

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

JUNE 2009

FIRST PRIVATE GLOBAL DONOR FORUM



Jochen Flasbarth, BMU-Germany, representative of the COP-9 President.

At the initiative of the President of COP 9, the first **Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity** was held on 3 June 2009 in Berlin, Germany. The meeting focused on options and opportunities of private financial commitment for global biodiversity conservation. Participants included high-level government representatives, heads and senior staff of the United Nations and other organizations.

The CBD Executive Secretary delivered a presentation and participated in discussions during the panel on **“Nature conservation and climate protection for one world – synergies for sustainable development”**. The forum adopted the **Berlin Declaration on Private Donorship**, which is accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-06-03-berlin-en.pdf>. For **statement by Mr. Djoghla**f, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2009/sp-2009-06-03-donor-forum-en.doc>.



Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, with Doug and Kris Tompkins, at the meeting.

URBAN NATURE FORUM 2009 / ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS / RCEN'S 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT



Oliver Hillel, CBD Programme Officer, at the meeting.

At the kind invitation from the ICLEI Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the **Urban Nature Forum 2009**, held from 12 to 13 June 2009 in Edmonton, Alberta, and in the first day of the **2009 ICLEI World Congress**. The meeting provided the participants, comprised of representatives from local and regional governments, scientists and relevant partner organizations an opportunity to meet, share and exchange best practices, science and new directions in the field of urban biodiversity. The forum also presented an opportunity for the CBD's Cities and Biodiversity team to participate in various events relevant to the work of the CBD, as well as meet and engage with relevant partner organizations and bodies towards the development and adoption of a CBD plan for local action on biodiversity following up on decision IX/28.

The CBD Executive Secretary was also invited to attend the **Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) 7th Roundtable “The Accounting of Nature: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Asia and Europe”** on 29 June, hosted by IGES with the support from the Government of Japan. Mr. Djoghla was one of the panellists in the session on “Asia and Europe – Policy challenges for conserving ecosystem services for promoting environmental integrity and human well-being?”. The roundtable provided an opportunity for multi-stakeholder dialogue from both Asia and Europe and provided useful inputs to relevant policy processes in the domain of biodiversity and ecosystem services. While in Tokyo, meetings were held with senior staff at the Ministries of Environment and Foreign Affairs to discuss: preparations for the International Year of Biodiversity, UNGA high level meeting on biodiversity in 2010, the Green Wave initiative and the Biodiversity meetings in Nagoya in 2010, among other issues.



Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, with RCEN's Susan Tanner and Steve Rison.

The **RCEN 2009 Annual Conference on Environment** was held concurrently with the Urban Forum. A joint ICLEI and RCEN opening ceremony was organized with the CBD Executive Secretary delivering a keynote address.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2009 / ASIA-EUROPE ENVIRONMENT FORUM

On 27 June, Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, CBD Executive Secretary, attended the **first International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP2009)**, participating as a panellist in the session on **“Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity – Challenges and International Cooperation”**. The session was opened by Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, Director of the Biodiversity Policy Division, Nature Conservation Bureau at Japan's Ministry of the Environment, and a keynote presentation on **“Rebuilding the Relationship between Human and Nature in Asia and CBD Post 2010 Target”** was delivered by Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice Rector of the United Nations University.



ISAP 2009 (L-R): Ms. Charmine Koda (moderator), Mr. Cielito Habito (SCOPE), Mr. Watanabe (Min. Environment-Japan), Prof. Takeuchi (UNU Vice Rector).

Participants at the ISAP2009 included front-line experts and representatives from businesses, international organisations, governments and NGOs in Asia, Europe and the US. The main theme of the meeting was “low-carbon development in Asia and the Pacific”.

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CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR EUROPE ON NBSAPS AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY



Participants at the meeting.

The Second European Workshop on NBSAPs and Mainstreaming of Biodiversity was held from 12 to 16 June 2009 in the Isle of Vilm, Germany, with the generous support of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the International Academy for Nature Conservation of Germany. A total of 25 participants attended the workshop. The workshop **provided an opportunity for countries to exchange experiences and lessons learned in the development, implementation and updating of NBSAPs and mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant sectors and broader strategies.** The workshop **introduced and discussed about important tools and concepts in this regard, such as strategic environmental assessment, the resilience thinking and the ecosystem services.** The workshop also **introduced the guidelines and relevant tools for preparation of the fourth national report, and a few countries shared their experiences in this regard, including use of indicators for reporting.** In conclusion, while looking at ways forward, participants shared their thoughts for planned activities including celebration of the **International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.** All the participants considered this workshop very successful.



CENSUS OF MARINE LIFE AND CBD COOPERATION

The Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Census of Marine Life (CoML). The objective of the agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration between the CoML and the CBD Secretariat, with a view to further common goals, including promoting and facilitating capacity building in taxonomy and related technical and scientific cooperation and technology development to provide marine biodiversity observation information into the relevant process of the Convention. Areas of cooperation identified, as per agreement, include: scientific and technical cooperation related to the Global Taxonomy Initiative, programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, the GBO-3 and the Strategic Plan of the Convention, which will be revised at COP-10, as well as other areas of mutual interest. **The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life - past, present, and future - will be released in 2010.**

MEETING OF THE GROUP OF TECHNICAL AND LEGAL EXPERTS ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ASSOCIATED WITH GENETIC RESOURCES

The meeting of legal and technical experts on traditional knowledge was convened in accordance with decision IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties on access and benefit-sharing. The meeting was opened by the **Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh of India, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and the Minister of Environment and Forests of India, Dr. Shri Jairam Ramesh.** The purpose of the meeting was to **provide legal and technical advice to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing on the issue of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, with a view to assisting the negotiations of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing.** Indigenous and government nominated experts from around the world had cordial and constructive exchanges of views throughout the four days of deliberations on the specific questions posed to the experts by the Conference of the Parties. The final report includes some **concrete advice and recommendations on how to address traditional knowledge associate with genetic resources in the International Regime.** It should greatly facilitate the negotiations on this important issue at the next meeting of the Working Group mandated to negotiate the International Regime, in November 2009. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Ministry to present the **fourth national report of India** to the Secretariat.



Hyderabad meeting: opening plenary. (Photo credit: MOEF-India)

ONLINE FORUM ON STANDARDS FOR LMO SHIPMENTS (PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY) - 18 MAY TO 5 JUNE 2009

In its decision BS-IV/10, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP-MOP) requested the CBD Executive Secretary to organize an online conference on paragraph 3 of Article 18. To this end, the Secretariat held the **Online Forum on Standards for LMO Shipments from 18 May to 5 June 2009,** which aimed to: **(i) identify the relevant standards with regard to handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms; (ii) identify where gaps exist; and (iii) suggest possible modalities to fill the gaps.** The Online Forum consisted of four discussion groups organized around guiding questions and also included an **'ask an expert' component** whereby experts from different international organizations that work in areas related to standards for the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms were available online to answer questions from participants. The following organizations were represented by experts: **the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health.**

A total of **81 individuals** registered for the Online Forum and more than 100 messages were posted to the Forum. A summary of the outcome of the Online Forum, reflecting the full range of views expressed, will be submitted to COP-MOP 5 for its consideration.

THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Susanne Heitmuller, CBD Liaison Officer, at the meeting. (Photo credit: IISD)

A representative of the Secretariat attended the **Third session of the Governing Body (GB-3) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**, held in Tunis, Tunisia from 1 to 5 June 2009 and provided the participants of the meeting with an update on the ongoing negotiations on access and benefit-sharing, as well as recent developments related to the Global Strategy of for Plant Conservation. The meeting was attended by approximately 350 participants: Contracting Parties, as well as representatives from other governments, international organizations, NGOs, farmer organizations and industry, which were invited as observers. During the five days of the meeting, Parties had to address a heavy agenda and dealt with important issues, such as the implementation of the Treaty's Funding Strategy, Compliance, as well as the implementation of the Multilateral System and Article 6 (Farmers' Rights).

IBD 2010 THEME : "BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION"

Through its Notification issued on 29 May 2009, the Secretariat of the Convention has announced that the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) in 2010 will be "**Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation**". It should be noted that next year's IBD will be celebrated during the International Year of Biodiversity. Branding and information materials for International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and the International Day for Biological Diversity 2010 will begin to be released starting in July 2009.

COOPERATION ON HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY (COHAB) INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT AGREEMENT: BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR

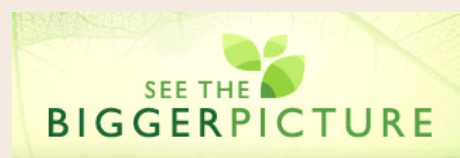


An agreement was signed between the **COHAB Initiative Secretariat** and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the **preparation of the health element of the Biodiversity for Development Toolkit series**. The purpose of the health toolkit is to **assist the conservation of biodiversity and facilitate co-operation on biodiversity and development issues through "compiling good practices that support biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation in a number of different development sectors"**, and also provide "practical guidance for governments, development agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations working to ensure that biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction goals go hand in hand".

Inputs to the toolkit from **scientists, practitioners and experts in the areas of health, environment, biodiversity, development and risk management** are welcomed, in particular, on case studies on the themes of medicinal resources, disaster risk reduction, emerging diseases, non-communicable diseases, and nutrition / dietary health. **All comments, suggestions, queries, and submissions should be sent (before 21st July 2009) by email to: info@cohabnet.org or by post to: Health Toolkits, COHAB Initiative Secretariat, P.O. Box 16, Tuam, Co. Galway, Ireland. For more information, please visit:**

CALL FOR INPUTS

http://www.cohabnet.org/en_news_090515.htm



"SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE": A NEW BIODIVERSITY COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

PHOTO CONTEST FOR CHILDREN

On 5 June, on the occasion of World Environment Day, Airbus, in partnership with National Geographic Society and the CBD, launched its "**See the Bigger Picture**" photo contest designed to **encourage children around the world to become more aware of the biodiversity surrounding them**, and be inspired to take action for its protection and conservation. **The lucky winners will be flown to Washington, D.C., with a parent or guardian, to visit the landmark headquarters of the National Geographic Society. The winning photographs will be posted online by December 2009 and will also appear in the National Geographic and National Geographic Kids magazines in December 2009 issues.** For full contest details, please visit:

<http://www.seethebiggerpicture.org/>



More on this initiative:

Message from the United Nations Secretary General:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2009/sp-2009-06-05-unsg-airbus-en.pdf>

CBD Press Release:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-06-05-greenwave-en.pdf>

Message from Airbus:

http://www.airbus.com/en/corporate/ethics/environment/green_wave.html

OTHER MEETINGS

- Attend the World Water Assessment Programme Expert Group meeting on Indicators Monitoring and Databases, 1-3 June 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Take part in the third session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, 1-5 June 2009, Tunis, Tunisia
- Participate in the thirtieth session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body, 1-9 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Meet with the Sustainable Development staff of SITQ, 3 June 2009, Montreal, Canada
- Attend the UNDP first Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 3-4 June 2009, Panama City, Panama
- Deliver presentation and take part in the panel discussion at Darwin's legacy in a changing world: biodiversity, climate and evolution" seminar at McGill University, 4 June 2009, Montreal, Canada
- Meet with staff from the BMU-Germany, 4 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Attend the meeting of the experts in preparation for the biodiversity future study for the GBO-3, 4-5 June 2009, London, U.K.
- Hold meetings with staff from German Federal Ministry of the Environment and the LifeWeb Project Coordinator, 4-5 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Publication of interview with El Pais, on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5 June 2009
- Meet with staff from GTZ, 5 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Take part in the International Climate Initiative Advisory Committee Meeting, 6-7 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Attend the Scientific Advisory Committee of Ouranos 8 June, 2009, Montreal Canada
- Forum économique international des Amériques/Conférence de Montréal, 8-11 June 2009, Montreal, Canada
- Attend BMU meeting "Year of the Gorilla" Symposium, 10 June 2009, Frankfurt, Germany
- Attend review meeting of the Ministerial Conference for the protection of Forests in Europe, 11-12 June 2009, Vienna, Austria
- Meet with BMU-Germany staff on preparations for the IYB, 17 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Take part in the Workshop on establishing the Global Taxonomy Partnership and its Special Trust Fund, 17-18 June 2009, MNHN, Paris, France (also take part in the Steering Committee meetings held before and after the workshop)
- Meeting of ABS-CEPA task force, 18-19 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Take part in a teleconference with the Canadian G8 Sherpa, 19 June 2009, Montreal, Canada
- Attend and make presentation at the International Symposium on Genetic Bio-control of Invasive Fish, 21-24 June 2009, Minneapolis, U.S.A.
- Participate in the 35th GEF Consultation, Council and replenishment meetings, 21-26 June 2009, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Hold consultations on ABS with the Co-chairs of the Working Group on ABS and the German Presidency, 22 June 2009, Bonn, Germany
- Meeting with staff from UNESCO, 22 June 2009, Paris, France
- Attend the Pan-African Workshop on ABS and Forests, 22-25 June 2009, Nairobi, Kenya
- Attend the Countdown 2010 Assembly, 24 June 2009, Brussels, Belgium
- Participate in the Klagenfurt Days of Protected Areas and the meeting of the Advisory Board, 24-26 June 2009, University of Klagenfurt, Austria
- Attend the workshop regarding CBD Azores Criteria Project, 29 June – 2 July 2009, Duke University, Durham, N.C., U.S.A.
- Attend and take part as a resource person in the Regional Technical Workshop on the Clearing House Mechanism, organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 30 June-3 July 2009, Bogor, Indonesia

NEW



Business.2010 Newsletter - Vol. 4 Issue 1 (June 2009)
Special Focus on Invasive Alien Species
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/newsletters/news-biz-2009-06-en.pdf>

VISITOR THIS MONTH



On 29 June, the Secretariat welcomed the visit of Mr. Peter Besseau, Executive Director of the **International Model Forest Network (IMFN)**. The IMFN is a voluntary association of partners from around the world working toward the sustainable management of forest-based landscapes, based on a common set of principles. Mr. Besseau gave a presentation to CBD staff on the work of IMFN and relevance to CBD, followed by a short Q & A. Meetings with relevant staff were held on areas of common interest, including collaboration with the Secretariat towards the **International Year of Forests in 2011**.



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