

## MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

### APRIL 2009

#### SEVENTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING



From L-R: ABS Co-Chairs Tim Hodges and Fernando Casas, and Olivier Jalbert (CBD Secretariat).

The seventh meeting of the *Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing* (WGABS-7) was held from 2-8 April 2009, at UNESCO headquarters, in

Paris, France, gathering more than 472 delegates. Pursuant to COP Decision IX/12, the meeting continued the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, focusing on **operational text on the objective, scope, compliance, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, and access.**



Jochen Flasbarth, BMU-Germany, representative of the CBD COP-9 President.

As agreed by the Conference of the Parties at their ninth meeting, negotiations on an international regime on access and benefit sharing should be completed before their tenth meeting, which will take place in Nagoya, Japan on 18-29 October 2010. As such, the ABS Working Group will convene two more meetings prior to the COP-10 meeting. The **eighth meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to take place on 9-15 November 2009 in Montreal, Canada**, where delegates are expected to address the nature of the regime, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and capacity building; while the **ninth meeting, tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2010**, will allow delegates to consolidate all operational texts developed at the seventh and eighth meetings of the Working Group.

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#### G8 ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING IN SYRACUSE, ITALY



At the kind invitation of Her Excellency Ms. Stefania Prestigiamano, Italian Minister of Environment, Land and Sea, the CBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, attended the **G8 meeting of Environment Ministers**, which was held on 22-24 April 2009 at the Maniace Castle in Syracuse, Italy. Organized at the initiative of the Italian Presidency of the G8, the meeting focused on two main themes — **combating climate change and the protection of biodiversity.** Mr. Djoghlaif took part in the **Working Session 3 on “Biodiversity: a new perspective”**. The keynote speaker at

the session was **Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, TEEB study Leader**, and a **presentation was also made by Mr. Djoghlaif**. The session was divided in two parts, (1) ecosystems and human well-being, which provided a general overview of the links between biodiversity and the economy, global change, science and politics; and (2) the Syracuse perspective on biodiversity which provided an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss the question of biodiversity and identify priorities in the global debate on a post-2010 strategy.

The Environment Ministers adopted the **“Syracuse Charter on Biodiversity”**, a policy statement designed to reinforce their commitment to biodiversity.

#### Syracuse Charter on biodiversity:

[http://www.g8ambiente.it/public/images/20090424/doceng/09\\_04\\_24\\_Carta%20di%20Siracusa%20on%20Biodiversity.pdf](http://www.g8ambiente.it/public/images/20090424/doceng/09_04_24_Carta%20di%20Siracusa%20on%20Biodiversity.pdf)

#### Chair’s Summary:

[http://www.g8ambiente.it/public/images/20090424/doceng/09\\_04\\_24\\_Chair%20Summary.pdf](http://www.g8ambiente.it/public/images/20090424/doceng/09_04_24_Chair%20Summary.pdf)



Participants at the G8 Environment Ministers meeting.  
*(Photo courtesy of G8 Environment Ministry - www.g8ambiente.it)*

## WGABS-7 MEETING... (continued from page 1)

The members of the **Interagency Task Force on Access and Benefit Sharing** met prior to the WGABS-7 meeting. The CBD Executive Secretary and the two ABS Co-Chairs briefed the Task Force on their approach and expectations for the upcoming meeting and related events. The members of the Task Force had an opportunity to share developments within their own processes of relevance to access and benefit-sharing.



Signing ceremony at the WGABS-7 meeting.

The WGABS-7 meeting also provided an opportunity for the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding on capacity-building for indigenous and local communities between the CBD Secretariat and the *Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena*, on behalf of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network of the Latin American and Caribbean Region.** The objective of the agreement is to initiate a minimum three-year capacity-building strategy on the Convention on Biological Diversity and related issues and enhanced preparation for COP-10 and beyond for indigenous and local community women from the Latin American and Caribbean region.

## OTHER MEETINGS IN PARIS

Following the outcome of the Technical Meeting of the Environment Management Group (EMG) held in February 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, and at the invitation of the UNEP Executive Director, the CBD Secretariat participated on 8 April in the **first meeting of the EMG Issue Management Group (IMG)** on the 2010 and post-2010 biodiversity targets. The IMG was established to evaluate the potential of the UN-system to support member States in advancing towards these targets and to prepare its inputs to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session in September 2010 and the tenth meeting of the CBD COP in October 2010 to be held in Nagoya, Japan.

The **Biodiversity-related Conventions Liaison Group (BLG)** held its seventh meeting on 9 April. Hosted by UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the meeting reviewed the implementation of decisions from previous BLG meetings, as well as discussed matters arising from recent meetings of the Conventions' governing bodies and scientific bodies. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to inform participants on preparations for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2009 and the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity celebrations, highlighting the role of BLG and the complementarity of its members as a powerful instrument to achieve a lasting impact beyond 2010. It was agreed that the next BLG meeting will take place in January 2010 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, prior to the IYB exhibition launch.

Pursuant to the UNEP Governing Council decision 25/10 on the inter-governmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), and taking advantage of the presence of the BLG members in Paris, the Director of the UNEP DEPI convened a meeting with the members of the BLG on 7 April to discuss the status of the preliminary **IPBES GAP Analysis Report**. The outcome of the report will be used to guide preparation for and discussion at the second intergovernmental multi-stakeholder meeting on IPBES, scheduled to take place in October 2009.

## DPI/NGO BRIEFINGS ON IYB 2010

A DPI/NGO briefing on "**Biodiversity - the basis for human well-being: Celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010**" was held on 30 April at the U.N. headquarters in New York. The event, which gathered more than 120 representatives, provided an opportunity for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to inform participants on CBD implementation plan for the International Year of Biodiversity, as well as provide information on ways to engage the civil society organizations to contribute and take part in the celebrations.



DPI/NGO Briefings. Photo courtesy of DPI/NGO.

## AHTEG ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

The **First Meeting of the *Ad hoc* Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** was held from 20 to 24 April 2009 at the CBD Secretariat in Montreal, Canada. In pursuance of the terms of reference as contained in the Annex to decision BS-IV/11, the Group discussed the development of guidance documents with the view to further support countries in conducting risk assessment of living modified organisms (LMOs) in the context of the Protocol. **The participants produced a draft text for a roadmap on the steps in risk assessment and established four sub-working groups to further undertake the development of the roadmap and guidance documents on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management prior to the Group's second meeting, scheduled to be held in April 2010 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.**



Participants at the meeting.



## TELECONFERENCE ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY / CANADA PARTICIPATION

On 28 April, the Secretariat held a **teleconference on Cities and Biodiversity**, which was joined by **16 representatives of City of Curitiba, City of Montreal, IUCN, Aichi-Nagoya COP10 CBD Promotion Committee, ICLEI/LAB, ICLEI Africa, Singapore National Biodiversity Centre, UNEP-WCMC, ICLEI Japan, London School of Economics, City of Bonn, Environment Canada, and URBIO.**

The meeting discussed the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (CBI) and its guideline, preparation of a publication on Cities and Biodiversity, the upcoming ICLEI Urban Nature Forum/World Congress in Edmonton in June, other upcoming activities of the Global Partnership such as the Curitiba meeting in the fall and Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit, and cities' activities on the International Day on Biological Diversity (IBD).

The **publication project on Cities and Biodiversity** is now on the move. It will focus on support from all levels of governments and other relevant organizations to cities' actions, as well as guidance for cities on their biodiversity management.

**For the first time a representative of Canada, Ms Bonnie James of Environment Canada, took part in the teleconference.** She mentioned that the **Urban Nature Forum** will be a good opportunity to work more closely with and to develop examples of collaboration between all levels of governments in Canada.

The Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity plans to involve more Parties in preparations for the **Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit in 2010** (parallel to COP 10).

## MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The **Ad hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change** completed its work on the 22 April 2009 in Helsinki, Finland. The Group agreed to prepare a summary of main messages for submission to the thirtieth meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in addition to a compilation report from the first and second meeting for peer review prior to finalization at a drafting committee meeting planned for July 2009.

The **main messages** emerging from the meeting include:

- Adaptation activities that make use of biodiversity and ecosystem services can, when integrated in an overall adaptation strategy, deliver a cost effective contribution to climate change adaptation and generate societal benefits. These activities constitute key elements of ecosystem based adaptation.
- Societal adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change can have both positive and negative consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- It is important to integrate adaptation activities within the conservation sector so as to reduce risks to biodiversity from climate change.
- The value of ecosystems and the services they provide should be taken into account when making decisions about and providing appropriate incentives for societal adaptation to climate change.

## EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS



CBD side event at the UNFF-8 meeting. From L-R: Jan McAlpine, UNFF Director, and CBD staff Tim Christophersen and Nandhini Krishna. *Photo courtesy of ENB.*

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) participated in

the **eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**, which took place from 20 April to 1 May 2009 in New York, U.S.A. The meeting focused on two main forest issues: Forests in a Changing Environment and Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management. A **high-level panel discussion on "Forests in a Changing Environment"** was held on 21 April. The session was moderated by the Assistant Secretary General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the participation of the Executive Secretaries of the CBD and the UNCCD, and the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The **CBD Secretariat also organized a side event on collaboration between UNFF and CBD** on 29 April. As member of the CPF, the CBD Secretariat also previously collaborated with relevant UNFF staff with regard to the preparations of documentation for the session. In the margins of the UNFF-8 session, the Secretariat also took part in the Forest Dialogue on REDD, which took place on 25-26 April.

## NEW ADDITION TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURE AND CULTURE



The Secretariat is pleased and honoured to receive a beautiful painting from the **Rwanda Environment Management Authority** for inclusion to its Museum of Nature and Culture on 15 April.

The Museum of Nature and Culture was created with a view to provide an opportunity for Parties to share their cultural heritage and unique biological diversity in an artistic and symbolic way and to publicly showcase them. Since its inception in 2006, the Museum has been honoured by the donations from various Heads of State and Governments.

With the new addition from the Government of Rwanda, the **Museum now showcases 42 art works**, comprised of paintings, sculptures, wood crafts, ceramics and tapestries.

For more information on the Museum and view pictures of donated items, please go to:

<http://www.cbd.int/museum/>

## NEW COOPERATION ON ARCTIC BIODIVERSITY

On 14 April, the CBD Executive Secretary, Ahmed Djoghlaif, signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)**. The agreement will contribute to **building and sharing knowledge, creating awareness of the importance of arctic biodiversity, and enhancing capacity for implementation of the Convention in the Arctic Region.**

In enhancing collaboration, the CBD and CAFF plan to find ways to **raise awareness of and develop supportive actions for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)**. CAFF intends to have the first phase of the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment (ABA) ready for the IYB, as well as ensure that the ABA will contribute information on Arctic biodiversity to the third Global Biodiversity Outlook, which is scheduled to be launched in 2010, as well as to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership 2010. CBD plans to make use of relevant and available opportunities to promote the importance of arctic biodiversity, including support for Arctic side-events at CBD meetings and the dissemination of CAFF outreach materials.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS



### Biodiversity for Development—Issue 4

<http://www.cbd.int/development/newsletters/newsletter-bd-04-en.pdf>

### Pachamama, Vol. 3, Issue 3: Working Together

<http://www.cbd.int/traditional/pachamama/pachamama-03-03-en.pdf>



### Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge related to biological diversity and responses to climate change in the Arctic region

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/tk-cc-arctic-en.pdf>

## OTHER MEETINGS

- Took part in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, 30 March-3 April, Gland, Switzerland
- Took part in the Authors Workshop of Chapter 8 on Protected Areas of D1: The Economics of Environment and Biodiversity for Policy Makers Report, 2-3 April, Brussels, Belgium
- Participated in the Meeting of the Governing Councils/Executive Boards of UN agencies, 15 April, New York, U.S.A.
- Attended the workshop to finalize China's biodiversity strategy and action plan, 15-17 April, Beijing, China
- Attended the meeting of the GEF Technical Advisory Group, 16-17 April, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Delivered a presentation on business and biodiversity at the Conference on Biodiversity and Ethics in the Cosmetics Sector, 24 April, Munich, Germany
- Attended the Board meeting of the Union for Ethical Biotech, 25 April, Munich, Germany
- Delivered a presentation on mainstreaming and business and biodiversity at the High Level Biodiversity Protection – Beyond 2010 Conference, 27-28 April, Athens, Greece

## VISITORS THIS MONTH

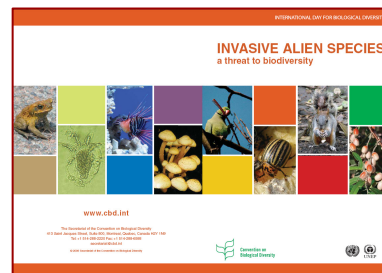
During the month of April, the CBD Executive Secretary welcomed the visit of the **new Consul General of Japan in Montreal** on 17 April and the **new Ambassador of France to Canada** on 29 April. In both visits, a briefing was made on the work of the Convention and preparations for the Nagoya meetings in October 2010 and IYB celebrations, among other issues. On 16 April, the **Lead Counsel, ESSD and International Law Unit of The World Bank** visited the Secretariat. A presentation to CBD staff was made on "Aspects of the Implementation of the CBD in World Bank projects: a potential for cooperation". On 23 April, a number of new Canadian diplomats visited the Secretariat. They met with relevant CBD staff and a briefing was made on the work and objectives of the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol.



François Delattre, new French Ambassador to Canada



Hiroaki Isobe, new Consul General of Japan in Montreal



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY **BOOKLET, POSTER AND BOOKMARK** ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.cbd.int/idb/2009/>



Second issue

<http://www.cbd.int/ecosystems/newsletters/ea-2009-03.htm>



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