

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2010

High Level Meeting on Biodiversity 65th session of the UNGA, 22 September

Pursuant to UNGA resolution 64/203, and as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, a one-day high level meeting with the participation of Heads of State and Government was convened on 22 September. Delegates at the meeting had before them a note by the Secretary-General (document A/64/865), which included topics on framing the post-2010 biodiversity strategy and ensuring the means for implementing it; deriving benefits from biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation; and ensuring that measures to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are mutually supportive and reinforcing.

The meeting was chaired by the President of the 65th session of the UNGA, and statements were made by: UN Secretary General, Chairman of the G-77, Environment Ministers from Brazil and Germany, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister; and the



Environment Minister Solheim (Norway) and Heritage Minister Espinosa (Ecuador) co-chairing one of the thematic panels on biodiversity.

President of the European Commission.

The plenary was followed by two thematic panels (in the morning and afternoon), with the first panel co-chaired by the Presidents of Slovenia and Tajikistan; and the second by the Heritage Minister of Ecuador and Environment Minister of Norway. The panels addressed, in a balanced manner, the three objectives of the Convention on

Biological Diversity. A summary of the discussions during the one-day high level event will be transmitted to the tenth meet-

ing of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held next month in Nagoya, Japan.

Other high-level events organized in the margins of the UNGA

- High-Level Working lunch hosted by Environment Minister of Japan, 21 September
- High-Level Dinner hosted by Environment Minister of Norway, 21 September
- High Level Reception hosted by Wildlife Conservation Society and CBD, 21 September
- High Level Luncheon hosted by CBD and IUCN to discuss gender inequality: Linkages between MDG 1, 3 and 7, 21 September
- Press Conference by the CBD Secretariat, 21 September
- Press Conference by UNEP Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, 22 September
- ABS Ministerial Breakfast meeting, 23 September



Luncheon on gender inequality. From L-R: A. Djoghlaif (CBD), J. Marton-Lefevre (IUCN), L. Gnacadja (UNCCD), C. Butts (MCC), Ambassador Tarja Reponen (Finland) and Minister Gunilla Carlsson (Sweden).



Press conference by UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity. From L-R: A. Djoghlaif (CBD), UN Goodwill Ambassador E. Norton, Dr. Eric Chivian (Harvard Medical School) and Dr. Thomas Lovejoy (Heinz Center Biodiversity Chair).



Edward Norton delivering remarks at the WCS-CBD reception.



ABS Co-Chairs Timothy Hodges and Fernando Casas addressing the participants at the Ministerial Breakfast meeting on access and benefit sharing.



CBD press conference. From L-R: A. Djoghlaif (CBD), Minister Ryu Matsumoto (Japan), MISIA (Honorary Ambassador for COP10) and Takuya Okada (Chairman, AEON).

“BIODIVERSITY BELL”

On 22 September, the meeting by Heads of State in the margins of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss the biodiversity crisis was marked by ringing of bells all over the world as an urgent ‘memo’ to highlight the critical rate of species extinction and its effect on Earth’s biodiversity. This initiative is inspired by the UK based MEMO Project. The “biodiversity bell” would be rung every 22 September as a reminder of the high-level event on biodiversity, and on every 22 May, the International Day of Biodiversity.

Highlights of the International Year of Biodiversity in September

BELGIUM



The Belgian EU Presidency held a conference to exchange ideas about the challenges associated with preserving biodiversity and about the development of an EU biodiversity policy for the post-2010 period. The conference targeted policy-makers, representatives of government services, scientists, representatives of NGOs and representatives from the private sector amongst others. It focused on three issues: 1. Biodiversity in an urbanising Europe; 2. Valuation of natural goods and

services 3. Possibilities for the implementation of the vision and aims for biodiversity after 2010. (Photo taken from <http://www.eutrio.be/biodiversity-changing-world>).

ITALY

The Northern Italian city of Bergamo is giving its cathedral a fresh look by making one of the structures entirely out of living trees. The man behind the work is the recently deceased Giuliano Mauri, an Italian artist who was commissioned as part of a project for the International Year of Biodiversity. The frame of the building



will initially be made up of more than 1,800 fir tree poles, 600 chestnut branches, and 6000 meters of hazel branch, planted in-between with growths of live Beech trees. As the Beeches grow, the wood frame will decompose, allowing the living trees to take over the structure. (Photo taken from <http://www.gadling.com/2010/09/08/tree-cathedral-grows-in-northern-italy/>)

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY "GIVE BIODIVERSITY YOUR BEST SHOT!" CONTEST



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is seeking still and motion photography submissions for their 2010 International Year of biodiversity Photo/Video Contest. The GEF "Give Biodiversity Your Best Shot!" contest is open to everyone regardless of age

and location. Winning photographs will be exhibited in a special exposition at the Convention of Biological Diversity Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan..

THAILAND

A national conservation panel has honoured Queen Sirikit to mark the International Year of Biodiversity. The nomination as the Mother of Biodiversity Protection will be submitted for cabinet acknowledgement and officially announced at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti noted that the Queen has initiated at least 60 projects to protect Thailand's biodiversity, including the reintroduction of wild orchids to forests, conservation of rare plant species, sea turtle protection and the reintroduction of wild elephants.

For a full report of the International Year of Biodiversity celebrations and activities for September 2010, please visit: www.cbd.int/iyb/doc/prints/iyb-report-2010-09-en.pdf

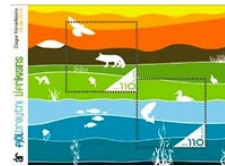
WORLD TOURISM DAY



A panel of leading tourism and biodiversity experts met in China on World Tourism Day (WTD) to explore the synergies between tourism, biodiversity, and sustainable development

in an event marking the official celebrations of WTD 2010 (September 27). WTD, is held this year under the theme "Tourism and Biodiversity," in support of the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity. China, one of the world's most biologically-diverse countries and a major tourism destination, will lead the 2010 official WTD celebrations. The High Level Dialogue on Tourism, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development, meeting in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the host of the WTD celebrations, will debate issues ranging from the economic value of biodiversity for tourism, to how to integrate biodiversity protection into planning for sustainable tourism.

Postage stamps issued for the International Year of Biodiversity



Iceland



Éire
€0.55



Éire
€0.55



Éire
€0.55



Éire
€0.55

Ireland



Malta



Sao Tome and Principe

Ministerial Forum of CBD COP Presidents Geneva, Switzerland

A ministerial forum of CBD COP Presidents was convened on 3 September 2010 by the CBD Secretariat, thanks to the generous support from the Government of Switzerland. Eleven ministers responsible for the environment, representing the former and upcoming presidencies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), called upon world leaders to provide leadership in shaping and implementing a new biodiversity vision for the twenty-first century. The ministers adopted the Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action, in which they affirmed the key role that biodiversity plays in assuring human well-being and guaranteeing the provision of ecosystem services and noted with extreme concern that the 2010 biodiversity target, established at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, would not be met. The declaration called upon leaders at the upcoming high-level event on biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in New York on 22 September to lead the way in making the required national commitments to implementing the Convention and its new Strategic Plan.



From L-R: 1. Timothy Hodges, ABS Co-Chair. 2. Rodrigo Bardoneschi, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the U.N. in Geneva (President COP 3, 1996-1998). 3. Izabella Teixeira, Minister of the Environment of Brazil (President COP 8, 2006-2008). 4. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity. 5. Issei Tajima, Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan (COP 10 host). 6. Moritz Leuenberger, Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications in Switzerland, Host of the Geneva meeting. 7. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Environment and Forests of the Government of India (Potential President of COP-11, 2012-2014). 8. Norbert Röttgen, Federal Minister for the Environment of Germany (President COP 9, 2008-2010). 9. Hideki Minamikawa, Vice Minister for Global Environment Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (COP 10 host). 10. Fedor Rosocha, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the U.N. in Geneva (President COP 4, 1998-2000). 11. Anita Wouter, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands (President COP 6, 2002-2004). 12. Anthony Andanje, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the U.N. in Geneva (President COP 5, 2000-2002). 13. Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia (President COP 7, 2004-2006). (Not in picture: Masnellyarti Hilman, Deputy Minister for Nature Conservation, Enhancement and Environmental Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment of Indonesia (President COP 2, 1995-1996))

Pan-African High Level Conference on Biodiversity Libreville, Gabon

On 13-17 September, the Pan-African High-Level Conference on Biodiversity was held in Libreville, Gabon, under the theme "Biodiversity and the fight against poverty: Opportunities for Africa?". The meeting, attended by Environment Ministers from across Africa and other stakeholders, identified approaches and integrated biodiversity issues into policies, strategies and programmes of economic and poverty alleviation in Africa, formulating a common African position ahead of the UN High level Conference on Biodiversity in New York (22-23 September) and

the 10th Conference of Parties (COP 10) of the Convention of Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in October. The high level conference was organized by the Government of Gabon in partnership with the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with support from the African Union Commission (AU), African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).



Gabon Environment Minister Rufin Pacome Ondzounga (center) attended the meeting, as well as the Deputy Environment Minister of South Africa Rejoice Mabudafnasi.

Meeting of the Inter-regional Negotiating Group on Access and Benefit Sharing Montreal, Canada

A meeting of the Interregional Negotiating Group (ING), established to negotiate a draft international protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) convened on 18-21 September 2010 in Montreal, Canada. While key issues remained outstanding, the meeting saw some progress towards an improved common understanding on key elements of the international ABS regime, most notably on the concept of utilization of genetic resources and its relation to derivatives, and on provisions on benefit-sharing and access. The results of the meeting will be transmitted to the ABS Working Group, which will reconvene prior to the COP10 meeting in Nagoya. It is expected that COP10 will finalize and adopt the ABS Protocol.



View of the ING-ABS meeting at the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

Malaysia donates to the CBD Museum



Gurdial Nijar, Malaysia, presenting the Wau to the CBD Executive Secretary.

In the margins of ING-ABS meeting in Montreal, a replica of the Malaysian Giant Kite (*Wau*), donated by the Malaysian Minister Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, was presented to the CBD Executive Secretary. The *Wau* is a biodiversity in action as it is made from natural products and is decorated with flora and fauna motifs. The *Wau* is a traditional folk game wichi is a living heritage of Malaysia.

BLG, IUCN and WWF retreats



Prior to the Ministerial Forum of the CBD COP Presidents, held on 3 September, a high-level retreat among the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions was held for

the first time on 1 September, 2010 at the Château de Bossey in Switzerland, thanks to the kind financial support of the Government of Switzerland. The retreat was an initiative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in response to requests by other convention secretariats for a joint meeting before the High Level Event on Biodiversity and the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties.

The participants agreed to a common approach to address the biodiversity crisis, based on the Strategic Plan of the CBD. They agreed that Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention should serve as a common framework for action over the next 10 years for all of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Whilst the SCBD team was in Switzerland, similar retreats were also organized with staff of IUCN and WWF International and a briefing on the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit was given, on 7 September, to the Permanent Missions to the U.N. in Geneva and relevant press corps.



LAC ILC Capacity Building Workshop on the CBD, including issues relevant to Article 8(j), Traditional Knowledge, and ABS - Seventh Workshop: Andean Region

The meeting was the seventh workshop in a series of eight, and took place in the City of Bogota, Colombia on 23 – 25 September 2010. Twenty representatives of indigenous and local communities of the Andean region participated in the workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity to strengthen capacities of participants in understanding the processes of the Convention, preparing documents for proposals, and suggestions to improve future workshops. It also allowed the exchange of relevant national and regional experience within the Andean region. At the end of the workshop, participants expressed that they felt better

JOINT LIAISON GROUP OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS

The tenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions was convened in New York on 23 September under the chairmanship of Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), at the margins of the high-level meeting on biodiversity of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting provided an opportunity for the heads of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to discuss emerging issues related to cooperation and enhanced collaboration in the context of the preparation of their respective conferences of the parties.



From L-R: Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity)

prepared to work with other members of their respective indigenous and local communities on the topics covered and more knowledgeable about the processes of the Convention and how to participate effectively in influencing its results. We also considered that they have acquired a better understanding of the agenda and the issues currently being addressed in the processes towards COP10. Participants were provided with an opportunity

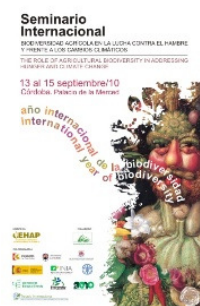


to participate in an improvised COP meeting and demonstrated a good understanding of the processes and how outcomes could be influenced.

Role of Agricultural biodiversity in addressing hunger and climate change, Cordoba, Spain

On 13-15 September, a meeting to discuss the role of agricultural biodiversity in addressing hunger and climate change was held in Cordoba, Spain. Held in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity and in commemoration of World Food Day, the CBD Executive Secretary took part and delivered a statement. The meeting promoted raising awareness and dialogue among public institutions, universities, scientists, civil society and the private sector; catalyze action and projects; and contribute to defining priorities and developing policies at all levels.

The CBD Executive Secretary also took part in an event hosted by ITPGRFA on Delivering Global Food Security in Cordoba which facilitated discussion on the Treaty's role in addressing food security and adaptation to climate change.



Seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety took place in Montreal from 8 to 10 September 2010. The Committee continued discussions of items that it examined at its previous meeting relating to national reporting rates and status of compliance in fulfilling obligations to make information available to the BCH. It also considered the views submitted by Parties on how to improve the supportive role of the Committee. The Committee finalized its recommendations and report for submission to the fifth meeting of the COP-MOP.



Compliance Committee meeting in Montreal.

Visitors



Governor Tanimoto

The CBD Executive Secretary welcomed the visit of Governor Masanori Tanimoto of the Ishikawa Prefecture and Ms. Jan McAlpine, head of the United Nations Forum on Forests on 29 September 2010. The closing ceremony of the International Year of Biodiversity will be hosted by the Ishikawa Prefecture of Japan in December. The special event will also provide an opportunity to celebrate and contribute to the launch of the International Year of Forests 2011. The Governor and Ms. Alpine had an opportunity to meet with and address the Secretariat staff on the preparations being made for the events in December. A reception was held in the evening with the participation of representatives from the Diplomatic corps and relevant partners in Montreal.



Jan McAlpine, UNFF

During September, the Secretariat also welcomed the visit of the Working Group Chairs of COP 10, Ms. Cosima Huffer (Austria) and Mr. Damaso Luna (Mexico) in preparation for the Nagoya meeting. The proposed Chair of the COP10 Budget Committee also visited the Secretariat..



Ms. Cosima Huffer and Mr. Damaso Luna.



Students from the Research Institute on Vegetable Biology

Students from the Research Institute on Vegetable Biology of the Botanical Gardens of Montreal visited the Secretariat on 14 September, a briefing was made by relevant CBD staff on the work of the Convention.

Other meetings:

Organized by the Secretariat:

Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, 20-23 September 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

Other meetings/activities:

Attend the International Symposium on Biodiversity and Protected Areas, 1-3 September 2010, Jeju, Republic of Korea

Visit to the IUCN headquarters, 3 September, Gland, Switzerland

Working dinner with Head of the International Affairs Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), 3 September, Geneva, Switzerland

Interview with Nature Magazine, 6 September, Geneva, Switzerland

Participate in the SADC meeting on regional strategic plan on biodiversity, 7-9 September 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa

Regional Preparatory meeting for COP10 for Governmental Representatives of the Member Countries of ACTO, 8-9 September 2010, La Paz, Bolivia

Participate in the Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference, 8-11 September 2010, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

Take part in the UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO) Regional Consultation for North America, 9 September 2010, Ottawa/Gatineau, Canada

Interview by Gustavo Faleiros of *Valor Económico*, 9 September, Brussels, Belgium

Participate in the EU informal expert meeting on the COP10 budget, 10 September 2010, Brussels, Belgium

Attend and deliver a presentation at the 15th International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations' World Clean Air Congress, 12-15 September 2010, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Participate via teleconference in the Secretary General Policy Committee on Biodiversity, 14 September

Attend the meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory on Indicators, 15-16 September 2010, Wetlands International Office, Wageningen, Netherlands

Participate in the RCEN Assembly, 18 September, Montreal, Canada

Attend the Columbia University Millennium Campus Conference, 19 September, New York, U.S.A.

Brief Journalists of the 2010 Reham Al-Farra Fellowship Programme, 20 September, New York, U.S.A.

Held meetings on 20 September with the President of the General Assembly, the Minister of Environment of Japan, 20 September

Take part in the Policy Forum on "Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Climate Change – Scaling Up Local Solutions to Achieve the MDGs", 20 September, New York

Attend the High-level breakfast presentation of a major new initiative of the Alliance, a web-based MDG e-Centre, 21 September, New York, U.S.A.

Participate in the Gender Integration in Practice, 21 September, New York, U.S.A.

Meeting with Mr. Akasaka, USG, DPI and Mr. Okada, AEON Foundation, and MISIA, 21 September, New York, U.S.A.; also met with Mr. Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment

Take part in the sixth EMG senior officials meeting, 21 September, New York

Attend the side event on Gender, 21 September, New York, U.S.A.

Attend event organized by UK and Germany: Development through Biodiversity: capturing the benefits of natural wealth, 22 September, New York, U.S.A.

Meeting with Minister of Environment, Denmark 22 September, New York

Meeting with Environment State Secretary, UK, 22 September, New York

Attend and give presentation at the high-level Conference on Soil, Climate Change and Biodiversity: where do we stand?, 23-24 September 2010, Brussels, Belgium

Interview with China Dialogue 24 September, New York, U.S.A.

Meeting with Mr. Vijay Sharma, India, 24 September, New York, U.S.A.

Attend inauguration event of the International Barcode of Life, 25 September 2010, Toronto, Canada

Attend the 22nd Annual meeting of G-77 senior officials, 27 September, New York

Interview with Channel Africa, 28 September

Meeting with Gil Remillard, 28 September

Attend the Conference Board of Canada/Canadian Centre for Environmental Health meeting on improving Coordination and Collaboration across Jurisdictions and Organizations, 28 September 2010, Ottawa, Canada

Participate in US Capitol Hill briefing on COP10 and US ratification to CBD, 29 September 2010, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (and met with staff from Conservation International and USDA)

NEW PUBLICATION



September 2010 issue

<http://www.cbd.int/forest/newsletters/redd-newsletter-vol-12.pdf>



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Life in harmony, into the future
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COP 10 / MOP 5