



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AUGUST 2010

International Year of Youth / Agreement with the Association of the Mediterranean Network for Sustainable Development (AREMEDD)



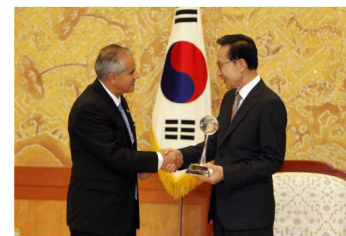
The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/64/134 proclaiming 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, commencing on 12 August, in support of the initiative of H.E President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. At the kind invitation of the Government of Tunisia, the CBD Executive Secretary delivered a keynote address during the opening of the International Seminar on Biodiversity, organized by the Green Party of Tunisia, to launch the International Year of Youth and to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity, in Tunis, Tunisia on 6-7 August 2010. During the seminar, a tree-planting ceremony was held at Montplaisir Park with the participation of children from Tunis and the city's Mayor, Mr. Mohamed El Badji. In the margins of the event, an agreement was signed between the CBD and the Association of the Mediterranean Network for Sustainable Development (AREMEDD), with the aim of engaging 500 Tunisian schools in *The Green Wave* initiative. Under the leadership of AREMEDD, biodiversity gardens will be established in 500 Tunisian schools comprising emblematic trees of Tunisia.

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Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD-ES, with Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, President of AREMEDD, at the signing of the MOU.

President of the Republic of Korea receives CBD award



(Photo courtesy: www.president.go.kr)

In recognition of his unique contribution to the preservation of life on Earth, Mr. Lee Myung-bak, the President of the Republic of Korea, was today presented with the CBD Award by Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The presentation of the CBD Award took place during the visit of the Executive Secretary to the Presidential Office in Seoul on 24 August 2010. To view the CBD Press Release issued, please go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-08-24-award-rok-en.pdf>.

CNN: The Biodiversity Debate

CNN International broadcasted a special edition of its monthly environmental programme *Earth's Frontiers*, focusing on biodiversity. Direct from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, CNN host Becky Anderson moderated a debate between panellists Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, environmentalist Philippe Cousteau, Paul Smith, Director of the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew Gardens and Jon Williams, Head of Biodiversity for PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The debate on *Earth's Frontiers* will focus on the critical importance of maintaining our ecosystems and why individuals, big businesses and governments can no longer ignore the loss of biodiversity that threatens the future of our planet and our very existence, and takes place in advance of a special high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on biodiversity that will take place on 22 September 2010 in New York.



CNN panelists: Becky Anderson with Paul Smith, Ahmed Djoghlaif and Jon Williams. Inset picture: Philippe Cousteau. (Photo courtesy: CNN/Kew News)



Somalia: Accedes to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Somalia deposited its instrument of accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 26 July 2010 and will become the 160th Party to Protocol on 24 October 2010. To view the Communiqué issued, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2010/pr-2010-08-06-somalia-en.pdf>

Highlights of the International Year of Biodiversity in August

ASEAN

The Deputy Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Dato Misran Karman, has stressed the need to improve public awareness of biodiversity-related values and the need to preserve the values among ASEAN residents. Addressing the opening ceremony of the ASEAN exhibition on biodiversity in Hanoi on August 3, Mr Karman emphasised that ASEAN is well known as one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the world, and renowned for its rich biological heritage. The exhibition, organised following the Vietnam's initiatives as the ASEAN Chair on the sidelines of the 21st ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Environment from August 2-7, was part of activities in response to the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 with the slogan "Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life".

INDONESIA



As part of its support for the International Year of Biodiversity, Ecolodges Indonesia finalized a comprehensive new collaboration with the global not-for-profit sustainable development and responsible travel organization, Sustainable Travel International, to draw upon, promote and apply respective products and services to enhance their brands, professional product delivery and business models to do good for local communities and biodiversity conservation in Indonesia.

UNITED KINGDOM

Church bells across the country will ring in tune with the UN next month to mark crucial international talks on biodiversity. As the bells toll at the UN headquarters in both New York and Nairobi, bell ringers from small parish churches to large cathedrals and minsters are being encouraged to ring on 22 September, the day the UN General Assembly will discuss for the first time ever the crisis affecting the world's biodiversity. This year was declared the International Year of Biodiversity and the Church of England is one of the official partners in the UK.

AUSTRALIA

Independent creative agency Cabana Boys have been appointed by The Council of Australian Museum Directors to work on a digital campaign for its International Year of Biodiversity project, following a competitive pitch. The agency is being tasked with developing a digital strategy designed to drive traffic to biodiversity2010.org.au and encourage contribution and participation in the site and other IYB programs.

CZECH REPUBLIC

A new photography exhibition in Prague showcasing Europe's oft-overlooked natural features, "Wild Wonders of Europe" (www.wild-wonders.com), arrived in June for a stop on its two-year tour of Europe and North America, and runs through 22 August. "Wilds of Sumava," a separate exhibition of images from the Czech national park in south Bohemia is also featured. Both shows are free. Created to coincide with the UN International Year of Biodiversity, "Wild Wonders" includes life-size images of native plants and animals, captured by 69 photographers over the past two years.



Staffan Widstrand/www.wild-wonders.com

**For a full report of the International Year of Biodiversity celebrations and activities for August 2010, please visit:
www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/prints/iyb-report-2010-08-en.pdf**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



In honour of IYB, the Environmental Policy and Planning Division of the Ministry of Housing and the Environment (MHE) organized a photo competition "Biodiversity through My Eyes" to showcase the diversity of life in and around this beautiful twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Winning photographs (left) will be displayed in the

IYB Museum at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Nagoya, Japan, October 2010, as well as at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly, New York, September 2010, as part of the International Year of Biodiversity's Activities.

Postage stamp issued for the International Year of Biodiversity



Canada

NAMIBIA

Swakopmund was in full swing last weekend celebrating the conservation and sustainable utilisation of the country's natural resources along the coast. The Coastal Biodiversity Weekend was in line with the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity that takes place this year. The theme was "Supporting the conservation and sustainable use of Namibia's coastal biodiversity".

IAIA

You are invited to submit your written inspirations, photographs and art works before 15 October 2010. Entries to the "Inspired by Nature" competition can be submitted online. The winning entries will be showcased at IAIA's 2011 annual conference. Winning entries will be given one year of membership with hard copy journal subscription. Runners-up will win one year of IAIA membership.



XXIII IUFRO, Republic of Korea / High-level International Forum on the Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation, China / International Youth Conference on Biodiversity, Japan

The CBD Executive Secretary attended the opening plenary of the XXIII IUFRO World Congress, and also took part in the panel on “Biodiversity, climate change and forestry - perspectives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests”, one of three concurrent sub-plenaries in the afternoon. Moderated by Peter Mayer, IUFRO, the panel provided the CBD Executive Secretary to highlight the work of the Convention, in particular, the International Year of Biodiversity, *The Green Wave* and the upcoming CBD COP 10 meeting. While in Korea, meetings were held with senior officials from the Republic of Korea, including the President, as well as the Minister of Environment, among others.



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD-ES (far-left) at the panel on biodiversity, climate change and forestry. (Photo credits: IISD/ENB-F. Dejon)

The CBD Executive Secretary then travelled to China to take part and deliver an opening statement at the High-level International Forum on the Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation, in Chengdu, Sichuan. Meetings were held with Chinese officials including the Vice Minister of the Environment and the Vice Governor of Sichuan. During the visit, the possibility of having a South-South agreement was discussed, and a trip to the Panda Center was also organized.



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD-ES, with Vice-Minister Li Ganjie of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China at the international forum.

On 27 August, the CBD Executive Secretary participated in the International Youth Conference on Biodiversity in Aichi 2010, held at the Nagoya University, organized by the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aichi Prefec-



Participants at the International Youth Conference on Biodiversity (Photo credits: <http://biodiversityyouth.blogspot.com>)

ture, with the generous support from the AEON Environmental Foundation. The conference, which gathered over 100 young people from 66 countries, provided an opportunity for the participants to learn more about biodiversity, discuss inputs for the upcoming meeting of the and establish a network for future actions. The conference was also a preparatory event for the upcoming tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. An excursion programme for youth to experience the *Satoyama* landscape was provided in collaboration with Komono Town, Mie Prefecture.

While in Japan, the Executive Secretary also travelled to Tokyo to take part in a number of meetings, including taking part in the meeting of the selection committee for the Midori Prize, a meeting with Misia, COP 10 Ambassador, who has produced a special song for COP10 and will organize an exhibit at Tokyo Tower with the expected visit of 300,000 visitors.

The Executive Secretary also met with the CEO and other officials of Japan Airlines. They organized a visit to see the JAL eco jet with the logo of COP 10, and was informed of a biodiversity video to be shown on the two 777 aircrafts carrying the COP 10 logo as well as an article on IYB and COP10 are included in the JAL in-flight magazine.



Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD-ES, with JAL officials posing in front of aircraft with COP10 logo.

Meetings were held with senior officials at the Ministry of the Environment to discuss COP 10 and Japan fund, as well as with major Japanese NGOs, including WWF Japan, Wild Bird Society of Japan, Japan Nature Conservation Society.

GBIF North American Regional Nodes Meeting



The CBD Secretariat took part in the GBIF's North American Regional Nodes Meeting, hosted by the Bioersity Institute of Ontario (BIO) at the University of Guelph. The meeting gathered around 25 participants, mostly from scientific institutions that are GBIF partners. It was the fourth GBIF regional meeting (after Africa, Asia, Europe & Latin America) giving regions the opportunity to make technical recommendations for the next GBIF Governing Board to take place on 9-15 October 2010 in Suwon City, South Korea.

Several presentations were made on recent information systems developments from GBIF and its partners (Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), Catalog of Life, Encyclopedia of Life, Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) Canada, Canadensys, DNA barcoding). Discussion topics covered technical issues (taxonomy, data quality, information systems) and strategic recommendations for the 2011 work programme. During the discussions, the CBD staff stressed the importance of the final use of GBIF data, possibly crossed with other sources, for decision making and other relevant purposes. It was also indicated that the CBD and National CHM websites would benefit from Web 2.0 plugins that visuallize such information in a user-friendly way. US National Biodiversity Information Infrastructure (NBII) and the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) showed interested in working with GBIF in this direction. Prior to the GBIF meeting, a meeting was held with the Canadian CHM NFP and IAC member on latest development of the Canadian CHM.

National Roundtable on International Cooperation for Financing Colombia's Protected Areas, co-convened by the Colombian Government and the CBD's LifeWeb

Colombia's Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation, Colombia National Parks Agency and the CBD Secretariat's LifeWeb Initiative have co-convened a national roundtable for international cooperation on Colombia's protected areas. The purpose is to strengthen the protected area system by facilitating financial cooperation for ecosystem-based approaches to sustain biodiversity, address climate change, and secure livelihoods.

Discussions were based on an in-depth national planning process to identify ecological management and financing priorities in close collaboration with indigenous and local communities to be integrated within national development plans. The initiative seeks to culminate in the creation of 9 new protected areas, in addition to the 55 which have already been established, in Colombia.

In addition to the conveners mentioned above, participation in this roundtable process are Colombia's Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and National Planning, and international partners include Germany's KFW and GTZ, the IDB, Japan's JICA, the Moore Foundation, the Government of the Netherlands' Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the UNDP, and the World Bank. NGOs who have provided technical support to the prioritisation efforts are Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the WWF.

The first meeting, held on 16 June 2010, sought to develop a clear strategy and methodology for financial cooperation, to identify synergies, gaps and overlaps. A second meeting is scheduled to take place on 7 October 2010. We can anticipate the event will lead to significant commitments, some of which will potentially be made at COP10.



Jason Spensley, CBD, delivering a presentation during the roundtable meeting in Colombia.

Meeting of the Directors of the Amazonian Countries' Protected Area Systems and Supporting Institutions

Government representatives from the Amazon basin and international cooperation partners, such as ACTO, WWF and SCBD, including the LifeWeb Initiative, gathered in Lima from 23-25 August to discuss progress by countries and institutions toward the implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) in the Amazon, and to identify opportunities for cooperation within the framework of the action plan for the Pan-Amazonian Conservation Initiative, including prepara-

tions for the upcoming COP10.

This regional effort to develop a "Conservation Vision for the Amazonian Biome", aims to protect some 330 million hectares of forest in the region. The regional initiative seeks to complement the actions of national governments on protected areas, thereby safeguarding ecosystem services, while strengthening climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Peru's Minister of the Environment, H.E. Antonio Brack Egg, met with participants to convey the importance of this initiative and discuss approaches to advancing it, including at COP10. Representatives of international cooperation agencies present included the Government of Finland, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Government of France, the Government of the Netherlands, and USAID. Officials from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru made practical agreements on the Amazon sub-regional report and on the action plan to implement the PoWPA at sub-regional level. They also identified synergies, and exchanged ideas with international cooperation partners and with potential donors within the context of the Pan Amazonian Vision.



Photo credits: SERNANP-Peru

Participants at the Peru meeting.

Regional efforts such as the Amazon Initiative are recognised as important to fostering transboundary cooperation and strengthening implementation of the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). The CBD's LifeWeb platform provides an excellent opportunity to showcase funding needs to potential donors within the framework of the CBD PoWPA.

Outcomes of this meeting also include agreement among participants to: hold a workshop in the coming months on the linkages between protected areas and climate change, submit an Expression of Interest to the CBD LifeWeb Initiative, and hold a sub-regional forum on the financing of this vision, in partnership with the CBD LifeWeb Initiative.

TEEB Advisory Board meeting

In his capacity as member of its Advisory Board, the CBD Executive Secretary took part in the seventh meeting of the TEEB Advisory Board, held on 12 August in Leipzig. The meeting, chaired by Yolanda Kakabadse, President of WWF International, provided an update on all reports, as well as launch and outreach events, including CBD COP 10 in Nagoya. In the margins of the TEEB meeting, discussions were also held with the President of COP 9 and the President of WWF International, and with officials from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ). A meeting was also held with the UNEP Executive Director on administrative arrangements with UNEP.

Latin American and the Caribbean Indigenous and Local Community Capacity-building Workshop on the CBD, including issues relevant to Article 8(j), Traditional Knowledge and ABS



Deliberations at the meeting.

The LAC capacity building workshop was the sixth in a series of seven workshops, which took place in the City of Panama, Panama on 11-13 August 2010. Forty representatives of indigenous and local communities of the Latinoamerica region

participated in the workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity to strengthen capacities of participants in understanding the processes of the Convention, preparing documents for proposals, and suggestions to improve future workshops. It also allowed the exchange of relevant national and regional experiences within the Latinoamerica region. At the end of the workshop, participants expressed that they are better prepared to work with other members of their respective indigenous and local communities on the subject matter covered and more knowledgeable about the processes of the Convention and how to participate effectively in influencing its results. The meeting also allowed participants to acquire a better understanding of the agenda and the issues currently being addressed in the processes towards COP 10. Participants were provided with an opportunity to participate in an improvised COP meeting and demonstrated a good understanding of the processes and how outcomes could be influenced. Participants seemed eager to go back and share their experience and learning with members of their organizations and communities. Participants expressed many thanks to Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network for the Latin American and Caribbean Region (LAC IWBN) and Spain Government for the realization of the workshop.



Participants at the meeting.

Other meetings:

Organized by the Secretariat:

Preparatory meeting for COP-MOP5, 30 August-3 September 2010, Montreal, Canada

Other meetings/activities:

Attend the Biodiversity Partnership and CCAD meeting, 4 August 2010, Belize City, Belize

Meet via teleconference with Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, 16 August 2010

Attend the ICID Conference, 16-18 August 2010, Fortaleza, Brazil

Meet via teleconference with the ABS Co-Chairs, 18 August 2010

Site inspection of venue of Pavilion during UNFCCC COP 16, 19-20 August 2010, Cancun, Mexico

Participate at the Preparatory Meeting on the International Partnership for the *Satoyama* Initiative, 23-24 August 2010, Yamanashi, Japan

Site inspection of COP-MOP5 and COP10 meetings, 23-26 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Attend the first meeting of Environment Ministers of States of Mexico, 24-25 August 2010, Guadalajara, Mexico

Meet with the Governor of Aichi Prefecture, 26 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Meet with the Mayor of Nagoya, 26 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Meet with Ms. Tomiko Nishimoto, Director, UNEP/DRC, 26 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Meet with senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, 27 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Interview with Yomiuri Newspaper, 27 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Attend the TEEB Symposium, 27 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Interview with Ms. Takigawa and other media interviews, 27 August 2010, Nagoya, Japan

Meet with staff at UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in the framework of the Baobab Award for MEA Secretariats, 28 August-2 September 2010, Bangkok, Thailand

Attend the GTZ ILC Capacity Building Workshop, 30 August-1 September 2010, Cape Town, South Africa

Hold informal meetings with the Government of Japan, 30 August-1 September 2010, Tokyo, Japan

International Press Forum, 31 August 2010

Attend the brainstorming session of the High Level Event on Biodiversity, 31 August-3 September 2010, Geneva, Switzerland



The Green Wave

<http://greenwave.cbd.int/>



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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 Saint-Jacques Street West
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9 Canada
Tel.: 514-2882220
Fax: 514-2886588
Email: secretariat@cbd.int
URL: <http://www.cbd.int>

