

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

BUREAU MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

The Bureau of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held its second meeting on 26-27 November 2008, in Berlin, Germany. The representative of the COP 9 President, Jochen Flasbarth, briefed the Bureau on inter-sessional activities, while **Ahmed Djoghla**f, CBD Executive Secretary, gave a briefing on recent and forthcoming CBD activities. One of the ABS Co-Chairs, Fernando Casas, who attended the meeting, briefed the Bureau on the implementation of the Bonn mandate on access and benefit sharing. Other items discussed included the International Year of Biodiversity, draft agenda of inter-sessional meetings, revision of the strategic plan, among other issues. The Bureau also reviewed activities which had been completed and those which were pending since the first Bureau meeting held in October 2008. In the afternoon of 27 November, a joint COP and SBSTTA Bureaux



was convened. Items on the agenda included the status of preparations for SBSTTA 14 and ways to enhance the role of SBSTTA in the preparations for COP 10, among other issues. On 28 November, Bureau of COP-MOP 4 met to discuss a number of issues, including: draft Biosafety Work Programme 2009-2010, proposed agenda for COP-MOP 5, review of the questions for the online conference on the identification of the relevant standards, and preparations for the meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress.

Joint COP and SBSTTA
Bureaux meeting. (Photo
courtesy of BMU-Germany)

NCSE CONFERENCE



In December 2008, the CBD Secretariat participated at the 9th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment. The event, which was organized by the National Council for Science and the Environment, gathered about 1000 scientists, conservationists and policymakers to develop a strategy to guide a new US Administration and others working to conserve biodiversity around the world. The conference was held on December 8-10, 2008 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. **Ahmed Djoghla**f, CBD Executive Secretary, delivered special remarks at the morning plenary session, following the keynote speech by New York Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winning author, Thomas Friedman. **Lyle Glowka**, CBD Senior Legal Advisor, was one of the speakers in the session on Bio-prospecting, Bio-mimicry, and Bio-products.

To view statement issued by the CBD Executive Secretary, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-12-09-ncse-en.pdf>



AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) - PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA

The Secretariat participated in the ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which took place in Putrajaya, Malaysia in November 2008. The initiative to hold consultations regarding the establishment of an IPBES emerged from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment follow-up process and the outcomes of the IMoSEB process. In recognizing the significance of IPBES, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision IX/15 on the Follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in which Parties welcomed the decision of the UNEP Executive Director to convene the Ad hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on an IPBES, and requested the CBD Ad hoc Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to consider the outcomes at its third meeting, to be held in May 2010. **Jo Mulongoy**, Principal Officer of the Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters Unit, took part in the meeting on behalf of the CBD. Jochen Flasbarth, German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, also took part in the meeting, on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Jochen Flasbarth, BMU-Germany, on behalf of the CBD COP 9 President (Photo courtesy of IISD).



Jo Mulongoy, CBD Secretariat (Photo courtesy of IISD).

Statement by the CBD Executive Secretary: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-11-10-ipbes-en.pdf>
 Message from the COP 9 President on Bringing science to politics: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop-bureau/cop-pres-msg-08-11-en.pdf>

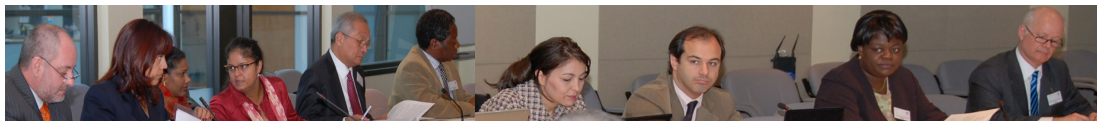
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION MEETING



Amb. John Ashe, current Chair of the G-77

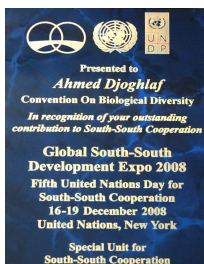
With financial support from the Global Environment Facility and in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, the CBD Executive Secretary convened a brainstorming session on multi-year Plan of Action on South-South cooperation for achieving biodiversity for development on 6-7 November 2008 at the Secretariat offices. The meeting reviewed the draft framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for full integration into the G-77 Development Platform for the South as well as identified activities for inclusion in the multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development. The meeting, which gathered eighteen experts, was co-chaired by the current Chair of the G-77, Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda and Professor James Seyani of Malawi and Vice-President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The report of the meeting is available on the Secretariat website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/emssc-01/official/emssc-01-03-en.doc>.

To view statement issued by the CBD Executive Secretary, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-11-06-ssc-en.pdf>



Participants at the meeting.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION RECOGNITION



On 17 December, on behalf of the CBD Executive Secretary, **Nandhini Krishna**, CBD Liaison Officer in New York, participated in the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation celebrations in New York and delivered a presentation on "Climate change and natural disaster reduction". At the end of the panel session, **Yiping Zhou**, Director of the UNDP Special Unit on South-South Cooperation, presented a plaque in honour of the outstanding contribution of Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary, to South-South Cooperation.

LIFE WEB INITIATIVE WEBSITE UNVEILED

With the support of the Government of Germany and pending the development of the permanent website for the Life Web initiative, information on the Life Web can be accessed in the interim on the new web site hosted by CBD:



www.cbd.int/lifeweb/

UNFCCC COP 14



The Secretariat took part in the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Poznań, Poland, as well as in the high-level segment of the meeting. A Rio Conventions Synergies was set-up at the meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity to organize side events, as well as to engage with relevant parties and bodies, and also take part in various events and workshops in relation to the work of the Convention. The CBD co-hosted together with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Government of Poland, and other members of the Collaborative Partnership, the Forest Day

2 event, which was held on 6 December in the margins of the UNFCCC COP-14. The event gathered nearly 900 participants from around the world to discuss key issues that link forests with climate change. The Secretariat was also represented at the EMG meeting held on 10 December.

To view statement to the Nairobi Work Programme Focal Point Forum, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/programmes/cro-cut/cc/cc-ahteg-pledge-en.pdf>

AHTEG CLIMATE CHANGE

In response to decision IX/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change was convened on 17-21 November 2008 in London, U.K. The meeting addressed scientific and technical matters concerning the links between biodiversity and climate change with regards to identifying risks and vulnerabilities, and impacts and opportunities from climate change mitigation. The draft findings of the meeting were submitted to the twenty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for consideration.

To view the draft findings of the AHTEG on climate change, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cc/ahteg-bdcc-01/other/ahteg-bdcc-01-findings-en.pdf>

To view statement by the CBD Executive Secretary, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-11-17-bdcc-en.pdf>

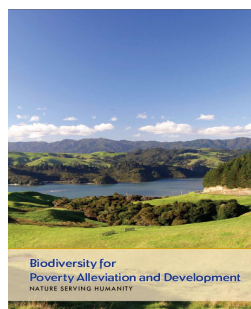
VISIT TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN MONTREAL

As part of the CBD Secretariat's efforts in raising awareness on its work and objectives in the Montreal-area schools, two CBD staff members, **Christine Gibb** and **Sonia Gautreau**, visited the St. George's School in Montreal on 28 November. A presentation was made with the participation of thirty-one secondary IV students, as well as two teachers and the librarian, which was then followed by a short Q & A period. A meeting was held with the librarian on the engagement of teenagers in presentations and in environmental activities, as well as provide contact information to access CBD educational materials. The theme of marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular on sea turtles, was chosen for the presentation as many of the students will be travelling to Honduras for a marine biology field trip in May 2009. The participants were also briefed on the CBD's *Green Wave* initiative and how they could get involved. A number of outreach materials were also made available to all students as well as for inclusion in the school library.



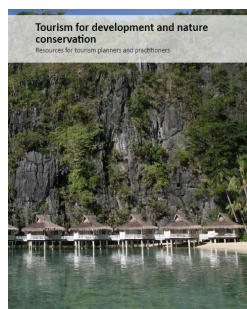
Brochures

e-Newsletters



Biodiversity and Poverty

To view brochure, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/development/poverty-alleviation-booklet-en.pdf> (also available in French and Spanish)



Tourism for development and nature Conservation

To view brochure, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/development/brochure-tourism-en.pdf> (also available in French)



The CBD Secretariat is publishing a quarterly e-Newsletter on the Ecosystem Approach to facilitate sharing of information on the application of the ecosystem approach and promote the use and voluntary update of the Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook (pursuant to COP decision IX/7).

To view Newsletter: <http://www.cbd.int/html/ea-newsletters/ea-newsletter-2008-12.htm>



NOW AVAILABLE - VOLUME NO.2

To view Newsletter, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/redd/redd-2008-12-en.pdf>

Other meetings:

- Participate in Workshop on Governance of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, 3-5 November 2008, Singapore
- Participate in the training of participants in the second regional ABS capacity-development workshop for French speaking North and West African countries, 3-7 November 2008, Dakar, Senegal
- Take part in the *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 10-12 November 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Attend the GEF Council meeting, 11-13 November 2008, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Participate and deliver a presentation at the George Washington University Law School Washington, D.C. on “The United States and the Convention on Biological Diversity”, 12 November 2008, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Meeting with representatives of the CBD Alliance, 12 - 13 November 2008, Montreal
- Attend the Darwin Lecture and TEEB workshop, as well as the TEEB communications strategy meeting, 13-14 November 2008, London, U.K.
- Participate and present in the International Technical Workshop on Indicators relevant for Indigenous Peoples, organized by ILO and Tebtebba Foundation, 17-19 November 2008, Baguio, Philippines (Also took part and made a presentation at the UNU, Packard Foundation and Tebtebba Regional Asian capacity-building workshop for ILCs on REDD and climate change).
- Take part in the Consortium for the BarCode of Life workshop on the topic of “Basic Research and Access and Benefit Sharing”, 17-19 November 2008, Bonn, Germany
- Deliver a statement at the Biodiversity and Industry meeting: “Industry meets Science”, 18 November 2008, Paris, France
- Take part in the *Conference Africaine des Ministres de l'Environnement sur les changements climatiques pour l'Après 2010*, 19-21 November 2008, Algiers, Algeria
- Participate in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention, 24 November 2008, Strasbourg, France
- Meeting with UNESCO staff for the preparations for ABS-7 meeting, 24 November 2008, Paris, France
- Participate in the training of participants in the third regional ABS capacity-development workshop for Africa, 24-28 November 2008, Antsiranana, Madagascar
- Visit of representatives from the State of Parana and delivered a presentation on the Riparian Reforestation programme and the SCBD park in the State of Parana (Brazil), 25-26 November 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Take part in a panel discussion at the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Finance Conference, 25-26 November 2008, London, U.K.
- Attend the 10th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans, organized by UNEP and hosted by the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific, 25-27 November 2008, Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Presentation at the St. George's School, 30 November 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Take part in the Asia and the Pacific Forest Health Workshop – Forest Health in a Changing World, 1-3 December 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Visit of Linda Collette, FAO, 1-5 December 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Attend the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, 1-12 December 2008, Poznań, Poland
- Participate as expert in UNEP's Ask Today's Expert on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, 3 December 2008
- Participate as expert in UNEP's Ask Today's Expert on Impacts of Climate Change on species and ecosystems, 5 December 2008
- Participate as an expert in the national workshop on Japanese Biodiversity Outlook, hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Environment, 5 December Tokyo, Japan
- Meeting with representatives from Airbus and National Geographic on collaborative work related to the Green Wave initiative, 5 December 2008, London, U.K.
- Participate as expert in UNEP's Ask Today's Expert on Forests and Climate Change, 5 December 2008
- Take part in the Forest Day side event in the margins of the UNFCCC COP 14, 8 December 2008, Poznań, Poland
- Attend the meeting of the FAO State of the World's Forest Gene Resources Expert Group, Poznań, Poland
- Visit of staff from Tribal Link Foundation, 8-9 December 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Attend the NCSE Biodiversity in a Rapidly Changing World Conference, 8-10 December 2008, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Meet with representatives from the Obama transition team, 11 December 2008, Washington, D.C., U.S.A
- Meet with representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency and with Environment Canada, 9 December 2008, Ottawa, Canada

Continuation of meetings...

- Attend the International Expert Meeting on Classification of Ecosystem Services, 10-11 December 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Take part as an expert in the UNEP-GEF/Republic of Korea Workshop on the Country-based BCH Implementation and training, 10-13 December 2008, Seoul, Korea
- General Assembly of the Members of the *Réseau des Aires Marines Protégées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest* (RAMPAO), 11-15 December 2008, Guinea-Bissau
- Take part in the EU consultations with indigenous and local communities on ABS issues, Vienna, Austria
- Visit of the delegation from Curitiba, 15-16 December 2008
- Visit of the delegation from the Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan, 16 December 2008
- Visit of the delegation from Environment Canada, 16 December 2008
- Participate in the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation celebrations, 17 December 2008, New York

CBD GUESTS IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER



In November, **Sergio Mudrovitsch de Bittencourt** and **Paulo Caçola** of the State of Parana (Brazil) visited the Secretariat to officially present the results on the carbon offset programme for the operations of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity from the ninth to tenth meetings of its Conference of the Parties, as per the agreement signed between the State of Parana and CBD. A presentation was made on the Riparian Reforestation Programme and the Carbon offset project under the Convention on Biological Diversity. After the briefing, meetings were

held with relevant staff members.

On 16 December, **Miguel Milano** (Avina Foundation) and **Clovis Borges** (Boticario Foundation) visited the Secretariat to discuss the LIFE (Lasting Initiative For Earth) Certification project, an innovative project based on governmental and nongovernmental policies for protecting natural environments. The LIFE Certification is a project developed by leaders from the Avina Foundation, Fundação O Boticário de Proteção à Natureza and Sociedade de Pesquisa em Vida Selvagem e Educação Ambiental, and has the support of the Curitiba City Hall and the Positivo Group made up of companies from the educational, printing & publishing and information technology sectors. It is set to be launched in Brazil in March of 2009 during an event organized by the City Hall of Curitiba and the CBD, and it hopes to be presented at the 10th Conference of the Parties of the CBD, which will take place in the city of Nagoya, in Japan in 2010.



Also on 16 December, **Pat Dolan**, **CBD National Focal Point for Canada**, visited the Secretariat and was accompanied by Nicole Lavigne. As she will be retiring at the end of the year, Ms. Dolan thanked the Executive Secretary and the CBD staff for all the support extended to her in her capacity as National Focal Point, and introduced **Nicole Lavigne** as the new CBD National Focal Point for Canada starting January 2009.

A **delegation from the Ishikawa Prefecture** visited the Secretariat on 16 December to discuss, among other things, the preparations for the International Year. The delegation had an opportunity to brief the Secretariat staff on their work and its relevance to the objectives of the Convention, in particular with the implementation in Ishikawa of the decisions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. During the visit, meetings were also held with the Executive Secretary and relevant staff members.



Also in early December, and pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and CBD, **Linda Collette**, FAO Senior Agricultural Officer, Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service, Plant Production and Protection Division, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department visited the Secretariat for a duration of one week to assist in the implementation of the COP-9 decisions related to agriculture and forests, including biofuels, as well as other areas of mutual interest.



In early December, **representatives from the Tribal Link Foundation and AVEDA** visited the Secretariat and met with **John Scott** and **Ravi Sharma** to discuss CBD assistance in a conference they are planning to organize prior to the next meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

CBD MESSAGES:

On the occasion of the **International Mountain Day** (11 December)
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-12-11-mountain-en.pdf>

(also available in Spanish)

On the occasion of the **United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation** (19 December)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-12-19-ssc-en.pdf>



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