



RECENT MEA ACTIVITIES

▶ CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE

BALI CLIMATE CONFERENCE ENDS WITH AGREEMENT ON ROADMAP

The UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, has concluded with an agreement on a "Bali roadmap." The agreement, which was reached a full day after the 3-14 December 2007 meeting was scheduled to conclude, establishes a process to reach agreement by 2009 on commitments for emissions reductions in the post-2012 period, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires. Several issues proved difficult to resolve, especially during the talks on long-term cooperative action under the Convention. Text on mitigation by developed and developing countries was particularly contentious, with parties finally agreeing on a proposal by India and other developing countries to text referring to nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country parties in the context of sustainable development, supported by technology and enabled by finance and capacity building in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner. The conference attracted over 10,000 participants and involved a complex series of meetings and events, including the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 3). In addition, the twenty-seventh sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 27) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 27) convened, as well as the resumed fourth session of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 4). Delegates concluded their work under the SBI and SBSTA early in the second week, with one notable outcome being agreement on a draft COP/MOP decision establishing an Adaptation Fund. The Fund will have a Global Environment Facility-based secretariat, the World Bank as trustee, and 16 representatives of parties to the Kyoto Protocol on the board. These institutional arrangements will be reviewed every three years (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/>).



UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon after consensus was reached

MEA Clusters In This Issue

- **Climate and Atmosphere**
Multilateral Fund Executive Committee Meets Page 2
- **Sustainable Development**
CSD 16 Preparations Continue Page 2
- **Chemicals and Wastes**
Basel Releases Draft on Regional Coordinating Centres; Stockholm Launches Electronic Reporting Page 2
- **Trade, Finance and Investment**
World Bank/GEF Support Biosafety and Agricultural Pollution Control Projects Page 3
- **Water, Oceans and Wetlands**
Africa Preparatory Meeting to Ramsar COP 10 Convenes; Asian Workshop Addresses National GPA Mainstreaming; IMO to Focus on Global Warming, MDGs Page 3
- **Forests, Deserts and Land**
UNFF, ITTO Co-Host Forest Event at UN Climate Conference; UNCCD, GM Address Climate Issues; UNGA Adopts Instrument on Forests Page 4
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife**
CMS Meeting Explores Options for Migratory Sharks; CBD Launches Adaptation Website; CITES Launches Caviar Database Pages 4-5
- **Intergovernmental Organizations**
UNEP Releases Medium-Term Strategy and Report on Green Jobs; UNGA Second Committee Adopts Sustainable Development Resolutions Page 5

GUEST ARTICLE I

The New ENTRI Conference of Party (COP) Decision Search Tool

http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/gsametasearch/cop_start.jsp

By Alex de Sherbinin, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), The Earth Institute at Columbia University

Abstract

Every year the parties to the major multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) convene in exotic locations to make decisions affecting treaty implementation.

Continued on page 2

GUEST ARTICLE II

UNDP MDG Carbon Facility: Leveraging Carbon Finance for Sustainable Development

<http://www.undp.org/mdgcarbonfacility/>

By Yannick Glemarec, UN Development Programme/Global Environment Facility Executive Coordinator and UNDP Environmental Finance Manager

Abstract

The double challenge for energy and climate change policies today is to find ways to attract enough direct investment to meet the growing energy supply infras-

Continued on page 4

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GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

As the number of agreements and COPs increase with every passing year, so do the number of decisions. It becomes increasingly difficult to track who decided what, and when, especially since decision documents are in different formats across multiple treaty secretariat websites. Furthermore, a particular decision of interest may be buried in a 100 page document, for which the only option is to search the document using a text string and hope that the correct decision is located.

In response to the challenge of locating decisions across multiple agreements, CIESIN's NASA-funded Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) has produced a COP Decision Search Tool as an add-on to its Environmental Treaties and Resource Indicators (ENTRI) project. The search tool is powered by a Google search appliance, and includes controlled "metadata" (coding of each decision document) to enable powerful advanced searches by date, COP number, or title of document. All decisions are harvested as individual documents and converted to PDF for consistency. For reference purposes, we list the original URL of the document or Web page in which the decision may be found.

The collection currently includes over 2,100 decision documents for the following agreements: the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar); the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD); the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol (Kyoto); and the Vienna Convention to Protect the Ozone Layer (Vienna) and its Montreal Protocol (Montreal). Users may search across all ten agreements or limit the search to selected subsets.

The permutations of searches are virtually endless, depending on the specific requirements of the user. The simplest approach is to conduct a free-text search across the texts of all decisions in the database. To narrow the search, a user might choose to retrieve only docu-

Continued on page 3

CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE



Logo courtesy of the Multilateral Fund

MULTILATERAL FUND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS, OZONE SECRETARIAT RELEASES HANDBOOK

The 53rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol met from 26-30 November 2007 in Montreal, Canada. Topics considered during the meeting included the status of contributions and disbursements, developing countries' implementation status, the Secretariat's model rolling three-year phase-out plan, programme implementation and project proposals (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/53rdmeeting.htm>). The Secretariat's initial analysis of the issues relevant to the incremental costs resulting from the phase-out of HCFCs was also discussed, including a proposal for a new expert group to consider cost-effectiveness thresholds relevant to the HCFC phase-out (<http://www.multilateralfund.org/files/53/5360.pdf>).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CSD 16 PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has announced that it will co-organize an International Conference on Combating Desertification, from 22-24 January 2008, in Beijing, China, to contribute to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 16, 5-16 May 2008, New York, US) (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/calendar/desertification_beijing2008.htm). Also in preparation for CSD 16, two Regional Implementation Meetings (RIM) recently convened. The Asia and the Pacific RIM (26-27 November 2007, Jakarta, Indonesia) heard opening remarks from CSD 16 Chair Francis Nhema (Zimbabwe), who noted that the discussions at the African RIM concluded that the barriers and constraints facing Africa render that region

The Ozone Secretariat has released the updated Handbook on Critical Use Nominations for Methyl Bromide. The new version includes updated forms and the new approved standard assumptions applied to nominations for pre-plant use of methyl bromide (http://ozone.unep.org/Assessment_Panels/TEAP/Reports/MBTOC/MBTOC_Handbook_ver_6_Dec_07_final.pdf).

In implementation news, numerous regional meetings convened in December. On illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances, a meeting of the West Asia Network of Ozone Officers met in Cairo, Egypt, from 12-13 December 2007; and the First Working Group Meeting for the Latin America Montreal Protocol Customs Enforcement Network met on 16 December 2007, in Managua, Nicaragua, and was followed, on 17-19 December 2007, by a meeting of the Ozone Officers' Networks from Mexico, Central and South America. On methyl bromide, a meeting was organized from 9-11 December 2007, in Cairo, Egypt, to facilitate technology transfer with regard to alternatives to this chemical in the West Asia region, and a roundtable meeting on Agriculture Curricula was held on 12 December 2007, also in Cairo, Egypt (<http://www.unepie.org/ozonaction/events/index.htm>).

particularly vulnerable, and said the situation facing Asia-Pacific also calls for rapid action (<http://www.unescap.org/esd/rim/16th/>). The Latin America and the Caribbean RIM (28-29 November, Santiago, Chile) discussed outcomes, trends and challenges for sustainable development in that region (<http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/dmaah/noticias/paginas/1/30271/P30271.xml&xsl=/dmaah/tpl/p18f.xsl&base=/dmaah/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>).



José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary, ECLAC, opened the Latin America and the Caribbean RIM

CHEMICALS AND WASTES

BASEL CONVENTION RELEASES DRAFT ON REGIONAL COORDINATING CENTRES

In accordance with Decision VIII/4, the Basel Convention Secretariat has prepared a draft report on the Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centres. The report includes: an assessment of the Centres, based on a questionnaire, including a description of each Centre and its main achievements and obstacles; a brief analysis of the answers to the questionnaire; a comprehensive picture of the situation faced by the Centres; and strategic elements to assist parties in

reviewing the Centres. Comments on the draft are requested by 31 January 2008 (<http://www.basel.int/centers/draft-report-bcrs.pdf>).

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC REPORTING

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention has launched an electronic reporting system for submission of national reports under Article 15 of the Convention. The system is available in the six UN official languages (<http://www.pops.int/Art15/>).

GUEST ARTICLE I (cont.)

ments in which the title includes the search term. Another use might be to see how many times the parties to the biodiversity agreements refer to, for example, "climate change" in their decisions.

CIESIN intends to update the COP decisions every six months so as to keep the database of decisions relatively current. If you find a particularly useful application of this tool, please let us know, and we can add it to our FAQ file for the ENTRI service (contact Alex de Sherbinin at adesherbinin-a-ciesin.columbia.edu).

Link to full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle38a.htm>

► TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

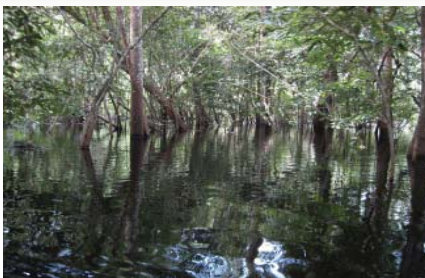
WORLD BANK/GEF SUPPORT BIOSAFETY AND AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECTS

On 13 November 2007, the World Bank endorsed the "West Africa Regional Biosafety Project," including a US\$ 5.4 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a US\$ 3.9 million loan from the International Development Association (IDA). The project integrates a larger programme that includes other donors and will be implemented in eight countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo). Its main objective is to establish and implement a shared biosafety regulatory framework by putting in place necessary environmental and social safeguards, thereby enabling countries involved to meet their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and contributing to the region's development while

protecting biological diversity and human health (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21553072~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>).

On 6 December 2007, the World Bank approved a US\$ 5 million GEF grant for an "Agricultural Pollution Control Project" in Croatia. The Project will assist Croatian Pannonian plain farmers to increase the use of environmentally friendly agricultural practices in order to reduce nutrient discharge from agricultural sources to surface and ground waters. It will also help Croatia comply with EU Nitrates Directives while assisting the Government in establishing a competitive agricultural sector on its path towards EU accession (<http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?Projectid=P100639&theSitePK=40941&pagePK=64283627&menuPK=228424&piPK=73230>).

► WATER, OCEANS AND WETLANDS



Field trip to the Ebogo mangrove wetland (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

AFRICA REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING TO RAMSAR COP 10 CONVENES, SWISS GRANT FOR AFRICA RENEWED

The Africa Regional Meeting in preparation of the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP 10, October 2008, Republic of Korea), took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 26-30 November 2007. Participants identified obstacles to the implementation of the current Convention Work and Strategic Plans, including the lack of financial resources, capacities, political will and human resources. Participants also developed recommendations to solve the obstacles and went on a field trip in the Ebogo mangrove wetlands (http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_reg_africa2008_news_e.htm).



Field trip to the Ebogo mangrove wetland (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)



Field trip to the Ebogo mangrove wetland (Photo courtesy of Ramsar)

In related news, the Ramsar Secretariat has announced that Switzerland has agreed to assist the Convention's activities in Africa for another year through the Swiss Grant for Africa. The Grant will allow the Secretariat to support three projects on the continent and supported the organization of the Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting for COP 10 (http://www.ramsar.org/swiss/key_swiss_news_2007.htm).

ASIAN WORKSHOP ADDRESSES NATIONAL MAINSTREAMING OF THE GPA

The Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) has organized an Asian training workshop to further the implementation of the GPA at the national level in Chennai, India, from 27-29 November 2007. The workshop's main output was the development of a national mainstreaming strategy outline for each country present, describing the steps to be undertaken in the short term to initiate the mainstreaming process in each respective country. The outlines seek to raise governmental awareness of the opportunities created by mainstreaming of marine and coastal issues into national planning and budgetary processes (IISD sources; <http://www.gpa.unep.org/content.html?ln=6&id=388>).

IMO TO FOCUS ON GLOBAL WARMING, MDGs; BUNKER OIL POLLUTION CONVENTION TO ENTER INTO FORCE

At its 25th session (19-30 November 2007, London, UK) the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) updated the Organization's Strategic Plan and High-level Action Plan. Among the strategic directions identified by the Assembly for the IMO to achieve its mission objectives are: greater emphasis on curbing atmospheric pollution and addressing global warming; and contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1472&doc_id=8824).

In other IMO news, the IMO has announced that, with Sierra Leone's accession to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage on 21 November 2007, the criteria for its entrance into force have been met. The new treaty, which was adopted by the IMO in 2001, will come into effect in November 2008 and cover liability and compensation for pollution damage caused by spills of oil, when carried as fuel in ships' bunkers (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1472&doc_id=8756).

NEW ITLOS JUDGE TO BE ELECTED

The UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) has announced that a Special Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS will be held on 30 January 2008 to elect a new member for the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), following the resignation of Judge Guangjian Xu (China) on 15 August 2007. UNDOALOS has indicated that Gao Zhiguo (China) has been designated as the candidate for the secret ballot election (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/SPLOS_documents.htm#SPLOS/165).

GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

structure needs of low income countries to sustain their economic development, while driving these direct investments towards lower carbon technologies to avoid dangerous climate change.

The good news is that the new carbon market tools that have emerged from the Kyoto Protocol's flexibility mechanisms, notably the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Joint Implementation (JI), have the potential to substantially augment financial resources available to developing countries and Economies in Transition for clean energy development and sustainable land management. However, the number of countries accessing this expanding CDM/JI market in a significant way is small. Currently, just five countries are expected to generate approximately 80% of CDM credits by 2012. Current market rules are also failing to attract direct investors into lower-carbon technologies and sustainable land use projects. Almost half of the anticipated CDM credits to 2012 will come from non-carbon dioxide industrial gas emission reductions (such as HFC23 destruction and capture of N₂O emissions), characterized by a high return on investment but limited human development benefits.

Building on its experience in market transformation for low carbon technologies as one of the three founding Implementing Agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP has established the MDG Carbon Facility to help leverage the potentially significant benefits of carbon finance. Its core objectives are:

- Broadening access to carbon finance by enabling a wider range of developing countries to participate; and
- Promoting emission reduction projects that contribute to the MDGs, yielding additional sustainable development and poverty reduction benefits.

The MDG Carbon Facility forms part of UNDP's comprehensive, three-step approach to capacity development in carbon finance. On a country-by-country basis, this approach commences with barrier removal to direct investment in lower carbon technologies, then addresses the establishment of efficient host-country procedures for CDM and JI, and culminates in the development of pioneer emission reduction projects by the Facility. Once a carbon market is firmly established, attracting private-

Continued on page 5

► FORESTS, DESERTS AND LAND

UNFF AND ITTO CO-HOST FOREST EVENT AT UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

The UN Forum on Forests, the International Tropical Timber Organization and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests co-hosted "Forest Day," an event organized by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) during the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali. The event, held on 8 December 2007, was the first of its kind, and was attended by more than 800 people. With widespread recognition of the key role forests play in both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, Forest Day was convened as a platform for multi-stakeholder discussion to help shape the global forest agenda, and included 25 side events and sessions on four cross-cutting themes: methodological challenges in estimating forest carbon; market and governance; equity versus efficiency; and adaptation (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/fd/>).



Frances Seymour,
Director General,
CIFOR, at Forest Day

UNCCD, GM ADDRESS CLIMATE ISSUES

In addition to addressing delegates at the UN Climate Change Conference (<http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/docs/lgccbali.pdf>), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja addressed a UNCCD-organized side event on sustainable land management, which discussed strategies for ensuring inclusion of biochar, a type of charcoal produced from biomass, within the CDM in a post-2012 climate change regime (<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/enbots/13dec.html>).



UNCCD Executive Secretary
Luc Gnacadja

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD organized, with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and EcoSecurities, a

dialogue on "Investing in Emissions Reduction and Rural Development" on 14 November 2007, on the sidelines of the 20th World Energy Congress. The dialogue recommended developing a Working Group on investing in emissions reduction, rural development and energy supply, to promote engagement with the private sector on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the agricultural, rural and land sectors while developing partnerships between Rome-based UN organizations and the private sector. These issues were further discussed and the Working Group's establishment was announced on the side of the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali. A follow-up workshop is anticipated to take place at the third Global Conference on Social Responsibility (15-17 February 2008, Lisbon, Portugal) (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/news--events/events/private-sector-engagement-bali-event-5-december-2007/>; <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop13/enbots/5dec.html>).

The GM has also co-convened a workshop on the potential for the development of the Gum Arabic sector to combat land degradation and promote food security in Mali (Bamako, Mali, 13-14 November 2008). Discussions included promotion of the Gum Arabic trade, integration of the Gum Arabic sector into ongoing policy processes and mobilization of financial resources to develop the sector. Next steps include the development of an opportunity study on Gum Arabic (<http://www.global-mechanism.org/initiatives/all-initiatives/gum-arabic/>).

UNGA ADOPTS INSTRUMENT ON FORESTS

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) on All Types of Forests in its Plenary Session on 17 December 2007. The adoption was followed by a high-level special event, entitled "The NLBI – Heralding a New Era in Implementing Sustainable Forest Management." The NLBI was forwarded to UNGA for adoption after the UN Economic and Social Council adopted it in October 2007. The NLBI is the result of several years of negotiations by the UN Forum on Forests, culminating in its final approval at the Forum's seventh session in April 2007 (<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25099&Cr=forests&Cr1=>).

sulted in two outputs: a general statement on the purpose and process of the meeting; and a statement on the outcomes of the meeting, which will guide future work on the process. It is expected that an instrument on sharks will be concluded at the ninth meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties, to be held from 1-5 December 2008, in Rome, Italy.

Continued on page 5

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

CMS MEETING EXPLORES OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MIGRATORY SHARKS

The Meeting to Identify and Elaborate an Option for International Cooperation on Migratory Sharks under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) was held in Mahé, Seychelles, from 11-13 December 2007. Discussions re-

GUEST ARTICLE II (cont.)

sector investment and developing project technologies that deliver longer-term development benefits, the MDG Carbon Facility will exit that market.

The MDG Carbon Facility represents an innovative public-private partnership between UNDP and an international financial services provider, Fortis Bank, offering prospective emission reduction projects a comprehensive "one-stop-shop" package of services. Under the terms of the partnership, UNDP will help developing countries conceive projects intended to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and will ensure that these projects meet the CDM's and JI's agreed standards and deliver real, sustainable benefits to the environment and broader human development. Fortis will then purchase and re-sell the emissions offsets generated by these projects. Proceeds from Fortis' purchases will provide developing countries and communities with a new flow of resources to finance much needed investment and promote development.

Link to full article: <http://www.iisd.ca/mea-1/guestarticle38b.htm>

Editor's note:

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

► BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE

Continued from page 4

A new "Review of Migratory Chondrichthyan Fishes," prepared by the Shark Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission on behalf of the CMS Secretariat, was presented for the first time at the meeting. The document concludes that a large number of migratory shark species stand to benefit from inclusion in the CMS appendices and any agreements concerning the conservation of sharks. Of the 140 species in the list, 42 were selected for more detailed discussion, as they seem to warrant further consideration by CMS (<http://www.iisd.ca/cms/sdsey/>; http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/Technical%20Series/CMS_Technical%20_Series15_Migratory_sharks.pdf).

CBD SECRETARIAT LAUNCHES ADAPTATION WEBSITE, INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON ABS SCHEDULED

The Biodiversity Adaptation website of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was officially launched during a press briefing on the margins of the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali. The website contributes specifically to the adaptation planning and practices area of work under the Nairobi Work Programme and forms an important part of enhanced efforts to maximize cooperation between the CBD and the UNFCCC. It brings together tools and information developed by governments, a variety of organizations and agencies on the integration of biodiversity



considerations within adaptation planning (<http://adaptation.cbd.int>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2007/pr-2007-12-13-adaptation-en.pdf>).

With regard to access and benefit-sharing (ABS), the Co-Chairs of the Convention's ABS Working Group, Fernando Casas (Colombia) and Timothy Hodges (Canada), will hold informal consultations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19-20 January 2008, prior to the sixth meeting of the Working Group, to be held from 21-25 January 2008 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2007/ntf-2007-154-abs-en.pdf>; <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2007/ntf-2007-143-abs-en.pdf>).

CITES LAUNCHES DATABASE TO TRACK CAVIAR TRADE

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre launched a computerized database that will track shipments of caviar around the world. The database will record details of all permits and certificates that authorize trade in caviar, and help detect and deter illegal catch and trade (http://www.cites.org/eng/news/press_release.shtml; <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/citestrade/caviar/>).

► INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNEP RELEASES MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY AND REPORT ON GREEN JOBS; TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN REACHES GOAL

On 5 December 2007, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner presented UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) to the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in Nairobi, Kenya. The MTS identifies six thematic cross-cutting priorities: climate change; disasters and conflict; ecosystem management; environmental governance; harmful substances and hazardous waste; and resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production. In addition, the Strategy puts emphasis on UNEP becoming a more efficient and results-focused entity, by means of: significantly enhancing its capacity to deliver on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building; embracing its role as the environment programme of the UN; ensuring interventions are based on sound science; and implementing results-based management. The Tenth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Environment Ministerial Forum (20-22 February 2008, Monaco) will consider the final draft of the MTS for approval ([\[unep.org/civil%5Fsociety/GCSF9/pdfs/MTS-Final-Revised-Draft.pdf\]\(http://www.unep.org/civil%5Fsociety/GCSF9/pdfs/MTS-Final-Revised-Draft.pdf\); <http://www.unep.org/civil%5Fsociety/GCSF9/pdfs/MTS-EDs-Presentation-to-CPR.pdf>\).](http://www.</p>
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According to the preliminary draft report *Green Jobs: Can the Transition to Environmental Sustainability Spur New Kinds and Higher Levels of Employment?*, commissioned by UNEP together with the International Labour Organization and the International Trade Union Confederation, adapting to and mitigating climate change will involve a transition to new patterns of production and consumption, which will create new employment opportunities. The final report will be released in early 2008 (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=523&ArticleID=5717&l=en>).

In other UNEP news, on 28 November 2007, UNEP announced that *Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign* had reached its objective of planting one billion trees worldwide. The campaign was initiated by UNEP, the World Agroforestry Centre and Prince Albert II of Monaco in November 2006, inspired by Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, the founder of the Kenyan Green Belt Movement ([\[org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=521&ArticleID=5712&l=en\]\(http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=521&ArticleID=5712&l=en\)\).](http://www.unep.</p>
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UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE ADOPTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS

On 30 November 2007, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Second Committee (Economic and Financial) adopted four draft resolutions, calling on governments and stakeholders to take action on several climate change and sustainable development-related issues. The resolutions included: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/62/L.40); follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/62/L.41); protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/C.2/62/L.38); and the report of the UNEP Governing Council on its twenty-fourth session (A/C.2/62/L.39). All resolutions were adopted without a vote (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/gaef3204.doc.htm>).

► RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

TRADE-RELATED MEASURES AND MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

(UNEP, 2007) This paper contributes to ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) by analyzing MEA trade-related measures in the context of their overall objectives. It provides a detailed review of the main provisions and specific trade-related measures found in six MEAs and explores the role these measures play in the overall context of the MEAs. The paper recommends a framework for considering trade-related measures in reference to the functions they perform, and notes that MEAs have numerous features that contribute not only to their own effectiveness but also support international trade rules, moving towards more objective, science-based, and standardized approaches in addressing shared environmental and health concerns (http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/MEA%20Papers/TradeRelated_MeasuresPaper.pdf).

A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF MEA EXPERIENCES IN IDENTIFYING AND FACILITATING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY: WHAT INSIGHTS CAN BE DRAWN FOR THE WTO EGS NEGOTIATIONS?

(UNEP and UNCTAD, 2007) MEA Secretariats and their parties have been engaged for a number of years in identifying relevant technology and promoting technology transfer as a step towards achieving MEA objectives. This paper examines this experience with a view to enriching WTO negotiations on the liberalization of trade in environmental goods and services. It finds that MEAs and their parties generally adopt a dynamic mechanism for technology identification, designed to respond to the changing nature of environmental challenges, scientific discoveries, technological development, as well as changing economic, social and cul-

tural circumstances. The paper also notes that MEA Secretariats and parties often adopt a "package" approach to technology and technology transfer, where the transfer of the technology is complemented by capacity building, technical assistance, training of personnel, sharing of know-how, and exchange of information (http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/MEA%20Papers/MEA_EGS%20Paper.pdf).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS AND DECISION MAKING AT THE UN: A GUIDE (Second Updated Edition)

(NGLS, 2007) Originally published in 2004 by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), this second revised edition, which was written by NGLS in collaboration with Gretchen Sidhu, explains the governance and decision-making fora and processes of the UN system. It presents updated information on how key participants engage in intergovernmental negotiations; new trends in civil society engagement over the past few years; and a list of NGO focal points across the UN system (http://www.un-ngls.org/site/IMG/pdf/DMUN_Book_PAO_WEB.pdf).

ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD BANK'S ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(World Bank, 2007) This assessment by the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group finds that the agriculture sector has been neglected by governments and the donor community, including the World Bank. Arising from and contributing to this situation, the technical skills needed to support agricultural development adequately have also declined over time (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTOED/EXTASAGRSUBSAHAFR/0,,contentMDK:21489079~isCURL:Y~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:4174768,00.html>).

CARBON MONITORING FOR ACTION (CARMA)

(Center for Global Development, 2007) This website, launched in November 2007, contains a database with information on the carbon emissions of more than 50,000 power plants and 4000 power companies around the globe. The website was produced by the "Confronting Climate Change Initiative" at the Center for Global Development, a non-partisan think tank based in Washington, DC, US. (<http://carma.org/>).

STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2007: PAYING FARMERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

(FAO, 2007) This annual report, issued by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), explores the potential for agriculture to provide enhanced levels of environmental services. The report concludes that the demand for environmental services from agriculture, including climate change mitigation, improved watershed management and biodiversity protection, will increase in the future, and that incentives in terms of payment to farmers are needed if agriculture is to meet this demand (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1200e/a1200e00.htm>).

CMS FAMILY GUIDE: THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

(CMS, 2007) This Guide to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) will be updated periodically. It comprises over 100 fact sheets explaining the history and structure of the Convention, its daughter agreements and memoranda of understanding, and some of the many species CMS seeks to conserve (http://www.cms.int/publications/family_guide.htm).

► COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Donald Cooper has been appointed **Co-Executive Secretary** of the **Rotterdam Convention** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the **Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants. His appointment was effective 1 November 2007 (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=217&sid=1>).
- The 25th biennial meeting of the **IMO** Assembly has unanimously **reappointed Secretary-General** Efthimios Mitropoulos for another four-year term (http://www.imo.org/Newsroom/mainframe.asp?topic_id=1472&doc_id=8757).



Donald Cooper

► KEY UPCOMING MEA MEETINGS

- **HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM: RESULTS-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: PURSUING NATIONAL INTERESTS:** 19-20 January 2008. Cairo, Egypt. <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/newfunct/dcfcairo.shtml>
- **SIXTH MEETING OF THE CBD OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING:** 21-25 January 2008. Montreal, Canada. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=ABSWG-06>