

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

MARCH 2009

HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET AND POST-2010



Mr. Jochen Flasbarth (BMU-Germany) delivering opening remarks, on behalf of the COP 9 President.

At the kind invitation of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, in its capacity as the current Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a high level workshop on the 2010 biodiversity target and post-2010 was convened on 9-10 March in Bonn, Germany, with the participation of some 50 participants, including the CBD Executive Secretary, and former chief negotiators of the U.N. Environmental Conventions and scientist from all over the world.

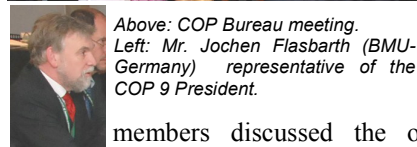
The meeting provided the participants to have an exchange of ideas and views on the way forward to meeting international biodiversity commitments, taking a critical look at why the 2010 targets are not likely to be achieved, and discuss the framework of the post-2010 biodiversity target and strong action on the future of the global biodiversity agenda. The report of the meeting will be made available on the CBD website once finalized.

Press Release issued for the meeting is accessible at:
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-03-18-germany-en.pdf>



Participants at the meeting.

FOURTH MEETING OF THE COP 9 BUREAU



Above: COP Bureau meeting.
Left: Mr. Jochen Flasbarth (BMU-Germany) representative of the COP 9 President.

The COP 9 Bureau held its fourth meeting on 30 March in Paris, France, prior to the informal regional consultations with the two ABS Co-Chairs as well as the seventh meeting the *Ad hoc* Open-ended Working on Access and Benefit-Sharing (WGABS-7). The Bureau

members discussed the organization of work for the WGABS-7 meeting, as well as key message of the Bureau members to the regional groups. Other items discussed at the meeting include: availability of financial resources for the implementation of COP-9 decisions, outcome of the high-level meeting on the 2010 biodiversity target and post-2010 targets, preparations for the COP-MOP5 and COP10 meetings, and the UNGA high-level meeting on biodiversity in 2010, among other issues. The minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Secretariat website once finalized.

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM ON ARTICLE 10(c)

In decision IX 13, A, paragraph 4, the COP requested 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 at its sixth meeting on how this related provision may be further advanced and implemented as a priority. With this in mind, **the Secretariat conducted an electronic online forum from 11 February – 11 March, 2009**, requesting input from representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, Parties, NGOs, academics, and other interested individuals and organizations. **Thirty-seven experts** participated over the four weeks of the electronic forum. The forum was guided by the framing question: How can Parties to the Convention ensure that obligations arising from article 10(c), to protect and encourage the customary use of biological resources (in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements), are further advanced and implemented as a priority? As well as this initiative, the Secretariat has continued to compile case studies from various sources and has analyzed them with a view to provide advice to the WG8J6, to be held in November 2009 in Montreal, for its consideration.

VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BIODIVERSITY AND POLICY DIVISION, MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF JAPAN



Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, MOE-Japan, with Ms. Noriko Moriwake, seconded staff from MOE-Japan.

The Director of the Biodiversity and Policy Division of the Japanese Ministry of the Environment (MOE), **Mr. Tsunao Watanabe**, paid a visit to the Secretariat on 26-27 March. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss major challenges facing the preparations for the **fifth meeting of the**

Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Mr. Watanabe also met with relevant staff to discuss the **engagement of Japanese stakeholders in the Nagoya biodiversity meetings, including youth, the private-sector/business communities, the scientific community, women and non-governmental organizations.**

The Communiqué issued for the visit is accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-03-27-japan-en.pdf>

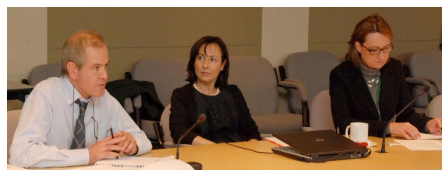
REGIONAL CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL ASIA ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

The regional capacity development workshop for Central Asia on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) and the mainstreaming of biodiversity was held from 9 to 13 March 2009 in Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran. The workshop gathered more than 20 participants including representatives from: **Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.** The opening of the meeting was attended by the Mayor and deputy governor of Ramsar, as well as the Environment General Directors from Mazandaran and the neighbouring province of Ghilan. Also at the meeting from the Islamic Republic of Iran were representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, as well as universities and NGOs. The meeting was facilitated by Asghar Fazel. The main purpose of the workshop was to strengthen national capacity for the development, implementation, review and updating of NBSAPs and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors, in line with COP decisions VIII/8 and IX/8, as well as the finalization of the fourth national reports.

A number of presentations were made at the meeting, including: guidelines for the fourth national report, which focuses on implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target; a reference manual developed to assist with the preparation of the fourth national report; an outline of the support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the fourth national reports; the role of the clearing-house mechanism in supporting the exchange of information within and between countries; and an online poster generation tool, developed by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), linking the implementation of national

biodiversity strategies and action plans to the 2010 biodiversity target. Relevant documentation and information about the workshop can be found at: <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/central-asia.shtml>.

VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM AIRBUS



Mr. Neil Pratt (CBD) with Ms. Eugenie Torrente and Ms. Mary Christine van der Heyden of Airbus during a meeting with relevant CBD staff.

On 16 March 2009, the Secretariat welcomed **Ms. Eugenie Torrente, Head of Advertising, and Ms. Mary Christine G. van der Heyden, External Communication Manager of Airbus**, for a day of

exchanges on the new communications partnership they have established with the **National Geographic Society (NGS)** to support **The Green Wave**. During the day, the Secretariat presented **The Green Wave** project objectives, content, activities and team, and introduced SCBD staff members working on some of the Secretariat's strategic priorities such as IYB. Airbus presented a proposal on their supportive communication plan ("**The Green Wave Journey: 2009 and beyond**"), its themes and potential activities for the year ahead. **Ms. Nadine Heggie, International Account Director for NGS London** joined the meeting via teleconference to present an overview of NGS' involvement in the campaign. On 17 March, Mr. Neil Pratt, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer at SCBD, accompanied Airbus representatives to NGS headquarters in Washington DC, where they met with senior NGS staff involved in the initiative to further discuss the action plan and options for component material and activities, including its launch. Following the Airbus/NGS meetings, **The Green Wave** team delivered a brown bag lunch presentation on the status of **The Green Wave** to SCBD staff members on 25 March.

TELECONFERENCE ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY / UK PARTICIPATION

On 16 March, the Secretariat held a **teleconference on Cities and Local Authorities**, which was joined by 21 representatives of UNESCO, City of Curitiba, City of Bonn, City of Montreal, ICLEI/LAB, IUCN, City of Nagoya, City of Cap Town/LAB, UNEP-(UEU), UN-HABITAT, Singapore National Biodiversity Centre, UNEP-WCMC, German Institute of Housing and Environment, Stockholm Resilience Centre and Natural England. The meeting discussed the **Singapore City Biodiversity Index (CBI) and its entry in to the testing phase, preparation of a publication on cities' best practices and case studies, major upcoming activities of the Global Partnership including ICLEI's world congress in Edmonton in June, the Curitiba meeting in the fall, events leading up to Shanghai World Expo 2010 as well as the preparations for the Nagoya Biodiversity City Summit.** For the first time a representative of the UK, **Dr. David Knight of Natural England** took part in the teleconference, and provided an important input on the UK's experience in encouraging its local authorities to contribute to the implementation of the CBD at the local level. The Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity plans to involve other Parties in preparations for the Nagoya Biodiversity City Summit in 2010 (parallel to COP 10).

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2009 : LOGO



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22 MAY 2009

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

For more information on IBD 2009, please visit:

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

INTERNATIONAL REGIME ON ABS INFORMATION PORTAL



INTERNATIONAL REGIME
ON ABS
INFORMATION PORTAL

In response to COP decisions IX/12, paragraph 23 and IX/32, paragraph 11, the Secretariat created an "Information Portal related

to the Negotiations of an International Regime on ABS". The Information Portal has been developed to serve as a major hub for information related to the negotiation and elaboration of an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing. The Portal is designed to assist Parties and all relevant stakeholders during the negotiation of the Regime by facilitating access to information and resources of relevance to the negotiating process.

<http://www.cbd.int/abs/ir/>

FIFTH COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR FUNDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES & THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR BIOSAFETY SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

The **fifth coordination meeting for Governments and organizations implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities**, held 9-11 March 2009 in San Jose, Costa Rica, developed a set of action points for building capacities in environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring of living modified organisms (LMOs) and in integration of biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also discussed and approved two sets of guidelines, namely the "Interim Guiding Framework for Promoting Synergies and Complementarities Between Biosafety Capacity-Building Initiatives" and the "Draft Guidance on Promoting Regional and Subregional Initiatives and Approaches to Capacity-Building in Biosafety".

The **sixth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety**, held 12-13 March 2009, brainstormed on the future strategic goals and objectives for capacity-building under the Protocol and proposed possible draft elements of the capacity-building component of the strategic plan for the Protocol. It also reviewed and recommended improvements regarding the questionnaire, timeframe and periodicity of the country capacity-building needs-assessment, and also the draft web-based reporting format for activities contributing to the implementation of the capacity-building Action Plan developed by the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 5 of COP-MOP decision BS-IV/3.



Left: Participants at the meeting, including the Vice Minister and the Executive Director of IICA seated in the front.

Above: Charles Gbedemah (CBD) delivering remarks at the opening ceremony.

Press Releases issued for the meeting is accessible at:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-03-06-bs-en.pdf> (English)

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-03-06-bs-es.pdf> (Spanish)

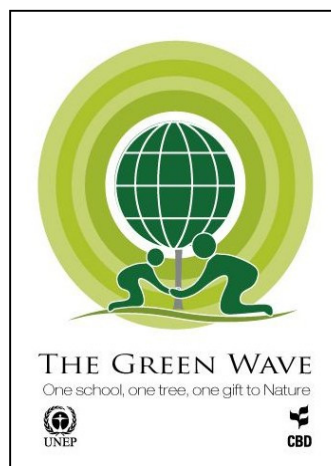
OTHER MEETINGS

- Take part in the meeting on Soil Biodiversity, 2-3 March, Ispra, Italy
- Participate in the meeting of the interim Steering Committee of the Conservation Commons, 3-4 March, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Take part in the Satoyama Initiative meeting and make a presentation on CBD guidance, 6 March, Tokyo, Japan
- Attend the youth segment of the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, 5-6 March, Monrovia, Liberia
- Participate in the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, 7-8 March, Monrovia, Liberia
- Attend the G8 Environment Ministers preparatory meeting, 9 March, Rome, Italy
- Participate in the corporate review and long term planning process of Montreal NGO Rights and Democracy, as well as capacity building for staff on Convention related issues as well as planning for support of ILCs at future CBD meetings held in Montreal, including the 6 WG 8(j) and the 8 WG ABS (Nov. 2009) – 10 March
- Delivered a presentation on the CBD and its relationship with other international processes to the Sauvé Scholars, March 10
- Take part in the GTZ-organized workshop "Crafting 'CEPA' approaches to promote successful negotiation and implementation of ABS", 9-12 March, Nairobi, Kenya
- Attend the tenth meeting of the Alpine Convention, 11-12 March, Evian, France
- Meet with representatives of the UNEP-DCPI to discuss IYB preparations, 13 March, Nairobi, Kenya
- Attend the 19th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on Forestry and World Forest Week, 16-20 March, Rome, Italy
- Attend the Fifth World Water Forum, 16-22 March, Istanbul, Turkey
- Attend the first meeting for the GEF-5 Replenishment, 17-18 March 2009, Paris, France
- Attend the UNEP project on impact assessments of trade policies on agricultural biodiversity: international review meeting, 18-20 March 2009, Geneva, Switzerland
- Attend the TEEB workshop on perverse subsidies and their reform, 23-24 March 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- Inauguration of the Secretariat of the Financial Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), 24 March 2009, Montreal, Canada
- Held meetings with Ramsar Secretariat on the joint work programme, 24-29 March 2009, Gland, Switzerland
- Attend the 14th session of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of Ramsar, 30 March-2 April 2009, Gland, Switzerland
- UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 31 March-2 April 2009, Bonn, Germany, and a coordination meeting with facilitators from the CEC on 29 March 2009

VISITORS THIS MONTH

On the first week of March, the Secretariat welcomed the visit of **Mr. Martin Brasher and Mr. Eric Blencowe from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs** in UK. A presentation was made, and followed by meetings with relevant CBD staff. The **two ABS Co-Chairs** also visited the Secretariat, informing staff on the status of consultations in relation to the ABS regime, and met with ABS team. The visit of the staff from **Census of Marine Life (CoML)** provided an opportunity for CBD staff to learn about the work of CoML, its relevance and how it can further contribute to the CBD process. During the second week of March, staff from the **Mountain Forum Secretariat** visited the Secretariat. Meetings were held with CBD staff on a number of issues, including: IYB and collaboration in the implementation of CBD Programme of Work on Mountain Biological Diversity and the preparation of the in-depth review. Representatives from **Airbus** visited the Secretariat on 16 March (see page 2 for details). On 17-19 March, a delegation from **Ecuador** was welcomed by the CBD Executive Secretary. The purpose of the visit was to discuss Ecuador's offer to host COP-11. Representatives from **Tourisme Montréal** visited the Secretariat and delivered a presentation on services offered on matters related to planning meetings and conferences in Montreal. Senior officials from the **Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire in Ottawa, together with the Canada Research Chair**, paid a visit to the CBD. A briefing was made on preparations for the International Congress on Biological Diversity and Culture to take place in 2010. Representatives from **Environment Canada, Parks Canada, IUCN-WCPA, and TNC** paid a visit to the Secretariat to discuss update on PoWPA developments, PoWPA post 2010, among other issues. **Ms. Morven McLean of Agriculture & Biotechnology Strategies Inc.** visited the Secretariat and met with the Biosafety staff on possible collaborations between the ILSI Research Foundation and SCBD on biosafety issues. On 26 March, the CBD Executive Secretary welcomed

Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to the Secretariat. Ms. McAlpine gave a brief presentation to the CBD staff followed by a short Q & A. Subsequent meetings were held with relevant CBD staff dealing with forest biodiversity and other relevant issues. On 26-27 March, **Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, Director of Biodiversity and Policy Division of the Japanese Ministry of Environment** visited and met with the CBD Executive Secretary (see page 2 for details).



NEW

REDD & Biodiversity e-Newsletter

MARCH 2009 issue
<http://www.cbd.int/forest/newsletters/redd-2009-03-en.pdf>

<http://greenwave.cbd.int>



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