



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Issue No. 1/2009

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY JANUARY 2009

GROUP OF TECHNICAL AND LEGAL EXPERTS ON ABS MEET IN TOKYO

In its decision IX/12, paragraph 11, the Conference of the Parties decided, inter alia, to establish a group of technical and legal experts to further examine the issue of compliance in order to assist the **Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing** in the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing. Following the kind invitation of the Government of Japan, the **meeting of the group of legal and technical experts** was convened in Tokyo, Japan, on 27-30 January 2009. The Expert Group examined the issues set out in its terms of reference, in accordance with decision IX/12, annex II, IA, paragraph 1. These included **measures available or that could be developed in public and private international law in order to ensure compliance with national access and benefit-sharing legislation as well as mutually agreed terms regarding access and benefit-sharing; voluntary measures to enhance the compliance of users; how an internationally agreed definition of misappropriation and misuse could support compliance; how compliance measures could take account of customary law; and, whether particular compliance measures are need for research with non-commercial intent.** The report of the meeting will be made available to Parties and posted on the Secretariat website once finalized. Documentation for the meeting is accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSGTLE-02>.

CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY

On 14 January 2009, the Secretariat organized a teleconference call inviting the members of the **Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity** to report on their activities. 18 participants from 9 institutions participated in the one and a half hour teleconference. The following items were discussed: update on the preparations of the **First Technical Expert Workshop on the City Biodiversity Index** that will take place in Singapore on 10-12 February 2009; update on the preparation of the **Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity meeting** due to take place in Curitiba; discussions on how to link the **Global Partnership to United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), ICLEI (beyond LAB)** and other networks (Countdown 2010, URBIS, CONTUREC); **status of ICLEI/LAB activities**; other related events; and, agenda item for the next teleconference call, particularly on the **2010 activities to be organized by all cities.** The **next teleconference call** will take place during the first week of March.

FIRST REGIONAL REAL-TIME ONLINE CONFERENCES ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY: EUROPE

In its fourth meeting held in Bonn, the COP-MOP established 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 Executive Secretary was requested 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. The **first regional real-time online conference (for Europe)** was held on 28 January 2009 through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). 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. The **full transcript** of the online conference is available at <http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/live-ra-eu.shtml>. **Provisional agenda and Annotated Provisional Agenda** for the online conferences can be accessed on the Secretariat website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSCONF-CBRARMEU-01>.

Upcoming regional real-time online conferences:

- 3 February 2009 (Latin America)
- 10 February 2009 (Africa)
- 17 February 2009 (Asia)

ONLINE CONFERENCE ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR INTEGRATION OF BIOSAFETY INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: 19 JANUARY - 6 FEBRUARY 2009

The “Online-Conference on Capacity-Building for Integration of Biosafety into National Development Plans, Strategies and Programmes” is currently being held, **from 19 January to 6 February 2009**, through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). Participants will share the experiences and lessons learned in the integration of biosafety considerations into national development plans, strategies and programmes. They will also identify tools and mechanisms for mainstreaming biosafety and discuss ways of strengthening the capacities of countries to integrate biosafety into their development plans. The outcomes of the conference will be further discussed at the fifth coordination meeting of governments and organizations implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities, which will be held 9-11 March 2009 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The recommendations of the coordination meeting will be submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the COP-MOP. **Details** regarding the conference are available at: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/about_dev_cb.shtml.

VISIT TO MOUNT PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



On 22 January, in its continuous efforts to promote the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its work among schools in the Province of Quebec, the CBD Youth Focal Point visited the Mount Pleasant Elementary School in Hudson, Quebec. An interactive presentation was made on biodiversity generally and invasive alien species in particular – the 2009 theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD). It was designed to draw out the children's existing knowledge and help them build on it. Fifteen students in "the green club" (ages 9-12 years) and one parent volunteer participated enthusiastically. The presentation will be made available on the 2009 IBD portal.

MCGILL NON-PROFIT & PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER FAIR



Two staff members from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity took part in the McGill Non-Profit & Public Service Career Fair, held on 28 January at the McGill University in Montreal. A CBD information kiosk, displaying various outreach publications and materials, was set up. About 100 students and recent graduates inquired about the work of the CBD, and the Secretariat internship programme and career opportunities. Other organizational participants included federal, provincial and municipal government departments and non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

WORKSHOP SERIES ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, TOURISM AND BIODIVERSITY: NEW INFORMATION AND WEB-BASED TECHNOLOGIES : SECOND WORKSHOP OF THE SERIES: ISLANDS (NOVEMBER 2008)

With the generous support of the Government of Spain, the SCBD held the second workshop of the series on new information and web-based technology in partnership with the Secretariat for the Pacific Region Environment Programme (SPREP) and the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI) of Auckland University of Technology. The workshop took place in Samoa and brought together 22 indigenous tourism operators or owners from 11 islands of the Pacific region. Participants in the workshop used web-based tools to more effectively communicating the biodiversity concepts of their biodiversity-friendly tourism products. The **final report** of the meeting is available at : <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSTOURIDG-02>. For **more details** on the workshop Series, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/tourism/wstour-01.shtml>.



Above: Participants are talking about challenges and issues related to tourism in the Pacific Region.

Below: Participants at the meeting.

The workshop was covered in **several news media**, including:

- Tourism in the South Pacific: <http://www.aut.ac.nz/corp/newsrelease/?653>

- RNZ International: <http://www.rnzi.com/pages/audio.php>

- They're talking biodiversity at Vailima:

http://www.samoabobserver.ws/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=680:theyre-talking-biodiversity&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=50



OTHER MEETINGS

- Visit of the Head of Public Awareness Unit, Bioversity International, 7 January 2009
- Attend the Ecosystem Management Consultative Meeting, 9-11 January 2009, UNEP- WCMC office, Cambridge, U.K.
- Visit of a delegation from the BMZ-Germany, 13 January 2009
- Visit of the new Ambassador of Austria to Ottawa, 14 January 2009
- Visit of representatives from the Canadian Museum of Nature, 16 January 2009
- Attend the 25th meeting of the BioNET Fund Supervisory Board, 20 January 2009, Egham, U.K.
- Take part in the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Inventory Workshop in relevance to Global Taxonomy Initiative, 20-23 January 2009, Tokyo, Japan
- Deliver a workshop on invasive alien species and test IBD children's material at a primary school, 22 January 2009, Hudson, Quebec, Canada
- Visit of representatives from The Nature Conservancy, 22-23 January 2009
- Participate in the IGES meeting, 25 January 2009, Tokyo, Japan
- Preliminary visit to Nagoya in relation to preparations for COP-10 meeting, 26 January 2009, Nagoya, Japan
- International Customs Day and Green Customs Initiative Annual Partners meeting, 26-27 January 2009, Brussels, Belgium

VISITORS THIS MONTH



On 7 January, the Head of the Public Awareness Unit of **Bioversity International** visited the Secretariat, and met with relevant CBD staff to discuss Bioversity International's 2010 public awareness campaign entitled "Diversity for Life" and how it integrates with the International Year of Biodiversity, the programme of work on CEPA and others.

In reference to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development** in 2007, **staff from GTZ** visited the Secretariat and met with the Executive Secretary and relevant staff to discuss ways to further enhance the implementation of the MoU.

On 14 January, the CBD Executive Secretary welcomed the visit of **His Excellency Werner Mag Brandstetter, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Ottawa**. The visit provided an opportunity for the Executive Secretary to



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brief the Ambassador on the work and objectives of the CBD.

Representatives from the Canadian Museum on Nature and the **Muséums Nature de Montréal**



visited the Secretariat on 16 January to meet with the Executive Secretary

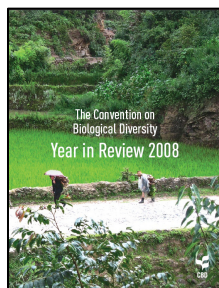


and other relevant staff. Discussion focused mainly on the International Year for Biodiversity celebrations. National program of events are being planned by the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada, which is comprised of thirteen museums sites across Canada, to celebrate IYB 2010.

On 23-24 January, **staff from The Nature Conservancy** visited the Secretariat to discuss views on the value of collaborations between TNC and the SCBD. A presentation was made to the Secretariat staff, followed by meetings with relevant divisions.



PUBLICATIONS



Year in Review 2008

To view, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/cbd-report-2008-en.pdf>



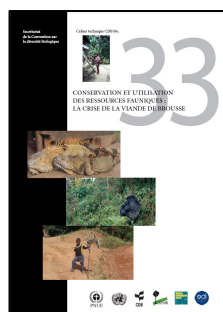
Business.2010 newsletter Vol. 3, Issue 4

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



Biosafety Protocol News Vol. 3, Issue 5

To view, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/bpn/bpn-03-05-en.pdf>



Cahier technique CDB No. 33 - Conservation et Utilisation des Ressources Fauniques: La Crise de la Viande de Brousse

To view, go to: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-33-fr.pdf>



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