



## RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

### ▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

#### UNFCCC PARTIES AGREE ON ADDITIONAL MEETING SESSIONS BEFORE COP 16

The ninth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 9) and the 11th session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 11) took place from 9-11 April 2010, in Bonn, Germany. Approximately 1760 participants attended the meeting, representing governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, the private sector and the media. The meeting was the first round of negotiations under both AWGs after the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.



L-R: AWG-LCA Chair Margaret Mukahanana-Sangarwe, Zimbabwe; Haldor Thorgeirsson, UNFCCC Secretariat; and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer

The main objective of the Bonn session was to agree on the organization and methods of work in 2010, including additional meeting time. The AWG-LCA adopted conclusions on organization and methods of work in 2010. The AWG-LCA invited its Chair to prepare, under her own responsibility, a text to facilitate negotiations among parties, in time for the May/June sessions in Bonn. AWG-KP 11 adopted conclusions on consideration of Annex I further commitments and the work programme for 2010 (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/L.2). It agreed, *inter alia*, to: focus in 2010 on Annex I parties' aggregate and individual emission reductions under the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012 and to continue working on "other issues;" and hold two sessions between AWG-KP 12 in June and COP/MOP 6 in November-December 2010. The AWG-KP also noted that Chair Ashe has undertaken to meet with the AWG-LCA Chair to identify information on commitments of Annex I Parties and make this information available to parties ([http://unfccc.int/files/press/news\\_room/press\\_releases\\_and\\_advisories/application/pdf/101104\\_pr\\_awg\\_april.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/news_room/press_releases_and_advisories/application/pdf/101104_pr_awg_april.pdf); <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/ccwg9/>).

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#### GUEST ARTICLE I

##### Turning the global tide of sick water

*By Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA-Marine)*

##### Abstract

As much as 80% of all marine pollution is land based – wastewater from cities, factories and farms. Transforming wastewater from a major health and environmental hazard into a clean, safe and economically-attractive resource is emerging as a key challenge in the 21st century.

*Continued on page 2*

#### GUEST ARTICLE II

##### Agenda for the Rio +20 Summit: Developing country perspective

*By Mukul Sanwal\**

##### Abstract

The call for a global conference to review the decisions taken at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development has rightly come from developing countries, because global change will now be driven by their citizens. Therefore, the objective of the Summit should be to support innovation for qualitatively different global growth pathways through strategic knowledge, rather than regulating on-going activities.

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**GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)**

Unless decisive action is taken, the wastewater challenge will intensify as the world undergoes rapid urbanization, industrialization and increasing demand for meat and other foods.

The recently launched report titled “Sick water? The central role of wastewater management in sustainable development” shows that the impact of poor wastewater management and degrading sewage systems is not only costing billions of dollars and degrading ecosystems, it is also challenging the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development, jobs, labour productivity and the health of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. “Sick Water” reports that the area of dead zones – locations of reduced or absent oxygen levels – has now grown to cover 245,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the marine environment including in North America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. In addition, at least 1.8 million children die annually as a

result of contaminated water and over half the world’s hospitals beds are occupied with people suffering from illnesses linked with contaminated water.

The report, launched during the World Water Day celebrations in Nairobi, 22 March, and the World Urban Forum in Rio, not only identifies the threats to human and ecological health and the consequences of inaction, but also presents opportunities, where appropriate policy and management responses over the short and longer term can trigger employment, support livelihoods, boost public and ecosystem health and contribute to more intelligent water management. “Sick Water?” was developed by UNEP and UN-Habitat in collaboration with the broader UN-Water family. UNEP and Habitat will now lead efforts within UN-Water through an interagency “wastewater task-force” to develop a comprehensive interagency and multistakeholder programme of work to tackle this critical issue.

Within UNEP, the impact of wastewater on ecosystem services, particularly in the coastal zone, is addressed through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA-Marine). UNEP activities are focused on promoting, leveraging or supporting action by governments at national and sub-national levels. While UNEP has contributed significantly to the GPA-Marine through a range of targeted initiatives, the primary responsibility resides with national governments. The 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans also play a fundamental role. Several regions have LBS/A (land-based activities and sources of pollution) protocols, others are in the process of developing this protocol, and some do not have such a protocol but address the issue of wastewater and implementation of GPA through different mechanisms within their programmes.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle90a.html>

**CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**

*Continued from page 1*

In other UNFCCC-related news, four calls for public inputs have been launched by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), as agreed at its 53rd meeting. The first call is for public inputs on specific aspects of approved CDM small-scale methodologies for energy efficient residential lighting and the draft methodologies for energy efficient exterior lighting and domestic solar water heating systems. The second call is for suggestions for the establishment of simplified modalities to demonstrate additionality for project activities up to five megawatts that employ renewable energy as their primary technology and for energy efficiency project activities that aim to achieve energy savings of no more than 20 gigawatt hours per year. The third call is for views on appeal procedures relating to situations where a designated operational entity may not have performed its duties in accordance with the rules or requirements of the COP/MOP and/or the Executive Board, and also relating to rulings taken by or under the authority of the Executive Board regarding the rejection or alteration of requests for registration of projects or issuance



Logo courtesy of the UNFCCC Secretariat

of certified emission reductions. The fourth call is a request for inputs from stakeholders on the draft “Tool to calculate the weighted average cost of capital” ([http://cdm.unfccc.int/public\\_inputs/2010/nrj\\_lighting\\_solar/index.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/2010/nrj_lighting_solar/index.html); [http://cdm.unfccc.int/public\\_inputs/2010/additionality\\_ren\\_nrj/index.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/2010/additionality_ren_nrj/index.html); [http://cdm.unfccc.int/public\\_inputs/2010/cmp5\\_para42\\_43/index.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/2010/cmp5_para42_43/index.html); [http://cdm.unfccc.int/public\\_inputs/2010/wacc\\_tool/index.html](http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/2010/wacc_tool/index.html)).

**WORKING GROUP II CO-CHAIR TO RECEIVE AWARD**

In IPCC news, Professor Vicente R. Barros, Co-Chair of Working Group II, has been named the recipient of a special award in science from the Government of Argentina. The award, granted to commemorate 200 years of independence in Argentina, recognizes the body of Professor Barros’ work, includ-



Professor Vicente R. Barros, Co-Chair of Working Group II

ing contributions to the development of atmospheric sciences, knowledge about climate change, capacity building, and training many PhD students. The award will be presented by the President of Argentina (<http://www.ipcc.ch/>).

**SOUTH ASIAN ILLEGAL OZONE TRADE MEETING CONVENES**

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Government of India convened the Border Dialogue on Monitoring and Controlling Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) meeting from 8-9 April 2010, in Chalsa, India. The meeting included a one-day regional dialogue with representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. This was followed by a one-day capacity building training for customs and enforcement officers in order to enhance their knowledge and skills in identifying and handling ODS. Representatives from the World Customs Organization’s Regional Intelligence Office for Asia and the Pacific and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime also participated in the workshop ([http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmf/files/6340-e-chalsa\\_PR2010.pdf](http://www.unep.fr/ozonaction/information/mmf/files/6340-e-chalsa_PR2010.pdf)).

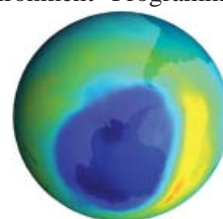


Image courtesy of UNEP

**GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)**

The question that the Summit should ask is how our complex social and economic systems can interact with a complex planetary system undergoing rapid change to create a future we all want. Recent research trends on how to meet global challenges focus on societal dynamics as both the root of environmental problems and the potential solution to them. Environmental problems are no longer defined as discrete problems, but are increasingly being understood as symptoms of a particular development path.

By making human well-being the central objective, the new paradigm for sustainable development re-balances the roles of the state, market and citizen. This approach suggests shifts in current economic, environmental and social perspectives, with a focus on areas of strategic importance in the transition to sustainable development – climate change, biodiversity and water – and the inter-linkages between them.

The Summit will need to focus on natural resource use and not just on the state of natural resources; pat-

terns of production and consumption, shaped by innovative technology and behaviour/lifestyles, rather than the demand and supply of goods and services shaped by the market and international trade; governance arrangements that will move beyond multilateral environmental agreements to networks supporting innovation; and the gaps in achieving the objectives of not only the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification regimes, but also of the Millennium Development Goals.

The new programme of action should be framed around issue-based arrangements, to chart new pathways in, for example, transportation, urbanisation and food security; develop new instruments to modify consumption patterns; and identify approaches for augmenting services provided by critical natural resources – energy, water, forests. The focus should be on “innovation” – generation and sharing of new knowledge, including innovative technologies, agricultural seed varieties, medical benefits of biodiversity, etc. The broader goal has to be transformation of the global economy and human activity.

The shared global vision will best be developed by working with a range of actors at different levels to generate strategic knowledge and exchange experiences for understanding and modifying longer term trends, so that patterns of resource use are common for all countries. A vision of environmentally sustainable global growth, which must now be led by developing countries, will have to be supported by a new paradigm, partnerships, priorities and programmes.

\*Mukul Sanwal has served in government and UN policy positions. He is currently associated with the South Center, Geneva. These are his personal views.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle90b.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.*

**▶ TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT**

**ADB FINANCES FIRST CROSS-BORDER HYDROPOWER CDM PROJECT**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is financing a hydropower project that will enable Bhutan to export clean energy to India and issue Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) credits. The

114-megawatt Dagachhu hydropower project is expected to reduce CO2 emissions by about 500,000 tonnes per year, especially through exports to India, which relies heavily on coal-fired power plants for its electricity generation. The project is the first public-private partnership in infrastructure investment in Bhutan

and will help prevent carbon emissions in India while generating additional revenue from CDM to make the project viable in Bhutan. Co-financing and support was provided by Austria, Japan and Bhutan (<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13191-bhutan-hydropower-projects/>).

**▶ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**DSD ANNOUNCES WEBSITE FOR RIO+20**

The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) has announced the launch of a webpage regarding the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which is expected to take place in 2012. The website offers links to the UN General Assembly decision calling for the meeting as well as the provisional agenda for the first preparatory committee meeting (17-19 May 2010, in New York, US), a document regarding organizational and procedural matters, and a background report from the Secretary-General on the meeting's themes (<http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/rio20/index.shtml>).

In addition, the DSD, in its capacity as Secretariat for the Commission on Sus-

tainable Development (CSD), organized a seminar on “Mining” on 9 April 2010, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Speakers presented case studies and discussed partnerships related to the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_mini\\_ss0210.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_mini_ss0210.shtml)). A seminar on “Transport,” another thematic issue to be discussed at CSD 18 in May 2010, convened on 13 April 2010 ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_tran\\_ss0410.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_tran_ss0410.shtml)).

At the fourth Bureau meeting for CSD 18, on 25 March 2010, Bureau members were briefed on changes to the CSD 18 organization of work, including moving the distribution of the first part of the Chair's Summary to the end of the first week. The next Bureau meeting will be held on 2 May 2010, prior to the beginning of the CSD ([http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd\\_csd18\\_buremeet\\_4th.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_buremeet_4th.shtml)).



Logo courtesy of the UN

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development  
**UNCSD 2012**



Banner courtesy of the UN

**RESEARCH AND RESOURCES**

**WORLD BANK TOOLKIT ON ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING**

(World Bank-ESMAP, 2010) The World Bank Group and its Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP) have produced a toolkit for efficient lighting programs, based on compact fluorescent lamps, that compiles and shares important operational (design, financing and implementation) elements, documents, lessons learned, results, and key implementation/operational aspects <http://www.esmap.org/news/news.asp?id=126>).

**THIRD SILVA MEDITERRANEA NEWSLETTER**

(FAO, April 2010) *Silva Mediterranea*, a statutory body of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization covering the Mediterranean region, released its third Newsletter, which describes current projects on: a regional analysis of climate change impacts and possible mitigation and adaptation actions in the forestry sector of the Near East; strengthening conservation and management of forest genetic resources for adaptation of Mediterranean forests to environmental changes; and adapting forest policy conditions to climate change in the Mediterranean North Africa and Middle East (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/20556-1-0.pdf>).

**SECOND STATE OF THE BASIN REPORT**

(Mekong River Commission, 2010) This report describes the status of the Lower Mekong Basin's water and related resources. It provides information about the ecological health of the Mekong river system, highlighting its resilience to current human induced pressures and other threats. The report outlines some of the development challenges for the Basin, including hydropower development, land use change and climate change ([http://www.mrc-mekong.org/MRC\\_news/press10/the-launch-of-state-of-basin-report2-4-10.htm](http://www.mrc-mekong.org/MRC_news/press10/the-launch-of-state-of-basin-report2-4-10.htm)).

**▶ CHEMICALS AND WASTES**

**BASEL CONVENTION RELEASES DRAFT GUIDELINES ON CO-PROCESSING HAZARDOUS WASTES**

The Basel Convention Secretariat has released draft revised Technical Guidelines on Co-processing of Hazardous Waste in Cement Kilns. The draft guidelines were developed by Chile and provide general guidance on alternative fuels and raw materials in cement production in accordance with provisions of the Basel Convention. According to the guidelines, co-processing of waste materials in properly controlled cement kilns provides energy and



Logo courtesy of the Basel Convention Secretariat

materials recovery while cement is being produced and offers an environmentally sound recovery option for many wastes (<http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html>).

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION WELCOMES NEW PARTIES**



Logo courtesy of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat

The Stockholm Convention Secretariat has announced two new parties to the Convention. Colombia and Poland both ratified the Convention on 20 January 2009, bringing the total number of parties to 170 (<http://chm.pops.int/>).

**▶ FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND**

**UNCCD DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH CARICOM**

On 26 March 2010, Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and Edwin Carrington, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary-General, discussed a course of action in the implementation of a memorandum of understand-



Edwin Carrington, Secretary-General, CARICOM



Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD

ing signed by CARICOM and UNCCD Secretariats in July 2002. Gnacadja expressed the UNCCD Secretariat's willingness to work with CARICOM to build its resilience to natural disasters and other threats associated with

climate change ([http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/pres138\\_10.jsp](http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/pres138_10.jsp)).

In other UNCCD-related news, the Global Mechanism (GM) has released the report from a clinic it organized for West and Central Africa on designing integrated financing strategies. The clinic convened on 28 January 2010, in Dakar, Senegal, as part of a workshop from 25-28 January 2010, on the management, monitoring and evaluation of projects related to sustainable land management. The workshop was organized by the UN Development Programme's Least Developed Countries-Small Island Developing States programme, with support provided by the GM ([http://www.global-mechanism.org/dynamic/documents/document\\_file/rapport-session-csi-2.pdf](http://www.global-mechanism.org/dynamic/documents/document_file/rapport-session-csi-2.pdf); <http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/clinic-on-designing-integrated-financing-strategies-for-african-francophone-countries>).

**▶ BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

**CITES SECRETARIAT PUBLISHES COP DECISIONS ON AMENDMENT PROPOSALS, ANNUAL REPORT**

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has published a sheet reviewing the final decisions on amendment proposals considered during the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held from 13-25 March 2010, in Doha, Qatar, as well as its report for 2008-2009 (<http://www.cites.org/eng/news/meetings/cop15/CoP15-decisions-on-proposals.pdf>; [http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/sec/ann\\_rep/2008-09.pdf](http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/sec/ann_rep/2008-09.pdf)).

Image: Cover of the Activity Report of the CITES Secretariat - 2008-2009



## ► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

### AVIAN INFLUENZA AND WILD BIRDS TASK FORCE REVIEWS ACHIEVEMENTS, ASSESSES FUTURE PRIORITIES

Convened by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the third meeting of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds was held from 15-16 March 2010, at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. The meeting reviewed what has been achieved in addressing the spread of avian influenza, and determined the future role and direction of the Task Force. Focus was set on current activity related to avian influenza surveillance, including most recent research related to epidemiology, known direct and indirect impacts on the conservation of waterbirds and wetlands, and most recent developments with respect to national contingency planning and response strategies. Participants agreed on the following issues to be further developed: standardization of reporting and sampling methodologies to current best science-based practices; use of the flyway approach for continued and broader surveillance of wild bird populations, along with better understanding of migration routes, habitat use, and movements; strengthening of capacity for outbreak investigations that evaluates the source of virus introduction; and reduction of indiscriminate blame of wild birds for poultry outbreaks, in the absence of proper evidence. Established in 2005 to create a liaison mechanism between international organizations and multilateral environment agreements engaged in activities related to avian influenza, the Task Force comprises representatives and observers from 14 international organizations ([http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/03\\_mar/avian\\_influenza\\_tf3.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2010/03_mar/avian_influenza_tf3.pdf)).



Banner courtesy of UNEP/AEWA

[http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news\\_elements/2010/wmbd2010.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/wmbd2010.htm)).

In other CMS-related news, the Secretariats of the UNEP African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (UNEP/AEWA) and the CMS have announced that World Migratory Bird Day 2010 will be celebrated from 8-9 May 2010 under the theme "Save migratory birds in crisis – every species counts!" Held for the fifth consecutive year, this awareness-raising campaign aims to inspire people to take action for the conservation of migratory birds ([http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news\\_elements/2010/wmbd2010.htm](http://www.unep-aewa.org/news/news_elements/2010/wmbd2010.htm)).

### CBD CIRCULATES DRAFT PROTOCOLS ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS, ABS; EXPERT MEETING PREPARES FOR SBSTTA 14

In accordance with Article 28(3) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), stating that the text of any proposed protocol shall be communicated to parties at least six months before the meeting during which it is submitted for adoption, the CBD Executive Secretary has circulated a proposed protocol on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms, supplementary to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-

safety, as well as a draft protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS), to be read in conjunction with the report of the ninth meeting of the ABS Working Group (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-059-bs-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-066-abs-en.pdf>).

In other CBD-related news, an expert meeting in preparation of the 14th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 14) was held from 15-19 March 2010, on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, convened by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The meeting aimed to exchange information and opinions on the topics to be discussed at SBSTTA 14, rather than reach consensus on individual points. It gathered participants from 17 European and other countries, who attended in their personal capacity as biodiversity experts. A representative of the CBD Secretariat took part as an observer and guest speaker. The report of the meeting summarizes discussions, provides general comments on the SBSTTA background document as prepared by the Secretariat, and suggests amendments to the draft recommendations (<http://www.cbd.int/sbstta/sbstta-14/doc/sbstta-14-expert-meeting-preparation-report-en.pdf>).

Finally, the CBD Secretariat has recently published a new issue of the *business.2010* Newsletter, with special focus on the third Business and Biodiversity Conference, held from 30 November-2 December 2009, in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the first issue of the *Cities and Biodiversity* Newsletter (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/news-biz-2010-03-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/doc/newsletter/cities-newsletter-01-01-en.pdf>).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### UNDOALOS RELEASES FISH STOCKS REPORT

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has released the report and list of participants of the ninth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (ICSP 9), which took place in New York, US, on 16-17 March 2010 ([http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/icsp9report.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/icsp9report.pdf); [http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/icsp9participants.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/icsp9participants.pdf)). ICSP 9 served primarily as a preparatory meeting for the

resumed Review Conference, scheduled to be held from 24-28 May 2010, at the same venue ([http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/Information%20for%20participants.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocksmeetings/Information%20for%20participants.pdf)).

### NEW PROTOCOL FOR THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN ADOPTED

The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean, organized from 29 March-1 April 2010, by the UN Environment Programme, was held under the theme "Sustaining Progress." The Conference brought together ministers

responsible for the environment and other government delegates from all ten contracting parties, along with experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society. At the meeting, delegates adopted a 25-year programme of action aimed at ensuring efficient management of the marine and coastal environment in the larger Eastern and Southern African region. They also adopted a protocol amending the Convention to take into account new provisions on emerging issues, such as climate change and the need for an ecosystem-based management approach ([http://www.unep.org/roa/docs/COP6\\_pressrelease.pdf](http://www.unep.org/roa/docs/COP6_pressrelease.pdf); <http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/News/Press-Release/tabid/427/language/en-US/Default.aspx?DocumentID=620&ArticleID=6521&Lang=en>).

## ► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS

### MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTED FOR EUROPE'S LARGEST WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

The 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference, hosted by Germany at Westerland on the Wadden Sea island of Sylt, next to the Danish border, took place from on 17-18 March 2010. The participating Governments adopted a management plan for the entire Wadden Sea region to support action against a number of invasive alien species and in response to major challenges resulting from the effects of climate change in the coastal area, including sea level rise and shore line protection. The Wadden Sea is Eu-

rope's largest Wetland of International



Participants walked "through the Wadden Sea Plan," from the North Sea beach up the shifting dunes in the northern part of Sylt (photo courtesy of the Ramsar Secretariat)

Importance, covering the coast line of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. During the 11th Conference, the three Governments agreed on a joint political programme for the coming years geared towards better protection of the common ecosystem. They also agreed to promote their model at the international scale. In addition, Ministers signed a new Joint Declaration and a new administrative Agreement for the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat ([http://www.bmu.de/english/current\\_press\\_releases/pm/print/45789.php](http://www.bmu.de/english/current_press_releases/pm/print/45789.php); [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-wadden-seaprotection/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24543\\_4000\\_2\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-news-archives-2010-wadden-seaprotection/main/ramsar/1-26-45-437%5E24543_4000_2__)).

## ► INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### UNEP HOSTS MEETING ON EIA, CONVENES EVENTS ON GEO-5, ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS, EMG

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) hosted the 30th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment from 6-11 April 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference looked at the five sectors that have been identified as key green investment opportunities: agriculture, industry, tourism, cities and transportation (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=620&ArticleID=6523&l=en&t=long>).

UNEP convened the First Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the fifth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5) Report from 29-31 March 2010, in Nairobi, Kenya. A key outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a Statement on the objectives, scope and process of the GEO-5, to be released in 2012. The next steps in the process include nominations of experts by governments and other stakeholder groups, including collaborating centers. The Statement indicates that, given that the GEO-5 report will be published in 2012, the year of the Rio+20 Conference where possible themes include 'a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty

eradication' and the 'institutional framework for sustainable development,' the GEO-5 assessment should aim to address these and other relevant themes, as appropriate (<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=617&ArticleID=6518&l=en>, <http://www.unep.org/geo/>).

UNEP convened a meeting on "Existing Internationally Agreed Environmental Goals and Objectives" from 29-31 March 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was attended by representatives from over 80 governments who considered the preparation of a compilation of internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives, with thematic areas on: air pollution and air quality; biodiversity; chemicals and waste; climate change; energy; environmental governance; forests; freshwater; oceans and seas; and soil, land use, land degradation and desertification (IISD RS Sources).

A draft report from the first meeting of the Issue Management Group on Sustainability Management, which convened from 9-10 February 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland, has been posted on the Environmental Management Group (EMG) website. The mandate of the group includes exploring how sustainable management in the UN system

can be developed and reporting to the EMG. Key outcomes of the meeting include agreements to undertake emission reduction plans and greenhouse gas inventories (<http://www.unemg.org/sustainableun/Meetings/SustainabilityManagement2010IMG1/tabid/3314/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

The Issue Management Group on a Green Economy also convened for the first time from 23-24 March 2010, in Washington, DC, US. The meeting undertook an initial discussion of the potential contribution of each agency to the transition to a green economy (<http://www.unemg.org/MeetingsDocuments/IssueManagementGroups/GreenEconomy/GreenEconomyMeeting/tabid/3563/language/en-US/Default.aspx>).

In related news, UNEP has released the March 2010 edition of the Multilateral Environment Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries Programme. The newsletter includes a guest article on activities being undertaken under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Quick Start Programme, and updates on activities at the Pacific, African and Caribbean project hubs (<http://www.unep.org/African-CaribbeanPacific/MEAs/Doc/March-2010Newsletter.pdf>).

## ► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management:** 19-23 April 2010. Ljubljana, Slovenia. <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>
- **Montreal Protocol Technology and Economic Assessment Panel:** 19-23 April 2010. Madrid, Spain. [http://ozone.unep.org/Events/Indicative\\_List\\_TEAP\\_TOCs\\_Meetings-2010.shtml](http://ozone.unep.org/Events/Indicative_List_TEAP_TOCs_Meetings-2010.shtml)
- **Ninth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:** 19-30 April 2010. New York, US. [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session\\_ninth.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html)
- **IPCC Expert Meeting on Human Settlement, Water, Energy and Transport Infrastructure — Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies:** 20-22 April 2010. Calcutta, India. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/meetings/EMs/index.html#3>
- **2010 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group:** 24-25 April 2010. Washington DC, US. <http://www.imf.org/external/spring/2010/index.htm>