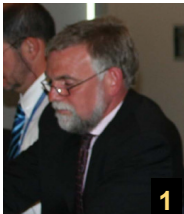


MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2008

COP-9 BUREAU MEETING

At the initiative of the COP-9 Presidency, the first meeting of the COP-9 Bureau was held on 4 October 2008, in Barcelona, Spain. Issues discussed included: access and benefit sharing, 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, calendar/agendas of intersessional meetings, financial resources, among others. Subsequent to the COP Bureau meeting, a Climate Change Seminar for the Bureau members was held. The minutes of the Bureau meeting will be accessible on the COP Bureau webpage at: www.cbd.int/cop-bureau/ once finalized. As agreed, the second COP-9 Bureau meeting will be held during the last week of November in Berlin, Germany, and the third meeting in February 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.



(1) Jochen Flasbarth, representative of COP-9 President, H.E. Sigmar Gabriel, Minister of Environment of Germany. (2) COP-9 Bureau Members at the meeting. (Photos courtesy of BMU-Germany)



IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS BARCELONA 2008



A delegation from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity took part in the IUCN World Conservation Congress (IUCN-WCC), held in Barcelona, Spain, on 5-14 October 2008. Mr.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary/head of delegation, were assisted by the following staff: Tim Christophersen (forest), John Scott (traditional knowledge), David Ainsworth (CEPA) and Éric Belvaux (biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation). The IUCN-WCC provided an opportunity for the Secretariat to participate in various events relevant to the work of the CBD, as well as meet and engage with relevant partner organizations and bodies, highlighting the work of the CBD, in particular the results of the recent Biodiversity Summit held in Bonn. Mr. Djoghlaif also took part in a number of events, including the *Soirée Francophone* organized by the *Organisation internationale de la francophonie* and IUCN, workshop on “Mainstreaming Sustainability in the Tourism Industry: The Global Baseline Criteria for Sustainable Tourism”, workshop on “Local and regional governments authorities – key partners for biodiversity!”, Countdown 2010 press conference and attended the joint event by HRH Prince Turki Bin Nasser Bin Abdelaziz (Saudi Arabia) and IUCN “World Sustainability Leaders VIP Tour”, among others.



For statements issued by CBD at the IUCN-WCC, please go to: <http://www.cbd.int/information/statements.shtml>

Sebastian Winkler, Countdown 2010 during a press conference at the IUCN-WCC (Photos courtesy of IUCN-TV)

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

In the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Signing for TNC was Mr. Mark Tercek, CEO, who stated that “This collaboration demonstrates how civil society organizations like the Conservancy can work in tandem with governments to help countries achieve significant progress in conservation and sustainable development.” Grateful for the support offered by TNC, Mr. Djoghlaif hopes that “other organizations will follow their lead”. Joint activities identified in the agreement include: protected areas, island biodiversity, forest biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, invasive alien species, inland waters, sustainable use, climate change and biodiversity, among others.

Press Release issued: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-10-06-tnc-en.pdf>

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SYMPOSIUM FOR BIODIVERSITY WELL UNDERWAY

Planning is on track for the Second International Youth Symposium for Biodiversity, which is aimed at educating young people on the vital importance of biodiversity. On 10 October, adult organizers, youth junior board members and one CBD Secretariat staff met in Ottawa, Canada for a planning session. The Symposium will contribute to the CBD programme of work on communication, education and public awareness, in particular by enabling youth participants to become biodiversity ambassadors for the International Year of Biodiversity. For more information about the symposium or to apply, visit www.biodiversitymatters.org.



(1) From left to right: Michael Leveille (Executive Director of Symposium), Christine Gibb (Convention on Biological Diversity), Dan Bisaccio (HabitatNet/ Science Education at Brown University), Clint Monaghan (Director of Delegates) (2) Youth Board: Students from St-Laurent Academy, Jean Vanier Catholic, St. Mark's Catholic, and Ashbury College (not in photo: Fredericton High School (One student in photo is home-schooled))
(Photos courtesy of Michael Leveille)

TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (COP-10) - CHANGWON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA



The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP 10), held from 28 October to 4 November 2008, at the Changwon Convention Center in Changwon, Republic of Korea, under the theme "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People." At the opening plenary, David Coates, CBD Programme Officer for Inland Waters, speaking on behalf of the Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, CBD Executive Secretary, supported an integrated approach on water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change, and underscored the endorsement of the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan by the participants of the recent CBD Biodiversity Summit in Bonn last May 2008.



David Coates, speaking on behalf of Ahmed Djoghlafl, CBD Executive Secretary (Photo courtesy of ENB)

CBD Statement: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-10-28-ramsar-en.pdf>

CONSORTIUM OF SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS ON BIODIVERSITY

The third meeting of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity was held on 21 October 2008, hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, in Brussels, Belgium. The CBD Secretariat was represented in the meeting by Mr. David Ainsworth, CBD CEPA Programme Officer. The meeting reviewed the implementation of the MOU, including recommendations and future actions identified in its second meeting, as well as considered areas for potential contribution of the Consortium to the celebration of the 2009 International Day for Biological Diversity and the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. An informal face-to-face meeting is being planned in the margins of the meeting of the Group of Technical and Legal experts on compliance in the context of the international regime on access and benefit sharing to be held on 27-30 January 2009 in Tokyo, Japan.



EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK

The CBD Secretariat was represented at the European Forest Week by Mr. Tim Christophersen, CBD Programme Officer for Forest Biodiversity. Participating in a debate panel organized during the opening plenary session, Mr. Christophersen delivered an opening statement, as well as provided arguments for strong biodiversity considerations when aiming to fulfill the increased demand for fuel wood as part of the 20% renewable energy target (by 2020) of the EU. The European Forest Week also provided an opportunity for the Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with respective forest staff of FAO, IUFRO, and UN-ECE present at the meeting.

CBD GUESTS IN OCTOBER



On 1 October, the CBD Executive Secretary welcomed the visit of **Mr. David Miller, the new ABS Focal Point from the U.S. Department of State**. Mr. Miller also had an opportunity to meet with the ABS team.

Representatives from the Biotechnology Industries Organization (BIO) visited the Secretariat on 1 October, to discuss the outcomes of the COP-9 meeting which are of relevance to their work. The group met with the Executive Secretary, as well as with relevant CBD staff members.



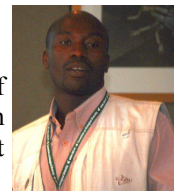
Students from Concordia University (Environmental Law: International Governance for Environmental Security course) visited the Secretariat on 1 October. Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Principal Officer of the SEL unit, and Ms. Kathryn Garforth, Legal Officer of the Biosafety unit, gave a short presentation on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Biosafety Protocol.

Also on 1 October, **students from McGill University** (International Master in Environmental Assessment course) also visited the Secretariat. Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, was joined by staff members Robert Höft, John Scott, Jaime Webbe, Manoela Pessoa de Miranda and Annie Cung in welcoming the students. Short presentations on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Biosafety Protocol were made, followed by Q&A.



On 21 October, **Ms. Nora Galer and Mr. Marc Vaucher from the U.N. Ombudsman's Office** visited the Secretariat office. The Secretariat staff had the privilege of not only meeting the team but also of learning about the work and mandate of the U.N. Ombudsman. Also present at the U.N. Ombudsman briefing were staff members from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat.

Mr. Dominique Bikaba, from Pole Pole Foundation/Kahuzi-Biega National Park in DRC and one of the 2006 Equator Initiative prizewinners, visited the Secretariat on 23 October. He gave a presentation on wildlife conservation and community involvement in the DRC, and gave him an opportunity to meet with relevant CBD staff.



Visit of **Ms. Thora Martina Herrmann, Canada Research Chair in Ethnoecology and Biodiversity Conservation**,/Université de Montréal, and her students on 31 October. They were welcomed by the Executive Secretary, and then were met by staff from the CBD Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters (STTM) unit: Jo Mulongoy (Principal Officer, STTM), Véronique Allain and Annie Cung, among others.

63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations



General Assembly

During the last week of October 2008, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary attended the United Nations General Assembly and presented the report of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Taking advantage of his presence at the U.N. headquarters, Mr. Djoghla met with senior U.N. officials, as well as the Permanent Representative of the Somali Republic to the United Nations in New York. The report submitted by CBD can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/ga/>.

Other meetings:

- Visit of representatives from the Biotechnology Industries Organization, 1 October 2008
- Visit of students from the Environmental Law: International Governance for Environmental Security course at Concordia University, 1 October 2008
- Visit of students from the International Master in Environmental Assessment course at McGill University, 1 October 2008
- Visit of Mr. David Miller, the new ABS Focal Point for the U.S. Government, 2 October 2008
- Interviewed by the Algerian newspaper *El Watan*, 3 October 2008
- Met with the ABS Co-Chairs, 4 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated in and delivered a statement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, as well as took part in several side events, 5-14 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Attended the Press Breakfast to launch the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Interviewed by the BBC, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Met with the Minister of Environment of Italy, Mrs. Stefania Prestigiacomo, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated as a panel member at the Mainstreaming Sustainability in the Tourism Industry event, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Interviewed by NHK-Japan Broadcasting Corporation, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated in the Alliances workshop on Local and regional governments authorities – key partners for biodiversity, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Took part and delivered a statement at *Soirée Francophone pour les participants au Congrès Mondial de l'IUCN, organisée par l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) et l'Union Mondiale pour la Nature (IUCN), à l'Institut National d'Éducation Physique de Catalogne (INEFC)*, 6 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Met with the President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, followed by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CBD and The Nature Conservancy, 7 October 2008, in the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated in a High-Level Ministerial Meeting on Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 7 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated in the Sustainable Leadership dialogue on a private yacht of Prince Turki Ibn Naser, The President of Meteorology and Environment of Saudi Arabia, 7 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Took part as a panellist and delivered a statement at the High Level Dialogue on Local Authorities, 7 October 2008, in the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated in the High Level Panel on 2010 target and poverty alleviation and delivered a statement “Meeting the 2010 biodiversity target: A contribution to poverty alleviation and the benefit of life on Earth”, 8 October 2008, in the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- Interviewed by Reuters, 8 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Press conference on the results of the Countdown 2010 Readiness Assessment, 8 October 2008, Barcelona, Spain
- Interviewed by two Japanese newspaper, the Kyodo newspaper and an Algerian newspaper, in the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Held bilateral meetings with some African ministers on the preparation of the November ministerial meeting on Climate Change in preparation for UNFCCC COP14, the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Second International Youth Symposium on Biodiversity, 10 October 2008, Ottawa, Canada
- Met with representatives from UNESCO to discuss IYB, DESD conference and participation in the POW for CEPA, 10 October 2008, Paris, France
- Met with officials of the Minister of Environment of Singapore, 10 October 2008, Singapore
- Took part in the Global Indian Diaspora Conference and deliver a statement on “Sustainable Development: Which way next?”, 10-11 October, Singapore City, Singapore
- Attended the Regional Workshop on Harmonization in National Reporting on Forests for Asia, 13-16 October 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Continuation of meetings in October 2008

- Attended the *XII Sommet de la Francophonie*, 17-19 October 2008, Quebec City, Canada
- Participated in the Foire Internationale du Tourisme Solidaire, 19-22 October 2008, Bamako, Mali
- Met via telephone with Mr. Charles-Mathieu Brunelle, the new director of Montreal's Nature Museums, 20 October 2008
- Met with representatives of TVE to discuss role in the IYB celebrations, 20 October 2008, London, U.K.
- Attended the Wildscreen Film Festival, and meet with officials from Wildscreen to discuss their role in the IYB celebrations, 20 October 2008, London, U.K.
- Visit of representatives from the UN Ombudsman's office, 20-24 October 2008
- Met via teleconference of the Inter-agency task force on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 21 October 2008
- Attended the opening event of the Conservation Exhibition "Gateways to Conservation: Connecting People to Nature", a joint UN-UNESCO and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) initiative, 22 October 2008, U.N. Headquarters, New York, U.S.A.
- Took part as panel speaker on "Forest Biomass for Energy" at the European Forestry Week, 22-23 October 2008, Rome, Italy
- Visit of Dominique Bikaba, from Pole Pole Foundation/Kahuzi-Biega National Park in DRC and one of the 2006 Equator Initiative prizewinners, who delivered a presentation on wildlife conservation and community involvement in the DRC, 23 October 2008
- Represented the CBD at the 7th International Congress on Perfumery and Natural Raw Materials – Centifolia 2008, 23 October 2008, Nice, France
- Met via teleconference with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to discuss preparations for the meeting of the Group of Technical and Legal Experts on Compliance in the context of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing, 23 October 2008
- Attended the 10th anniversary of the *Jumelage Montreal-Hiroshima*, 24 October 2008, Hotel de Ville, Montreal, Canada
- Visit of Ian Thompson, Canadian Forest Service, to discuss REDD climate change and expert group, 24-25 October 2008
- Attended and presented the report of the CBD to the United Nations General Assembly, as well as met with UN senior officials, 27-29 October 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Attended the Southern African Regional Dialogue on Novel Foods meeting, 27-28 October 2008, Cape Town, South Africa
- Met with the Permanent Representative of the Somali Republic to the United Nations in New York, 28 October 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Meet with the Director of UNDP's Environment and Energy Group, Bureau for Development Policy, 29 October 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Participated in the Thirtieth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other matter (London Convention) and the Third meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, organized by IMO, 27-31 October 2008, London, U.K.
- Attended the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 28 October-4 November 2008, Changwon, Korea
- Held series of strategy meetings on U.S. ratification, 29-30 October 2008, Washington D.C., U.S.A.
- Met with the Canada Research Chair in Ethnoecology and Biodiversity Conservation and students from Université de Montréal, 31 October 2008, Montreal, Canada

CBD MESSAGES in October:

On the occasion of the **World Habitat Day** (6 October)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-10-06-habitat-en.pdf> (also available in Spanish)

On the occasion of **World Food Day** (16 October)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-10-15-food-en.pdf> (also available in Spanish)

On the occasion of the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** (17 October)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-10-17-poverty-en.pdf>



NEW CBD Secretariat is publishing a bimonthly e-Newsletter to inform CBD National Focal Points and other interested recipients about biodiversity aspects in relation to 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation' (REDD).

To view Newsletter: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/redd/redd-2008-10-en.pdf>

To learn more about REDD: <http://www.cbd.int/forest/redd/>

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



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