary soil data in a form that will meet the demands of a broad range of users, including governments, natural resource managers, educational institutions, planners, researchers and agriculturalists. The online system will provide access to the best available soil and land resource information in a consistent format across the globe. A priority



GlobalSoilMap consortium leaders at the January 2009 inauguration ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya (photo courtesy of GlobalSoilMap.net)



GlobalSoilMap consortium participants on a field trip to Western Kenya (photo courtesy of GlobalSoilMap.net)

will be to provide the global scientific community with soil information in a format that can be readily used for modeling and evaluation studies (e.g. options for climate adaptation, carbon dynamics, potential food production). The process will also enable scientists from all parts of the world to exchange information and benefit from the rapid changes in technology.

The maps will be produced by a global consortium with centres in each of the continents: NRCS for North America, Embrapa for Latin America, JRC for Europe, TSBF-CIAT for Africa, ISSAS for parts of Asia and CSIRO for Oceania. This new global soil map will be supplemented by interpretation and functionality options that aim to assist better decisions in a range of global issues like food production and hunger eradication, climate change, and environmental degradation. In November 2008, a grant of US\$18 million was obtained from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to map most parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and make the underlying data available. This grant also includes funds for coordinating efforts in the global consortium. However, additional funds are

needed to ensure the project can help rectify years of under-investment in one of our most fundamental resources for life on Earth – the soil.

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To read the full article and for the authors' contact information, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle71.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.*

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND



Logos courtesy of the UNCCD Secretariat

**WHITE PAPERS FOR UNCCD'S SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OPEN FOR REVIEW**

The Dryland Science for Development Consortium (DSD), which is helping to organize the first scientific conference for the UNCCD Committee

on Science and Technology (CST), has invited scientific colleagues and stakeholders of the UNCCD to review the drafts of scientific analysis papers that will feed into the 22-24 September 2009 conference on "Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management."

The Conference, popularly known under the shorter title "Understanding Desertification and Land Degradation Trends," will take place at the ninth session of the UNCCD Conference of

Parties in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In preparation for the Conference, three Working Groups have drafted 'white papers' summarizing leading scientific knowledge relevant to the topic assigned by the Convention that leads towards recommendations that can support decision-making in land and water management by the Convention and its parties. The drafts will be open for review by scientists and stakeholders worldwide from 28 May-28 June 2009 (<http://www.drylandscience.org/>; <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/cstsciconf/menu.php>).

## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DEEP-SEA FISHERIES IN THE HIGH SEAS

(FAO, June 2009) This set of technical guidelines offers a framework that countries can use, individually and in the context of regional fisheries management organizations, to manage deep sea fisheries in high-seas areas outside of national jurisdictions. The guidelines: prescribe steps for identifying and protecting vulnerable ocean ecosystems; provide guidance on the sustainable use of marine living resources in deep-sea areas; and outline ways that information on the location and status of vulnerable marine ecosystems should be improved ([http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/newsroom/docs/i0816t.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsroom/docs/i0816t.pdf)).

### WILDLIFE LAW AND THE LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(FAO Legal Paper Online no. 77) Authored by Maria Teresa Cirelli and Elisa Morgera, this paper includes: an overview of international legal instruments related to wildlife management; a chapter on selected themes relevant to legal empowerment of the poor in wildlife management; an analysis of emerging trends with focus on the empowerment of the poor, resulting in suggestions for the drafting of legal provisions; and a country-by-country analysis providing an overview of the legal framework in each of the 12 countries considered (<http://www.fao.org/Legal/prs-ol/lpo77.pdf>).

### BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS JOINT INFORMATION KIT

(Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, 2009) A joint information kit has recently been produced by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The kit is composed of information leaflets (one about each Convention), a poster and a folder (<http://www.basel.int/pub/joint-info-kit/index.html>).

## ► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

### ITTO CO-ORGANIZES CONFERENCE ON FOREST TENURE IN AFRICA

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and others have co-organized a conference on forest tenure in Africa. The conference, which convened from 25-29 May 2009, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, was held in response to calls from African participants of the 2007 International Conference on Community Forest



Elvis Ngolle Ngolle, Minister of Forests, Cameroon (photo courtesy of ITTO)

Management and Enterprise in Acre, Brazil. One of the main objectives of the Yaoundé conference was to push governments toward broader actions that secure land rights for forest communities in West and Central Africa. An ITTO and RRI study released during the meeting indicates that African countries have less control over land rights than do other tropical nations, with only 2% of forested land being owned or managed by communities, and explained how progress on land tenure could help slow deforestation and climate change and reduce poverty ([http://www.itto.int/en/news\\_releases/id=2033](http://www.itto.int/en/news_releases/id=2033)).

## ► SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### DSD CALLS FOR ARTICLES AND VIEWPOINTS

The UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has called for the submission of articles and viewpoints to be included in a climate change special section in an upcoming issue of *Natural Resources Forum: A United Nations Sustainable Development Journal*. Articles should consider climate change-related issues with a sustainable development perspective. DSD has also invited 200 word submissions addressing the following question for the Viewpoints section of the November 2009 issue: "What would be the three key precon-

ditions for jumpstarting or scaling up the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for climate change to developing countries?" Submissions are requested by 15 June and 30 July, respectively ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_pdfs/publications/NRF/CallsforPapersNov2009.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/publications/NRF/CallsforPapersNov2009.pdf)).

DSD has also invited submissions of articles on sustainable consumption and production, which is one of the thematic issues to be discussed at the 18th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Submissions should be made by 15 August 2009 ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res\\_pdfs/publications/NRF/CallsforPapersFeb2010.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_pdfs/publications/NRF/CallsforPapersFeb2010.pdf)).

## ► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### UNEP LAUNCHES CLIMATE HEROES PLATFORM AND WELCOMES COUNTRIES TO THE CLIMATE NEUTRAL NETWORK

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched Climate Heroes, a long-term platform supporting a select group of people undertaking exceptional personal feats, high-profile expeditions and other innovative acts of environmental activism under the global banner "Unite to Combat Climate Change." The collaboration between UNEP and the Climate Heroes is intended to build interest, inspiration and momentum to the UN's "Seal the Deal!" campaign, urging world leaders to seal a deal on a fair, balanced and effective agreement at the climate meeting in December (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=589&ArticleID=6204&l=en>).

UNEP celebrated World Environment Day, on 5 June 2009, under the

theme "Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change." UNEP also announced the pledge of three countries, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Portugal, to promote low-carbon, green growth by joining the UNEP Climate Neutral Network to promote global action to de-carbonize our economies and societies. This brings the total number of countries that are going low-carbon or even climate neutral to ten ([http://www.unep.org/wed/2009/english/content/information\\_material.asp#pressrelease](http://www.unep.org/wed/2009/english/content/information_material.asp#pressrelease)).



## RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

### WORLD DATABASE ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

(UNEP-WCMC, June 2009) This decision-making tool aims to provide the most current and relevant information about marine and coastal biodiversity and its protection status. The tool was created by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) with IUCN, and is part of the recently redeveloped World Database on Protected Areas – the authoritative and most globally comprehensive list of marine and terrestrial protected areas (<http://www.wdpa-marine.org/>).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### NEW RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATED

The Ramsar Secretariat has announced that the Government of Mexico has designated Humedales de Bahía Adair, in Sonora state, as its 113th Wetland of International Importance ([http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives\\_trans\\_mexico\\_bahia.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/archives/archives_trans_mexico_bahia.htm)).

### UNDOALOS CELEBRATES WORLD OCEANS DAY

On 8 June 2009, the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) celebrated World Oceans Day for the first time. The 2009 event focused on the theme "Our Oceans, Our Responsibility." In a message to mark the Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underscored the

## ► CHEMICALS AND WASTES

### BASEL CONVENTION SEEKS INFORMATION ON OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES WASTE

The Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol has requested from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention information on the extent to which the Basel Convention prior informed consent procedure applies to transboundary movements of ozone depleting substances (ODS) waste. In response, the Basel Convention is requesting parties to clarify whether their national definitions of hazardous waste apply to ODS. The request is in light of efforts under the Montreal Protocol to begin work on the destruction of ODS banks

and the need for a legal framework for the transport of such substances. Information should be provided to the Basel Convention Secretariat by 12 June 2009 (<http://www.basel.int/convention/communications/290509.pdf>).

### ROTTERDAM CONVENTION POSTS FIFTH CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention has posted the Report of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its fifth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.5/16), which took place from 23-27 March 2009 (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=6&sid=18&tid=42>).

impacts of human activities on oceans, highlighting over-exploitation of vulnerable ecosystems, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, destructive fishing practices, invasive alien species, and marine pollution, especially from land-based sources. He also emphasized that climate change causes sea temperature increases, sea-level rise

and ocean acidification, thereby posing a further threat to marine life. The activities organized by UNDOALOS for the Day included a panel discussion on "Our Oceans, Our Responsibility," and a documentary film screening of "A Sea Change" ([http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference\\_files/oceansday2009pressrelease.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/oceansday2009pressrelease.pdf)).



Banner courtesy of the Ocean Project

## ► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

### GEF POSTS DOCUMENTS FOR JUNE COUNCIL MEETING

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has posted the documents for the 35th meeting of the GEF Council, to be held from 22-24 June 2009, in Washington DC, US. Among the issues to be addressed are proposals on how to improve the transparency of the resource allocation framework for the fifth GEF replenishment (GEF5), the Memorandum of Understanding on the provision of Secretariat services by the GEF to the Adaptation Fund Board, the reallocation of remaining GEF4 resources, as well as new projects for approval, and a suggested date for the next GEF Assembly to be held in Uruguay in May 2010 ([http://gefweb.org/interior\\_right.aspx?id=24908](http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=24908)).

In other GEF news, the UN Development Programme has updated its database of GEF pipeline projects, which may be consulted online (<http://www.undp.org/gef/portfolio/pipeline/index.html>).

### WORLD BANK APPROVES FIRST CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUND PROJECT, SIGNS TWO EMISSION REDUCTION PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

The World Bank approved, on 28 May 2009, a US\$600 million loan to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy in Turkey. The financing includes US\$100 million from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), a new US\$5.2 billion multilateral fund managed by the World Bank to provide low-interest financing to scale up low carbon technologies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during the period until a new global climate change agreement is negotiated and becomes effective (<http://go.worldbank.org/LS85BISH50>).

The World Bank has also recently signed carbon finance agreements with two Thai companies that will reduce GHG through the improvement of an ethanol refinery and the wastewater treatment at an ethanol production plant. Emission Reduction

Purchase Agreements make investment in clean technology more affordable and attractive to business operators, who may be interested in protecting the environment but do not have access to the capital to support needed new investment (<http://go.worldbank.org/1YHK6KQ7H0>; <http://go.worldbank.org/FFMYVG2HC0>).

In other World Bank news, the Bank has approved an Efficient Lighting Project for the city of Lomé, Togo, including a GEF grant totaling US\$1.82 million to disseminate at least 400,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to replace incandescent light bulbs currently in use; and a similar project to disseminate of 350,000 subsidized CFLs to replace incandescent light bulbs currently in use in Benin. Both projects will also address the promotion of energy efficiency through capacity building, information and awareness raising ([http://gefweb.org/interior\\_right.aspx?id=25540](http://gefweb.org/interior_right.aspx?id=25540); <http://go.worldbank.org/19S86FUZ70>).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



The dais during the opening of the AWG-LCA

### UN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS NEAR END

The June UN climate change negotiating sessions, which are taking place in Bonn, Germany, from 1-12 June 2009, have consisted of several meetings, including: the 30th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA); the sixth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA); and the eighth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP). The two AWGs are scheduled to conclude their work by the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15), to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.

The AWG-LCA has focused on the Chair's negotiating text (FCCC/AWG-LCA/2009/8), which encompasses the key aspects of the Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13), namely a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. Delegates have also engaged in informal consultations on the legal form of the outcome and further organization of work. The AWG-KP has considered two documents: a proposal on amendments to the Kyoto Protocol pursuant to Article 3.9 (Annex I parties' further commitments); and a text on other issues, such as land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), the flexibility mechanisms, common metrics and greenhouse gases (GHG), sectors and source categories. These documents were requested by AWG-KP7, which also agreed to continue considering Annex I parties' aggregate emission reductions in the post-2012 period "as a key focus" of AWG-KP8.

At its 30th session, the SBI took up agenda items such as capacity building, national communications, technology transfer, the financial mechanism and administrative, financial and institutional matters. The SBSTA considered, *inter alia*, the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), methodological issues, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD), and technology transfer.

In other UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) news, the Secretariat has released a number of documents in the past two weeks, including a newsletter focusing on the negotiating text (<http://news.unfccc.int/web/nllp.asp?o=e0ko37bj&s=h2qylamyxfkscnx6>), and fact sheets on REDD, titled "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action" ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/backgrounders/application/pdf/fact\\_sheet\\_reducing\\_emissions\\_from\\_deforestation.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/backgrounders/application/pdf/fact_sheet_reducing_emissions_from_deforestation.pdf)) and on the Nairobi Framework, which was adopted in 2006 and aims to help developing countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, to improve their level of participation in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and enhance the CDM's geographical scope ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/backgrounders/application/pdf/fact\\_sheet\\_nairobi\\_framework.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/backgrounders/application/pdf/fact_sheet_nairobi_framework.pdf)).

Under the AWG-LCA, numerous submissions were received including from: the US on Reducing Emissions and Enhancing Removals from Forests and Land Use; Australia on the Legal Architecture for a Post-2012 Outcome, and on the Title of a Post-2012 Agreement; Norway on a legal text on a mechanism for reducing emissions by sources and increasing removals by sinks in the forestry sector in developing countries (REDD-plus mechanism), and on auctioning allowances issued under the Copenhagen Agreement; and Japan on Emission trading and project-based mechanisms ([http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/items/4578.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/items/4578.php)).

Under the AWG-KP, the UNFCCC Secretariat released a submission from Chile on options and proposals for addressing definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines for the treatment of LULUCF (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.11/Add.1) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg8/eng/misc11a01.pdf>) as well as a submission from Japan on views on possible improvements to emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms (FCCC/KP/AWG/2009/MISC.9/Add.2) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg8/eng/misc09a02.pdf>).

The SBI also considered a report presenting a synthesis of information and views on the areas of focus set out in the terms of reference for the review and assessment of the effectiveness of the implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 1(c) and 5 (development and transfer of technologies) of the Convention contained in 11 submissions received from parties and three submissions from accredited non-governmental organizations (FCCC/SBI/2009/INF.1).

The SBI also considered submissions by Tuvalu and Australia on appropriate treaty arrangements relating to privileges and immunities for individuals serving on constituted bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/misc05a03.pdf>). Under the agenda item on REDD: approaches to stimulate action, the UNFCCC Secretariat released a submission from Switzerland on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies (FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.1/Add.2) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbsta/eng/misc01a02.pdf>). A technical paper on the cost of implementing methodologies and monitoring systems relating to estimates of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the assessment of carbon stocks and GHG emissions from changes in forest cover, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (FCCC/TP/2009/1) was also released (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/tp/01.pdf>). The UNFCCC Secretariat also published the report by the Chair of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer containing recommendations on future financing options for enhancing the development, deployment, diffusion and transfer of technologies under the Convention, for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their 30th sessions (FCCC/SB/2009/2) (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sb/eng/02.pdf>).

A document containing the "Interim report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer" (FCCC/SBI/2009/3) was also published (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/sbi/eng/03.pdf>). In addition, the UNFCCC Secretariat released the report of the individual review of GHG inventories submitted by Portugal in 2007 and 2008 (FCCC/ARR/2008/PRT) (<http://climate-1.org/2009/06/05/unfccc-secretariat-releases-portugal%E2%80%99s-ghg-inventory/>).

## ► CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

### MONTREAL PROTOCOL RELEASES DOCUMENTS

The Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol has released the provision agenda (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/29/1/Add.1) in advance of the 29th Open-Ended Working Group

(OEWG), scheduled to convene from 15-18 July 2009. The Secretariat also released the agendas for two meetings preceding the OEWG: the Workshop on Management and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) Banks and

Implications for Climate Change (UNEP/OzL.Pro/Workshop 3/1); and the Workshop for a Dialogue on High-Global Warming Potential Alternatives for ODS (UNEP/OzL.Pro/Workshop 4/1) (<http://ozone.unep.org/highlights.shtml>).

## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### PLANT TREATY GOVERNING BODY CONCLUDES SUCCESSFUL SESSION

The third session of the Governing Body (GB 3) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR) convened from 1-5 June 2009, in Tunis, Tunisia. Following two days of lengthy procedural discussions regarding the establishment of contact groups on the funding strategy and/or compliance, and the eventual agreement to establish both, the Governing Body managed to make good progress going through its heavy agenda. Delegates agreed to: a set of outcomes for implementation of the funding strategy, including a financial target of US\$116 million for the period July 2009 to December 2014; a resolution on implementation of the Treaty's Multilateral System including setting up an intersessional advisory

committee on implementation issues; a resolution on farmers' rights; and procedures for the Third Party Beneficiary. They also adopted the work programme and budget for the next biennium; agreed to the urgent need to finalize the outstanding financial rules at the fourth session; and established intersessional processes to finalize compliance procedures by the fourth session, and review the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. The fourth session of the Governing Body is scheduled to be held in the second or third quarter of 2011, in Indonesia (<http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/itpgrgb3/>).

### CBD SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES NEW OUTREACH INITIATIVE

On the occasion of World Environment Day, 5 June, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) unveiled a new communication initiative

on biodiversity, in partnership with Airbus and the National Geographic Society. Under a campaign banner of "See the Bigger Picture," it is designed to contribute to international efforts to raise public awareness on biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-06-05-greenwave-en.pdf>).

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif addressed the first Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity, held on 3 June 2009, in Berlin, Germany, where he highlighted the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity loss and called for addressing them synergistically. The forum stressed that biodiversity constitutes the indispensable foundation of our lives, is crucial for global economic and social development, and is fundamentally important for human livelihoods, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Participants noted that human-induced extinction of biodiversity is still advancing at a dramatic pace and agreed it was urgent to scale up efforts to reach the 2010 target to significantly reduce biodiversity loss (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-06-03-berlin-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, the Secretariat has invited parties to participate in the peer-review of the draft report of the first and second meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change by 30 June 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-059-cc-en.pdf>).



The opening dais of ITPGR GB 3. L-R: Modibo Traoré, FAO Assistant Director-General; Shakeel Bhatti, ITPGR Secretary; Modesto Fernández Díaz-Silveira, ITPGR GB 3 Chair; Abdesslem Mansour, Minister of Agriculture, Tunisia; A.T. Tavaga Kitona Seuala, Minister of Environment, Samoa; Efrain Figueroa, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Honduras; and Alicia Crespo Pazos, Ministry of the Environment, Spain.

## ► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- The UN Secretary-General has approved the appointment, effective 8 June 2009, of Serguei Tarassenko to the post of **Director, UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS)** ([http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference\\_files/new\\_developments\\_and\\_recent\\_adds.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/new_developments_and_recent_adds.htm)).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Awareness Raising on the BAT and BEP Guidance under the Stockholm Convention:** 15-19 June 2009. Nairobi, Kenya. <http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Meetings/UpcomingMeetings/tabid/521/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1007/EventID/53/xmid/1854/mret/t/language/en-US/Default.aspx>
- **Tenth Session of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP):** 17-19 June 2009. New York, US. <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/icp10/>
- **GEF Council Meeting, NGO Consultation and Replenishment Meeting:** 21-26 June 2009. Washington, DC, US. <http://www.thegef.org/interior.aspx?id=268>
- **Seventh Session of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention:** 25-26 June 2009. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.basel.int/meetings/meetings.html>