



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2009

THIRD MEETING OF THE COP BUREAU - NAIROBI

The COP-9 Bureau held its third meeting on 13 February 2009 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, back to back with the 25th session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The **representative of the COP 9 President, Jochen Flasbarth**, reviewed the list of actions agreed upon at the Bureau's second meeting. **Ahmed Djoghlaif**, CBD Executive Secretary, briefed the meeting on the status of availability of financial resources for the implementation of COP-9 decisions and meetings. The **ABS Co-Chairs, Fernando Casas and Timothy Hodges**, gave a briefing on developments in relation to the implementation of the Bonn Mandate on access and benefit-sharing. The Bureau also discussed: the revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the preparations for the Eminent Persons Workshop in March 2009, the preparations for COP-10 meeting, among other issues. The **minutes of the COP Bureau meeting** will be made available once finalized on the COP Bureau webpage at <http://www.cbd.int/cop-bureau/>. It was decided that the **next COP Bureau meeting** will be held on 30 March 2009, in Paris, France. The COP Bureau meeting was preceded by an **ABS Workshop** organised for the Bureau members. Some members of the COP Bureau, as well as staff from the CBD Secretariat, also participated in the **technical meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group** held on 14-15 February 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

REGIONAL REAL-TIME ONLINE CONFERENCES ON
RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK
MANAGEMENT UNDER CPB

The fourth meeting of the COP-MOP called for the establishment of an Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. The COP-MOP also requested the Executive Secretary to convene ad hoc online discussion groups, two AHTEG meetings and at least one real-time online conference per region prior to each of the two AHTEG meetings. Pursuant to this, regional real-time online conferences were convened by the Secretariat through its Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). In February, regional **real-time online conferences were held: Latin American (3 February), Africa (10 February) and Asia (17 February)**. A number of issues regarding the development of a "roadmap" and additional guidance materials on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management of LMOs were discussed. Information on the results, as well as transcripts of the online conferences, is available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/realtime_ra.shtml. The regional real-time conference for Europe was held on 28 January 2009.

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM ON ARTICLE 10©
11 FEBRUARY-11 MARCH 2009

In its decision IX/13 A, paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary to continue to compile case studies, analyze and report on work concerning related provisions, focusing on Article 10(c), and to provide advice to the Working Group on Article 8(j) at its sixth meeting on how this related provision may be further advanced and implemented as a priority. In order to assist the Executive Secretary in the preparation of advice for the next meeting of the Working Group, an **Online Discussion Forum on Article 10(c) is currently being held from 11 February to 11 March 2009** through the **Traditional Knowledge Information Portal** of the Convention's website. **All National Focal Points, indigenous and local community organizations, non-governmental organizations, academics and other interested parties** are invited to participate in the conference.

<http://www.cbd.int/tk/forum/>

25TH SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL / GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM—NAIROBI

The CBD Executive Secretary participated in the 25th session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-25/GMEF), held in Nairobi, Kenya from 16-20 February. At the invitation of the UNEP Executive Director and South Africa's Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the Executive Secretary also participated in the High-level Gender and Environment Forum held on 15 February. The Executive Secretary also took part in a number of side events in the margins of the GC-25/GMEF, including: "The Green Customs Initiative: Capacity Building for Environmental Security" organized by the Czech Republic; the Ministerial-level roundtable on "Global crisis: national chaos?" - Towards a "green economy"; and the Ministerial-level roundtable on "International Environmental Governance (IEG) - Help or Hindrance?" - IEG from a country perspective. Meetings were also held with the Associate Director and Head of UNITAR's Environment Unit, as well as with a number of Environment Ministers. The Executive Secretary also attended a briefing made by the ABS Co-Chairs to the staff of UNEP-DELCO and UNEP Regional Directors on the status and process of the regional ABS consultations. A meeting was also held between the three Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions and the EU Presidency. A brainstorming session on the post-2010 target organized by UNEP-DELCO was held on 15 February. A decision on the **International Year of Biodiversity** was adopted at the GC-25/GMEF.

INDIGENOUS TOURISM WEB SITE AWARD



In December 2008, Planeta.com and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity launched the Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Website Award, which was created in order to showcase best practices in web-based technologies helping indigenous people manage tourism in a biodiversity-friendly way. By January 2009, 15 indigenous-owned tourism businesses around the world were registered as nominees. By February 20th, the jurors and more than 200 people had voted and made their selection for the Indigenous Tourism and Biodiversity Website Award. The winner of the judged 2009 ITBW Award is Guurrbi Tours (Australia): <http://www.guurrbitours.com/>. The winner of the popular count 2009 ITBW Award is Indigenous Trails (New Zealand): <http://www.itrails.co.nz/>. For complete results and list of nominees, visit <http://www.planeta.com/planeta/09/0903itbw.html> and <http://www.cbd.int/tourism/Award.shtml>. The award and the winners were announced during a press conference at the Reise pavillion - International Fair for Alternative Travel on February 26th in Munich, Germany.

REISEPAVILLION - INTERNATIONAL FAIR FOR ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL—MUNICH

The SCBD organized, jointly with UNEP and UNWTO a series of three roundtables on Sustainable Tourism, which took place on 27 February 2009, during the the Reise pavillion - International Fair for Alternative Travel in Munich, Germany (from 26 February to 2 March 2009). The first panel discussed "International initiatives on sustainable tourism", the second panel explored "Standards and certification for sustainable tourism", and the third panel, chaired by the Secretariat, presented: "Biodiversity and development – a training programme for sustainable tourism". SCBD's involvement in the Munich Fair is part of the Biodiversity and Development unit's activities, and is in line with its objective to develop a Biodiversity and Development training set on CBD's thematic development areas (forest, agriculture, water, etc). The first module of the training set will present a 'Toolkit of Good Practices' on Tourism for Development and Nature Conservation. The draft tourism guidelines training manual was presented in Munich for peer review and will be launched in the upcoming months.

CITY BIODIVERSITY INDEX—SINGAPORE

The first expert workshop on the development of the Singapore City Biodiversity Index (CBI) took place from 10 to 12 February 2009 at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, at the invitation of the National Parks Board. The workshop was organized in close consultation with the members of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity (for more information on the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, please see <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/Gettinginvolved/GlobalPartnership.shtml>). A total of seventeen technical experts on biodiversity indicators as well as city executives and city representatives responsible for implementation and/or management of biodiversity and urban projects and programmes attended the workshop.

The objectives of the workshop were to develop the Singapore City Biodiversity Index (CBI) to: assist national governments and local authorities in benchmarking biodiversity conservation efforts in the urban context; help evaluate progress in reducing the rate of biodiversity loss in urban ecosystems; help measure the ecological footprint of cities, and serve as material on the development of guidelines for the preparation of a cities and biodiversity plan of action for the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention. The report of the workshop is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWDCBI-01>.



*Singapore City Biodiversity Index: Participants at the meeting.
(Photo courtesy: Singapore National Parks Board)*

FIRST MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CO-CHAIRS ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

The First Meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held from 23 to 27 February 2009 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting further negotiated international rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) in the context of the Protocol, based on the proposed operational texts on liability and redress, contained in the Annex to decision BS-IV/12 on Liability and Redress. The participants produced a draft text for a supplementary protocol on liability and redress to the Biosafety Protocol, which will serve as basis for further consideration at the second meeting of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs, scheduled to be held in early 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

VISITORS THIS MONTH

On 2 February, the CBD Executive Secretary welcomed the visit of the **Mr. David Schindel, Executive Secretary of Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL)**. A presentation on the work of CBOL was made. Senior staff from the **Québec Ministre de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, Ms. Josée Blackburn and Mr. Denis Lemieux** visited on 4 February and had an opportunity to meet with the CBD Executive Secretary and relevant staff to discuss partnership with Québec and sustainable development. **Ms. Eva Spohn, Executive Director of the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA), University of Basel**, visited the Secretariat on 5 February to discuss collaboration with CBD. Ms. Roslyn Slawner of the Hart Resources met with the CBD Executive Secretary on 6 February on staff team-building activities. On 17 February, a **staff member from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Forum (GEF-STAP)** visited the Secretariat and delivered a presentation on the STAP, its mandate, composition and modality of work, and its relevance to the work of CBD. A **delegation from the New Zealand High Commission in Ottawa** was welcomed by the CBD Executive Secretary on 23 February. Issues discussed include: the Strategic Plan of the Convention, invasive alien species, and preparations for COP-10, among other things.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC ON NBSAPS, THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY AND THE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

From 2 to 6 February more than 30 participants from the Pacific Region, from governments, regional organizations, NGOs and local communities, gathered to share experiences and build capacity on the development, implementation and review of NBSAPS and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into broader national, local and regional policies and strategies. Participants underlined the importance of facilitating stakeholder participation in NBSAPs and emphasized the need to ensure that mainstreaming occurs in practice, rather than just on paper. Participants highlighted the urgent need to enhance the integration of climate change considerations within NBSAPs and appreciated training in tools including application of the ecosystem approach, strategic environmental assessments and risk management techniques, and communication education and public awareness.

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS

The Secretariat with the generous financial support of the European Union and the Government of Spain, organized the Pacific Islands sub regional workshop on capacity-building for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity, held from 9 to 12 February 2009 in Nadi, Fiji, jointly with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Government of Fiji and PoWPA FRIENDS. The objectives of the workshop were: (i) to strengthen the skills and knowledge of protected area functionaries and others who implement the programme of work through an exchange of experiences, sharing of tools, available resources and capacity-building in the three important aspects for implementing the programme of work on protected areas: (a) Undertaking ecological gap analysis with special emphasis on marine protected areas; (b) developing sustainable financing for protected areas; and (c) assessing protected area management effectiveness; and (ii) to determine a way forward for implementing decisions IX/18 A-B and IX/20 from the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held in May 2008 and next steps leading up to the review of the programme of work on protected areas by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. The workshop was attended by government-nominated experts from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands,

Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, The Nature Conservancy, the World Wide Fund for Nature, BirdLife International, Conservation International, the IUCN-Oceania, the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas, the Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), and the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office provided resource persons. The participants identified (i) status of implementation of the three aspects ;(ii) challenges and constraints in implementing those activities; and (iii) support needs.



Capacity-building Workshop for the Pacific Region for implementation of POWPA: Participants at the meeting.

BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

On 4 February 2009 the SCBD hosted the first teleconference of the Steering Committee for *the Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge meeting* to be held in Asia in November 2009. Sixteen members representing government, NGOs, and the private sector met to decide on a venue and discuss potential agenda items. It was decided that the meeting should be held in Jakarta, Indonesia. While many agenda topics were suggested, all agreed that the meeting should be broken down by sector so as to facilitate exchange of experiences and identify the way forward for increased integration of biodiversity considerations in each sector. The Steering Committee will meet again at the end of March to finalise the meeting agenda and identify potential speakers.

YOUTH OUTREACH

February was a busy month for youth outreach. On 18 February, the CBD Secretariat took part in "Biodiversity Matters", a youth conference for the awareness and engagement on actions for biodiversity. The conference was organized by the Protect Our Water and Environmental Resource (P.O.W.E.R.) in Georgetown, Ontario, Canada. Over 180 secondary students, teachers, administrators, community organization representatives and members of the general public participated in several CBD Secretariat presentations on biodiversity, youth involvement in the Convention process (e.g. *The Green Wave*), the International Year of Biodiversity and other CBD initiatives. From 23 and 26 February, four presentations were delivered to English and French college students in the Montreal area. These presentations focused on the 2009 theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity – Invasive Alien Species.

OTHER MEETINGS:

- *Deliver lectures at the Kobe University on Biosafety Liability and Redress and on career opportunities in the international civil service, 2-3 February 2009, Kobe, Japan*
- *Attend the meeting organized by UNEP: Interagency Meeting on Global Green New Deal Report, 2-3 February 2009, New York, U.S.A.*
- *Participate in the 62nd FICSA Council meeting, 2-6 February 2009, Paris, France*
- *Take part in the Annual meeting of the Scientific Committee of DIVERSITAS, 8-10 February 2009, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*
- *Meet with relevant staff from UNDP-Office, as well as the CBD Focal Point and staff from the Finance and Planning Ministries, 8-14 February 2009, Maputo, Mozambique*
- *Attend the Green development mechanism initiative, 9-10 February 2009, Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- *Attend the TEEB core team meeting on report for policy makers, 12-13 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium*
- *Attend the First Meeting of the Intersessional Technical Working Group on Ocean Fertilization, 9-13 February 2009, IMO headquarters, London, U.K.*
- *Attend the First Meeting of the LP Intersessional Legal and Related Issues Working Group on Ocean Fertilization, 11-13 February 2009, IMO Headquarters, London, U.K.*
- *Deliver a presentation at the Vermont Law School on ABS and IPRs, as well as meet with students on career opportunities in the U.N., 15 February 2009, Vermont, U.S.A.*
- *Meet with relevant staff from UNDP-Office, as well as the CBD Focal Point and staff from the Finance and Planning Ministries, 16-20 February 2009, Luanda, Angola*
- *Visit of a staff member from the GEF-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, 17 February 2009*
- *Participate in the IV Regional Forum on West African Coastal and Marine Zone, 17-18 February 2009, Guinea-Bissau*
- *Meet with relevant staff of the Poverty and Environment Initiative in UNEP, 23-24 February 2009, Nairobi, Kenya*
- *Meet with relevant staff of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy of the Southern African Development Community, 26-28 February 2009, Gaborone, Botswana*
- *Attend the International workshop on China NBSAP Formulation, 27 February -1 March 2009, Beijing, China*

THE GREEN WAVE



The Green Wave, a global biodiversity education project for children and youth, which was officially launched by Germany during COP 9, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2008, has grown significantly in the past year. The Notification sent to all CBD National Focal Points dated 3 February 2009 ([http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-016-greenwave-](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-016-greenwave-en.pdf)

[en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-016-greenwave-en.pdf)) highlights a number of events in support of The Green Wave held after COP 9, as well as several changes made to its website. To further enhance the global reach of the project and to facilitate greater participation, the website is now available in **French** and **Spanish**. On the occasion of the celebration of this year's International Day for Biological Diversity, under the theme

"Invasive Alien Species", Parties and governments are encouraged to seize the opportunity to promote, support and celebrate *The Green Wave* with the children and youth of their countries, to work collaboratively with their Ministries of Education in bringing the project to all schools in their countries. For more information, please visit:

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



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>

