



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

MONTREAL PROTOCOL'S 26TH OEWG MEETING CONVENES



Members of the TEAP and its Technical Options Committees provided clarification to parties on issues raised in the 2006 progress report

The 26th Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (OEWG) opened on Monday, 3 July 2006, in Montreal, Canada. The Working Group is considering: issues arising out of the progress report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), including essential-use exemptions, terms of reference for case studies on the environmentally-sound destruction of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and carbon tetrachloride emissions; methyl bromide issues including critical-use nominations, exemptions and time-frame, quarantine and pre-shipment matters, and trade in methyl bromide; the phaseout of CFCs for metered-dose inhalers in developing countries; stockpiled ODS' implications for compliance; and conflict of interest guidelines for TEAP and its subsidiary bodies. The Working Group will forward its recommendations on these and other matters to the 30 October – 3 November 2006 Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (<http://www.iisd.ca/ozone/oewg26/>).

Following the close of the OEWG, the 49th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol will take place in Montreal (10-14 July 2006). The Executive Committee will consider, *inter alia*: the status of contributions, disbursements, and resources; business plans; developing countries' compliance with Montreal Protocol control measures; programme implementation; and project proposals (http://www.multilateralfund.org/49th_meeting_of_the_executive_.htm).

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

TOURISM AND DESERTS – A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO MANAGING THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IN THE DESERT RECREATION SECTOR

(UNEP 2006) This UNEP publication was prepared in partnership with the Tour Operators Initiative for Sustainable Development. It is targeted at the tourism sector, and contains tips and information on desert tourism (<http://www.unep.fr/pc/tourism/Library/Desert%20Guide.htm>).

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GUEST ARTICLE

Strengthening the biodiversity conventions through the strategic use of information

By Michael Williams, UNEP/DEC, and Marcos Silva, CITES Secretariat

Abstract

Each biodiversity convention – including CBD, CITES, CMS and Ramsar – generates large quantities of data, documents and other forms of information. Much of this information addresses common biodiversity-related themes and activities.

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RESEARCH AND RESOURCES (cont.)

PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES: AN EQUITABLE APPROACH FOR REDUCING POVERTY AND CONSERVING NATURE

(WWF, June 2006) This publication presents an overview of current schemes for payments for environmental services, WWF's approach to achieving equitable payments, and field examples of equitable projects in Guatemala, Peru, the Philippines, Tanzania, Indonesia and Eastern Europe (http://assets.panda.org/downloads/pes_report_2006.pdf).

BEYOND TIMBER: CERTIFICATION OF NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

(CIFOR and Forest Trends, June 2006) This book analyzes the ecological, socioeconomic and legal aspects of certifying non-timber forest products using case studies from Africa, Asia and Latin America (electronic copy in Portuguese: http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/books/BShanley0601.pdf).

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: DESIGNING REGIMES TO SUPPORT PLANT BREEDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(World Bank, June 2006) Authored by Rob Tripp, Derek Eaton and Niels Louwaars, this report is based on a field study of the impact of strengthened intellectual property rights (IPRs) on the breeding industries in China, Colombia, India, Kenya and Uganda. The analysis also makes use of secondary data and interviews with stakeholders from other countries. The report concludes that rights that are excessively broad in scope may obstruct the flow of technologies to resource-poor countries and farmers, while IPRs may contribute to the development of commercial seed systems in certain sectors and may assist in the creation of effective public-private partnerships, when other conditions for business development are favorable (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/IPR_ESW.pdf).

THE VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT: GLENEAGLES G8 ONE YEAR ON

(Oxfam, 2006) This briefing note by Oxfam reviews progress in the areas of debt, aid, conflict, trade and climate change one year after the 2005 G8 Summit at Gleneagles (http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/debt_aid/downloads/g8_gleneagles_oneyear.pdf).

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

CDM WORKING GROUPS CONSIDER FORESTS, SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS

Several proposed methodologies were on the agenda at the ninth meeting of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group, which met in Bonn, Germany, from 13-14 June 2006. The group recommended "non-approval" on three methodologies for projects, but agreed to "preliminary recommendations" for two others. The group also discussed issues of carbon "leakage" and consolidation of approved methodologies that are similar (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar/ARWG09_Report_Ext.pdf). At the same time, the sixth meeting of the Small-Scale Working Group convened to consider small-scale CDM project activities and several revisions relating to approved methodologies (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ssc_wg/SSCWG06_rep_ext.pdf). The CDM working groups followed a meeting of the CDM Methodologies Panel, held in Bonn from 6-9 June 2006, which considered a wide range of proposed new methodologies for projects, as well as several clarifications and revisions relating to previously-approved methodologies (http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/meth/Meth21_rep_ext.pdf). These groups are scheduled to meet again in late August/early September 2006.

FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

ITTO AWARDS FELLOWSHIPS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

Twenty-nine fellowships were awarded at the 40th session of the International Tropical Timber Council, held in June 2006 in Merida, Mexico. The fellowships, offered through the Freezailah Fellowship Fund, aim to promote human resource development and strengthen professional expertise in member countries in tropical forestry and related disciplines. This year's fellowship recipients come from 16 different countries and include 13 females. The fellowships have been awarded for, *inter alia*, research in Doctoral and Master's programs, non-degree course work, and participation in conferences (<http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pagelid=175&id=1047>).

UNFF-7 BUREAU MEETS, SECRETARIAT FOCUSES ON FOREST GOVERNANCE

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) Bureau nominated Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands) as Chair during its 21 June 2006 meeting. Other items discussed during the meeting included preparations for the 11-15 December 2006 Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group, which will consider the content of a Non-Legally Binding Instrument prior to UNFF-7. The second UNFF-7 Bureau meeting will convene in August.

In the latest newsletter of the UNFF Secretariat, Pekka Patosaari, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, writes that the future agenda of UNFF will include building on the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) processes. The Secretariat is in the process of assessing the key elements for successful governance regimes and the relationship between governance and sustainable forest management, and will publish a background study on forest ownership and governance in late 2006 (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-mayjun06.html#art1>).



Pekka Patosaari,
Director of the UNFF
Secretariat

UNCCD ORGANIZES MEETINGS FOR JULY

The Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is involved with organizing regional and intersessional meetings that will meet in July 2006. The intersessional intergovernmental working group (IIWG) will hold its second meeting from 12-14 July 2006 in Bonn, Germany. As agreed during the first meeting (22-23 May 2006), at which the IIWG's work programme was decided, the second meeting will review the synthesis assessment of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report, the table of contents for the ten-year strategic plan and framework and the format of the strategic plan (<http://www.unccd.int/convention/jiu/menu.php>). The XI Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries in the framework of the UNCCD will convene from 17-21 July 2006 in Panama City, Panama. This meeting will analyze the LAC national reports, in part to assess the third reporting process, follow-up the JIU report, assess the implementation of the Convention at the regional level, prepare common positions for the LAC countries on issues to be discussed at the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC-5), and agree on a programme of work for the LAC region until COP-8 in 2007 (<http://www.unccd-deselac.org/XI.htm>). A regional meeting for Europe will convene from 24-27 July 2006 in Bonn, Germany, to review the national reports of affected European countries and regional and sub-regional activities, in preparation for CRIC-5. An African regional meeting to prepare for CRIC-5, originally scheduled for August, will not take place since Africa will not be presenting any Reports at CRIC-5.

The UNCCD Secretariat will also take part in the official opening of the new UN Campus in Bonn, Germany, on 11 July 2006, in the former German Parliament building (IKBB). The Secretariat moved to this new office facility in June 2006. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel are among the dignitaries expected to attend this ceremony.

GUEST ARTICLE (cont.)

However, because it is not inter-linked or organized in a consistent and harmonized manner, grasping "the big picture" and ensuring that the conventions are mutually supportive can be extremely difficult.

Most major corporations and organizations also face the challenge of managing large, isolated pools of information. Fortunately, the growing recognition that institutional information is a vital strategic asset is occurring just as rapid advances in information technology (IT) are providing new solutions.

Together, these forces have inspired the development of a new, more strategic approach to information resources known in the jargon as "knowledge management." Just as the Internet exploded out of obscurity in the early 1990s to become the dominant medium that it is today, knowledge management will evolve over the coming decade to become a universally used organizational tool for strategic management.

Using the principles and IT tools of knowledge management, the four secretariats, together with UNEP and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, are launching a project aimed at promoting the strategic use of information and strengthening global action on biological diversity. The Knowledge Management for Biodiversity project is not intended to stand alone in splendid isolation. Instead it will anticipate the benefits of linking up with similar efforts throughout the UN system and beyond. Over the coming years, the harmonized knowledge base it envisions will need to become increasingly interlinked with other UN and environmental information resources.

Read the Full Article at:
<http://www.iisd.ca/mea-l/guestarticle9.htm>

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

IISD Reporting Services announcement BIODIV-L LISTSERVE: A mailing list for news and announcements related to Biodiversity and Wildlife policy issues. Biodiv-L is brought to you by IISD, in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat. More information: <http://www.iisd.ca/email/biodiv-L.htm>



▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

AQUATIC WARBLER MOU SIGNATORY STATES MEET, AFGHANISTAN SIGNS CMS SIBERIAN CRANE MOU

The first Meeting of the Signatory States to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning conservation measures for the Aquatic Warbler, Europe's rarest songbird, met from 25-27 June 2006, in the Lower Oder Valley National Park near Berlin, Germany. The meeting was convened by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and hosted by the German State of Brandenburg and its Office for Environment, with financial support by Brandenburg, the Flemish Community and CMS. The meeting was preceded by a one-day Aquatic Warbler Scientific Symposium convened by the BirdLife International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team. Delegates to the MOU meeting agreed that the main success of the joint efforts of governments, BirdLife International and CMS has been the stabilization of the species' core breeding population in its largest breeding sites, while the loss of smaller breeding sites and especially the critical decline of the species' distinct population in Pomerania along the German-Polish border is highly alarming. The



Photo courtesy of the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin



Photo courtesy of the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin

meeting endorsed a priority projects list and a new national reporting template, as well as a proposal for a BirdLife/CMS International Aquatic Warbler Conservation Officer to support the MOU's coordination. The first Officer will be Viktor Fenchuk of Belarus (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/June/nw280606_AW.htm; http://www.cms.int/species/aquatic_warbler/meetings/aw_mou_1st_sig_states_meeting_report.htm).

On 22 June 2006, Afghanistan signed the Memorandum of Understanding concerning conservation measures for the Siberian Crane, which is highly endangered because of hunting along its migration route. Afghanistan was the eleventh and final Range State to sign the agreement. Afghanistan's Ambassador to Germany, Hamidullah Nasser-Zia, met with CMS Agreements Officer Lyle Glowka in Berlin to sign the MOU and discuss the significance of Afghanistan's membership in it, as well as on-going Siberian Crane conservation efforts in Afghanistan led by CMS partner International Crane Foundation in cooperation with Globn (SEA), an Afghan non-governmental organization (http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2006/June/nw300606_sibcrane.htm).

▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL CONVENTION PREPARES FOR COP-8

The Secretariat has posted an advance copy of the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8); the final document will be posted shortly (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/cop/cop8/docs/01e-adv.pdf>). The report for the Fifth Session of the Open Ended Working Group also has been posted (<http://www.basel.int/meetings/owg/owg5/docs/05e-repfin.doc>). In reference to Article 17(5) of the Convention and decision III/1, the President of the COP-7 Bureau transmitted a communication to all members of the Expanded Bureau, requesting them to facilitate regional consultations on the interpretation of article 17(5) of the Convention on entry into force of amendments, and on the implementation of decision III/1 adopted by COP-3. Parties are invited to communicate comments and views on this issue to representatives of the

Expanded Bureau for their region, and to exchange views between themselves (LegalS-BC@unep.ch; <http://www.basel.int/notif-ex-pbur-200606.pdf>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION POSTS COP-2 FOLLOW-UP REPORT AND REPORT ON DDT

The Secretariat has posted a follow-up document to the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its second meeting (http://www.pops.int/documents/meetings/cop_2/followup/Default.htm). The Secretariat has also posted a questionnaire for the Modules for Sections of the DDT and the accompanying guidance documents that pertain to reporting on DDT by Parties that produce and/or use DDT. All Parties are encouraged to complete the relevant Sections of the electronic questionnaire (http://www.pops.int/ddt_info/default.htm).

► WATER, WETLANDS AND COASTS

RAMSAR SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GTOS, ANNOUNCES 2007 WETLANDS DAY THEME, FILM AWARD

Ramsar Secretary General Peter Bridgewater signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) during a visit to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 13 June 2006. The GTOS is an international programme on global environmental change, sponsored by FAO, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science. One of the objectives of GTOS is to monitor and assess wetland ecosystems to address loss and degradation. The MOC provides for joint actions related to "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world" (http://www.ramsar.org/moc/key_gtos_moc.htm; <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000331/index.html>). The Secretariat also announced that the theme for the 2007 World Wetlands Day (WWD) will be "wetlands and fisheries" (http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/7/wwd2007_index.htm). In addition, the Secretariat granted the Ramsar/MedWet award for best film on water and wetlands to "Rain is falling" by Holger Ernst during the sixth Rodos Ecofilms Festival, which took place in Rhodes, Greece, from 20-25 June 2006 (http://www.ramsar.org/w/w.n.ecofilms_june2006.htm).

JUNE ISSUE OF GPA OUTREACH NEWSLETTER RELEASED

GPA Outreach is a monthly newsletter that supports the preparatory work for the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), scheduled to be held from 16-20 October 2006, in Beijing, China. The June edition of *GPA Outreach* includes: details on an Informal Preparatory Meeting that was to be held in Paris at the end of June; an article by Sylvia Earle and Dan Laffoley on "Saving the World's Last Frontier: Our High Seas;" an article on the UNEP Large Marine Ecosystem Report; information about the *GPA Online* Stakeholder Dialogue; and an article on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference (http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/GPA_Outreach_June.pdf).

IWC ADOPTS PRO-WHALING DECLARATION

Delegates attending the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) annual meeting in St. Kitts and Nevis, which took place from



Photo courtesy of the International Whaling Commission

16-20 June 2006, adopted the "St. Kitts and Nevis Declaration" with 33 votes in favor, 32 against, and one abstention. The Declaration notes that the moratorium on whaling was adopted in 1986 without advice from the Commission's Scientific Committee, and was intended as a temporary measure. It adds that, since then, research has indicated that many stocks and species of whales are abundant and sustainable whaling is possible. Pro-whaling nations will need a 75% majority to formally reject the moratorium and resume commercial whaling, although groups that oppose whaling warn that this Declaration is likely to bring in a new era in the conservation of whales (http://www.iwcoffice.org/_documents/commission/IWC58docs/Resolution2006-1.pdf; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/5100936.stm>).

IMO CHEMICAL SPILLS TREATY TO ENTER INTO FORCE, FIRST TWO STATES SIGN AUDIT SCHEME, GEF FUNDING ANNOUNCED

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretariat has announced that the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol) will enter into force on 14 June 2007, twelve months after the recent accession by Portugal, the 15th State to ratify the treaty. The Protocol seeks to provide a global framework for international cooperation in combating major incidents or threats of marine pollution from ships carrying HNS. In accordance with the protocol, ships will be required to carry a shipboard pollution emergency plan to deal with incidents involving HNS. These substances are defined as any substance other than oil, which, if introduced into the marine environment, is likely to create hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine life, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea (<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/notinforce/2003/9.html>; http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=6452;

http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?topic_id=258&doc_id=683).

During the 96th session of the IMO Council (19-23 June 2006, London, UK), the IMO Secretariat signed Memoranda of Cooperation with Chile and Denmark for the conduct of audits. With the Memoranda, these two States became the first to formalize their participation in the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme, as they pave the way for their audits during the current biennium (2006-2007). The Scheme addresses issues such as the enactment of appropriate implementing legislation for the IMO instruments to which a State is Party; the administration and enforcement of the applicable laws and regulations of the Member State; the delegation of authority in terms of the implementation of convention requirements; and the control and monitoring mechanism of the Member State's survey and certification processes and of its recognized organizations. The Scheme will enable IMO to achieve harmonized and consistent global implementation and enforcement of IMO standards, to reach its objectives of safe and efficient shipping on clean oceans (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=6456).

The IMO Secretariat has also announced that it signed a US\$6.86 million grant agreement with the Global Environment Facility/World Bank for the funding of the Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) Demonstration Project in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. This four-year project will link the shore-based marine information and communication infrastructure with the corresponding navigational and communication facilities aboard transiting ships, while incorporating marine environmental management systems. The objectives of this project are to: enhance maritime services; improve navigational safety and security; and promote marine environment protection and the sustainable development and use of the coastal and marine resources of the Strait's littoral States, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1320&doc_id=6460).

UNDOALOS RELEASES DRAFT ELEMENTS FOR UNGA CONSIDERATION

The UN Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the draft elements to be suggested to the UN General Assembly for consideration under its agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea." These elements were agreed by consensus at the seventh meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which took place from 12-16 June 2006, at UN Headquarters in New York (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/documents/agreed_elements2006.pdf).

▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP LAUNCHES AFRICA ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK-2 AND GALLERY ON SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATION

A newly released report by UNEP, Africa Environment Outlook-2, shows that poverty in Africa can be eradicated if the region's natural resource wealth is effectively, fairly and sustainably harnessed, and rapid deforestation, widespread land degradation, wasteful water use and climate change are urgently addressed. The report also identifies further challenges for Africa, ranging from genetically modified organisms and alien invasive species to a switch of chemical manufacturing from the developed to the developing world. The report recommends: realizing the potential for tourism based on nature and cultural sites; shifting from major exports of primary resources to a vibrant industrial and manufacturing base; devoting government-held lands to production rather than over-exploiting existing agricultural land; and ensuring proper pollution controls and greater efficiency in water management (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=480&ArticleID=5307&I=en>).

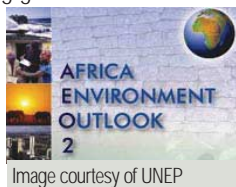


Image courtesy of UNEP

UNEP has also recently launched the first international online database of corporate and public advertising campaigns specifically dedicated to sustainability issues and classified by sustainability themes - the Creative Gallery on Sustainability Communications (<http://www.unep.fr/pc/sustain/advertising/ads.htm>).

UNGA CONSULTATIONS ADDRESS MEA COMPLIANCE, SUMMARY REPORT

On 20 June 2006, the UN General Assembly consultations on international environmental governance addressed MEA compli-

ance and scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation. Several participants called for shorter and fewer MEA-related meetings, which they said should focus on challenges in national implementation. Other suggestions included calls for: UNEP to compile best practices on MEA compliance, monitoring and reporting; the establishment of a UN Environmental Organization (UNEO) that would concentrate on early warning, networking and information gathering as well as continuing work on the Environmental Outlook report; the involvement of the UNEP Governing Council in consolidating MEA meetings; clustering MEAs around biodiversity, chemicals, climate and oceans; UNEP to increase national capacity to implement MEAs and to concentrate on increasing the environmental expertise for UN environmental field operations, rather than on increasing UNEP's operational capacity; strengthening the Environmental Management Group (EMG); following the model of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to collect the best environmental science available rather than carrying out research *per se*; facilitating reporting requirements and scientific assessment needs, to make them implementation-focused; and implementing the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (<http://www.iisd.ca/recent/recentmeetings.asp?id=8#mtg3893>).

On 27 June, a summary of the 13 and 20 June consultations was circulated during the final meeting of the UNGA consultations. Consultations Co-Chair Berruga highlighted emerging consensus on, *inter alia*, the need for more focus on implementation and best practices, addressing environmental issues within the context of sustainable development, implementation at all levels, and greater networking of all actors under some coordinating umbrella - either a strengthened UNEP or transforming UNEP into a UNEO. The Co-Chairs anticipated that the

summary report, which was not discussed by participants, will be taken up by UNGA under the agenda item of Follow-up to the World Summit. UNGA-60 President Eliasson noted that UNGA-61 President Haya Rashed Al Khalifa expressed a willingness to continue the consultation process in the 61st Session. The Co-Chairs also held a briefing in Geneva, Switzerland, on 5 July 2006, for Permanent Missions and International Organizations, during which participants raised questions about enhanced coordination, policy advice and guidance, and treaty compliance (IISD Sources).

The Co-Chair's Summary seeks to capture the messages of participating delegations, such as: building on existing structures; clarifying and strengthening UNEP's mandate to contribute to a better-articulated sustainable development discussion; and better coordinating MEAs through clustering in areas such as chemicals and biodiversity, while respecting the legal autonomy of the instruments (Co-Chair's Summary: www.reformtheun.org/index.php/united_nations/?theme=alt2).

Two additional UN reform-related meetings, which took place from 3-4 July 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland, focused on the structure of the EMG in the framework of the UNGA informal consultations and the Secretary-General's High-level Panel. Senior-level officials representing EMG members met on 3 July and executive heads of agencies and executive secretaries of MEAs met on 4 July to discuss the implications of the UN reform initiatives for the EMG and to develop an EMG contribution to the reform processes. Issues discussed included the need to give the EMG two years to demonstrate its added value as a distinct forum and a proposal to review existing cooperative arrangements between EMG members and to use this information to identify areas in which cooperation among EMG members can provide additional benefits (IISD Sources).

▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

WORLD BANK APPROVES GEF PROJECTS

Following the last meeting of the GEF Council (6-9 June 2006, Washington, DC, US), the World Bank has approved several projects on watershed management, energy efficiency, POPs, land and forest management, and renewable energy.

A GEF grant of US\$6 million for a Community Based Watershed Management Programme in Mauritania aims to lessen the incidence of land degradation at the watershed level. It will assist rural communities to realize benefits through community-driven investments addressing land degradation and promoting sustainable land management practices (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20971388~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>);

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20971288~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>);

A GEF grant of US\$5 million for a Coastal, Marine and Biodiversity Management Project and a US\$7 million GEF grant for a Community-Based Land Management Project, both in Guinea, aim to improve the productivity and sustainable use of the natural resource base in Guinea's coastal zone and to prevent land degradation while improving income generation. (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20971311~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

A US\$14.3 million GEF grant for a project to Demonstrate Alternatives to Chlordane

and Mirex in China will eliminate production and consumption of chlordane and mirex, and promote integrated pest management in termite control. Chlordane and mirex are two pesticides that are controlled by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20980540~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

The first Energy Efficiency CDM Project in China, expected to reduce 61,860 tons of carbon dioxide per year, will introduce a set of converter gas recovery and power generation systems to recover the converter gas produced by the two converters of a steel production facility and use the gas for electricity generation. (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20980540~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

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[worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20981087~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20981087~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html)).

A US\$5 million GEF grant for a Water and Environment Project in China will reduce land-based pollution discharges along the Cixi coast and the East China Sea and encourage coastal zone conservation. The project will support the construction of a wetland for tertiary treatment of the Cixi Wastewater Treatment Plant, establish a wetland center, and provide engineering design and management assistance. This is the first project financed under the Partnership Investment

Fund for Pollution Reduction in the Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia established by the GEF and World Bank (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20980537~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

A GEF grant of US\$25 million for a Large-Scale Renewable Energy Development Project in Mexico will develop initial experience in commercially-based, grid-connected renewable energy applications by supporting the construction of an approximately 101 megawatt independent power producer wind farm (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20980541~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

A US\$5 million GEF grant for an Integrated Forest and Adjacent Land Ecosystem Management Project in Benin aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the forestry administration as well as other stakeholders, and help promote the participation of community based organizations in the management of forest and adjacent lands, and sustain the contributions of forest resources to the well being of local populations (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20980522~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DSD UPDATES CSD PARTNERSHIPS AND CASE STUDY DATABASES

The UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) has updated its partnerships and case study databases. The Commission on Sustainable Development's (CSD) Partnerships database has been redesigned to enable easier access to partnerships-related information. New features include a partnerships events calendar and searchable listings

of partnerships-related web links, publications and articles (<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/welcome.do>). The redesigned case study database includes searchable listings of case studies submitted for the thematic clusters considered during CSD cycles. The database also offers governments, intergovernmental organizations and major groups the opportunity to submit



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their case studies directly to the online database. This database was developed in response to the CSD's request at its thirteenth session for a web-based tool to disseminate information on implementation and best practices (<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/caseStudy/public/Welcome.do>).

▶ COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Ana Palacio (Spain) was appointed to serve as the **World Bank Group's General Counsel and Secretary General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes** (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20962988~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).
- Michel Laveriere, **UNFF Forest Affairs Officer**, is ending his two-year tour of duty with the UNFF Secretariat and will return to work with the FAO as a Regional Forestry Officer in the Regional FAO Office in Accra, Ghana (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/n-mayjun06.html#art1>).

▶ KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **ECOSOC 2006 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION:** 3-28 July 2006. New York, NY, US. The High-level segment convened from 3-5 July 2006 to consider the theme, "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development." The dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions convenes on 6 July and will take up the theme, "The regional dimension of creating an environment conducive to generating full and productive employment, and its impact on sustainable development." The coordination segment will convene from 6-10 July and consider "Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger." The operational activities segment will convene from 11-13 July; the humanitarian affairs segment will convene from 14-19 July; the general segment will convene from 19-27 July; and the conclusion of the Council's work will be conducted on 27 and 28 July. <http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/>
- **16TH MEETING OF THE CITES PLANTS COMMITTEE:** 3-8 July 2006. Lima, Peru. <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/PC16.shtml>



Regional Representatives to the Plants Committee - <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/ac22pc16/>

- **22ND MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE:** 7-13 July 2006. Lima, Peru. <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/AC22.shtml>
- **49TH MEETING OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL FUND'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** 10-14 July 2006. Montreal, Quebec. http://www.multilateralfund.org/49th_meeting_of_the_executive_.htm
- **ITTO/ICBR/INBAR INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL RATTAN SECTOR:** 24-26 July 2006. Beijing, China. <http://www.itto.or.jp/live/PageDisplayHandler?pageld=223&id=1144>