

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

MAY 2009

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE CSD-17 MEETING

At the kind invitation of Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (Netherlands), in her capacity as Chair of the CSD-17, the CBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaflaf attended the **high level segment of the CSD-17** at the UN Headquarters in New York on 12-14 May 2009. Through his statement made at an interactive dialogue with heads of agencies and Ministers, Mr. Djoghlaflaf briefed the participants on the work of the Convention and recent activities of relevance to the CSD agenda, as well as highlighted preparations for the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity and the Biodiversity meetings to take place in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

In the margins of the CSD-17 meeting, the Secretariat also took part in the **Indigenous and Local Communities, Business and Biodiversity Consultation** held on 12-13 May 2009 at the UN Headquarters. Mr. Djoghlaflaf delivered a statement at the event, while Mr. John Scott, CBD Programme Officer for traditional knowledge, moderated the session. The meetings arose as a result of the recent commitment of 18 CEOs of the world's aromatic, perfume and cosmetics industry to respect the principles enshrined in the CBD, the ILO standards, the UN Global Compact, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples. The consultation provided an opportunity to develop draft initial guidance to assist this industrial sector operationalize its commitments. The full text of the statement delivered by Mr. Djoghlaflaf is accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2009/sp-2009-05-12-ilc-en.pdf>.

Taking advantage of the presence of the three Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions in New York, the **ninth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions** was held on 14 May 2009. The meeting took stock on activities agreed at the previous JLG meeting and to further define proposals for joint activities, in particular collaboration towards the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. The three Executive Secretaries had a **working lunch with the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests**.



Ahmed Djoghlaflaf, CBD Executive Secretary, with Helen Clark, new Administrator of UNDP.

While in New York, the CBD Executive Secretary had an opportunity to meet with senior UN and government officials, including the **new Administrator of UNDP**, a number of **Ministers of Environment** at the CSD meeting.



Ninth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions.

VISIT TO JAPAN

At the kind invitation from the **Ministry of the Environment of Japan**, the CBD Executive Secretary travelled to Japan to take part in a number of meetings and events, as well as meet with relevant CBD partners. On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), the CBD Executive Secretary attended as **keynote speaker the International Day for Biological Diversity Symposium 2009**, on 22 May at the United Nations University Headquarters in Tokyo. The event was organized by the **National Institute for Environmental Studies, UNU-ISP, UNU-IAS, the Global Environment Information Centre, and the Ministry of the Environment, Japan**.



CBD Programme Officer Junko Shimura (right) at Session 2 "Invasive Alien Species - Current and Future Challenges" at the IBD Symposium at the UNU in Japan. (Photo from UNU-IAS video)

Through keynote presentation and panel discussion, the meeting enhanced the understanding of researchers and practitioners in the field about invasive alien species, which is the theme of IBD 2009. The IBD Symposium was preceded by a **Green Wave tree planting ceremony**, with the participation of the **Senior Vice-Minister of Environment, Jeff McNeely of IUCN, and more than 30 children**. While in Japan, the CBD Executive Secretary had an opportunity to meet with the **Minister of Environment, the Vice Minister of Global Affairs, the Director General and other directors in the Ministry of the Environment** to discuss preparations of COP-10 and IYB, including the high-level meeting on biodiversity to be held in conjunction with the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Meetings were also held with: **new Mayor of Nagoya, Japan Civil Society Network for CBD; Nippon Keidanren Committee for Nature Conservation, SG of the Globe Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems, Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nagoya, and senior officials of the Aichi Prefecture**.



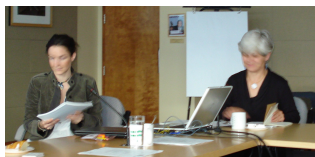
From L-R: Daizaburo Kuroda, DG Nature Conservation Bureau, H.E. Tetsuo Saito, Minister of the Environment-Japan, Ahmed Djoghlaflaf, CBD ES & Noriko Moriwake, CBD seconded staff from Japan.



Takashi Kawamura, new Mayor of Nagoya. (Nagoya City website)

The visit of the CBD Executive Secretary to Japan coincided with the visit of the **CEO of Global Environment Facility**. This provided an opportunity to discuss IYB celebrations at the **fourth GEF Assembly to be held in Uruguay in May 2010**.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING FOR BIODIVERSITY



Irene Dankelman, Consultant, and Adel Savsari, Project Office, Office of IUCN Senior Gender Advisor.

A one day workshop was held on 12 May to validate the draft guidelines developed by the IUCN Senior Gender Adviser's office to mainstream gender into the NBSAPs. There were 33 participants at the workshop, including SCBD staff, IUCN and the UNDP Energy and Environment Group gender focal point.

While not all staff within the SCBD work directly with NBSAPs, their input was welcome because many staff work with guidelines and toolkits and are requested to mainstream gender into their respective programmes of work. The objectives of the workshop were:

- to validate the draft guidelines developed to mainstream gender into the NBSAPs;
- to build understanding on the goals of gender mainstreaming into the NBSAPs and the CBD's related mandate;
- to raise awareness on gender mainstreaming in current NBSAPs; &
- to determine next steps.

Throughout the day, there were many suggestions for next steps. They focused on conducting additional research, assessing the validity of the analyses, identifying linkages with other gender analysis tools and biodiversity analysis tools. In terms of completing the guidelines, IUCN will rewrite the guidelines based the workshop results and suggestions sent to the CBD gender focal point via email. The guidelines may be broken into two documents: 1) a short document, to be read by everyone, introducing the concept of gender mainstreaming in NBSAPs and, 2) a longer "how-to" guide on mainstreaming gender in NBSAPs that requires much more time to read and implement.

BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

From May 13-15, 2009, the Secretariat hosted an expert meeting focused on mainstreaming biodiversity in development cooperation. Attended by 45 international experts representing bi- and multi-lateral development agencies, several CBD parties, as well as international NGOs, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss how development agencies can better integrate biodiversity in their strategies, programmes and projects.

The meeting included an update session on how biodiversity is being applied in development activities through the use of innovative approaches such as economic analysis, Strategic Environmental Assessment, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. It also included an open dialogue session with representatives from ministries of environment, planning and finance/budget of selected developing countries. This exchange aimed to assess the actual barriers and constraints to Governments in integrating biodiversity in national pro-

duction landscapes. A third session focused on developing principles or recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity in development cooperation, at different strategic levels (e.g. from an agency's strategy and programmes planned out at the headquarters level to the projects designed at the national or local levels).

One of the important outcomes of the workshop was a strong consensus amongst participants to formalise a network that will continue to meet on a regular basis to exchange information and experience. The final report of the meeting will be made available on the CBD website once finalized. For more information on CBD's biodiversity for development, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/development>.



Participants at the Biodiversity for Development Cooperation meeting.

LDC WORKSHOP ON THE 4TH NATIONAL REPORT

With the support of Norway and UNEP GEF, the Workshop for Least Developed Countries on the Fourth National Reports was held from 4 to 8 May 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A total of 23 countries, mostly from Africa, participated in this workshop. The workshop provided a very good opportunity for them to learn more about how to prepare the fourth national report and improve and finalize their draft reports or chapters. All the participating countries indicated that this workshop was very helpful for finalizing and submitting their reports in a timely manner.



Participants at the LDC Workshop on the 4th National Report.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONGRESS - PALAIS DES CONGRES, MONTREAL



David Ainsworth, CBD CEPA Officer, with Javier Benayas, CEC/ IUCN member, at the WECC.

The Secretariat participated in the **fifth World Environmental Education Congress (5WEEC)** held at the Palais des Congrès in Montreal. The meeting was opened by the CBD Executive Secretary, together with Akpezi Ogbuigwe of UNEP, both of whom are Honorary Presidents of the congress. Gathering over 2000 environmental educators from around the world, the event discussed the political and transformational significance of environmental education. A CBD kiosk was setup making a number of outreach materials available to participants. In the margins of the 5WEEC, the Secretariat launched the French and Spanish translations of the CEPA toolkit, and also co-organized with CEC/IUCN a workshop on the use of the CEPA toolkit for education and learning. The Secretariat also sponsored the closing reception for the conference and launched a **Declaration on Biological Diversity** in view of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

On 14-15 May, the Secretariat took part in the **fourth International Regional Centre of Expertise Conference**, held back-to-back with 5WEEC, organized by the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies and hosted by RCE in Montreal at the Biosphère. David Ainsworth, CBD CEPA Officer, took part in a panel on sustainable development challenges at the opening plenary.



Jean Langlais, Director, Biosphere.



Jean Lemire, biologist and filmmaker.

On 22 May, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), a special ceremony was organized at the Montreal Biosphere. The event gathered representatives from the **diplomatic corps of Montreal**, officials from the **City of Montreal** as well as **universities and institutions** located in Montreal.

Mr. Jean Langlais, Director of Biosphere, delivered opening remarks. Messages by the **United Nations Secretary General** and by the **current President of the U.N. General Assembly** were read out, followed by the presentation of a video message from the **CBD Executive Secretary**, who was in **Japan taking part in the IBD celebrations** (see page 1 for details on mission to Japan). The meeting was also attended by biologist and filmmaker **Jean Lemire**, who delivered a presentation on his work, including the film *Mission Antarctica*, and its relevance to biodiversity. A presentation was also made on **Canada's Engagement Strategy for 2010**, as well as on the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity. A statement on **Youth for Biodiversity** was delivered by **Jessica Walsh Moreau and Kimba Gifford**, who attended the IBD event with **Mike Léveillé, Chair of the second International Youth for Biodiversity Symposium**.



IBD event at the Biosphere, Montreal.

An outdoor photo exhibit on the **invasive alien species, *They're here!***, was also organized by the Biosphere, which features 40 giant photos of non-indigenous insects, fish and plants that impact our environment, society and economy.

For more information on the **IBD 2009 celebration**, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/idb/2009/>.

For **IBD 2009 pictures at the Biosphere event**, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/photos/>.



Announcement - Biosphere outdoor photo exhibit on invasive alien species "They're here!". (From Biosphere website)

GREEN WAVE 2009

The *Green Wave*, a global educational campaign to educate children and youth about biodiversity, aims to support the objectives of the CBD to strengthen awareness and education of children and youth on biodiversity. Since its official launch on 22 May 2008 in the margins of the COP-9 meeting, the *Green Wave* has grown significantly, thanks to the support from many different groups including: schools, biodiversity institutes, botanical gardens, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, governments, businesses and the media.

Celebrated each year on 22 May, this year's *Green Wave* draws attention to the problem of invasive alien species, which is also the theme of this year's IBD. One of the biggest threats to biodiversity due to careless human activities, invasive alien species can cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health, exacerbate poverty and threaten development through their impact on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural systems.



(1) IBD event in Ishikawa, **Japan**. (2) Green Wave event in Shinjuku Gyoen, **Japan**. (3) School children of Mehrgrün statt Straßen in the town of Neufelden, **Austria**. (4) École primaire El Fejja, Tabarka, Jendouba, **Tunisia**. (5) St. Benedict's Primary School, Belize; (6) Students, teachers and Personnel of Pinagbuhatan High School, Pasig City, **Philippines**; and (7) Green Wave planting ceremony in Ishikawa, **Japan**. (8) Green Wave poster - Min. of Environment, **Algeria**.

For more information on the Green Wave, please visit: greenwave.cbd.int

OTHER MEETINGS

- Meeting via teleconference with the two ABS Co-Chairs, 1 May and 6 May (with the participation of COP 9 President)
- Attend the Conférence de M. Lakhdar Brahimi, ancien Secrétaire général adjoint des Nations Unies: Double défi pour l'ONU: le maintien de la paix et la responsabilité de protéger, 4 May 2009, UQAM, Montreal, Canada
- Participate in the GBO3 biodiversity futures workshop, 4-5 May 2009, Cambridge, U.K.
- Attend the Design Meeting of the World Bank Forest Investment Programme and meet with US Forest Service/Climate Change specialist, 5 May 2009, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Take part in the Workshop on a Network of Knowledge on Biodiversity: a contribution from Europe, 6 May 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- Take part in the GHG inventory on-line training session, 6-7 May 2009
- Participate in the special Task Team meeting established to improve Rio markers' data quality, 7 May 2009, Paris, France
- Take part in the Diversitas Scientific Committee meeting, 10-11 May 2009, Paris, France
- Participate in the 2nd European NBSAP/mainstreaming capacity development workshop, 12-16 May 2009, Isle of Vilm, Germany
- Participate via teleconference in the Executive GEFOP meeting, 14 May 2009
- Participate via teleconference in the informal consultative group for the 2nd intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services meeting, 15 May 2009
- Took part via teleconference in the Countdown 2010 11th Advisory Board Meeting, 15 May 2009
- Attend the ASEAN regional workshop on global taxonomy initiative, 18-21 May 2009, Manila, Philippines
- Participate in Training course "Women Preparing for Leadership", 18-22 May 2009, Nairobi, Kenya
- Deliver a lecture at the OFI Conference on Invasive Alien Species, 20 May 2009, Singapore City, Singapore
- Meet with relevant staff from the Ministry of Environment of Gabon and the CBD NFP, 25-26 May 2009, Libreville, Gabon
- Attend the 32nd meeting of the Scientific Group under the London Convention and the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Group under the London Protocol, 25-29 May 2009, Rome, Italy
- Attend the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity meeting, 26-28 May 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- Meet with relevant staff from IUCN, 27 May 2009, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Attend a workshop on regional opportunities for the conservation of the Amazon biome, 27-28 May 2009, as well as held meeting on upcoming regional POWPA workshops on 29 May, Bogota, Colombia
- Meeting via teleconference with UNEP ROLAC, 29 May 2009
- Meet and hold working sessions with relevant SADC staff, 29 May-1 June 2009, Gaborone, Botswana
- Participate in the "Rendez-vous Horticole" at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, 29-31 May 2009

VISITORS THIS MONTH



Jean Lemire.

The CBD Executive Secretary welcomed the visit of **Mr. Jean Lemire**, biologist and filmmaker, to the Secretariat on 4 May. Mr. Lemire made a presentation on his work, *Mission Antarctica*, which was followed by a short Q&A. Possible contribution to IYB was also discussed.

A **Norwegian delegation** visited the Secretariat on 14-15 May, comprised of: **Tone Solhaug (CBD Focal Point)**, **Peter-Johan Schei** and **Finn Kateras**. The delegation met with the CBD Executive Secretary as well as relevant Secretariat staff on CBD contribution, including IYB celebration, to the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity in 2010.



Norwegian delegation.

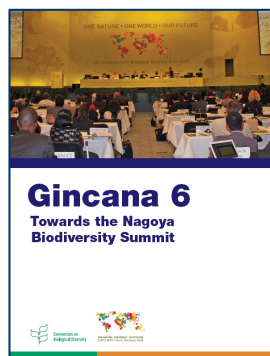
Mr. Chong-hoon Kim, new Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Montreal/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to ICAO paid a courtesy call to the CBD Executive Secretary on 29 May.

Staff from the **United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies** were at the Secretariat to meet with staff on a number of CBD issues.



Chong-hoon Kim, new Consul General of the Republic of Korea.

PUBLICATIONS



Gincana 6

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-gincana-06-en.pdf>



MAY 2009 issue

<http://www.cbd.int/forest/newsletters/redd-2009-05.htm>



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