



The Convention on
Biological Diversity
Year in Review 2007

**The Convention on Biological Diversity
YEAR IN REVIEW 2007**



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PREFACE



Marina Silva,
Minister of Environment,
Brazil

“There is still much to do if we are to come close to significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010, as agreed to six years ago in Johannesburg.”

Visiting the Amazon forest in November 2007, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated “I’m just fascinated by all this natural beauty and the numerous species of your nature here, but we must preserve this. This can work for and against our common efforts to address global warming depending on who manages it and how well-managed it is. That is why I’m immensely grateful to all of you, and that is why, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I make my firm commitment that the United Nations will work together with you, stand by you. I’m very much committed to working together with all of you, with all the leaders of the international community, to address this issue, and I am returning with a sense of great achievement.”

Indeed, more than ever, the multilateral cooperation for the protection of life on Earth is essential. The Convention on Biological Diversity is the foremost international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of

the utilization of genetic resources. Therefore the international community is called upon to enhance its effort to translate into reality the three objectives of the Convention. In that regard, Brazil is determined to play its role both as a Party to the Convention and as President of COP 8.

In Curitiba, at COP 8, the lack of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention was highlighted. There is still much to do if we are to come close to significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010, as agreed to six years ago in Johannesburg. In 2006-07, Parties attended 41 meetings with the participation of 3,186 delegates, including six major inter-sessional meetings under the Convention and its Protocol. This is a huge, admirable and important effort, but unfortunately this has not translated into the political will necessary to face the challenge of biodiversity loss.

I would like to particularly stress my concern with the lack of significant progress in the negotiations towards an international regime on access and benefit sharing. The limited progress achieved in the last meetings and some hesitation in consolidating the partial results of our deliberations cannot deter us from fulfilling the COP 8 Decision, from reaching Bonn with significant progress in the negotiations that may enable us to adopt the international regime by 2010.

Although benefit sharing is the only objective of the Convention which remains elusive, 13 years after this international agreement came into force, there is still an unacceptable level of precaution and resistance to promote advances in this agenda. For developing countries, however, the negotiation of the ABS regime constitutes a priority and deserves to be treated as relevant and urgent, at the risk of jeopardizing the progress expected by all of us in the implementation of the other objectives of the Convention.

In addressing the Fifth Trondheim Conference held in November 2007, I stated that “our responsibility at the last CBD Conference of the Parties showed us that it is necessary to have a vision of the future, keeping as our long term goals the principles and objectives of the Convention, so that our children and our grandchildren can, as ourselves, be the beneficiaries of the enormous wealth of our biological diversity.” But these are only words and we need more than that. We need actions, real and effective actions. In Trondheim, I suggested the 10 following objectives which are within our reach by 2010:

1. Adoption of an international regime on access and benefit sharing
2. Adoption of a protection system for traditional knowledge
3. Approval of an ambitious strategy for mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the CBD
4. Significant increase of the CBD financial mechanism in the phase 5 of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5)
5. Enhancement of the mainstreaming of biodiversity in global, regional and national public policies as well as policies in the private sector
6. Consolidation of national and regional systems of protected areas, with mechanisms of financial sustainability
7. Consolidation of sustainable forest management systems in public and private forests and with the opening of market access for timber and non-timber products with value added in the origin
8. Creation of mechanisms in a global and national scale that values the conservation of natural ecosystems in private and community lands, including the payment for ecosystem services and incentives for reducing deforestation
9. Definition of a global and national adaptation strategy for climate change which focuses on the consolidation of ecological corridors and the protection of the variability of genetic resources
10. Consolidation of a system of global environmental governance that articulates and optimizes the existing mechanisms and processes.

As the current President of the CBD Conference



of the Parties, it is my duty to highlight at this critical juncture our common responsibility to keep the vision of the future which inspired us to join hands in order to fulfill the long-term principles and objectives of the Convention. The ethical responsibility in regard to future generations must be met by concrete actions and political purpose that may allow us to implement the objectives, decisions and agreements to which we are committed at the national and international levels. The future is now. We cannot afford that tomorrow be made of unfulfilled good intentions. This is the great challenge we face for the next years to come. ✎

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FOREWORD



Ahmed Djoghlaoui,
Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity

“The year was marked by strong media attention and strengthened public awareness to the inescapable reality of climate change and its impacts on our biodiversity.”

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly in May 2007, following her appointment as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland said “The time for diagnosis is over and the time for action is now”, and stressed the importance of 2007 as a year when the wheels for action have to be set in motion. That call for action is now being heard.

2007 has been a significant year for the environment, with growing understanding of climate change and biodiversity loss as the two most important environmental challenges facing mankind. The International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrated under the theme of Biodiversity and Climate Change, highlighted the interrelation of these two phenomena and the need to address them not as separate issues, but as issues that are intrinsically intertwined. In his message to the global community, Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, stated, “Through the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the international community is committed to conserving biodiversity and combating climate change. The global response to these challenges needs to move much more rapidly and with more determination at all levels global, national and local. For the sake of current and future generations, we must achieve the goals of these landmark instruments.”

To that end, the Secretary-General has made climate change one of his priorities. In April 2007, the United Nations Security Council devoted a special meeting to address the security dimension of climate change; in May, the Secretary-General appointed three special envoys on climate change; in July, a high-level debate on climate change was convened by the United Nations General Assembly; and in September, at the initiative of the Secretary-General, some 70 Heads of State attended the high-level

meeting on climate change of the United Nations General Assembly.

In March, at the initiative of Germany, the Environment Ministers of the G8 countries and Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa met in Potsdam to discuss collaboration for the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Chair’s Conclusions of the G8 + 5 were forwarded to the G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, where participants agreed to increase efforts for achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target and noted the chair’s proposal for the “Potsdam Initiative—Biological Diversity 2010.” This marked the first time that biodiversity was an agenda item of the G8.

The year was also marked by strong media attention and strengthened public awareness to the inescapable reality of climate change and its impacts on our biodiversity. More so than in any previous year, the issue of climate change was brought out of the domain of the science community, into the forefront of mass public debate, and mainstreamed into the consciousness of billions of people worldwide. Much of this increased global awareness can be attributed to the reports released throughout the year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the G8 addressing climate change, the release of the fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4), and the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Al Gore and the IPCC for their efforts to increase global knowledge about man-made climate change. All made significant contributions in bringing into focus the wealth of factual information that is very clear about one thing—climate change is real and it is here now.

With the launch of GEO 4, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) issued another important reminder that biodiversity decline and the loss of ecosystem services continue to be major

global threats to future development and of the urgent need for mankind to double efforts to protect life on Earth. There is no doubt about it, we are facing a tremendous challenge; one that is being exacerbated by climate change.

The year closed with the world gathering in Bali to address the interests of both developed and developing countries, with regard to reducing emissions, including from deforestation; adaptation to the inevitable impacts of climate change; technology and investment and financial flows, towards a new climate change deal. Two major joint reports on forests and adaptation were submitted by the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions.

The Rio Conventions were adopted to help countries achieve sustainable development. The enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the successful negotiation of a post-2012 climate change regime and the implementation of the strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will go hand in hand. Biodiversity also has a role to play in future actions on climate change mitigation. Deforestation, including on forested peatlands, is estimated to account for between 18 and 25 per cent of all carbon emissions. Conserving forest biodiversity, in particular in peat forests, can therefore significantly contribute to the aims and objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the same time, biodiversity resources must be mobilized if mitigation and adaptation action beyond 2012 is to be effective. Through tools such as the Rio Conventions' Joint Liaison Group, communication, awareness-raising, and capacity-building activities have been undertaken jointly by the three Conventions in order to maximize impacts. Two meetings of this unique coordination mechanism were convened in Bonn and Madrid under the leadership of Mr. Yvo De Boer, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC.

Another milestone in the history of the Convention in 2007 was the participation of the CEO of the Global Environment Facility in the CBD processes. In July, at the margins of the second Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 2), held in Paris, Ms. Monique Barbut held a dialogue with the 11 members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties; addressed the second



UNEP/Still Pictures

Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention; and held a high-level dialogue with the Parties on 9 July. The partnership between the Convention and its financial mechanism was strengthened to meet the unprecedented biodiversity challenges faced by humanity.

The twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 12) requested the Executive Secretary to synthesize and submit relevant information on the impacts on biodiversity along the full life cycle of the production and use of biofuels and options for consideration of this emerging issue in the programmes of work of the Convention. SBSTTA 12 also paved the way for training sessions at the margins of its meetings. The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris and its other partners of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, organized on 1 July for 140 participants a training aimed at preparing and informing participants and delegates on the main items on the SBSTTA 12 agenda, including biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the ecosystem approach, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and climate change.

The second meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention

“There is no doubt about it, we are facing a tremendous challenge; one that is being exacerbated by climate change.”

(WGRI 2), held in Paris from 9–13 July, prepared a draft decision for the consideration of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The draft decision takes note of the status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, and includes consolidated guidance for Parties in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, as well as priority areas for capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology.

The fifth meeting on of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing considered fair and equitable sharing of benefits, access to genetic resources, compliance, including measures to support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, internationally recognized certificate of origin/source/legal provenance, as well as monitoring, enforcement and dispute settlement, and capacity-building. The two co-chairs of the meeting prepared two informal texts: Co-chairs' reflections on the progress made by the working group, identifying potential areas of

convergence, options, possible tools, and concepts for clarification; as well as a co-chairs' note on the proposals made at the meeting. The elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access to benefit sharing of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will continue at Sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (WG ABS-6).

During the year, support for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety continued to grow. The number of parties to the Protocol grew from 137 to 143, with the accession of Malta, Costa Rica, Qatar, Gabon, Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Korea. The implementation of the Protocol also continued to gain momentum, demonstrated by the number of parties that have embarked on putting in place national legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol.

The Convention also did its part in contributing to the on-going efforts of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon towards enhanced global environmental coherence through the One UN programme, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with four of the five United Nations Regional Economic and Social Commissions (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia). The Memorandum, the first such agreement between a Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA) and the Regional Commissions, is geared towards enhancing the cooperation and collaboration between the two entities to mainstream the three objectives of the Convention into their regular programmes in order to integrate biodiversity into regional development cooperation and processes.

The activities undertaken in 2007 have paved the way for the success of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held from 19 to 30 May 2008, in Bonn Germany, and which will be preceded by the fourth Meeting of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Indeed, the Bonn meetings will be landmark events in the life of the Convention and its Protocol and the Secretariat will spare no efforts to achieving this strategic objective. ❖



1. BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES IN 2007

In many ways, 2007 marked the year when the inescapable reality of climate change and its impacts on biodiversity became public knowledge. Environmental issues have been put at the highest level of the political agenda with enhanced coverage by the media and increased awareness of the general public. Indeed more so than in any previous year, the issue of climate change was brought out of the domain of the science community, into the forefront of public debate, and mainstreamed into the consciousness of billions of people worldwide.

Much of this increased global awareness can no doubt be attributed to the reports released throughout the year by the United Nations Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); the release of the fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO 4) report; the G8 + 5 meeting in Potsdam that for the first time put climate change on the agenda and resulted in the “Potsdam Initiative—Biological Diversity 2010”; and the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Al Gore and the IPCC for their efforts to increase global knowledge about man-made climate change. All made significant contributions in bringing into focus the wealth of factual information that is very clear about one thing—climate change is real and it is happening now.

This has been indisputably laid out in the 4th Climate Change Assessment report released by IPCC

FACT

The total economic value associated with managing ecosystems more sustainably is often higher than the value associated with the conversion of the ecosystem through farming, clear-cut logging, or other intensive uses

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)





Singamsetti—iStock/Alpha Presse

FACT

Between 10-50% of well-studied higher taxonomic groups (mammals, birds, amphibians, conifers, and cycads) are currently threatened with extinction

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

during 2007. Based on observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level, the hundreds of scientists that contributed to the reports suggest that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal and state, with at least a 90 per cent certainty, that rising temperatures are caused by human activity.

Likely impacts of climate change, according to the IPCC, include projected increases in droughts, heatwaves and floods as well as their adverse impacts; evidence that the poor and elderly—in both developing and developed countries—will become even more vulnerable; increased evidence that low-latitude and less-developed areas generally face greater risk, for example in dry areas and mega-deltas; and, that global warming over many centuries will most likely lead to a sea level rise, with loss of coastal area and associated impacts.

Even a cursory glance at their findings should raise serious concern. Eleven of the last 12 years (1995–2006) rank, according to the IPCC, among

the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature (since 1850). This temperature increase is widespread over the globe. Rising sea level is consistent with warming, and since 1961 the global average sea level has risen at an average rate of 1.8 mm/yr, and since 1993 at 3.1 mm/yr. In the polar regions, data shows that since 1978, the annual average Arctic sea ice extent has shrunk by 2.7 per cent per decade. Mountain glaciers and snow cover have, on average, declined in both hemispheres. The risks are especially pronounced for unique and threatened systems. In its Synthesis Report, released in November, the IPCC states that there is “newer and stronger evidence” of observed impacts of climate change on these areas, such as polar and high mountain communities and ecosystems, with increasing levels of adverse impacts as temperatures increase further. These adverse impacts could include an increasing risk of species extinction and coral reef damage, as well as an increasing vulnerability of indigenous communities in the Arctic and small island communities. In addition, there is

CBD: The Convention for Life on Earth

Negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The CBD has three objectives—the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It addresses issues relating to research and training, public education and awareness, and technical and scientific cooperation. The Convention is legally binding and Parties are obliged to implement its provisions. Presently it includes 190 members—189 countries and the European Community.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the Convention through the decisions it takes at its periodic meetings. The COP has established seven thematic programmes of work—agricultural biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity, mountain biodiversity, and inland waters biodiversity. Each programme establishes a vision for, and basic principles to, guide future work. They also set out key issues for consideration, identify potential outputs, and suggest a timetable and means for achieving these. Implementation of the work programmes depends on contributions from Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant intergovernmental and other organizations. They are periodically reviewed by the COP and the open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body known as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which conducts assessments of status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity and provides the COP with scientifically, technically and technologically sound advice on the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

“medium confidence” that approximately 20-30 per cent of plant and animal species assessed are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average temperature exceed 1.5–2.5°C over 1980–1999 levels.

While the IPCC suggests that there is “high confidence” that neither adaptation nor mitigation alone can avoid all climate change impacts; they can however complement each other and together can significantly reduce the risks of climate change. The IPCC stresses that adaptation is necessary in the short and longer term to address impacts resulting from the warming that would occur even for the lowest stabilisation scenarios assessed. One sign of progress is the steady increase in protected areas, but the report cautions that they must be effectively managed and properly enforced and that biodiversity will increasingly need conserving outside protected areas as well.

Not acting is likely to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt. The IPCC says many impacts can be reduced, delayed or avoided by mitigation. Some approaches are more likely to be effective than others. Thus it is important to recognize the trade-offs, synergies and opportunities that exist in addressing the challenges of achieving environmental, development and human well-being goals.

Mitigation and adaption was on the agenda of the 13 environment ministers of the G8 and five major newly industrializing countries (G8 + 5) as they met in March. Representing the first time that G8 + 5 en-

vironment and development ministers met together, it was also the first time they discussed climate change commitments since the 1997 Kyoto Climate Summit and biodiversity. For the “Potsdam Initiative on Biological Diversity 2010,” ministers agreed to initiate the process of analyzing the global economic benefit of biodiversity, the cost of biodiversity loss and the cost of not taking protective measures versus the cost of effective conservation.

Ministers also agreed to improve the linkage between climate and biodiversity policies, and to ensure that biodiversity aspects are equally considered in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the reduction of emissions from deforestation. In November, The European Union announced it would carry out a review aimed at supporting the development of cost-effective policy responses to biodiversity loss. This first phase of the study is expected to review relevant scientific and economic knowledge and case studies, and provide indications of the range of costs and benefits related to biodiversity loss. Findings of this first phase will be showcased at the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP 9) of the Convention, to be held in Germany in May 2008.

Biodiversity loss, according to the fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4), such as the erosion of genetic variability in a population, are often slow or gradual, and therefore are often not seen or fully recognized until it is already too late. The report, together with the IPCC reports, can be viewed as the latest wake up call for humanity.

FACT

Changes in biodiversity due to human activities were more rapid in the past 50 years than at any time in human history, and the drivers of change that cause biodiversity loss and lead to changes in ecosystem services are either steady, show no evidence of declining over time, or are increasing in intensity

[Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment]



FACT

Climate change is projected to exacerbate the loss of biodiversity and increase the risk of extinction for many species, especially those already at risk due to factors such as low population numbers, restricted or patchy habitats, and limited climatic ranges

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

Current biodiversity changes, according to GEO-4, are the fastest in human history. The challenge of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 or beyond may lie entirely in our own hands. The GEO-4 suggests that biodiversity loss continues because the values of biodiversity are insufficiently recognized by political and market systems due, in part, to the costs of biodiversity loss not being borne solely by those responsible for its loss. It further states that over the past two decades growing prosperity has tremendously strengthened the capacity to understand and confront the environmental challenges ahead, but despite this, the global response has been "woefully inadequate". The consensus in GEO-4 calls for increasing the integration of policies across levels, sectors, and time, strengthening local rights, building capacity among a wide range of groups in society, and improving scientific understanding.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) delivered another of the year's wake up calls in the form of its 2007 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, released in September. Of the 41,415 species on the Red List, 16,306 are threatened with extinction, up from 16,118 last year. The total number of extinct species has reached 785 and a further 65 are only found in captivity or in cultivation. One in four mammals, one in eight birds, one third of all amphibians and 70 per cent of the world's assessed plants on the Red List are in jeopardy. Life on Earth is, according to the IUCN, "disappearing fast," and will continue to do so unless urgent action is taken.

One of the key messages in the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report 2007/2008, *Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world*, released in November, is that the world should focus on the development impact of climate change that

could bring unprecedented reversals in poverty reduction, nutrition, health and education. The report, comes at a key moment in negotiations to forge a multilateral agreement for the period after 2012—the expiry date for the current commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

It calls for a “twin track” approach that combines stringent mitigation to limit 21st Century warming to less than 2°Celsius, with strengthened international cooperation on adaptation. Regarding adaptation, the report warns that inequalities in ability to cope with climate change are emerging as an increasingly powerful driver of wider inequalities between and within countries, and calls on rich countries to put climate change adaptation at the centre of international partnerships on poverty reduction.

The past year saw a significant shift in thinking on the role of business in biodiversity conservation. More than 400 leaders from business, governments, companies, the European Union and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) met in Lisbon, Portugal in November to, among other things, continue raising awareness of the strong competitive advantage companies can gain from conserving biodiversity. A Message from Lisbon was released, calling on business, governments, the EU and NGOs to:

- Promote the use of market, corporate responsibility and regulatory schemes;
- Support business with operational tools for biodiversity conservation and measuring their performance in meaningful ways, especially in small and medium sized companies; and
- Encourage new incentives to develop and strengthen partnerships between companies, governments at all levels, NGOs and academia.

The Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity 2007 called for enhanced collaboration between the three Rio Conventions to respond to the environmental changes facing mankind. The year 2007 also witnessed enhanced collaboration between the three Rio Conventions as evidenced by the two meetings of the Joint Liaison group and the

two joint reports on forests and adaptation issued at the 13th Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC held in Bali in December.

Increasing our understanding of how we relate to biodiversity and how to move towards a greater and more responsible stewardship will go far towards achieving sustainable development. The time is more than ripe for humanity to work together in taking concrete action on climate change, and to preserve and protect the biodiversity of our planet for generations to come. ❖

FACT

Roughly 40% of forest area has been lost during the industrial era, and forests continue to be lost in many regions, although forest is now recovering in some temperate countries

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)



2. RESPONSES OF THE CONVENTION IN 2007



Staff of the CBD Secretariat

By transforming the international community's approach to biodiversity, the Convention has already accomplished a great deal on the road to sustainable development. This progress has been driven by the Convention's inherent strengths of near universal membership, a comprehensive and science-driven mandate, international financial support for national projects, world-class scientific and technological advice, and the political involvement of governments.

The year 2007 marked the first time that Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) specifically considered a new and emerging issue—the potential impact of biofuel on biodiversity. Though a contentious issue, progress has been made towards developing an international regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing, and hence towards the third objective of the Convention.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)

The twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held at the headquarters of the

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 2 to 6 July. The meeting was preceded for the first time by training sessions attended by more than 70 participants. It was also preceded by a meeting of the Chairs and the Secretariat of the scientific bodies of a number of environmental conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The SBSTTA meeting was attended by more than 630 participants, including representatives from 108 countries and the European Community and 16 United Nations bodies and several other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous and local communities.

For the first time, SBSTTA considered, under new and emerging issues, the impact of biofuels on biodiversity and, as a result, this issue will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany. A number of innovations were also introduced in order to enhance the scientific and technical underpinning of the Convention.

The meeting adopted eight recommendations on the following issues:

FACT

Over the past few hundred years, humans have increased species extinction rates by as much as 1,000 times background rates that were typical over Earth's history

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

- Application of the ecosystem approach
- Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Review of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Lessons learned from the preparation of the second edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook
- Biodiversity and climate change
- Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands
- Potential impacts of biofuel production on biodiversity
- Process to elaborate the procedure for the inclusion of emerging issues on the agenda of its meetings.

These recommendations will be taken up by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention when it meets in Bonn in May next year.

With regards to the third Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 3), SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties urge Parties and invite other governments, organizations and relevant scientific bodies to make available relevant data on status and trends of biological diversity, progress in the implementation of the Convention, including its Strategic Plan and lessons learned in carrying out actions designed to contribute to a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss, and the timely submission of the fourth national reports for use in GBO 3.

Emerging issues at SBSTTA 12

As an emerging issue, liquid biofuel production was given consideration at the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA. Even though production and use of biofuel present benefits with regard to greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy security and rural development, it can also have negative impacts on biodiversity if not carefully managed. Although the production of liquid biofuels and the number of studies on the topic has been increasing worldwide, the overall impacts are difficult to predict and will mostly vary significantly depending on the place and biomass used. The SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to synthesize and submit relevant information on the impacts on biodiversity along the full life cycle of the production and

Finance and Administration

Support for the operations of the Secretariat can be seen in the contributions to the core budgets of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol in 2007, for which at the close of 2007 there had been a 95% collection rate for the Convention from 122 Parties, and 86% for the Protocol from 74 Parties. This represents a continued steady improvement in the timeliness of contributions indicative of the importance attached to the Convention and the Protocol by the Parties. Additionally, US\$1,467,430 had been paid in advance for 2007 for the Convention and US\$418,683 for the Protocol.

Donors also indicated their interest in supporting the activities of the Convention and the Biosafety Protocol by pledging voluntary contributions of some US\$3,054,890 during 2007 to the five voluntary Trust Funds.

At the end of 2007 the Secretariat had filled all its established posts, with a staffing complement of 76 (44 professionals and 32 support staff) from all sources of funding—an increase of 10 professional and two support staff over 2006. The number of interns working at the Secretariat increased from 24 in 2006 to 29 in 2007.

Conference Services

During 2007 the Secretariat organized 41 meetings, featuring the participation of 3,186 delegates—including 769 sponsored delegates. The Secretariat prepared 135 pre-session documents comprising 3,420 pages and serviced six major inter sessional meetings under the Convention and its Protocol. Meetings organized included the third and fourth meetings of the Open-ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol, held in Montreal in February and October; the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, held in Paris in July; the fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit sharing and the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, held in Montreal in October.

Mainstreaming Gender into the Convention on Biological Diversity

In March 2007 the Executive Secretary appointed a Gender Focal Point in line with a series of internal mandates within the UN system calling for gender equality and equity and the mainstreaming of gender issues within all UN processes. The Executive Secretary's decision also falls in line with that of UNEP's Governing Council at its 23rd session in 2005, in its adoption of decision 23/11 on *Gender Equality in the Field of Environment*. This decision called upon Governments and UNEP itself to mainstream gender in their environmental policies and programmes, to assess the effects on women of environmental policies, and to integrate further gender equality and environmental considerations into their work. The Secretariat in collaboration with the Senior Gender Advisor at IUCN and with financial contributions from the government of Switzerland, has engaged in the development of a Gender Plan of Action. This Plan of Action will define the role that the CBD Secretariat will play in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality and equity. The Plan of Action is the Secretariat's and the Convention's continuing response to global commitments of the last decades and a reflection of the increasing awareness that gender equality and women's empowerment are important prerequisites for environmental conservation and sustainable development.



TOP: SBSTTA 12 gets underway in Paris; MIDDLE: SBSTTA 12 adopted eight recommendations; BOTTOM: Delegates discuss the issues at SBSTTA 12

use of biofuel and options for consideration of this emerging issue in the programmes of work of the Convention.

The Ecosystem Approach

Primary framework of action under the Convention

The application of the ecosystem approach was subject to an in-depth review at SBSTTA 12. In support of this, the Secretariat provided reviews of information available from the third national reports, recent activities of major partners, initiatives and organizations in the application and/or further refinement of the ecosystem approach, examples of the application of the ecosystem approach in the programmes of work of the Convention, the relevance of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to the application of the ecosystem approach, barriers to the application of the ecosystem approach, the ecosystem approach sourcebook and case study database, and the findings of a workshop on the ecosystem approach, protected areas and customary practice in small islands held from 12–16 December in Bangkok, Thailand. The Secretariat also developed a training module on the ecosystem approach used at SBSTTA 12.

Protected Areas

Partnership for action

To promote implementation of the programme of work on Protected Areas, the Secretariat has estab-

Meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions

The first meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions was held on 1 July 2007 at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, France. Main conclusions reached at the meeting included: because conventions' scientific advisory bodies have different mandates with regard to the issues on which they provide advice to their governing bodies, it may be possible to benefit from the guidance provided by other conventions' bodies on emerging issues; the needs of the Global Environment Facility with regard to scientific considerations underpinning support in implementation of the provisions of various Conventions should be taken into account in discussions on collaboration, including through involvement of, and interaction with, the UNEP-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). The meeting also concluded that the material prepared for the International Day for Biological Diversity 2007 (IBD) and the various events taking place in celebration of IBD were a good example of the usefulness of reaching out to the wider public. The theme on "Biodiversity and climate change" was useful to improve the understanding on key issues shared by different conventions. It was also agreed that the convening of CBD COP 9 in Bonn, as well as the two years of German presidency, offer a unique opportunity to plan intersessional CBD meetings back-to-back with UNFCCC, UNCCD and CMS events owing to the location of the three secretariats in Bonn.

The meeting further agreed that all Conventions have, to varying degrees, incorporated the 2010 Biodiversity Target and relevant parts of the framework into their programmes of work, yet efforts to enhance implementation focusing on the achievement of the target by 2010 need to continue.

lished an informal consortium of partners including international conservation NGOs (The Nature Conservancy, WWF, Conservation International, BirdLife International, Wildlife Conservation Society), the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas, the European Commission, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project. The consortium has raised funding and coordinated a series of sub-regional workshops to help build capacity for implementation. The informal consortium met at the Secretariat in Montreal from 29 to 30 November to take stock of the progress made and discuss a plan of action till 2010.

Forest Biodiversity Collaboration and implementation

Progress in 2007 was marked by efforts of the SCBD to achieve a closer collaboration with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), notably with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and the World Bank. The Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions drafted an information note to all Parties on the importance of forests for the achievement of the objectives of all three conventions. A new plan for collaboration with the UNFF was developed. And the SCBD met several times with the Carbon Finance Unit of the World Bank to discuss the integration of biodiversity aspects into the suggested Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

The fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Review of Implementation of the Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity took place at FAO in Rome, Italy from 28 May to 1 June. The 38 participants met to support the finalization of the in-depth review of the programme of work on forest biodiversity. A report was prepared, which included recommendations for in-depth review, and there will be a revision of draft documents.

The CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, adopted in 2002, is scheduled for in-depth review at COP 9. Based on 122 national reports, and over 200 peer-reviewed scientific and techni-



TOP & MIDDLE: Training session at the Museum of Natural History, Paris, 1 July 2007 prior to SBSTTA-12; BOTTOM: Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions, Paris, 1 July 2007

Training session at the margins of SBSTTA 12

In cooperation with the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris and its other partners of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, the Secretariat organized a one-day training session on 1 July for the participants to the twelfth meeting of the SBSTTA. There were 140 participants and the training was well received. The presentations, delivered in English and French at the Museum, aimed at preparing the participants with regards to the main items discussed at SBSTTA, including the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, the ecosystem approach, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and climate change. Guided tours of different collections and exhibitions of the Museum were also given in both English and French. A similar training session will be organized for SBSTTA 13.



LEFT: Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Planning and Development, France, at the opening of SBSTTA 12



RIGHT: Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary, and Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at the inaugural Linnaeus Lecture Series

cal documents, the Secretariat has compiled a draft in-depth review of the programme of work, which concludes, amongst others that:

- Implementation efforts need to be strengthened considerably to meet the 2010 target, particularly in the field of reducing threats and mitigating impacts of drivers of biodiversity loss such as climate change, unsustainable use, land conversion, habitat fragmentation, forest fires, protected areas, invasive alien species and forest biodiversity monitoring.
- Response activities to climate change through avoided deforestation present new opportunities for forest biodiversity.
- Regional and international cooperation has resulted in significant progress in implementation of the programme of work. Successful examples include the activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and regional processes such as the Conference of Ministers in Charge of Forests in Central Africa (COMIFAC), the Puenbo Initiative, the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), and the initiatives on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG).
- Bioenergy production, if undertaken sustainably with due regard to net carbon accounting, offers

Capacity-building workshops to implement protected areas programme

The informal consortium of partners for implementation of the programme of work on protected areas has raised funding and coordinated a series of eight sub-regional workshops covering the Caribbean, Eastern Caribbean States, Latin America, South and West Asia, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Eastern Europe, Anglophone Africa and Central Asia and Caucasus sub-regions, held between June 2006 and August 2007. A final workshop will be held in Libreville in January 2008 for francophone African countries.

The workshops provided practical hands-on-tools and training on priority activities identified by the COP, including ecological gap assessments, monitoring and enhancing management effectiveness, capacity assessments and development of sustainable finance planning.

The workshops covering 80 countries and attended by nearly 500 protected area planners, practitioners and policy makers have resulted in the following significant benefits:

- Opened dialogue and understanding of obstacles and needs
- Generated a comprehensive set of learning materials and case studies
- Provided a forum for regional-level discussions, cooperation and future collaboration
- Presented to policy makers an introduction to and overview on key issues
- Improved motivation towards taking ground actions.

The sub-regional workshops provided an important platform for countries to identify challenges and obstacles to implementing the programme of work and practical ways and means to address these and enhance implementation.



Photos courtesy of CBD/Photographer: Franz Degen

CBD exhibit on biodiversity and climate change at the meeting of SBSTA, UNESCO, Paris, 2-6 July 2007

potential benefits for mitigating climate change, but at the same time poses a significant threat to forest and other biodiversity through land conversion and water use increase for plantations and agricultural expansion.

A meeting on a *Global Network of Protected Forest Areas under the CBD: Opportunities and Challenges*, was held 9-11 May at the Albert-Ludwig-Universität, in Freiburg, Germany. Attended by experts from research institutions, NGOs, and international organizations, the meeting produced recommendations for the in-depth review of the programme of work on protected areas. As a follow-up there will be an exchange of information with the organizers, as part of a research project funded by German Ministry of Environment.

A High-level meeting on Forests and Climate: Global Initiative on Forests and Climate, to launch the Australian global initiative on forests and climate and produce options for progress on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (RED) in developing countries, took place in Sydney, Australia on 22-25 July. The 300 participants included government decision-makers, experts from international organiza-

tions and NGOs. Participating countries expressed an interest to participate in the Australian initiative and proposed methodology and concepts to implement RED financing mechanisms. The intent is to hold discussions with the World Bank on RED and biodiversity co-benefits.

An informal meeting with the World Bank Forest Partnership Facility took place 27 September in Washington D.C. to discuss cooperation in the inclusion of biodiversity co-benefits in emerging RED mechanisms. As a result, there will be a joint side event at UNFCCC COP 13.

To discuss cooperation between the two, the Executive Secretary and several SCBD staff had a meeting with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) on 25 October in New York City. Outcomes of the meeting included a work plan of joint activities, e.g. analysis of complementarities of work programmes, planning of joint meeting schedule, and cooperation on the Secretary General's report on forests and biodiversity.

At the consultation meeting of International Organizations and the World Bank Forest Partnership Facility, held in Washington D.C. on 9 November, representatives of international organizations and

FACT

With "medium confidence," approximately 20-30 % of plant and animal species assessed are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average temperature exceed 1.5-2.5 Celsius over 1980-1999 levels

(Source: IPCC)



The City of Montreal, represented by Mayor Gérald Tremblay (right) and the family of renowned Canadian artist Jacques de Tonnancour present four framed photographs of insects taken by de Tonnancour, to CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif (left).

WB staff provide input to the proposed Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), in particular regarding biodiversity co-benefits.

Biodiversity and Climate Change Building links for complementary action

The objective of the Expert Meeting on Water, Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change, held 23-24 March in Gland, Switzerland, was to enhance the availability of scientific and technical information on the linkages between biodiversity, wetlands and climate change so as to contribute to the international debate and strengthen in-country adaptation and mitigation planning. Specific objectives of the meeting, which featured

18 scientific and technical experts in the field of wetlands management, included to undertake a review of the general state of knowledge on wetlands, biodiversity and climate change linkages based upon published reviews; identify key areas where wetlands should have a higher profile in the international debate on climate change; and identify key strategic opportunities to promote the enhanced awareness of the contribution of wetlands to the mitigation of climate change and the need to adequately consider wetlands in climate change adaptation measures. The outputs of the meeting also contributed to activity 1 of the *Project of the Convention on Biological Diversity for Activities on Climate Change and Biodiversity*, funded by Canada, namely: *Guidance on the integration of biodiversity*

A delegation from China's Hainan Province briefed the CBD Secretariat in April on its Eco-Compensation Policy



Photo courtesy of CBD/Photographer: Franz Dujon



One of many side events at the Twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 12) held in Paris in July.

considerations within adaptation planning.

The activity looked closely at the UNFCCC five-year work programme on vulnerability and adaptation and explored the technical and operational aspects of adaptation planning including: ensuring that adaptation plans adequately consider the needs of biodiversity, and enhancing the sustainable use of biodiversity as an adaptation tool. Findings were presented at the poster session during SBSTTA-12.

To facilitate development of guidance on climate change impact and response activities within the programme of work on forest biodiversity, including objective informal consultation on the links between the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and climate change, a meeting of forest experts representing Parties and relevant organizations took place in Rome, Italy on 17 March. A summary of views expressed by participants during the informal consultation, which does not necessarily reflect consensus on the topics addressed, suggested climate change will dramatically impact upon biodiversity in all its forms and, as such, there is a need for improved monitoring of forests and forest carbon, market mechanisms to address the carbon value of forests, improved knowledge on the links between diversity and resilience, for governments through various international processes to clearly express information that needs to be addressed by the scientific community, create positive synergies and cooperation, and enhanced collaboration be-

tween national focal points is essential as is capacity building/technology transfer. Findings will be presented at relevant meetings, including SBSTA 26 of the UNFCCC

A roundtable on the interlinkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and climate change took place in March in Montreal. Participants comprised SBSTTA bureau members, authors of the IPCC and experts from organizations related to climate change. Collaboration between the CBD and the IPCC led to IPCC Technical Paper V, dealing with biodiversity and climate change. Findings will be presented at relevant meetings, including SBSTA 26 of the UNFCCC.

FACT

The economic and public health costs associated with damage to ecosystem services can be substantial. For example, the early 1990s collapse of the Newfoundland cod fishery due to overfishing resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and cost at least \$2 billion in income support and retraining

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)



David Towns, Senior Scientist of the New Zealand Department of Conservation visited the Secretariat in May

International Day for Biological Diversity 2007 BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE



VIPs prior to the start of IBD celebrations at the Montreal Botanical Gardens

The theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2007 was Biodiversity and Climate Change. Chosen to coincide with the release of the fourth assessment report of the IPCC, the theme of the UNEP World Environment Day on climate change (“Melting Ice—a Hot Topic?”) and also with the International Polar Year, the theme reflects the fact that climate change now poses one of the principal threats to the biological diversity of our planet.

There are significant opportunities for mitigating climate change and adapting to it, while at the same time enhancing the conservation of biodiversity. The overall message for this year’s IBD celebration is clear. If the threats to biodiversity loss and climate change are tackled together, the prospects for adapting successfully to the challenges of the coming decades will be much improved. Necessary steps must be taken to facilitate the adaptation of biodiversity to a changing climate, and therefore ensure the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor.

Thanks to the financial support from the Government of Norway, the Secretariat prepared outreach materials to encourage and promote celebrations around the world, including a booklet, posters and fact sheets which were widely distributed in advance of the celebration. Made available to countries in the official languages of the UN, several countries translated these into national languages. A special web page on IBD was also created by the Secretariat. A full report on these initiatives and celebrations was created by the Secretariat and is accessible at: www.cbd.int/doc/bioday/2007/ibd-2007-report-en.pdf

In addition, in partnership with Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), two episodes in the BBC’s Earth Report series, dealing with the theme of biodiversity and climate change, were prepared and broadcast in April. A promotional video on the issues was also produced and distributed to Parties. Through a partnership agreement with Inter-Press Services, editorial

coverage of the day was secured in major newspapers around the world. Finally, in partnership with the Department of Public Information in New York, an exhibition on the impact of climate change on indigenous and local communities particularly vulnerable to climate change was launched on 22 May in New York. The exhibit has since gone on to be shown in Paris and Rome.

Celebration at the Montreal Botanical Garden

In partnership with the City of Montreal, the Secretariat organized a celebration at the Montreal Botanical Garden on 22 May to look at how the issues of climate change and biodiversity, and the international resolve to address them, have evolved from the Earth Summit and the challenges that lie ahead—Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target and combating the impacts of climate change.

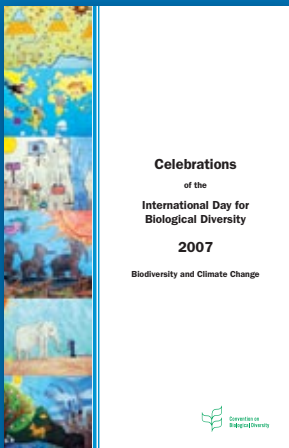
Participants included Ministers from the Governments of Quebec and Canada, a number of dignitaries prominent in the Rio process, the Executive Secretaries of the sister Conventions and the biodiversity-related Conventions, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Montreal. Eminent speakers addressed a variety of biodiversity-related issues, including how biodiversity can help societies cope with the impacts of climate change, and explored how the CBD and the UNFCCC can work together to achieve sustainable development.

Dr. Taïeb Chérif, Secretary General, International Civil Aviation Organization, read the IBD message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who urged member states to move rapidly, and with more determination, to urgently achieve the goals of these two landmark instruments for current and future generations.

Messages from current and future presidents of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention, including



Brazil’s Minister of Environment, Marina Silva, is introduced prior to delivering her video message





Students from Meyuns Elementary School in Palau celebrated the 20 + 10 Schools & Trees for Biodiversity initiative

Marina Silva, Minister of Environment for Brazil and German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel called for collaboration between the CBD and the UNFCCC. Statements were delivered by the Executive Secretaries of the CBD and the UNFCCC focusing on the inter-relationship of biodiversity and climate change.

Representatives from the three levels of Canadian government participated, including Canada's Minister of Environment, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services of Canada and Minister Responsible for the Region of Montreal, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, and the Mayor of Montreal.

Young people from HabitatNet, an organization which enables teachers and students to establish permanent biodiversity monitoring projects worldwide and to communicate investigations, findings, and questions regarding biodiversity issues and management, read a youth declaration calling for governments around the world to include the voice of youth into their work to conserve and sustainably use biological resources. Prizes were handed out to the six winners of the CBD art competition on biodiversity and climate change.

Eminent Canadians who played key roles in the development of the CBD and at Rio, spoke of their visions for the future and called for the various multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) to work together to realize synergies.

Activities concluded with messages from partners to the CBD, including multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNESCO and UNDP. Robert Hepworth, Executive Secretary, Convention on Migratory Species, spoke of linkages between the MEAs, and Peter Bridgewater, Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, said wetlands are critical to mitigating climate change. The Director of the IUCN Canada Office stressed the need to mobilize civil society in biodiversity conservation, and the North American Coordinator of the Polar Programme, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, discussed the four Arctic flagship species.

A tree-planting ceremony was also held, with the Montreal Botanical Garden receiving the rare Wollemi Pine of which fewer

than one hundred specimens remain in the wild. The Australian Government donated the tree to the City of Montreal, who in turn presented it to the Botanical Garden.

National Celebrations

Seventy countries, more than ever before, and 14 partner organizations held events and celebrations to mark the day. Events varied from press releases and seminars on biodiversity to nature walks and national days of biodiversity, and included people from all walks of life, including, in two cases, Heads of State. President Felipe Calderón of Mexico spoke in Chihuahua on the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to the people of Mexico. In Palau, President Tommy E. Remengesau, in a ceremony broadcast on national TV and radio, presented certificates to school children participating in the 20 + 10 Schools and Trees for Biodiversity activity.

With partners in ten countries around the world, the German Youth-Multimedia project, Naturdetektive, of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) organized a special "20+10 Schools & Trees for Biodiversity" activity to celebrate IBD. Ten schools from 10 different CBD countries planted—at the same time around the world—20 native forest or fruit trees, on either their school grounds or an adjacent natural area. Each school team shared with each other one photo per day over five days, from Monday 7 May to Friday 11 May, illustrating the five main steps of the 20+10 activity: the planning, the planting area, the saplings, the planting activity and the celebration after planting. These pictures were then posted on the Internet: www.naturdetektive.de/2007/dyn/12388.php. Countries participating were: Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Kenya, Iran, Mongolia, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia/Yap and the Russian Federation. The CBD Executive Secretary signed special certificates for each of the participating schools. Partner organizations of the CBD also undertook major events, including the United Nations Environment Programme, which held events at its headquarters and regional offices

FACT

Biodiversity loss is important because biodiversity has cultural values, because many people ascribe intrinsic value to biodiversity, and because it represents unexplored options for the future
(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity

Agreement on obstacles to achieving 2010 target

Preparatory Meetings for the Consultative Workshop on the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target in Dry and Sub-humid Lands took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With participation of focal points of the UNCCD, the aim of the meeting was to agree on a proposed list of obstacles to the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target in dry and sub-humid lands and to present the outcomes of the regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on the biodiversity of agro-ecosystems within dry and sub-humid lands. Participants agreed on the list of obstacles and began discussions on human and financial capacity needs to overcome the obstacles. The importance of synergies was also re-emphasized. The conclusions from the meeting will be presented during a consultative workshop and an online dialogue that will take place in January and February 2008.

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Advances in programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity in 2007

The SCBD undertook a synthesis of the best available scientific studies on priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. The study concluded that there is clear evidence of detrimental human impacts to cold water coral, sponge reef and seamount, supporting the need for undertaking conservation action even if our scientific understanding of these ecosystems is still imperfect. Major existing and potential anthropogenic threats include fishing, notably bottom trawling, destructive marine scientific research, bioprospecting and mining.

Through the collaboration between the SCBD and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), an up-to-date, on-line, interactive map (IMap) of High Seas Marine Protected Areas (HSMPAs) and key habitat distributions, including deep sea corals and seamounts, and ecological regions has been developed, and now available on the website (www.cbd.int/marine/tools).

The SCBD prepared, in collaboration with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the

Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), an information document on the options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities to selected seabed habitats. The document describes a number of options for preventing and mitigating the impacts of some activities on selected seabed habitats, particularly hydrothermal vent, cold seep, seamount, cold-water coral and sponge reef ecosystems, each of which contains high levels of endemism and diversity, and is a potential source of new genetic resources with potential commercial applications. These options include the use of codes of conduct, guidelines and principles; permits and environmental impact assessments; area-based management of uses, including through establishment of marine protected areas; and ecosystem-based and integrated management approach.

The SCBD convened an expert workshop on ecological criteria and biogeographic classification systems for marine areas in need of protection, with financial support from the Government of Portugal, from 2–4 October, in Azores, Portugal. The Expert Workshop developed: A consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats; and a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats. The workshop also described four initial steps to be taken in the development of such networks, and reviewed biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems and put forward recommendations for further work.

CBD and related meetings on marine and coastal biological diversity in 2007

At the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection, held 2-4 October in the Azores, Portugal, experts nominated by governments, UN/International organizations, Regional Organizations and NGOs gathered to refine and develop a consolidated set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, building upon existing sets of criteria used nationally, regionally and glob-

FACT

Peatlands are the most efficient terrestrial ecosystems in storing carbon. While covering only 3% of the World's land area, their peat contains as much carbon as all terrestrial biomass, twice as much as all global forest biomass, and about the same as in the atmosphere

(Source: Global Environment Centre and Wetlands International)

CBD participation at UNFCCC COP 13 in Bali

To help strengthen understanding of the links between climate change and biodiversity and the two Conventions, the Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) actively participated in the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held 3-14 December in Bali, Indonesia. Through its participation in the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) Task Force on Climate Change, the SCBD ensured that the plight of biodiversity was included in the key messages for the media.

The SCBD chaired two side events:

- Forest Day Side Event on maximizing biodiversity co-benefits from reducing emissions from deforestation with panel members from the World Bank, Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and UNEP Great Apes Survival Project. The side event was attended by approximately 75 participants, most representing NGO's and IGO's including other CPF partners.
- CBD Side Event on wetlands, biodiversity and climate change with participation from Wetlands International and Conservation International. About 100 people attended, emphasizing, inter alia, the role of local communities in adaptation in wetlands and the need for an appropriate policy framework to respond to climate change while ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands biodiversity.

The SCBD organized a joint Rio Conventions event to mark the launch of the joint information notes on forests, biodiversity, land degradation and climate change; and adaptation, biodiversity and climate change, and held two press conferences:

- A press conference in partnership with UNEP, Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre (GEC) on the global peatland and climate change assessment, calling on the international community to take urgent action to protect and restore peatlands.
- A press conference launch of the adaptation website chaired by Jochen Flasbarth, Director General of Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

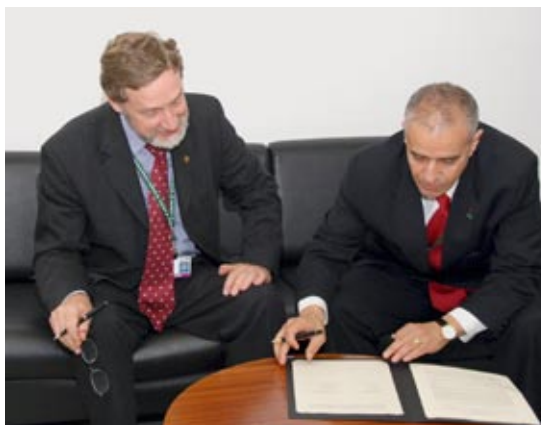
ally; To compile biogeographical and ecological classification systems for delineating ocean regions and ecosystems, building on existing broad classification systems, and including more detailed subregional classification systems where they exist in a nested approach, and initiate future development by making recommendations for further work to fill gaps; and To compile a consolidated set of scientific criteria for representative networks of marine protected areas, including in open ocean waters and deep-sea habitats. Workshop results to be submitted to and reviewed by SBSTTA 13

At the seventh INFO/RAC NFPs Meeting, held 5-7 June in Palermo, Italy, some 50 delegates from governments; UN/International organizations; and NGOs provided an overview of the INFO/RAC Progress Report of activities during the 2006-2007 biennium; an overview of 2008-2009 work plan, presentation of the Mediterranean Information and Communication Strategy for Sustainable Development and related work plan, and Partnerships and Cooperation. Presentations from partners on common actions and synergies will be developed on the basis of the INFO/RAC work plan for 2008-2009.

The eighth Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea, held 25-29 June at the UN

Headquarters in New York, 600 delegates from governments, UN/International organizations, and NGOs discussed and exchanged views on issues related to marine genetic resources (MGRs), including areas of concern and actions needed as well as cooperation and coordination. The UN General Assembly will be briefed on CBD's progress on issues related to marine genetic resources and provide necessary scientific and technical advice

The GEF fourth Biennial International Waters Conference, held 31 July-3 August in Cape Town, South Africa, featured representatives from GEF IW projects, delegates from governments, UN/International organizations, and NGOs. The 500



The CBD signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers

FACT

In Polar Regions, climate change is causing reductions in thickness and extent of glaciers and ice sheets and sea ice, and changes in natural ecosystems with detrimental effects on many organisms including migratory birds, mammals and higher predators and on traditional indigenous ways of life

(Source: IPCC)

participants reviewed the progress of the implementation of GEF IW projects and address challenges and constraints.

The ninth Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, held 29–31 October in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, included representatives from Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, delegates from governments, and UN/International organizations. Delegates aimed to review progress in the implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and develop global strategic directions for regional seas programme. As a result, they agreed to develop a joint work plan for the collaboration between CBD and the Regional Seas Programme.

Agricultural Biodiversity Towards the 2008 in-depth review

With regards to agricultural biodiversity, work has been carried out in preparation for SBSTTA 13 in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in particular, through the implementation of the joint SCBD/FAO work plan for the in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. The CBD Secretariat continued to liaise with Bioversity International (formerly the IPGRI). The CBD Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) on fu-

ture cooperation between the two organizations on 2 July 2007, and began preparing materials on “Biodiversity and Agriculture,” the official theme for the 2008 International Day for Biological Diversity celebrations.

Inland Waters Biodiversity Strengthening synergies between Conventions

In relation to inland waters, climate change, cooperation and communication, education and public awareness, the Secretariat organized an expert meeting on biodiversity, water, wetlands and climate change, 23–24 March, in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. A major focus was to consider how synergies between the CBD, Ramsar Convention and UNFCCC can be strengthened. A strategy was developed to have wetlands biodiversity issues better incorporated into the deliberations of the IPCC and hence the UNFCCC. The outcomes of the meeting were launched on the International Day for Biological Diversity. Subsequently the Secretariat prepared a poster providing the main messages of the meeting. The Secretariat co-organised side-events at SBSTTA 12 on water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change and a seminar at the World Water Week in Stockholm (12–18 August) on “Working with nature” explaining the critical role of biodiversity in the sustained delivery of services from freshwater ecosystems. The Secretariat prepared information and guidance for SBSTTA 13 on the current Ramsar

Participants at the meeting of the COP Bureau with ABS Co-Chairs held in Paris, 8 July 2007



Photo courtesy of CBD/Photographer: Franck Dujon



LEFT: The Secretariat of the CBD and the City of Montreal signed a memorandum of understanding officially linking Montreal's Nature Museums with the Steering Committee of the Secretariat's Consortium of Scientific Institutions and Partners. From left, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif and the Mayor of Montreal, Gerald Tremblay

RIGHT: Dave Gorge, Executive Officer, Environment Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, and David Dutton, Director, Environment Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, visited the Secretariat in March

Site designation criteria, streamlining the technical work of the CBD and Ramsar Convention, progress on harmonised reporting frameworks between the Convention and the Ramsar Convention, existing information on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions and the new joint work programme between the CBD and Ramsar Convention (2007-2010). A member of the Secretariat attended a meeting of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, USA, to help develop their strategy in the area of Agriculture and Water.

The twelfth meeting of SBSTTA considered the report of the Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change undertaken by Wetlands International and the Global Environment Centre which contains important findings. SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with other relevant multi-lateral environment agreements and partners, review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties.

Island Biodiversity

Committing to the future

The island biodiversity programme of work was adopted by the COP at its eighth meeting in 2006. An initial islands web portal was created early in 2007, including public information, a list of potential partners for each of the goals of the programme of work, case studies, and resources.

On 19 October, 2007, the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) co-organized a preliminary meeting in Alotau, Papua New Guinea, to discuss a

joint regional capacity-building workshop on implementing NBSAPs and mainstreaming biodiversity in Pacific islands and island States. There were three key outputs of the meeting: 1) Preliminary consensus for the training workshop to be held in 2008 and for its focus to be on capacity-building for NBSAP coordinators; 2) Agreement that work being undertaken by top-level government departments has not necessarily been linked to the goals developed in their NBSAP, despite the fact that much of the work is, in fact, successfully implementing the NBSAP aims and the programme of work; and 3) Considerable interest from island State participants in reviewing the NBSAPs, considering the status of the implementation process, identifying gaps and re-assessing the way in which gaps are addressed.

Although the idea for a Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) emerged at the 2005 Mauritius International Meeting on "Islands, reefs and communities: committing to the future", was further defined and supported during the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands held in Paris in January 2006, and was officially launched at COP 8, it gained significant momentum in 2007 as a result of its first strategy meeting held in Rome in September. Meeting participants included representatives of the Partnership's most active government and organization members and champions of existing or developing initiatives interested in greater involvement with the Partnership. The President of Seychelles, James A. Michel, one of GLISPA's founders, opened the meeting with a keynote address and launched his latest initiative, the Sea Level Rise Foundation. More information on GLISPA, its activities and milestones, can be found at www.cbd.int/island/glispa.

GLISPA, one of the main implementation mechanisms for the island biodiversity programme of work,

FACT

Some 12% of bird species and 23% of mammals are currently threatened with extinction. In addition, 32% of amphibians are threatened with extinction, but information is more limited and this may be an underestimate

[Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment]

Participants at the meeting of the COP Bureau with ABS Co-chairs, Paris, July 2007. Left to right: Fernando Coimbra (Brazil); Andrea Stefan (Croatia); Gustavo Pacheco (Brazil); Tim Hodges (ABS Co-chair), Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias (Brazil); Fernando Casas (ABS Co-chair); Antonio José Rezende de Castro (Brazil); Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary; Jochen Flasbarth (Germany); Robert McLean (Canada) and Karma C. Nyedrup (Bhutan)



aims to promote action to sustain livelihoods, conserve nature and address global change on islands, by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments, and facilitating collaboration among all islands. In its first year, GLISPA engaged more than 20 CBD Parties and 25 international, national and local organizations in high-level commitments and action for island conservation and sustainable use, including bold commitments by Fiji, the Micronesian countries and territories, Grenada and others to commit to conserve 20% or more of their terrestrial and/or marine resources by 2020. Through the engagement of NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and many others, GLISPA has also helped catalyze more than US\$ 33 million in support for the implementation of the island biodiversity programme of work.

FACT

At the national level, integrating biodiversity issues into agriculture, fishery, and forestry management encourages sustainable harvesting and minimizes negative impacts on biodiversity

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

Access and Benefit Sharing Towards an international regime by 2010

The fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit sharing (ABSWG-5) was held in Montreal from 8–12 October 2007.



Mr. Timothy Hodges and Mr. Fernando Casas, Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing at the WG meeting held in Montreal, 8–12 October 2007

The working group worked on the elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access to benefit sharing of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as mandated by the COP. They considered in particular: fair and equitable sharing of benefits, access to genetic resources, compliance—including measures to support compliance with prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms, internationally recognized certificate of origin/source/legal provenance, as well as monitoring, enforcement and dispute settlement, and capacity-building.

Based on the consideration of these items, the two co-chairs of the meeting prepared two informal texts: co-chairs' reflections on the progress made by the working group, identifying potential areas of convergence, options, possible tools, and concepts for clarification; as well as a co-chairs' note on the proposals made at the meeting.

The meeting decided:

- To invite parties, governments, indigenous and local communities and stakeholders to submit to the Executive Secretary by 30 November 2007 concrete options on the substantive items of the agenda of ABS-5 and 6 and requests the Executive Secretary to circulate a compilation of these options as soon as practicable
- The co-chairs reflections made on progress made by the working group, and the co-chairs notes on the proposals made, are the sole responsibility of the co-chairs and will be circulated to parties as information documents in the six UN languages as soon as possible
- Documents for ABS-5 will also be the documents for ABS-6
- The elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access to benefit sharing



Members of the Mohawk community of Kahnawake open the Fifth meeting of the Ad-hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions in Montreal

of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will continue at sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices: Article 8(j)

Key to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

The second meeting of the Advisory Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions was held at the CBD headquarters, from 30 April to 3 May 2007. Made possible by the generous contribution from the Government of Spain, and requested by the COP, the main purpose of this meeting was to review phase two of the composite report, focusing on the regional reports and element D of the plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge and on new research requested by the Parties concerning possible guidelines for documenting traditional knowledge (including potential threats of documentation), indigenous and local communities and climate change and finally, protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities living in voluntary isolation. The

Executive Secretary seized this opportunity to draw upon the expertise of Advisory Group members to seek advice and guidance regarding a number of issues under consideration in the framework of the work programme on Article 8 (j) and related provisions and which were on the agenda of the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8 (j) and other provisions, held in Montreal, 15-19 October. The advice and guidance received from the Advisory Group assisted the Secretariat in the preparation of documentation for the Working Group.

Delegates to the fifth meeting of the Article 8(j) Working Group adopted recommendations to COP 9 on:

- Indicators for traditional knowledge (TK)
- Progress report on implementation of the Article 8(j) work programme
- Composite report on the status and trends of TK; the TK action plan
- Recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; elements for the development of *sui generis* systems for TK protection
- Ethical code of conduct.



Participants at the Fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J 5) in Montreal.

FACT

The challenge of reversing the degradation of ecosystems while meeting increasing demands for their services will require significant changes in policies, institutions, and practices not currently under way

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

The Voluntary Fund for the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings held under the Convention is now fully operational, thanks to generous donations by the Governments of Spain, the European Union, Canada and Norway. In 2007, a total of USD 363,000 was received, allowing for indigenous and local community participation in the Indigenous and Local Community Expert Seminar on ABS and an IR (19-21 September, Montreal), the fifth meetings of the WG ABS and WG 8(j) (8-12 and 15-19 October, Montreal), the sixth meeting of the WG ABS (21-25 January, Geneva) and the second meeting of the WGPAs and SBSTTA 13 (11-15 and 18-22 February 2008) and COP 9 (May 2008). By the end of 2007, a total of 56 indigenous and local community representatives were funded to participate in meetings held under the Convention and it is anticipated that a further 60 indigenous and local community representatives will be funded for meetings leading up to and including COP 9. With the new streamlined arrangements in place indigenous and local community participation is now being funded three months in advance of the meetings in question.

Trade and Economics Mainstreaming the development agenda

To present an overview of pertinent CBD provisions and work on market development for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and to

help identify opportunities for enhanced synergy and cooperation with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on the topic of market development through concrete Biotrade activities, a meeting was convened on 30 January–1 February 2007, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting, Exploratory dialogue on building an enabling environment for increasing investment in sustainable land management through market access and trade, featured 50 participants and was organized jointly by the UNCCD Global Mechanism and the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). Important conclusions reached at the workshop included strengthening investment in sustainable land management through market access and trade, including on the critical linkages with the biodiversity agenda, which were brought to the attention of the UNCCD COP and were instrumental in developing the Global Mechanism's consolidated strategy in the context of UNCCD's 10-year strategy. Participants included UNCCD Global Mechanism, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), ICTSD, UNEP, UNDP, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Organization of American States (OAS), as well as trade promotion initiatives and/or business associations from Lebanon, Tunisia, Kenya, Nigeria, France, Ecuador, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Pakistan.

The Meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) in regular and special sessions, in particular informal consultations of the CTE-SS with MEAs on regular procedures for information exchange, took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 2-4 May and included some 120 representatives of WTO Members and MEAs. Delegates were briefed on CBD experiences with, and suggestions for, improvements of procedures for information exchange with the WTO as invited by the CTE.

The twenty-first meeting of the OECD Working Group on Economic Aspects of Biodiversity (WGEAB) took place in Paris, France on 20–21 June. Some 25 representatives of OECD governments briefed the working group on pertinent biodiversity policy developments; provided input and comments on pertinent OECD work, and ensured synergy between the planned review of the OECD Council

recommendation on economic instruments on the application of economic instruments in biodiversity policies and the in-depth review of the work on incentive measures, to be undertaken by COP 9. The working group reviewed draft publications and also decided on a process for the review of the 2004 OECD Council recommendation, as well as its work plan for 2007-8. Delegates were briefed on recent developments in the CBD, and on the sections on incentive measures in the third national reports of OECD countries. A process and timeline was agreed upon in order to maximize synergy between the preparatory process for the in-depth review of the work on incentive measures and the planned review of the OECD Council recommendation.

To provide input to the meeting on pertinent CBD work and COP decisions, and assist in the development of conclusions and recommendations for the in-depth review of the work on incentive measures to be undertaken by COP 9, the DIVERSITAS EcoSERVICES workshop on the economics of ecosystem services took place 22–23 May in Paris, France. Featuring participation from eminent environmental economists and scientists organized in the DIVERSITAS EcoSERVICES network, UNEP and the SCBD, the 35 participants agreed to prepare two overview articles on the state-of-the-art in valuation of biodiversity and biodiversity resources and functions, and associated ecosystem services, and economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, which will provide academic and scientific input into the in-depth review of the work on incentive measures.

Technology Transfer

Promoting active implementation

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation met on 10–12 September in Geneva, Switzerland. Featuring participants from government-nominated experts, representatives of UN agencies and inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and business, the 30 participants set out to collect, analyse and identify ongoing tools, mechanisms, systems and initiatives to promote the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention, and to develop strategies for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation, and also to develop an indicator for technology transfer as part of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target. To that end, a draft strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation was developed and will be submitted to COP 9. The draft includes developing a “Biodiversity Technology Initiative”, taking into account the Climate Technology Initiative (CTI). The group also identified a preliminary set of potential indicators for technology transfer as part of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 target, for further analysis. The group noted that there are a number of important conceptual and practical challenges and open questions, and that, consequently, there is a need for more conceptual work to be undertaken.

FACT

Clearing, draining and setting fire to peatlands emits more than 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year - equivalent to 10% of global emissions from fossil fuels

(Source: UNEP)



Indigenous and Local Communities Experts for the International Indigenous Expert Consultation on Access and Benefit-sharing meet at the Secretariat in September.

Capacity-building for indigenous and local communities, tourism

With the generous support of the governments of Canada and Spain, the SCBD organized the first workshop of the “Indigenous communities, tourism and biodiversity workshop series: new information and web-based technologies”, from 19–21 November 2007, in Sainte-Catherine de la Jacques Cartier, Canada. For this first edition, the SCBD gathered representatives from five Arctic countries: Canada, Finland, Sweden, Russia, Mongolia, USA (Alaska). The workshop aimed mainly at building capacity on areas of interest to indigenous and local communities and in particular with regards to the use of web based technologies and tools for marketing purposes; promoting knowledge on bio-diversity tourism in the Arctic region, and; testing and assessing CBD and other web tools available to indigenous and local communities, refining needs assessments for future training workshops in this series. Additional workshops are scheduled to take place in Latin America, Africa, the Pacific and Southeast Asia, with a focus on forest basins, islands, mountains, and dry and sub-humid areas.

Biodiversity and Tourism Towards sustainable practice

Following Decision VII/14 and with the generous support of Germany, the CBD Secretariat produced a Users’ Manual on the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development (Managing Tourism and Biodiversity), including a glossary and definitions of technical terms used in the Guidelines. As an additional tool to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines, the Secretariat launched the Biodiversity and Tourism Network, an interactive Web-based platform that promotes exchanges between users of the CBD guidelines (tourism.cbd.int/).

At the International Tourism Bourse (ITB) Berlin tourism trade fair in March 2007, the SCBD took part in an event with the Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany to launch the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Consulting Unit for rehabilitation of tourism facilities affected by the 2004 tsunami and to promote the use of the CBD Guidelines in Thailand and Indonesia.

Following the GRID Arendal exploratory workshop on “Linking Tourism and Conservation—A Finance Initiative for Protected Areas”, held from 12-13 May 2007 in Norway, three follow up projects have been designed: 1) economic measurement of park tourism, 2) partnerships with resort developers for protected areas, and 3) a “clearing house” for sustainable tourism in collaboration with UNEP/GRID Arendal. The projects are being discussed with SCBD partners for their implementation. The Secretariat also partici-

pated in the Global Ecotourism Conference, from 14-16 May 2007 in Oslo, Norway and moderated the session on Ecotourism and its Impacts on Wildlife. The workshop was an opportunity to review the achievements of the ecotourism community, as well as assessing various global challenges and developing partnerships to further promote the principles of ecotourism and sustainable development.

The Secretariat attended a meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the UNEP/GEF Project on sustainable tourism and managed by Ecological Tourism in Europe, in view of implementing the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in tourism management plans in 3 Biosphere Reserves in Eastern Europe: Babia Gora, Šumava and Aggtelek. The SCBD provided technical assistance as the stated purpose of the project is to implement the CBD guidelines.

In November 2007, the SCBD participated in the round table on “Challenges for Sustainable Tourism” and attended the seventeenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organization in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, further detailing an upcoming Memorandum of Understanding between UNWTO and the SCBD.

Between 29 November and 2 December, the Secretariat took part in the first international meeting on protected areas and tourism during which a partnership with CONAMA, the Mexican Council on Protected Areas, the NGO Amigos de Sian Ka’an, and Conservation International, was discussed to implement the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism in the Mexican Caribbean through a workshop targeted at hotel and resort developers, entrepreneurs and local authorities.

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Sharing experiences

Further to decision VII/12, item C, the third workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, with an emphasis on agricultural biodiversity, happened between December 12 and 15 2006 in Nairobi (UNON Conference Center). The meeting was organized in partnership with FAO, three CGIAR centers (ICRAF, Bioversity International and TSBF) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), and attended by fourteen official representa-

FACT

Demand for fish as food for people and as feed for aquaculture production is increasing.

About three quarters (75%) of the world’s commercial marine fisheries are either fully exploited (50%) or overexploited (25%)

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

tives of African countries nominated by CBD focal points (Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe) and nineteen representatives of governments, international research institutions, NGOs, farmers federations and indigenous and pastoralist people's organizations. Participants in the Workshop presented 19 case studies on the sustainable use of biological resources in their countries taking into consideration the topic and focus of the Workshop on agriculture. All presentations have been set up on the website: www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/use/workshops. The final output (the Nairobi Statement on Sustainable Use of Agricultural Biodiversity and recommendations on the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines) will contribute to the in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity for SBSTTA-13, led by FAO.

Based on the output of the workshop, the Secretariat produced an information documents for SBSTTA-13 (in-depth review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity) on sustainable use, responding to article 3 of Decision VII/12.

Supporting Implementation of the Convention

Support to Capacity Building, Education and Training

In order to be able to implement their obligations, Parties need appropriate institutional mechanisms and infrastructure, well-trained human resources, adequate funding as well as easy access to relevant information.

The Secretariat has initiated or contributed to capacity development activities in areas, such as access and benefit-sharing and protected areas. Information on workshops and training sessions carried out in 2007 is provided in boxes throughout this text.

With respect to capacity-development for access and benefit-sharing the Secretariat has been actively contributing to an ongoing Dutch-German ABS Capacity-Development Initiative for Africa, which enables African states and stakeholders to use benefits generated by the use of genetic resources for biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.

A database on capacity-building projects related

to access and benefit-sharing is also available on the website of the Convention.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

By the end of December 2007, 152 (or 80 per cent) Parties have finalized their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or equivalent policy instruments, and 20 Parties have informed the Secretariat that they are in the process of preparing them. Eighteen Parties have not prepared an NBSAP or initiated the process to do so, or have not informed the Secretariat that they have done so. The need for countries to update their NBSAPs in order to incorporate the implementation of the goals of the Strategic Plan, 2010 Biodiversity Target, national



TOP: The opening of the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Paris, 2 July

BOTTOM: The second meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention was held in Paris from 9-13 July

Training workshop on the preparation and updating of NBSAPs and mainstreaming into development planning

A training workshop on NBSAP preparation, updating and mainstreaming was held on the margins of the WGRI-2 at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris on 8 July. Many of the presentations were based on a series of NBSAP training modules produced jointly by UNEP-GEF, SCBD, and UNU prior to the meeting. Participants included National Focal Points, Implementing Agencies, NGOs and Secretariat staff. Feedback on the workshop was positive and participants favoured more training of this nature on the margins of future CBD meetings.



Monique Barbut, CEO of the Global Environment Facility

Enhanced Coordination with GEF

As the financial mechanism of the CBD, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) helps developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve the Convention's objectives and generate global benefits from the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Accounting for 36 per cent of total GEF grants, biodiversity projects make up the largest portion of the GEF portfolio. Between 1991 and 2006, the GEF provided some \$2.2 billion in grants in support of more than 750 biodiversity projects in 155 countries.

Under the direction of the GEF Chief Executive Officer, strong efforts have been made in 2007 to strengthen coordination with the CBD both at national level—through dialogue with operational focal points—and at a coordination level through enhanced engagement between the secretariats and involvement in the Convention processes.

At the initiative of the CEO, the CBD Secretariat participated in the technical advisory group that developed the GEF biodiversity strategy for GEF-4 (2007–2010) approved by the GEF Council in September 2007. A dialogue between the CEO and the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held in Paris on 8 July 2007. The CEO participated in and addressed the meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and, on 9 July, held a dialogue with Parties attended by more than 250 participants.

An important outcome of the WGRI-2 meeting was the recommendation to COP to improve the provision of guidance to the GEF by establishing a four-year planning framework of programme priorities consistent with the GEF replenishment cycle. Another important recommendation of WGRI2 was to prepare a resource mobilization strategy to support implementation of the Convention. The GEF Secretariat has taken an active role in contributing to the initial dialogue and consultation on the development of such a strategy. The GEF Secretariat has also made a valuable input to the Third Review of the Effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity being prepared as an input to COP9.

FACT

The true extent of exploitation is poorly known, but it is clear that rates of offtake are extremely high in tropical forests. The trade in wild plants and animals and their derivatives is poorly documented but is estimated at nearly \$160 billion annually. It ranges from live animals for the food and pet trade to ornamental plants and timber

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)

and regional objectives and complementary plans, was emphasized by the seventh and eighth meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Moreover, NBSAPs should highlight the use of indicators and the extent to which biodiversity concerns are mainstreamed into relevant sectors. To date, 13 Parties (7 per cent) have completed revisions, with Finland recently informing the Secretariat that a revised action plan, to complement their recently-adopted revised strategy, was in the final stages of preparation. Another 14 Parties have informed the Secretariat that revisions are in progress. In a noteworthy development, Japan completed a second revision of its NBSAP, the first having been completed in 2002. A few countries (Mexico, Canada, India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom) have developed or are developing sub-national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

Working Group on the Review of Implementation (WGRI-2)

The second meeting of the Working Group on the Review of Implementation (WGRI-2) of the Convention was held from 9-13 July at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. As decided at COP 8, the Working Group, among other things, undertook an in-depth review of the implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan. The Working Group prepared a draft decision for consideration at COP

9 that takes note of the status of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan, and includes consolidated guidance for Parties in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, as well as priority areas for capacity-building, access to and transfer of technology. Other outcomes of the second meeting included a process for updating and revising the Strategic Plan beyond 2010, preparation of a resource mobilization strategy in support of implementation of the Convention, a four-year (2010-2014) framework for programme priorities related to the use of GEF biodiversity resources, the fourth national reports due in 2009 and the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The Secretariat organized two side events on the fourth national report in connection with WGRI 2 and the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, held 15-19 October in Montreal, Canada. These two side events were organized to introduce the guidelines for the fourth national report by highlighting key information that is expected from the fourth national reports and to provide suggestions for the preparatory process. UNDP and UNEP also took this opportunity to present their joint programme to fund the preparation of the fourth national report. These side events also provided opportunities for countries to exchange their

experience and lessons in the implementation of the Convention, in particular those aspects covered in the fourth national report. Australia, Canada, Brazil and Norway introduced their experience respectively in reviewing NBSAP implementation, monitoring biodiversity status and linking it with reporting, developing national targets for achieving the 2010 Target and national processes involved, and mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors. A considerable number of country delegates participated in these two side events and were of the view that such events were very useful for their work on the fourth national report, recommending that the Secretariat should organize more such side events.

NBSAP Poster session and NBSAP Training

A poster session on the implementation of NBSAPs and their contribution to the 2010 Biodiversity Target, using an online poster generation tool developed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), was held during the second meeting. While all submissions used the 11 goals under the 2010 Biodiversity Target as a standard reference frame, individual posters focused on several key issues including mainstreaming and the link to sustainable development and sectoral engagement; NBSAP planning processes; evaluating, monitoring, revising, and updating NBSAPs; achievements related to terrestrial and marine protected areas; integration into national planning and the subsequent implementation of the Ecosystem Approach; legal frameworks for implementing the Convention; application of CBD thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues such as agrobiodiversity, ABS, biosafety, and education and public awareness; and sub-national biodiversity strategies and action plans. A similar session is being planned for COP 9.

A series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops will be organized during 2008, with the purpose of strengthening national capacity for the development, implementation, review and update of NBSAPs and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors, and cross-sectoral strategies such as poverty eradication strategies, through the exchange of experience in these areas and training in the use of relevant tools and mechanisms. These workshops will provide an opportunity for



countries to identify ways and means of overcoming challenges in implementing NBSAPs. The results of the workshops will also inform the ongoing review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan to be considered by COP 9.

Innovations in the Convention's Work on Financial Resources and Mechanism

In 2007, efforts have been taken to become more strategic and results-oriented in the Convention's work on financial resources and financial mechanism, following decisions taken at COP8 in Curitiba (Decisions VIII/13 and VIII/18) and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation (recommendations 2/2 and 2/3).

A process to develop a strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the

TOP: A training workshop on NBSAP preparation was held on the margins of WGRI-2

MIDDLE: GEF CEO, Monique Barbut in informal dialogue with WGRI-2 participants, UNESCO, Paris, 9 July 2007

BOTTOM: Participants to WGRI-2

Photo courtesy of CBD/photographer: Franz Nijon

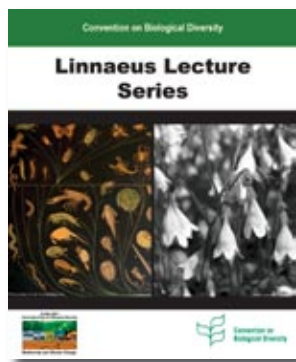
Inauguration of the Linnaeus Lecture Series

On 23 May the world celebrated the 300th anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish scientist who created the science and system used to uniquely classify all living things. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the Kingdom of Sweden and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), marked this occasion by launching the Linnaeus Lecture Series. The inaugural lecture took place on 23 May at the Secretariat in Montreal, Canada. Featured guest speakers at this session included Mr. Vvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and Mr. Frederik Alfer, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa.



Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary, presided over the inaugural Linnaeus Lecture Series, which included guest speakers Frederik Alfer, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa, and Peter Bridgewater, Executive Secretary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

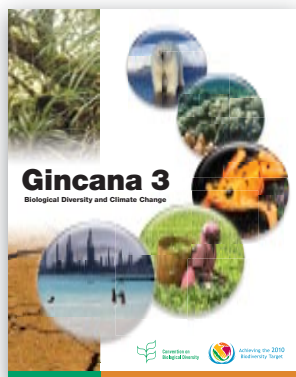
on Wetlands, and Mr. Frederik Alfer, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa. In keeping with the theme for the 2007 International Day for Biological Diversity, the first lecture, "What Linnaeus would have thought of climate change," focused on the links between climate change and biodiversity. The CBD Linnaeus Lecture Series will be organized on a regular basis at the margins of major meetings of the Convention and, in particular, at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.



Convention's objectives has been initiated. A first informal consultation meeting on the development of a strategy for resource mobilization, held in Montreal on 13 October 2007, provided substantive advice to the Executive Secretary on elements and basic structure of the strategy. A revised draft of the strategy was distributed to Parties in advance of the second informal consultation scheduled for January 2008.

Work has been initiated to enable preparation of a four-year framework of programme priorities as guidance to the financial mechanism in anticipation of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund. In the context of enhancing coordination between the CBD and the GEF, a dialogue between the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the GEF and the 11 members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties was held in Paris on 8 July 2007. The CEO also addressed the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention and held a dialogue with the Parties on 9 July.

A CBD Online Network on Finance (CBD-NF) has been initiated, designed to promote implementation of the financial provisions of the CBD, principally its Articles 20 and 21, through sharing of information, knowledge, experiences and best practices throughout the world, promoting of capacity-building and cooperation among the Parties, including



an emphasis on south-south cooperation, as well as facilitating policy development and consensus building. The CBD Online Network on Finance is among the most useful global hubs on biodiversity-related financial information.

The Clearing House Mechanism

The most important activity of the clearing-house mechanism in 2007 was the revamping of the Convention website (www.cbd.int), whose launch took place on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May. This new website is the clearing-house mechanism's main instrument to promote and facilitate information exchange. A permanent effort will be sustained not only to maintain the website up-to-date, but also to improve its quality and make it available in several languages. Resources are being mobilized to achieve these goals, thanks to positive feedback and support from Parties.

In parallel, the Secretariat has been involved in a number of activities to implement the strategic plan of the clearing-house mechanism in support of the various programmes of the Convention. Achievements include new web portals to reach out to specialized audiences, such as indigenous and local communities, local authorities, and the business sector, as well as the development and enhancement of on-line thematic databases. A few strategic meetings were also held with Parties and other partners to brainstorm on how to offer the best possible support services in the years to come.

Outreach and Engagement of Major Groups

The year 2007 saw increased activity and progress for the programme of work (PoW) on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), drawing upon the generosity of donor countries and the renewed focus on the PoW from the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8).

The annual celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), under this year's theme of Climate Change and Biodiversity, were unprecedented in their scope and richness, due in many ways to the generosity of the government of

Norway. More countries than ever before celebrated the Day, thanks to the provision of a toolkit and background resources. The Secretariat also collaborated with Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and the BBC to produce and broadcast a number of episodes in the Earth Report Series during April. These episodes reached millions of viewers around the world.

Through the Secretariat's partnership with Geo Magazine, GTZ and IUCN's Countdown 2010, the photo exhibit, Nature—Our Precious Web, was launched in Berlin on World Environment Day on 5 June. The exhibition communicated the messages of Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 to a general public using the wonderful images of the photographers of Geo Magazine. The exhibition toured Germany through the second half of 2007 and will go on a global tour after COP 9 in 2008.

The foundations for implementing CEPA were also strengthened through the completion of a toolkit on CEPA, created in partnership with the Commission on Education and Communication of IUCN and thanks to the generous financial contribution of the government of the Netherlands. The toolkit provides resources for biodiversity managers at all levels to communicate and reach out to stakeholders in a variety of sectors for the preparation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Elements of the toolkit will be used in a series of capacity-building workshops planned in 2008.

Engagement with the Business Community

Parties

In June the Secretariat was invited to participate in a session on business and biodiversity organized during the European Union Green Week (ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/) with, in particular, the European Commission's Environment Directorate-General and Portugal's Instituto de Conservação da Natureza. The Secretariat was on the Organizing Committee of the Business and Biodiversity Conference which was held in Lisbon on 12-13 November. The message from this conference, which was organized within the framework of Portugal's presidency of the EU, will be transmitted to COP 9 (www.countdown2010.org/business). In February, the Secretariat participated in a series of business and biodiversity

events in Tokyo, Nagoya and Kyoto. A symposium organized in Tokyo convened a number of companies, NGOs, and the Ministry of the Environment (www.bdnj.org/b&b_sympto_feb2007.pdf).

Business schools / business programmes

In early January, the Secretariat participated in the Harvard Business School Agribusiness Programme, where a case study on the CBD and business engagement was presented to an audience of senior executives (harvardbusinessonline.hbsp.harvard.edu/b02/en/common/item_detail.jhtml?id=507020&referral=2342). In Montreal, the Secretariat participated in the McGill Business Conference on Sustainability (February), the fifth Leadership & Social Change—Career Fair & Conference (March), and the annual meeting of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce (June). The Secretariat also participated in a seminar organized by the Eco-consultancy programme of University of Quebec at Chicoutimi (September).

MEAs and business

The Secretariat continued its dialogue with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Biotrade Programme, and others, on business engagement in the MEAs. The CBD Secretariat organized, in particular, a joint side event on business engagement with the CITES Secretariat at CITES COP 14 (June).

Technical support

The Secretariat provided technical support to a number of initiatives and publications. In particular, the Secretariat Focal Point for Business is a member of the UNEP Finance Initiative Biodiversity and Ecosystems Works Stream (BESW), launched in October 2006 by UNEP FI members (www.unepfi.org/work_streams/biodiversity/index.html). The BESW prepared a publication spelling out the business case for biodiversity for the financial services community. This was launched at the UNEP FI 2007 Annual Roundtable (www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/CEOBriefing_biodiversity_01.pdf). The Secretariat is also on the steering community of the UNEP Finance Initiative / Fauna & Flora International Natural Value Initiative (NVI). NVI is currently working on a biodiversity benchmark for the food

FACT

As one of the most species-rich communities on Earth, coral reefs are responsible for maintaining a vast storehouse of genetic and biological diversity. Roughly 20% of the world's coral reefs have been destroyed and an additional 20% have been degraded

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)



and beverages sector, building from previous developments for the oil & gas, mining and utilities sectors (www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/events/2007/london_biodiversity/nvi_flyer.pdf). The Secretariat also participated in a meeting of the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (April).

Publications

The Secretariat released four issues of its business newsletter, *Business.2010*. Issue 1 (Destination biodiversity) was published on the occasion of the world's largest tourism trade show, ITB Berlin; Issue 2 (Business, biodiversity and climate change) was released on the occasion of the International Day on Biological Diversity; Issue 3 (Techno: Technology transfer and cooperation under the Convention) was released on the occasion of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation; and Issue 4 (Banking for biodiversity) was published on the occasion of the UNEP Finance Initiative 2007 Global Roundtable. With a view to strengthening the content and reach of this newsletter, the Secretariat established an informal Advisory Committee. For more information: www.cbd.int/business/newsletter.

Engagement with NGOs

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), important partners to the CBD, can help shape policy development, implement the Convention and play a major role in public education and global aware-

ness raising. In the past year, the CBD has supported NGOs in each of these areas. In the first capacity, the Secretariat facilitated NGO representation and supported NGO side events at all official CBD meetings throughout the year. At the margins of SBSTTA-12, the Executive Secretary met with NGOs at their morning briefings and the Secretariat also organized one-on-one briefings between NGOs, Ms. Monique Barbut, CEO, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Mr. Fernando Casas, Co-chair of the working group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). These briefings provided an opportunity for NGOs to voice their concerns in an informal arena with senior managers. In the second capacity, the Secretariat responded to many information requests from NGOs around the world. Access to CBD resource material can greatly enhance the biodiversity initiatives of NGOs, which in turn, enhance the implementation of the Convention. To support the third area of NGO work, the CBD strengthened its partnerships with NGOs, in particular for IBD activities. In addition to creating and distributing promotional and resource material on the IBD theme, the Secretariat worked closely with local NGOs in the Secretariat's host city of Montreal to deliver a very successful programme on 22 May 2007.

Engagement with Children and Youth

This year served as a building year for the CBD's children and youth programme. At the Cities and Biodiversity: Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target

The CBD Secretariat's school outreach programme provoked the curiosity of students on the importance of preserving biodiversity





Winning entries in the Secretariat's art competition

meeting on 26-28 March in Curitiba, the youth of Curitiba put forth by the Curitiba Youth Declaration. This challenge presented to the Executive Secretary, the Mayor of Curitiba and all the citizens of Curitiba is one that cannot be ignored. In the declaration, the children and youth challenge the recipients to truly commit themselves in their efforts to protect all life on Earth. In its efforts to increase the understanding of, passion for, and commitment to biodiversity among youth, the Secretariat expanded its outreach activities. The two editions of the youth newsletter, *Gincaniño*, were distributed globally to children and youth through the CBD's Children and Youth website (www.cbd.int/youth/) and through the national focal points. The Secretariat hosted an art competition for primary and secondary school students in its host city, Montreal. Over 200 students created beautiful and thoughtful interpretations of the year's theme—Biodiversity and Climate Change. The Secretariat also supported children and youth IBD celebrations at the international level through the 20 trees + 10 schools initiative. Students from 10 CBD countries, representing all continents, planted 20 native forest or fruit trees in each of their schoolyards and adjacent areas on 22 May.

In its host city of Montreal, the Secretariat continues to build on the success of the school outreach program. Several Montreal Area schools in both the English and French sectors benefited from the presen-

tations on Biodiversity and Climate Change. In all, over 1000 students participated in a lively question and answer period, provoking their curiosity on the importance of preserving biodiversity.

Through the active participation of educators worldwide, the goal of conveying biodiversity messages that not only contribute to public knowledge, but also encourage and promote the personal involvement of students—and, through them, of the wider community—will be met.

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential to achieving the objectives of the Convention the 2010 Biodiversity Target and for enhanced implementation of the Convention. To fulfill its leadership role in international biodiversity issues, the Conference of the Parties has consistently recognized the need for collaboration and adopting decisions on cooperation at each of its meetings. In light of this mandate the Convention cooperates and coordinates with a wide range of other conventions, institutions and processes.

In 2007, the Convention established a number of partnerships. Key partnerships formed this year include:

- Four-year strategic partnership with the Government of the Netherlands to provide USD





LEFT: Carolina Lasén Diaz, Secretary of the Bern Convention, and Véronique Herrenschmidt, President of the Bern Convention, paid a visit to the Secretariat on 12-13 March

RIGHT: Flanking CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif, Sebastian Winkler, Head of Countdown 2010, and Wiebke Herding visited the Secretariat in March

2.1 million between now and 2011 in support engagement of the private sector, development of the eco-regional approach, scenario development in support of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, and development of the programme of work for Communication, Education and Public Awareness

- Memorandum of Understanding with UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions to support the integration of the objectives of the Convention into relevant regional activities and processes. This is the first time that such an agreement has been signed with a multilateral environmental agreement, and is a significant contribution to the enhancement of the coherence of global environmental governance through the One UN programme
- Memorandum of Understanding with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support activities that link development cooperation with the objectives of the Secretariat of the CBD, including capacity-building for access and benefit sharing, cooperation for the holding of regional workshops on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, support for the programme of work for protected areas and collaboration on Communication, Education and Public Awareness.

Cities and Biodiversity: the Cities Initiative

At the initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba, Mr. Carlos Alberto Richa, a meeting on Cities and Biodiversity was held in Curitiba from 26 to 28 March 2007. Some 70 participants, including 34 mayors and top city officials from around the world, exchanged

experiences and best practices on biodiversity and agreed on a set of actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

The Curitiba Declaration, adopted by this first-ever meeting on cities and biodiversity within the framework of the CBD, reaffirms the urgency to achieve its objectives in the urban world and to engage local authorities for the battle of life on Earth. Particular emphasis was placed on raising public awareness and educating new generations, as well as disseminating best practices and lessons learned through cooperation between cities. The establishment of a clearing house mechanism in the Secretariat of the Convention, as a forum for exchange of experiences, was recommended.

Since the Curitiba meeting the Secretariat has engaged itself in fulfilling its commitments made under the Curitiba Declaration. It is thus in the process of organizing and channelling information from members of the Task Force and the Steering Committee to the formation of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, which has as its the main purpose of mainstreaming the CBD and its 2010 Biodiversity targets as strategy and plans to be developed by all levels of government worldwide. The guiding concept of the initiative is to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss worldwide and to significantly contribute to the alleviation of poverty for the benefit of all life on Earth.

The initiative was named Cities and Biodiversity in recognition of the need to include the levels of government that deal the most with growing urbanization and its impact on the environment. With over 50 per cent of the Earth's population in 2007 living in cities, mostly in developing countries and in coastal areas, accelerated urbanization is among

FACT

Coral reefs provide substantial ecosystem services—habitat construction, nurseries, and spawning grounds for fish; nutrient cycling and carbon and nitrogen fixing in nutrient-poor environments; and wave buffering and sediment stabilization. The total economic value of reefs and associated services is estimated as hundreds of millions of dollars

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)



Participants to the Mayors' Meeting on the Contribution of Cities to the Achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, with children from around Curitiba, Brazil.

the most important factors in demographics today. Urbanization concentrates decision-making on the use of resources. Only two per cent of the world's surface is urbanized, yet urban citizens control the consumption of up to 75 per cent of all natural resources. Planned urbanization can, in fact, protect biodiversity. Numerous examples, particularly those shown at the Curitiba meeting, prove that cities can become part of the solution. Cities and their governments play a key role in environmental governance: their influence, through policy tools, taxes and incentives, economic development plans, education and consumer choices, is growing, and is intensified by the new global economy, which has cities as its territorial basis.

Together, the Task Force—which comprises representatives from the CBD Secretariat, the Urban

Environment Unit (UEU) from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Man and the Biosphere programme (UNESCO-MAB), the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Countdown 2010 initiative, Local Governments for Sustainability—Local Action for Biodiversity project (ICLEI-LAB), and the Steering Committee—whose participants are officials from the cities of Bonn, Curitiba, Montreal, and Nagoya, with the Secretariat are heading:

The complexity of challenges facing local and regional authorities in a context of rapid urbanization combined with mounting environmental challenges requires the mobilization of the scientific community in all disciplines as well as the contribution of those innumerable networks acting for urban sustainability

FACT

The costs and risks associated with biodiversity loss are expected to increase, and to fall disproportionately on the poor

(Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment)



Working meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau with representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan



Delegates from the Indian Government met with staff members of the Secretariat in February

at the local level. As a support to intergovernmental efforts and initiatives, partnerships are being established around the world to leverage science, praxis and policy for a better understanding of environmental change in urban systems, the evolving urban-rural interactions and the development of institutions and land use plans for urban resilience at a variety of temporal and spatial scales. COP 9 is ideally situated to perpetuate and encourage such initiatives and work to make the link between science and policy a reality. Such efforts, in order to reach and impact citizens will also require educa-

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, visited the CBD Secretariat in September



tion and outreach programs on a large scale. Local authorities are well positioned to take the lead on such initiatives.

The Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity

The second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity was held at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris on 17 October. There were 14 participants including representatives from the partner institutions and observers from the Higashiyama Botanical Gardens and the Canadian Museum of Nature. The objective of the meeting was to review the intersessional activities organized by each partner and to discuss future activities to be undertaken in 2008. The Consortium agreed to organize two sets of training workshops prior to the Second meeting of the Working Group on Protected Areas (WGPA-2) and to the thirteenth meeting of the SBSTTA (SBSTTA-13), and coordinate activities to be held at the margins of the ninth Conference of the Parties. Possible contributions for the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2008 and the International Year for Biodiversity 2010 were also discussed. The member of the Consortium will meet again in February 2008 at the margins of the WGPA-2 and SBSTTA-13 meetings and in May 2008 at the margins of COP 9. ♡

3. THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Working with Parties and other stakeholders, the Secretariat continued to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Meetings and training workshops on various issues under the Protocol were organised, the central portal of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) was maintained and information and other support were provided to Parties and stakeholders.

During 2007 support for the Protocol continued to grow. The number of ratifications and accessions to the Protocol grew from 137 countries to 143. The countries that became Parties to the Protocol in 2007 were: Malta, Costa Rica, Qatar, Gabon, Saudi Arabia and Republic of Korea.

Implementation of the Protocol also continued to gain momentum. Parties continued to put in place national legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol. 94 countries supported through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)—Global Environment Facilities (GEF) project, and with support from the Secretariat, finalized the development of their National Biosafety Framework. More than 60 Parties and three non-Parties submitted their first national report in accordance with Article 33 and relevant decisions of the Parties to the Protocol.

Liability and Redress

The third and fourth meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the context of the Protocol were held in Montreal from 19 to 23 February 2007 and 22 to 26 October 2007, respectively. The third meeting considered a blue print to a potential scenario of a draft decision on international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms. Regional

groups, representatives of individual governments and relevant international organisations also submitted compiled operational texts. The fourth meeting focused on streamlining and consolidating the proposed operational texts on approaches and options pertaining to liability and redress in the context of Article 27 of the Protocol. The streamlined text will be used as the basis for further negotiations at the final meeting of the Working Group in March 2008 in Colombia.

Compliance

The Compliance Committee under the Protocol held its third and fourth meetings in March and November 2007, respectively. The third meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur and was conducted in an open session. The Committee discussed possible lessons learnt from the review of general issues of compliance made on the basis of the interim national reports that were submitted by Parties two years after the entry into force of the Protocol. It also considered the experience of other multilateral environmental agreements regarding measures for addressing cases of repeated non-compliance. At

FACT

By 2020, some countries in Africa could see yields from rain-fed agriculture be reduced by up to 50%, with agricultural production and access to food severely compromised as a result of climate change

(Source: IPCC)

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted in January 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the CBD. Its objective is to contribute to ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biodiversity, taking also into account risks to human health. The Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003 and at 1 January 2008, 142 countries as well as the European Community are Party to it.

Additional information about the Protocol is available at the following Websites:

CBD: www.cbd.int/biosafety

Biosafety Clearing-House: bch.cbd.int

Frequently asked questions are also available at: www.cbd.int/biosafety/faq



The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts was held in Montreal from 19-23 February

the fourth meeting, the Committee further refined its report on experiences of other multilateral environmental agreements regarding measures against cases of repeated non-compliance. The Committee also reviewed general issues of compliance on the basis of the information made available by Parties through their first national reports submitted four years after the entry into force of the Protocol.

Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Three regional workshops on capacity-building and exchange of experiences on risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms were held in 2007. The workshops aimed at enabling participants to exchange experiences and lessons learned in conducting and reviewing risk assessments and to review existing guidance materials. The workshops also considered the need for further guidance and to identify mechanisms for promoting cooperation and networking in risk assessment and risk management. The first workshop was held for African countries from 23 to 25 August 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 57 participants from 25 countries and 16 organisations attended. The second workshop was held for the Central and Eastern Europe countries from 26 to 28 November in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. More than 30 participants attended ranging from research scientists and regulators to decision-makers in the field. The third workshop was held for the Latin American and the Caribbean countries from 10 to 12 December in Bridgetown, Barbados. More than 40 participants attended, including research scientists, regulators and decision-makers in the field.

With the generous support of the governments of Canada and Norway an Expert Workshop on Risk Assessment for Emerging Applications of Living

Modified Organisms was held in Montreal from 4 to 6 June 2007 with participation of more than 60 experts in the field of risk assessment. Participants shared information on existing guidance on the risk assessment of genetically modified fish, trees, pharmacrops and viruses for the management of animal populations and identified gaps in information and science that could have an impact on the risk assessment of those types of LMOs. Another issue considered was the appropriateness of using the current models for risk assessment with respect to those LMOs.

Capacity Building, Education and Training

During 2007, the Secretariat organized three capacity-building meetings and workshops: the third Coordination Meeting for governments and organizations, the Liaison Group on capacity-building and a meeting of academic institutions and organizations.

The third Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities took place in Lusaka, Zambia on 26 to 28 February. More than 43 participants, including government officials, and representatives from intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the business community and academia attended. The main output was the draft guidance document entitled, the “Guidance for Promoting Regional and Subregional Approaches to Capacity-Building in Biosafety”. Participants also identified common issues on which many countries require capacity-building support. These include: socio-economic considerations, risk assessment and identification and documentation requirements for shipments of LMOs (Article 18.2 of the Protocol).

The Secretariat also convened the fourth meet-

FACT

Slow progress in regulating possible risks have restrained the development of GMOS that could help the poor. The potential benefits of these technologies will be missed unless the international development community sharply increases its support to interested countries.

(Source: World Development Report 2008 - Agriculture for Development, World Bank)

ing of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety in Lusaka, Zambia from 1 to 2 March 2007. Eighteen participants attended the meeting and made recommendations regarding the minimum criteria and requirements for nomination of experts to the Roster of Biosafety Experts and elements for a quality control mechanism. The recommendations are expected to enhance the effectiveness and use of the Roster.

Building on achievements from past meetings related to academia, the Secretariat supported the Second International Meeting of Academic Institutions and Organizations Involved in Biosafety Education and Training held over three days in April 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 63 participants discussed long-term formal biosafety education and training measures to strengthen human resources for the effective implementation of the Protocol. Participants from the different regional groupings (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western European and other Groups) agreed to come together and develop initiatives to promote biosafety education and training. The work would include collecting and sharing information on existing academic programmes, identifying key players and reviewing countries' training needs in biosafety. Participants also made recommendations with regard to the establishment of networks of academic institutions, the development of curriculum for biosafety and the enhancement of the delivery mechanisms. For example, a recommendation was made to establish a central resource centre and an online bulletin board on the BCH.

The Secretariat also participated in and facili-

tated a number of capacity-building meetings and workshops that other partner agencies organised. One workshop included the East and Central Africa Regional Consultation on Biosafety, which was held from 24 to 25 May 2007 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The consultation was to enable key country biosafety stakeholders to identify common areas of interest and biosafety activities that could be collaboratively undertaken at the sub regional level to enhance the implementation of national biosafety frameworks. Another workshop included the Third Global National Project Coordinators Meeting for the Biosafety Implementation Projects. At this meeting, 42 participants including donors were present in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 28 May to 1 June 2007. The initiative was to discuss coordination, budgeting and communications with the various agencies involved in the implementation projects.

The capacity-building databases in the Biosafety Clearing-House continued to expand. A number of new records were added to the databases for projects, short-term opportunities and biosafety training courses. Several new biosafety resource materials were also collected and added to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre.

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is an important mechanism to facilitate exchange of information on LMOs and assist Parties to implement the Protocol. During 2007, the BCH, underwent a significant re-modeling to improve its user-friendliness and the overall quality of the information registered,



Opening of the meeting on biosafety education and training held in Kuala Lumpur, 16-18 April 2007



The opening of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts, held in February in Montreal

FACT

By 2030, developing countries are expected to need a further 120 million hectares to feed their people

(Global Environment Outlook 4)

particularly with regards to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC). For example, a number of primary search interfaces in the section on 'Finding Information' have been merged to improve access to cross-referenced data and the retrieval of information from multiple databases. The BCH also adopted a new web address: bch.cbd.int.

The BCH continued to provide data on national reports and submissions of decisions on LMOs. Figure 1 shows the total number of decisions on LMOs submitted to the BCH. Most submissions were related to maize products while fewer submissions were related to tomatoes and rice.

In October, the Secretariat organised the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH-IAC) in Montreal. The members of the Committee welcomed the re-designed BCH, reviewed the progress made in its implementation and provided advice on various technical aspects. They also shared case studies and information on the status of and experiences on national implementation. These included presentations on ongoing BCH capacity-building activities and information-sharing partnership arrangements. The Committee made a number of recommendations with respect to management of information at the national level, design of the BCH Central Portal, capacity-building and a new questionnaire to better evaluate the BCH.

Public Awareness and Outreach

A number of public awareness activities were implemented within the framework of the outreach strategy for the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat published the second and third issues of the *Biosafety Protocol News* newsletter. The newsletter, which was launched in 2006, aims to promote public awareness about the Protocol and its processes and encourage the exchange of the information, experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the Protocol at the various levels. The second

issue featured articles on national experiences in the implementation of the Protocol with particular reference to the development of National Biosafety Frameworks and the BCH. The third edition featured experiences in the implementation of LMO identification and documentation requirements under the Protocol. Two brochures on the Protocol were updated to reflect the latest developments. The new publications can be found at: www.cbd.int/publications/?group=cpb.

Collaboration and Partnerships with other Organizations

The CBD continued to strengthen its collaboration with different partner organizations and in 2007 undertook joint activities with UNEP, the GEF, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Green Customs Initiative, the Aarhus Convention, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB).

In joint activities with the Green Customs Initiative since 2006, the Secretariat aims to strengthen the capacities of customs officers to detect and control the illegal trade of living modified organisms. The collaboration with Green Customs Initiative, which is a partnership of multilateral environmental agreements to regulate movement of goods, will also contribute to the enforcement of the requirements for documentation and identification of LMOs under the Protocol. During 2007, the Secretariat developed a module on the Cartagena Protocol as part of the Green Customs Guide. It also facilitated a training session on the Protocol at the Green Customs Train-the-Trainer Workshop for the Asia and the Pacific Region that was held in Shanghai in May 2007. The Secretariat also contributed resource materials to training workshops for the Indian Ocean Islands in Mauritius and West Africa in Dakar, Senegal. In recognition of its active participation in the Green Customs Initiative, the Secretariat received an award





from the Executive Secretary of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer during the celebrations that marked the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol.

In March the Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Under the MoC the two organizations undertook to collaborate in strengthening the capacities of developing countries to implement the Biosafety Protocol and to share information through the BCH. The implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation commenced im-

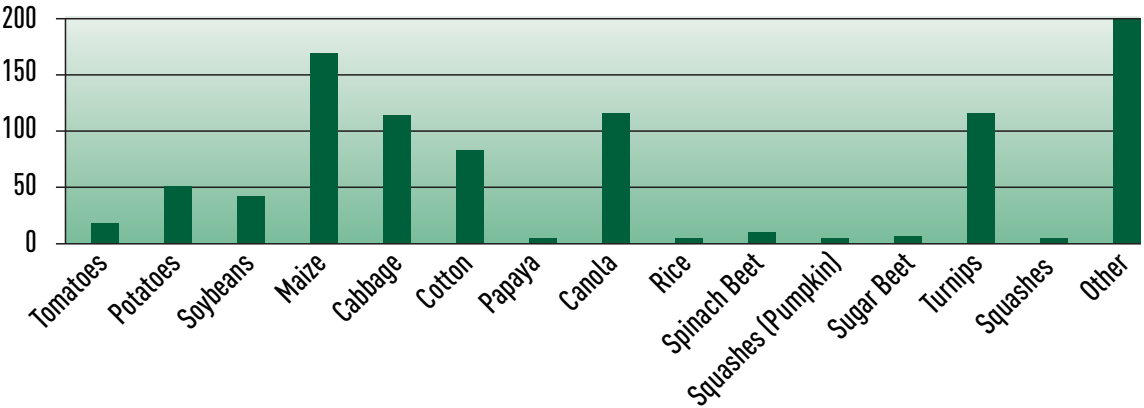
mediately when UNIDO and the Secretariat jointly organized the second meeting of academic institutions that provide education or training programmes in biosafety in March in Kuala Lumpur.

As part of the ongoing collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius, the CBD Secretariat made a written submission to the Codex Secretariat describing the CBD's activities in relation to biotechnology. The submission was considered at the 7th Session of the Codex Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology which was held in Chiba, Japan on 24 to 28 September 2007. ❖

FACT

The loss of genetic diversity threatens food security: only 14 animal species account for 90 % of all livestock production, and 30 crops dominate global agriculture, providing an estimated 90 % of the world's calories
(Global Environment Outlook 4)

Total Number of Decisions on LMOs Submitted to the BCH



4. CONCLUSION: MOVING AHEAD TO COP-MOP 4, COP 9 AND 2010

The year 2008 will mark another important year in the life of the Convention. The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP 4) will both be held in Bonn, Germany, on 19-30 May and 12-16 May respectively.

The COP 9 will include a high-level ministerial segment organized by the host country in consultation with the Secretariat and the Bureau. The high-level segment will take place from 28 to 30 May 2008 and it is expected to include contributions by the German Federal Chancellor, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and a number of Heads of State and Governments.

Another important dimension of COP 9 will be the active participation of the business community. Following the Lisbon Conference on business and biodiversity, as part of the EU initiative "Building Better Partnerships: linking Business to Biodiversity," a message will be sent to the COP and its High-level Segment reflecting the commitment of the business community and emphasizing the competitive advantage gained from conserving biodiversity and using biological resources in a sustainable way.

The COP-MOP 4 will have a major challenge before it in striving to bring about an international regime on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms, as will COP 9 and the ABS regime.

Today the Convention on Biological Diversity is very close to universal membership. Indeed, with 190 countries and the European Commission Party to the Convention, very few countries remain as non-Party to prevent this key instrument from achieving the goal of universality. Clearly, achieving the objectives of the Convention requires the full participation of all members of the international community. As we move towards the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity, Parties to the Convention and the Secretariat should continue to promote universal membership of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The International Year on Biodiversity provides an ideal backdrop for the few countries concerned to accede to the Convention.

Another major issue to be addressed in the run-up to 2010 is to bridge the gap that currently exists between climate change and biological diversity. The objective should be to bring the issue of biodiversity on an equal footing with climate change in the minds of the public as one of the two key environmental challenges of our time. ✨



ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



ACHIEVING THE
2010
BIODIVERSITY TARGET

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