

A large colony of seabirds, likely boobies, is gathered on a rocky shore. The birds are white with distinctive reddish-brown caps. They are densely packed on the left side of the frame, extending towards the water. In the foreground, several individual birds are more clearly visible, some looking towards the camera. The background shows a calm sea under a sunset sky with soft orange and pink hues. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural biodiversity and coastal ecosystems.

The Convention on  
Biological Diversity  
Year in Review 2009



**The Convention on Biological Diversity  
YEAR IN REVIEW 2009**



Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity ISBN: 92-9225-124-4

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Citation: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2010). Year in Review 2009. Montreal, 42 pages.

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*The Convention on Biological Diversity: Year in Review 2009* was edited, researched and compiled by Johan Hedlund, CBD Secretariat

Design & typesetting: Em Dash Design

Cover Photo: Australasian gannet colony, Hawkes Bay area, New Zealand. Photo courtesy of the Ministry for the Environment New Zealand/Rod Morris.

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# Preface: TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE SERVICES AND GOODS NATURE PROVIDES



**JOCHEN FLASBARTH**  
Representative of the  
COP 9 Presidency;  
President, Federal Environment  
Agency (UBA), Germany

**2009** was a real intersessional year for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)! Following the decisions of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in Bonn, in 2008, a huge number of conferences, working group sessions and expert meetings took place to deal with a broad range of important subjects on the Convention agenda.

Once again it was the intention of the Presidency to involve Bureau members in the process of intersessional activities as far as possible — in order to make best use of their experience and to enhance the opportunities for input from the various regions. Thus in 2009, six Bureau meetings, and one joint COP-SBSSTA Bureau meeting, took place — in Paris, France; Nairobi, Kenya; Strömstad, Sweden; and in Montreal, Canada.

One of the three fundamental objectives of the CBD, however, the issue of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), has still not been adequately addressed. Thus a key instrument is missing in implementing the principles of the Convention — the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources in areas within their jurisdiction while securing the interests of indigenous peoples in the commercial and industrial use of biological resources and the marketing of their traditional knowledge. Of utmost importance to the Convention, a decision was taken in Bonn to adopt, by 2010, an internationally-binding agreement on the ABS regime and the equitable sharing of their benefits within the CBD framework.

Following international negotiations we saw substantial progress made towards an international agreement against biopiracy during the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on



Weeping Capuchin monkeys are most often found in Trinidad's Nariva Swamp. The swamp is a rich habitat for mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians (Photo courtesy The Tourism Development Company Limited of Trinidad and Tobago)



North Saddleback juvenile and Bellbird by stream  
(Photo courtesy Ministry for the Environment New Zealand/Dick Veitch)

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS-7) in Paris, France, in April, and at the ABS-8 meeting in Montreal, Canada, in November. Following ABS-8, the ABS-Co-Chairs, Fernando Casas and Timothy Hodges, expressed their view that the negotiations should finally lead to a protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, which should then be adopted. Although a remarkable range of opinions still exist in this matter, none of the Parties challenged this view. On this basis we expect an intense period of formal and informal consultations during the first semester of 2010 in order to have a sound draft ready to be decided on in Nagoya, Japan, at COP 10.

Another focus of our work in 2009 was of course the preparation of the International Year of Biodiversity, which provides a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the future of all life. The international community will obviously not achieve its target to significantly reduce the loss of biological diversity by 2010, thus a new strategy is needed for the international protection of biodiversity. In order to better prevent the loss of biodiversity, the international community should focus its political endeavours more on the policy integration of biodiversity.

Species protection programmes and protected areas remain important tools in halting biodiversity loss, but they are just one part of the solution. In addition to that we need a substantive change in landuse practices, as well as a real and sustainable use of marine resources. Without this integration it appears

impossible to sustain ecosystems services for future generations. Ecosystems are the foundation for all aspects of human existence on this planet. They supply the capital stock for the world's economy — fertile soil as the basis for food, intact seas for stable fish stocks, forests with their capacity to store carbon — to give just a few examples illustrating the importance of well-functioning ecosystems.

Better protection for natural resources is more cost-efficient for the world economy than continuously having to pay for the effects of the destruction of natural resources. They are also the best way to strengthen resistance to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, as they greatly help in contributing to food security, combating poverty and aiding in economic development. Hence, recognising and honouring the services and goods nature provides for society must be made a political issue.

The unsatisfying outcome of the UNFCCC-COP 15 in Copenhagen reminds us again that our planet is under risk and that solutions can be found only on a multilateral basis under the United Nations. And at the same time it becomes crystal clear that the problems of our planet are highly interlinked — without combating climate change we will fail to stop the loss of biodiversity, without protecting ecosystems with their carbon storing capacity it will be extremely difficult to meet climate change targets. And without both of them we will fail in our efforts to fight hunger in the world! ❖

## Introduction:

# BUILDING MOMENTUM TOWARDS 2010



**AHMED DJOGHLAF**  
Executive Secretary,  
Convention on Biological Diversity

The year 2009 was an important year for the implementation of the landmark decisions adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It was also a crucial year for the preparation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit which will coincide with the worldwide celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity as well as the assessment of progress achieved for the implementation of the Johannesburg biodiversity target “to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.”

To this end, 2009 witnessed enhanced efforts to engage the scientific community and parties on the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO3), devoted to the 2010 Biodiversity Target and beyond. The GBO3, to be released on 10 May 2010, will provide an initial assessment of progress so far, and the remaining challenges in achieving the 2010 target. Preparation of the GBO3 was undertaken in close relation with the updating and revision of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2011-2020, which will include new biodiversity targets for 2020 and 2050.

Regional consultative meetings have been convened, culminating with a global meeting to be held in London early in 2010, organized by the United Kingdom in partnership with Brazil. The Madrid meeting, also in early 2010, by the European Union will consider the Biodiversity vision beyond 2010, taking into account the Strömstad, Sweden, meeting held in September 2009. A Joint meeting of the Bureau of SBSTTA 14 and COP 9 Bureau held in November 2009 provided guidance and leadership in shaping the post 2010 biodiversity strategy. In addition to this joint meeting of the Bureau, and under the leadership of Germany, five meetings of the COP 9 Bureau were held in 2009 as well as a meeting of the Bureau of MOP 4. An e-international Conference on the post 2010 was also launched in

November 2009 and the results will be submitted to the Parties in October 2010.

*“2009 was an important year for the implementation of the landmark decisions adopted at COP 9, and a crucial year for the preparation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit”*

At its meeting in Strömstad in September 2009, the Bureau welcomed the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change and mandated the Executive Secretary to submit it to the UNFCCC COP 15 climate talks held in Copenhagen in December 2009. This landmark report, together with the report on ocean acidification, was presented at COP 15 by Germany and Japan.

The COP 9 Bureau also provided leadership in shaping the organization of the high-level segment of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Biodiversity to be held in September 2010 with the participation of heads of State and government. Under the leadership of Germany, a meeting of the Triple COP Presidency (Brazil, Germany, and Japan) was convened with the participation of partners to prepare the Business and Biodiversity strategy which was endorsed by the Third Conference on Business and Biodiversity held in Jakarta in December 2009. Representatives of 200 companies adopted the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, drawing on the success of the first meeting of the Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue held in October 2009.

The Jakarta meeting offered a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with the scientific community and business representatives on issues related to the International Regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing. Under the leadership of the two co-chairs, the seventh and eighth ad hoc open ended working group on Access and Benefit-Sharing were held in Paris in April and in Montreal in November 2009. Important intersessional consultative mechanisms



were established to ensure the success of the ninth meeting and the adoption in Nagoya of the Protocol on ABS.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Canada, the logo and the message for the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity – Biodiversity is Life. Biodiversity is our life – were unveiled on 8 September 2009 in Strömstad on the occasion of the high-level European Union meeting Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010 - People, Ecosystem Services, and the Climate Crisis. Additional unveilings took place in the host city of the Convention, Montreal, Canada, as well as in Bonn, Germany, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Nairobi, Kenya. In Tokyo, the IYB logo and slogan was launched together with the COP 10 logo at the Ministry of the Environment.

The development of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity in February 2009, together with the experience gained by piloting its implementation in key cities, will make a major contribution to the success of the Plan of Action on Cities and Biodiversity, to be adopted by the Nagoya City Summit. In addition the draft plan of action on South-South cooperation prepared by the meeting of the steering committee held in Montreal in October 2009 will also make a major contribution to the success of the first G77 forum on Biodiversity for Development to be held in Nagoya in October 2010.

Other important developments during 2009 include the convening by the German Presidency of the first-ever Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity in June in Berlin. The meeting focused on options and opportunities for private financial commitment for global biodiversity conservation. A second private donor forum is expected to be held at COP 10. Considerable work was also done on biodiversity and development over the year. An expert meeting on mainstreaming biodiversity in development was held in Montreal in May to discuss how development agencies can better integrate biodiversity into their strategies. A follow-up meeting of heads of agencies will be convened in conjunction with the high-level segment of COP 10.

I would also like to note that the CBD is the only Multilateral Environmental Agreement with a gender action plan. Follow-up action during 2009 included a workshop convened in May in Montreal on validation of draft guidelines for mainstreaming gender into national biodiversity strategies.

The CBD has also been collaborating actively with the other Rio Conventions. The ninth meeting



Two New Zealand fur seals, South East Island, New Zealand  
(Photo courtesy Ministry for the Environment New Zealand/Dick Veitch)

## The Convention for Life on Earth

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. Negotiated under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme, the Convention opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit, and entered into force on 29 December 1993. The Convention is legally binding and Parties are obliged to implement its provisions. Presently it includes 193 members — 192 countries and the European Community.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Convention, and advances implementation of the CBD 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, as well as a range of cross-cutting issues. Each programme establishes a vision for, and basic principles to, guide future work. They 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.



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## FACT

More than 1.6 billion people depend on forests and forest products for their livelihood, while more than 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity. And yet, more than 13.2 million hectares of forests are lost annually and some predict that fish may disappear from the oceans by middle of this century (UNEP).

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of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions took place in May 2009 in New York, where we discussed joint activities during the International Year of Biodiversity. In addition, the seventh meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions was held in April in Paris, where the contribution of the group to the development of the post-2010 targets was discussed.

Finally, let me point out that the CBD has moved even closer to universal accession, with Iraq and

Somalia completing the necessary procedures. I sincerely hope that in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, we will achieve universality by welcoming the remaining two States as Parties. Indeed, with so much accomplished during 2009, I am sure that the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity will be a resounding success and help lay the groundwork for preserving the diversity of life on Earth. After all, Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life. ♡

## CBD Closer to Universality as Iraq and Somalia Join

In 2009, Iraq and Somalia became the 192<sup>nd</sup> and 193<sup>rd</sup> countries respectively to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Iraq became the 192<sup>nd</sup> Party to the Convention on 26 October. Iraq has made several significant efforts to tackle environmental issues of global significance. Since 2003, it has undertaken major efforts to restore the Iraqi Marshlands around the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers – the largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East, with major environmental, biological and socio-cultural significance. These Marshlands – with their rich biodiversity and unique cultural heritage – had been almost entirely destroyed through upstream dam construction and drainage operations. In a programme assisted by the UN Environment Programme, and with the support of Italy and Japan, Iraq has made significant progress in restoring the Marshlands, their ecological viability and sustainable livelihoods to the Marsh Arabs. Iraq is now working towards making the Marshlands a National Park and gaining its listing as a World Heritage Site.

Somalia became the 193<sup>rd</sup> party to the Convention on 10 December. As a major biodiversity hotspot in the Horn of Africa, Somalia's accession is a major step in achieving universal membership for the Convention. Somalia contains a wealth of biodiversity. According to Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspots, hundreds of new species have been discovered in Somalia in the last 20 years, including the Somali cyclamen (*Cyclamen somalense*) otherwise found only in the Mediterranean region.

# KEY BIODIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2009

## Access and Benefit-Sharing Moving closer to an International Regime

Genetic resources whether from plant, animal or micro-organisms may be used for different purposes, from scientific research to the development of pharmaceutical products, agriculture, horticulture, cosmetics and biotechnology. Users of genetic resources may include research institutes, universities and private companies operating in various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, horticulture and biotechnology.

Benefits derived from genetic resources may include the result of research and development carried out on genetic resources, the transfer of technologies which make use of those resources, participation in biotechnological research activities, or monetary benefits arising from the commercialization of products based on genetic resources. One example of monetary benefits could be the sharing of royalties arising from patented products based on genetic resources.

## Relevant Issues

The Convention recognizes the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources in areas within their jurisdiction. Thus Parties to the Convention have the authority to determine access to genetic resources in areas within their jurisdiction. Parties also have the obligation to take appropriate measures with the aim of sharing the benefits derived from their use, which is one of the three fundamental objectives of the Convention. Because these resources will profit the company or person that produces them, it is only fair that the country of origin benefits as well. The sharing of these benefits can contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

## CBD Activities

- The Group of Technical and Legal Experts met in Tokyo in January to further examine the issue of compliance in order to assist the Ad Hoc

Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in the elaboration and negotiation of an international regime. Issues examined included measures available or that could be developed in order to ensure compliance with national access and benefit-sharing (ABS) legislation as well as mutually agreed terms regarding ABS; voluntary measures to enhance the compliance of users; how an internationally agreed definition of misappropriation and misuse could support compliance; how compliance measures could take account of customary law; and, whether particular compliance measures are need for research with noncommercial intent

- The seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing

## FACT

Almost 30 million people engaged in small-scale fisheries in the developing world are dependent on coral reefs for their food and livelihoods, but 60% of those reefs could be lost in the next twenty years (UNEP).

Tobago's coral reefs are home to more than 300 species of South Atlantic coral and a variety of spectacular multicoloured fish (Photo courtesy The Tourism Development Company Limited of Trinidad and Tobago)



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



JANUARY

Staff from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) visited the CBD Secretariat in January 2009, delivering a presentation on their work and its relevance to the CBD, and providing the opportunity to strengthen the partnership between CBD and TNC (Photo courtesy CBD)

## FACT

The tropical forest estate is shrinking at about 5% per decade, adding 3 billion tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere each year and contributing to major loss of biodiversity (World Bank).

(WGABS-7), held in Paris in April, gathered over 470 delegates to continue the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, focusing on operational text on the objective, scope, compliance, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, and access

- The members of the Interagency Task Force on Access and Benefit Sharing met prior to the WGABS-7 meeting. The CBD Executive Secretary and the two ABS Co-Chairs briefed the Task Force on their approach and expectations for the upcoming meeting and related events
- The meeting of the Group of Technical and Legal Experts on Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources met in June, with the purpose of providing legal and technical advice to the WGABS on the issue of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, with a view to assisting the negotiations of the International Regime on ABS. Indigenous and government nominated experts from around the world had cordial and constructive exchanges of views throughout the four days of deliberations on the specific questions posed to the experts by the Conference of the Parties. The final report includes some concrete advice and recommendations on how to address traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in the International Regime
- The Secretariat participated in the South-South-Exchange Meeting on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity, which included a technical session on ABS
- Participated in the ASEAN Regional Workshop on ABS, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and hosted by Cambodia
- The eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing was held in Montreal from 9 to 15 November 2009. The Working Group made significant progress by producing, for the first time, a single negotiating text incorporating all the elements of the international regime
- The next and final meeting of the negotiating body will be held in March 2010 with the mandate to consolidate the text of the International Regime for its adoption at COP 10
- The Secretariat continued to collaborate in the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa by providing substantive contributions at various workshops, including the 4<sup>th</sup> pan-African ABS capacity-development workshop held in Cairo, Egypt.

## Forest Biodiversity

Preserving forests key to climate change mitigation and adaption

Forests are biologically diverse systems, representing some of the richest biological areas on Earth. Offering a variety of habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms, forest biodiversity is increasingly becoming threatened as a result of deforestation, fragmentation, climate change and other stressors.

The loss of tropical forest fauna, for example, is reaching critical levels. Forestry operations are often closely linked to commercial bushmeat hunting through logging roads and crews. The “empty-forest syndrome” and biodiversity loss caused by habitat degradation and the over-exploitation of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians in many tropical and sub-tropical countries has become a global threat. The degradation of forest ecosystems makes national and local economies weaker and more vulnerable to



Dr. David Schindel, Executive Secretary of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL), an organization based at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, made a presentation on the work of CBOL and its relevance to the work of CBD (Photo courtesy CBD)



Visit of staff from GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (Photo courtesy CBD)

## FEBRUARY

climate change; Increasing human-wildlife contact and the related bushmeat trade spreads infectious diseases, such as the Ebola and the Nipah viruses; Habitat loss increases human-wildlife conflict and reduces the potential for sustainable wildlife management. Other major threats to forest biodiversity include habitat fragmentation, deforestation due to agricultural expansion and other drivers, and climate change.

### Relevant Issues

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that emissions from deforestation and degradation remain a significant (about 18-20%) source of annual greenhouse-gas emissions into the atmosphere. Hence, the conservation, appropriate management and restoration of forests will be a significant factor in climate-change mitigation. Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have the potential to support the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forests biodiversity, and other commitments under the CBD.

According to recent studies, such as *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity*, the value of intact tropical rainforests is much greater than the short-term economic gain than can be obtained by converting them to plantations or other land uses. Thus maintaining and restoring biodiversity in forests promotes their resilience to human-induced pressures and is therefore an essential “insurance policy” to safeguard against climate-change impacts. Because primary forests are generally more resilient than modified natural forests or plantations, it is crucial that policies and measures that promote their protection yield both biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation benefits, in addition to a full array of ecosystem services.

### CBD Activities

- The Secretariat held a meeting on South-South Cooperation (SSC) concerning forest biodiversity in July to help foster SSC amongst the major tropical forest regions and to build capacity on pertinent issues — notably REDD, payments for ecosystem services and access and benefit-sharing. Participants included delegates from the Secretariats of the Central Africa Forest Commission, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, as well as observers from the UN REDD Programme, ITTO, La Francophonie, and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Results of the meeting will be considered by the G77 Parties when developing, in collaboration with the Secretariat, a multi-year plan of SSC on biodiversity for development, to be submitted to COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010, and to the South-South Forum in October 2010 by the G77
- The Convention’s Liaison Group on Bushmeat held its first meeting in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), in Buenos Aires at the Argentine Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The objective was to develop policy recommendations for the sustainable use and conservation of bushmeat species, building on those included in the CBD Technical Series No. 33, *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife-based Resources: The Bushmeat Crisis*. In a joint statement to the World Forestry Congress, the FAO, CIFOR, CIC and the CBD Secretariat highlighted several key recommendations of relevance to the forest sector:

### FACT

20% of dry lands are in the danger of becoming deserts (World Bank).



## MARCH

The ABS Co-Chairs, Timothy Hodges and Fernando Casas, at the Secretariat  
(Photo courtesy CBD)

Martin Brasher and Eric Blencowe of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs visited the Secretariat in March (Photo courtesy CBD)

### FACT

Increasing human-wildlife contact and the related bushmeat trade spreads infectious diseases, such as the Ebola and the Nipah viruses (CBD).

- » Capacity-building, incentives and alternatives must be implemented for hunters, traders and consumers to sustainably manage bushmeat
  - » Mechanisms such as REDD+ should take into account the importance of wildlife for healthy ecosystems and for the permanence of forest carbon stocks and forest adaptation capacity
  - » Management plans and certification schemes for sustainable forest management must include wildlife management, to maintain healthy and productive forest ecosystems
  - » Local communities should be empowered to manage, and be accountable for, managing local resources in their own — and the national — best interest.
- The Secretariat, in collaboration with the UNFF and the National Parks Board of Singapore, with the generous financial support from the government of Germany and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, organized a capacity-building workshop for Southern and South-Eastern Asia in Singapore in September. The aim was to build capacity for improved national and regional collaboration between relevant government actors in the field of forest biodiversity and climate change, including REDD, and climate change adaptation. Fifty participants from 13 countries attended the workshop.
  - Launched the CBD Technical Series No. 43 on *Forest Resilience, Biodiversity and Climate Change*, on the margins of the XIII<sup>o</sup> World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The study, a synthesis of the relationship between biodiversity, resilience and stability in forest ecosystems, provides compelling rationale for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for any forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The study suggests that ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation of climate change are the same, thus protecting primary forests and restoring managed or degraded forest ecosystems are key to reducing anthropogenic emissions and helping society adapt to the impacts of climate change. It further stresses that the resilience inherent to intact forest ecosystems—fully functional units of plants, animals, micro-organisms, and fungi—provide the best insurance against climate change, and help ensure that forests meet the needs of present and future generations. The study says that risks can be partly mitigated by following a number of forest-management recommendations, which include:
    - » Maintaining genetic diversity in forests by avoiding practices that select only certain trees for harvesting
    - » Reducing non-natural competition by controlling invasive species
    - » Reducing reliance on non-native tree crop species for plantation, afforestation or reforestation projects
    - » Ensuring national and regional networks of protected areas, incorporating these networks into national and regional planning for large-scale landscape connectivity.
  - The CBD Secretariat and IUCN published a good practice guide on *Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods*, which aims to support governments, development agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to ensure that biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction proceed concurrently, including in the context of REDD
  - The German Development Cooperation (GTZ) and the CBD Secretariat launched a brochure on *REDD Benefits: Biodiversity and Livelihoods*, which shows how REDD can simultaneously address climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty.



Jan McAlpine, Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests (Photo courtesy CBD)



Noriko Moriwake, CBD staff member seconded from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, Tsunao Watanabe, Director of the Biodiversity and Policy Division at the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, and Ahmed Djoghlaf, CBD Executive Secretary (Photo courtesy CBD)



Visit of senior staff from the Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire in Ottawa, together with the Canada Research Chair (Photo courtesy CBD)

The brochure identifies opportunities for synergies and mutual enhancement of the objectives of international agreements, particularly the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the CBD. It also provides background information on the linkages between ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation measures

- The Secretariats of the CBD and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) signed a cooperation agreement for the coming two years, the International Year of Biodiversity (2010) and the International Year of Forests (2011), with the aim to achieve synergies in the implementation of national commitments under the CBD and the UNFF.

## Protected Areas

### The cornerstones of biodiversity protection

Protected areas constitute an important stock of natural, cultural and social capital, yielding flows of economically valuable goods and services that

benefit human populations. The contribution of protected areas to the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of society is very high indeed. In fact, evidence shows that well-managed protected areas yield significant benefits, which can be translated into cumulative advantages across national economies.

### Relevant Issues

Since the adoption of the programme of work on protected areas, 27 countries have reported the establishment of about 6,038 new terrestrial protected areas and 802 marine protected areas, covering approximately 112.39 million ha of terrestrial and marine areas. As of 2008, there are more than 120,000 nationally designated protected areas worldwide, covering 21 million square kilometers of land and sea. Marine protected areas occupy only 5.9% of the world's territorial seas and only 0.5% of the extraterritorial seas.

While these are commendable achievements,

## FACT

Current atmospheric emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are nearly four times the total emissions in 1950 (World Bank).

## G8 Endorses "Carta di Siracusa" on Biodiversity

Recognizing the importance of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the urgent need to support and strengthen the international process for the identification of an ambitious and achievable post-2010 common framework on biodiversity, the 35<sup>th</sup> G8 Summit, held in L'Aquila, Italy, endorsed the "Carta di Siracusa" on Biodiversity in July, which was agreed to at the G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting in Syracuse, Italy in April 2009. The document, to be officially presented by the Italian Government at the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in September 2010, comprises four sections:

- Biodiversity and Climate: suggests actions that exploit the key role biodiversity and ecosystem services play in adapting to climate change and its negative effects
- Biodiversity, economics and business: emphasizes how investing in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources can contribute to sustainable global economic recovery and poverty reduction
- Biodiversity management and ecosystem services: indicates the range of possible strategies to counter the risks of loss of ecosystem services and the consequent negative effects on quality of life
- Science, research and policy: identifies various needs for upgrading knowledge and to optimize the use of such knowledge in decision-making.



Tourisme Montréal paid a visit to the Secretariat (Photo courtesy CBD)



The CBD Executive Secretary with Mohammed A. Bekhechi, Lead Counsel, ESSD and International Law Unit (LEGEN) of The World Bank (Photo courtesy CBD)



APRIL

## FACT

About one-third of the world is living under moderate to severe water stress, and groundwater is being depleted almost everywhere (World Bank).

some areas still lag behind. The social costs and benefits, the effective participation of indigenous and local communities, and the diversification of various governance types need more commitment and resolute actions. The evaluation and improvement of management effectiveness, and the development and implementation of sustainable finance plans with diversified portfolios of traditional and innovative financial mechanisms need enhanced measures. Climate change considerations for both mitigation and adaptation responses need to be incorporated. Strengthening implementation of the work programme on protected areas will require concerted efforts and the combined strength of all sectors of society, as well as alliances at national, regional and international levels between policy makers, civil society, indigenous and local communities and business and the private sector.

### CBD Activities

- Organized a Pacific Islands sub-regional workshop on capacity-building for the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (PoWPA) in February in Nadi, Fiji
- Organized four regional capacity building and review workshops on PoWPA — Africa and Asia Pacific workshops in October in Cote d' Ivoire and India, the GRULAC workshop in Colombia in early November, and the CEE workshop on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 27 November to 1 December. Some 100 countries participated, covering 15 sub-regions. The outcomes of these workshops include:
  - » Newly designated PoWPA focal points met face to face and forged PoWPA focal point regional and sub-regional networks
  - » Gained first-hand experience on how to integrate protected areas into wider land and

seascapes and sectors, and the potential of the land and seascape approach to address climate change adaptation and mitigation issues

- » Eight valuable case studies on the integration of protected areas
- » Heightened awareness on various governance types and exploration of innovative governance systems in different regions
- » 100 reporting frameworks indicating the status of implementation of PoWPA at global, regional and sub-regional levels
- » Refined the draft reporting framework to showcase progress, track progress, and provide periodic updates using a standardized user-friendly web-based framework
- » Provided 40 case studies and examples that showcase the implementation of any one goal of PoWPA in countries
- » Ten sets of suggested draft recommendations for SBSTTA pre-session documents based on realistic problem identification and practical, implementable, measurable suggestions to address identified problems
- » Heightened awareness about the value and benefits of protected areas and the effective implementation of PoWPA for achieving poverty alleviation, generating employment and addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation
- » Developed a demo of a user-friendly and comprehensive website on protected areas and a framework for streamlined reporting process on the implementation of the work programme.
- Completed the background document on the in-depth review of the implementation of the PoWPA by SBSTTA-14





ABS Co-Chairs Timothy Hodges and Fernando Casas at the opening plenary of WGABS 7 in Paris (Photo courtesy CBD)



Representatives of the Indigenous and Local Communities with Ahmed Djoghtaf, CBD Executive Secretary, and John Scott, CBD Programme Officer for Traditional Knowledge at the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (WGABS 7) in Paris (Photo courtesy CBD)

- Coordinated preparation of two sub-chapters on the protected areas chapter of the TEEB D1 report
- Pursued Parties to designate focal points for PoWPA, as a result 112 Parties designated focal points
- Established a LifeWeb coordination office in June at the Secretariat, with the support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Held discussions with Japan, South Korea, Finland, Belgium, France and Denmark on their possible participation in LifeWeb. The Government of Finland consented to support projects in Peru and Tanzania
- Revised the LifeWeb website with information and applications for expression of interest, donor and country information.

## Agricultural Biodiversity

### Providing the essentials for human survival

Agricultural biodiversity provides not only food and income but also raw materials for clothing, shelter, medicines, breeding new varieties, and performs other services such as maintenance of soil fertility and biota, and soil and water conservation –all essential to human survival.

Agricultural ecosystems rich in biodiversity provide a diversity of foods that can increase food security and improve nutrition by broadening the food base and diversifying diets. Diverse diets can contribute to the fight against malnutrition, obesity and other health problems in both developing and developed countries. Nearly one third of the world's land area is used for food production.

### Relevant Issues

Agriculture contributes significantly to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, but it is

also a major driver of biodiversity loss. The major challenge for agriculture is to ensure food security, adequate nutrition and stable livelihoods for all by increasing food production while adopting sustainable and efficient practices, sustainable consumption of resources, and landscape-level planning to ensure

## LifeWeb Initiative takes Flight

We are delighted to report that the LifeWeb initiative is fully operational, with a Coordination Office inside the CBD Secretariat and a growing team of partners.

LifeWeb is a partnership platform to strengthen financing for healthy ecosystems and protected areas, as powerful tools to address climate change and provide sustainable livelihoods. This initiative aims to unleash the potential of protected areas as powerful tools to address climate change and sustain livelihoods.

Invited by the CBD 9th Conference of the Parties, a growing set of committed donors are supporting Recipient Expressions of Interest, based on highest national and local priorities, and in support of a diversity of protected area governance types, including indigenous territories and community conserved areas.

LifeWeb serves as a clearing-house and "match-maker" of project needs and donor opportunities, as a mechanism to advance implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

Countries strategically prioritise and profile their protected area funding needs through the LifeWeb platform. We actively encourage and recognise donors' leadership in support of these priorities. LifeWeb serves as a facilitator and catalyst. Funding flows directly from donor to recipient without need for additional overhead or other management expenses.

As current COP President, the government of Germany has already supported projects with more than 70 million Euro. In addition to existing cooperation efforts, Germany remains committed to supporting 500 Million Euro until 2012 for conservation and has indicated these funds should in particular target needs presented through the LifeWeb Initiative. The governments of Spain and Finland are also committed donors to the LifeWeb. Spain has committed a total of 5 million Euro to be managed by UNEP in support of LifeWeb projects that advance implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas. We anticipate announcing a partnership with Finland as third donor partner with LifeWeb. A number of other public and private donors are also increasingly considering supporting Expressions of Interest profiled on the LifeWeb clearing-house of project needs.

For more specifics about LifeWeb, please view our website at [www.cbd.int/lifeweb](http://www.cbd.int/lifeweb).



# The LIFEWEB Initiative — How it Works

- Eligible Parties are invited to notify the CBD Secretariat about 'candidate sites' needed for the completion of their representative systems of protected areas which they would be willing to protect if adequate financing and capacity could be secured. Parties could also notify highly underfunded existing sites
- In return, countries as well as multilateral and nongovernmental organizations and the private sector are invited to allocate additional and preferential financial resources to meet the financial needs for the establishment and sustainable management of the notified sites on a co-funding basis
- Partners could join in through existing mechanisms and institutions and build partnerships on a bilateral basis
- Partners may have informal meetings or other means of communication to allow for an open and flexible coordination and possible cooperation between multiple partners
- Partners may wish to further develop the initiative and to decide on efficient ways and means of coordination/cooperation.

## LifeWeb — What it is:

- Acts as a "clearinghouse." The list of "candidate sites" should help Parties highlight their needs, and potential donors to get guidance for dedicated support, and help build partnerships
- Communicates mutual commitments and the willingness of the partners to engage in joint efforts
- Initiative is voluntary, open and, flexible
- Allows everyone to join through existing instruments and mechanisms as well as through new instruments and sources
- Initiative should mobilize additional resources and should not take away financing from existing sites.

## LifeWeb — What it is not:

- The LifeWeb is not a fund in itself where applicants can request funding but it offers a platform where partners can join and build support on a bilateral basis. Donors can join in with their existing funding instrument

## LifeWeb — How it adds to existing mechanisms:

- Builds on the Johannesburg commitment for enhanced funding
- Facilitates communication and coordination
- Enables participation of non-governmental organisations and the private sector
- Complements the Global Environment Facility (GEF). While the GEF Focal Strategy for Protected Areas is directed towards strengthening overall protected area systems, the initiative adds support to specific sites.

For additional information: [www.lifeweb.cbd.int](http://www.lifeweb.cbd.int)



Jochen Flasbarth, representative of the COP President, at WGABS 7 (Photo courtesy CBD)



Participants at WGABS 7 (Photo courtesy CBD)

biodiversity is sustained.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) annual hunger report, *The State of Food Insecurity*, produced in collaboration with the World Food Programme, in Asia and the Pacific, some 642 million people suffer from chronic hunger; in Sub-Saharan Africa 265 million; in Latin America and the Caribbean 53 million; in the Near East and North Africa 42 million; and in developed countries 15 million. This means that currently 1.17 billion people are undernourished; in other words, one sixth of humanity is suffering from hunger.

During the second half of the twentieth century, the global food system was able to respond to the doubling of the world population by more than doubling food production whilst also contributing significantly to reducing poverty. However, the rate of growth in agricultural productivity is declining in parallel to the alarming loss of agricultural biodiversity and the increasing reliance of agriculture on a dangerously narrow base of biodiversity.

### CBD Activities

- Finalized the draft joint work plan, in collaboration with the FAO, on biodiversity for food and agriculture with the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Attended a meeting of the expert group on soil biodiversity of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC) held in Ispra, Italy, in March. Subjects discussed included prioritizing research needs
- Drafted a chapter on the CBD and on the Soil Biodiversity Initiative for the forthcoming Soil Biodiversity Atlas of Europe, in collaboration with the EC
- Liaised with several partners, including the FAO, to convene a regional workshop on ways and means to promote the sustainable production and use of biofuels for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in September in Louveira, São Paulo, Brazil

### FACT

One bird out of 8, 1 mammal out of 4, 1 conifer out of 4, 1 amphibian out of 3, and 6 marine turtles out of 7, are all threatened with extinction (IUCN).

## Preparing the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook

The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GB03), the flagship publication of the Convention, will be launched on 10 May 2010 during the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) in Nairobi, Kenya. The GB03 will be an important source of information for decision makers as they prepare the new strategic plan of the Convention and work towards developing new biodiversity targets. The report will also be an important communication tool, particularly as it is being launched during the International Year of Biodiversity. In addition to the main publication, several ancillary products, such as brochures, fliers, presentations, and a web-based data portal, are also planned.

GB03 will report on the progress made towards meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target and will provide information on the global status and trends of biodiversity, actions taken by countries in support of biodiversity, the possible future conditions of biodiversity if current trends persist as well as possible ways of stemming biodiversity loss. The report draws on various sources of information, including the third and fourth national reports to the Convention, information provided by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, a study on biodiversity scenarios commissioned specifically for GB03 as well as published scientific research and assessments, to support its findings.

The preparation of GB03 is being overseen by an Advisory Group. An extended draft of GB03 was released for peer review in August. Based on the comments received as part of this peer review process and on inputs from meetings of the COP and SBSTTA Bureaus and a scientific advisory meeting, a synthesis draft of GB03 was prepared and released for peer review in November. The peer review of both documents lasted until 31 December 2009.



The Executive Secretary meets with the new UNDP Administrator Helen Clark (Photo courtesy CBD)



One of two patchworks donated by Panama to the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture (Photo courtesy CBD)



The Rwanda Environment Management Authority donated a painting to the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture (Photo courtesy CBD)

## FACT

Over 350 million people suffer from severe water scarcity (UNESCO).

- Undertook research regarding the applicability of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines to the work programme on agricultural biodiversity, emphasizing the policies, strategies, and methodologies used to ensure sustainable use, and other approaches and conceptual frameworks for sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity
- Completed work on the preparation of the documentation on progress made on relevant COP 9 decisions to be considered by SBSTTA-14.

## Biodiversity and Climate Change

### Identifying negative impacts of climate change related activities

Biodiversity and climate change are closely linked, and each impacts upon the other. Biodiversity is

threatened by human-induced climate change, but biodiversity resources can reduce the impacts of climate change on population and ecosystems.

### Relevant Issues

According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, climate change is likely to become the dominant direct driver of biodiversity loss by the end of the century. Climate change is already forcing biodiversity to adapt either through shifting habitat, changing life cycles, or the development of new physical traits. Biodiversity, however, also has a role to play in climate change adaptation and mitigation. For example, the conservation of habitats can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. In addition, for a given ecosystem, functionally diverse communities are more likely to

## Article 8(j) — Promoting the Effective Participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities

The sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions, held in Montreal 2-6 November, was hailed as highly successful by the Parties to the Convention, as it made several important draft decisions for consideration at COP 10.

In particular, the Working Group made important draft decisions regarding mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention and future capacity-building efforts; the effectiveness of sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge; the draft code of ethics to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities [for possible adoption at COP 10]; the transmittal of consensus views regarding associated traditional knowledge to the 8 WG ABS; and finally, a multi-year programme of work.

The multi-year programme of work will, amongst other things, include a new major component on Article 10 with a focus on Articles 10(c); maintain ongoing tasks including 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 and 12; and develop targeted outreach and inclusion of local communities.

The Working Group also decided to include a new agenda item on future meetings, commencing at its seventh meeting, titled "In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and other cross-cutting issues."

Thanks to the generous patronage of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), the Secretariat was also able to enter into a biennial agreement with the Indigenous Women's Network for Biodiversity (LAC region), to deliver a series of regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops for indigenous and local community representatives, with a focus on women.



Jean Lemire, Quebec biologist and filmmaker, at the Secretariat (Photo courtesy CBD)



A delegation from Norway visited the Secretariat. From left, Tone Solhaug (CBD Focal Point), Ahmed Djoghlaf, Peter-Johan Schei and Finn Kateras (Photo courtesy CBD)

MAY

adapt to climate change and climate variability than impoverished ones.

Thus there is a need to, among other things, identify and conserve biodiversity components especially sensitive to climate change; preserve intact habitats so as to facilitate the long-term adaptation of biodiversity; and, improve our understanding of the climate change — biodiversity linkages, and fully integrate biodiversity considerations into climate change mitigation and adaptation plans.

### CBD Activities

- Identifying possible negative impacts of climate change related activities on biodiversity; the role of biodiversity in climate change mitigation; and opportunities for achieving climate change and biodiversity co-benefits
- Reviewing the extent to which Parties have integrated climate change considerations in implementation of the various programmes of work and cross-cutting issues.
- Promoting synergies between the Secretariats of relevant international processes
- Attended a regional workshop on capacity-building for the integration of climate change within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans and implementation of the Convention in Pacific small island developing States
- Prepared a chapter on biodiversity and climate change for the FAO youth guide on climate change and food security
- Organized the second meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change, held in April in Helsinki, Finland, which agreed on adaptation activities that make use of biodiversity and ecosystem services that can, when integrated into an overall adaptation

strategy, deliver cost-effective contributions to climate change adaptation and generate societal benefits; societal adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change can have both positive and negative consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services; the importance of integrating adaptation activities within the conservation sector; and that the value of ecosystems and the services they provide be taken into account when making decisions about, and providing appropriate incentives for, societal adaptation to climate change.

### Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Reduction Integrating biodiversity into development processes

Biodiversity is crucial to development and the reduction of poverty, due to the goods and ecosystem services it provides, including food, fresh water, fiber, medicine, and fuel. But to provide these indispensable services, other more invisible ecosystem services called supporting and regulating services, like pollination, soil formation, nutrient cycle, climate and water regulation, are also provided by ecosystems. These are critical for food production processes in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery.

We all depend on biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services, but more than 1.3 billion people living in rural areas worldwide depend directly on local ecosystems for their daily livelihoods. Without sufficient access to usable land, water, domesticated and wild plants or animal species provided by the local ecosystems, they could not survive. Even for the economy, biodiversity and ecosystem services are a fundamental part on which all development sectors build upon. Ecosystem services such as water, genetic resources, and fibers, together with other natural resources, are primary inputs for industrial production processes. Economic sectors like pharmaceuticals,

### FACT

Since the 17th century invasive alien species have contributed to nearly 40% of all animal extinctions for which the cause is known (CBD).



Participants at the International Day for Biological Diversity event at the Biosphere in Montreal. (Photo courtesy CBD)



Jean Lemire, biologist and filmmaker, delivers presentation on Mission Antarctica and future work and its relevance to biodiversity and IVB 2010. (Photo courtesy CBD)

# INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CELEBRATIONS 2009

Commemorated under the theme of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), this year's International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), held every 22 May, highlighted the threats invasive alien species pose to biodiversity and the ecological and economic well-being of society and the Earth.

## CELEBRATIONS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

The International Day for Biological Diversity provides an annual opportunity to raise awareness on biodiversity and the activities of the Convention. This year more than 35 countries held events and celebrations to mark the day. Based on information received from countries, the following is a brief sampling of some of the IDB activities that countries undertook:

**BELGIUM** held a press conference on invasive alien species at the National Botanic Garden of Belgium. Speakers, including two ministers, discussed what is being done to tackle the problem at federal and local levels. Radio and the print media covered the event. Green areas managers of the 19 municipalities in the Brussels-Capital Region were invited for a special training day on invasive species in urban areas. The Nature, Water and Forest Section of the public body Brussels Environment provided the training, which focused on the identification, ecology and management of the region's main invasive alien species.

As part of its celebrations, **BENIN** organized several activities, including a workshop to assess the level of knowledge on invading alien species; a guided tour for the press of one of the sites colonized by invading alien species, and designed and distributed posters geared towards raising awareness on

invasive alien species and the sustainable management of biodiversity in general.

Activities held in **CHINA**, including a meeting organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China. Celebrations were also organized at the local level. China also developed an IDB brochure and poster for dissemination.

**ETHIOPIA** celebrated by carrying out field visits to invaded areas, awarding certificates of appreciation to institutions working on IAS and Biodiversity, conducted a workshop and distributed awareness materials such as posters, brochures, booklets and capes. The events were organized by the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation in collaboration with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research.

BioFrankfurt, a network that brings together 12 institutions from the Rhine-Main region organized an awareness week in **GERMANY** on biological diversity to enhance research on, and the protection and conservation of, global biodiversity. Activities included excursions, expositions, conservation projects and nature photography courses for children.

The main celebrations in **INDIA** took place at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. Among





Statement by Youth on Biodiversity during IDB celebrations at the Montreal Biosphere. (Photo courtesy CBD)



Olivier Jalbert of the CBD reads the message of the United Nations Secretary General for the International Day for Biological Diversity (Photo courtesy CBD)

the activities was a short film on Invasive Species of India highlighting the impacts of invasive species on ecosystems, habitats and native species. In addition, the National Biodiversity Authority sponsored celebrations in different states through State Biodiversity Boards, government departments, academic institutions and other stakeholders.

The Environment Public Authority (EPA) in **KUWAIT** held awareness lectures at schools of the Ministry of Education. Professionals from the Biodiversity Division of the EPA Living Resources Department gave five lectures at public schools covering the concepts of biodiversity and invasive alien species, and discussing the reasons for the spread of IAS, its implications on society and ways to reduce and prevent its spread. Daily newspapers reported on the celebrations. Kuwait Radio broadcast three consecutive workshops on 'Biodiversity and invasive alien species.' The magazine *Our Environment*, issued by EPA published news on the IDB theme in two editions.

The National Herbarium and Botanic Gardens of **MALAWI** (NHBG), a botanical diversity institution dedicated to research, conservation and education, held celebrations that involved students from 10 institutions, ranging from primary school to university. Activities included an introduction to IAS, a presentation on the

functions and activities of the NHBG, displays showing the various types of invasive species, their distribution, and on the impacts, threats and mitigation measures being taken.

The Norwegian Biodiversity Network (SABIMA), an NGO working to strengthen biodiversity protection in **NORWAY**, arranged an event at the Botanical Garden of the National History Museum at the University of Oslo. Researchers and other professional biologists discussed issues surrounding Norwegian biodiversity, with special focus on the threat posed by invasive alien species. Norway's Minister of Environment made a speech and presented a special Biodiversity Award to an activist who has worked extensively to protect a threatened butterfly in Norway.

A National Symposium on Alien Invasive Species, organized by the Biodiversity Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in collaboration with the Institute of Biology and the Agriculture Education Unit of the University of Peradeniya, was held in Colombo, **SRI LANKA**. The symposium focused on the different global and national issues regarding invasive alien species, and provided an opportunity to enhance the understanding of the issues through keynote presentations, a poster session and panel discussions by researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field.



## Celebrating IDB in Montreal

On 22 May, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), a special ceremony was organized at the Montreal Biosphere. The event gathered representatives from the diplomatic corps of Montreal, officials from the City of Montreal as well as universities and institutions located in Montreal. Jean Langlais, Director of Biosphere, delivered opening remarks. Messages by the United Nations Secretary General and by the current President of the UN General Assembly were read, followed by a video message from the CBD Executive Secretary, who was in Japan taking part in the IDB celebrations. The meeting was also attended by biologist and filmmaker Jean Lemire, who delivered a presentation on his work, including the film *Mission Antarctica*, and its relevance to biodiversity. A presentation was also made on Canada's Engagement Strategy for 2010, as well as on the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity. A statement on Youth for Biodiversity was delivered by Jessica Walsh Moreau and Kimba Gifford, who attended the IDB event with Mike Léveillé, Chair of the second International Youth for Biodiversity Symposium.





Javier Benayas, CEC/ IUCN and David Ainsworth, CBD CEPA Officer, launch the French and Spanish translations of the CEPA toolkit at the fifth World Environmental Education Congress, held in Montreal (Photo courtesy CBD)



The Secretariat hosted the South-South-Exchange Meeting on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity in July (Photo courtesy CBD)

## JULY

### FACT

In developing countries, rural women are the main producers of basic crops, and are often also responsible for routine care of the household. Thus degradation of ecosystem services can result in increased labor demands on women, diverting time from other activities such as food preparation and child care (MA).

cosmetics, food industry, textiles, among other businesses, depend directly on ecosystem services, as does tourism, one of the most dynamic economic sectors worldwide.

### Relevant Issues

The capacity of biodiversity to deliver benefits to the poor is rapidly diminishing. Poverty and hunger worsen as ecosystems unravel and water and soil resources continue suffering from disruption and over-exploitation. Reversing ecosystems' degradation, while meeting an increasing demand for their services, is a challenge, but it can be met through significant changes to policies, regulations and practices.

Long-term benefits for ecosystems and human well-being can result from different types of action, including extended international coordination, such as integration of ecosystem management processes within development sectors and broader development planning frameworks; and, economic interventions, such as the removal of subsidies that

promote excessive use of ecosystem goods and services such as for fisheries or agriculture.

Actions that need to be undertaken by the international community include maintaining ecosystems' health and productivity; instigating proper legislation for a fair and equitable access to ecosystems and ecosystem services; instituting market regulations and economic incentives at all levels to build up a green economy focusing on pro-poor growth; combining scientific and traditional knowledge in order to create the capacities for local communities to sustainably manage biodiversity; and, overcoming national and institutional individualism to build up the required international framework for effective global environmental governance.

### CBD Activities

- For mainstreaming purposes the Secretariat is developing a set of tools and good practice guides. Seven sectoral good practice guides were developed for forestry, tourism, health, fisheries,

## Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity

The Group of 77 and China initiated, in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, a major initiative aimed at preparing a Multi-Year Plan of Action to promote South-South cooperation (SSC) in support of the three objectives of the Convention. Welcomed at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G77 at their annual meeting in New York, the initiative is a major contribution to the implementation of the UN-wide initiative aimed at fostering SSC and focuses on links between biodiversity, development, and human well-being.

In addition to strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular arrangements in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol, the plan of action will support the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention and the 2020 Biodiversity Target to be adopted at COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

In October, the Secretariat convened, in partnership with the Secretariat of the G77 in New York and the UN Development Programme's South-South Cooperation Unit, the first meeting of the Steering Committee, which included former, current and incoming G77 Chairs, to further advance the plan of action and to prepare for the South-South Cooperation Forum on Biodiversity for Development, scheduled for 18 October 2010, at the margins of COP 10.

Together with producing a draft Multi-Year Plan of Action, and defining the steps leading to its submission to COP 10, the Committee concluded that together with more traditional North-South cooperation models, triangular arrangements – where developed countries participate through financing and technical cooperation with two Southern partners – are also part of the strategy to use biodiversity as a core asset for development and poverty eradication.





South-South-Exchange Meeting on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Biodiversity (Photo courtesy CBD)



The CBD Executive Secretary attended the launch of the Fourth National Report of Mexico in August, with the participation of the Minister and Vice Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, senior Mexican authorities and other relevant partners (Photo courtesy CBD)

**AUGUST**

pastoralism, drinking water, and quarrying, targeting decision-makers and other stakeholders from key development sectors, and mostly designed for developing countries

- A cross-cutting tool is presently being produced on ecosystem services for planning and finance ministries in developing countries, with the aim of providing the best available knowledge through scientific findings, case studies, facts and mainstreaming instruments to pursue and facilitate the integration of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services within national policies, development plans or poverty reduction strategies
- Preparing a generic information kit on ABS to provide an overview on ABS issues and its relationship with the implementation of the CBD. Messages and case studies from around the world will be presented in fact sheets
- An on-line publication on *Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Local Development Processes* showing case experiences and lessons learned through a photo gallery is being prepared with the UNDP Small Grants Program and the Equator Initiative
- Developing a CBD technical series document titled *Interdependence between biodiversity and development under global change*, in partnership with universities and voluntary scientists, to provide sound scientific manuscripts. The series will take a systemic approach to actual and future scenarios and possible solutions for the global challenges from different disciplinary perspectives
- Prepared a booklet, *Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation*, for the 2010 International Day for Biological Diversity and International Year of Biodiversity, providing an overview of the linkages between biodiversity and development, with the aim of convincing a broad, informed audience

that investing in biodiversity and associated ecosystem services is rational and indispensable.

### **Initiatives with development cooperation partners and regional organizations:**

- The Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Cooperation, held in May, was the first meeting of this type ever hosted by the Secretariat. Gathering 45 representatives from development cooperation agencies, development banks, UN agencies and international NGOs involved in development cooperation, the exchange of experiences and discussions on the best means to integrate biodiversity into the development cooperation agenda resulted in important conclusions and recommendations on how to better consider biodiversity in the central strategies of the agencies, as well as within the practical work at the country and field-level
- Several mainstreaming initiatives are ongoing with regional organizations such as COMIFAC (Congo basin — Central Africa), Programme Regional de Conservation de la Zone Côtière et Marine (PRCM), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). As biodiversity strategies are being elaborated at the regional level, additional and complementary entry points to the national strategies have emerged for mainstreaming. Common trans-boundary environmental challenges, exchange of experiences and lessons learned between countries of the same region and mainstreaming opportunities into regional development and poverty reduction strategies as well as into concrete ongoing regional programmes are important entry points to establish partnerships with these regional organizations
- Through partnership initiatives, case studies were put together and submitted from different regions: a joint publication with COMIFAC on sustainable



In Nairobi, the CBD Executive Secretary met with UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner to discuss IYB in relation to next year's Global Ministerial Environmental Forum in Bali, recommendations for IYB ambassadors, and other relevant events in 2010 (Photo courtesy CBD)



A meeting to discuss plans for the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity was held at the Secretariat. The meeting, which included senior staff from the Canadian and Quebec Governments, the City of Montreal, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and relevant organizations in Montreal, identified ways and means on how the Canadian authorities can help raise awareness and galvanize political will for 2010 and beyond (Photo courtesy CBD)



Rainer Dhlér, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications, and Andrea Debanne, Vice President Communication Strategy and Strategic Programmes, made a presentation on Airbus and the environment, and provided an update on Airbus's commitment to biodiversity (Photo courtesy CBD)

**“Some of the biggest business opportunities for the next 10 years concern natural capital. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD + ) could be a \$100 billion business.”**

–Pavan Sukhdev, leader of a UNEP-led study on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB)

## Engaging Business in the Business of Saving Biodiversity

The year 2009 was a milestone in getting the attention of business organizations to the importance and benefit of engaging in the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD. The year started with establishing partnerships with over 20 business associations, companies, NGOs and international organizations through a steering committee to plan for an ambitious conference on business and biodiversity. It was agreed to hold the conference in Asia considering that COP 10 was going to be held in that region and the past two conferences held in 2005 were held in Europe and Latin America. The conference was planned in Indonesia, one of the mega-diverse biodiversity countries, after the Minister of Environment offered to host it in Jakarta.

The Secretariat then convened a two-day informal brainstorming meeting in September to help coordinate the ongoing initiative on business and biodiversity undertaken in the context of the implementation of the Convention. The meeting, held with the participation of the COP Triple Presidency (Brazil, Germany and Japan) and with the participation of Canada and the Netherlands, and various organizations such as GEF, UNEP-DTIE, IUCN, WBCSD, Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Initiative, Lasting Initiative for Earth, and Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade, decided on a timetable defining the next steps, which included elements of a strategy to advance the business and biodiversity agenda post-2010.

These preparatory actions led to an overwhelming interest in the conference within the business sector, as more than 500 organizations approached the Secretariat creating a very valuable and enormous network for the CBD. More than 200 companies, NGOs and governments from all over the world gathered in Jakarta recognizing that business related to biodiversity can be a profitable activity besides ensuring sustainability of economic activities. The presentation of the TEEB report at the conference was helpful in increasing the understanding of the participants on the economic value of the ecosystem services.

The conference resulted in two major outputs: the adoption of the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity while providing useful comments for a Strategy to Advance the 2020 Business and Biodiversity Agenda. These two documents, posted on the CBD website, will serve as road-maps up to COP 10 in Nagoya and the International Year of Biodiversity.

The companies were in Jakarta to seriously look at ways on how they can work with Governments to enhance opportunities for business to use their expertise and entrepreneurship to conserve biodiversity. The conference achieved its objective to establish a strong partnership between business representatives and other stakeholders to implement the year 2050 vision on biodiversity and the 2020 biodiversity target, to be adopted at COP 10 when they meet in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan in October, 2010.

The Secretariat of the Convention, through its *Business.2010* newsletters continued to effectively engage the business community in the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD, by highlighting best practices, life-cycle approaches and incentive mechanisms. Governments have traditionally been considered solely responsible for managing the public services of ecosystems, but there is a growing recognition that markets can also contribute to this task, often without spending public money.



Ethiopia donated a parchment to the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture depicting the Gelada Baboon and an endemic plant species, both from the Semien Mountains National Park (Photo courtesy CBD).



Staff from the Ministry of Environment of Japan paid a visit to the Secretariat in September (Photo courtesy CBD)

## SEPTEMBER

forest management in Congo Basin was finalized; a joint publication with PRCM on good marine conservation practices for the West Africa region is being developed; a consultancy with SADC to gather and systematize case studies from member countries has been initiated to provide substantial information on good practices for scaling up and to define a regional portfolio of priority interventions within SADC's regional biodiversity strategy.

### Revising and Updating the Convention's Strategic Plan Setting the future agenda for the CBD

The Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity was developed to guide the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels. The purpose is to effectively halt biodiversity loss so as to secure the continuity of its beneficial uses through the conservation and sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

#### Relevant Issues

At its tenth meeting, in October 2010, the Conference of the Parties is due to adopt a revised and updated Strategic Plan for the Convention, including post-2010 biodiversity targets on the basis of a recommendation by the third meeting of the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-3) and inputs from the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14), both to be held in Nairobi in May 2010. The Plan will include information sourced from submissions of Parties and observers, the fourth national reports, the results of the in-depth reviews of the Convention's programmes of work, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and other material gathered from the third edition of the

Global Diversity Outlook. A discussion document on the *Revision and Updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the Post-2010 Period: Possible Outline and Elements of the New Strategic Plan* was posted on the CBD website in December 2009.

#### CBD Activities

- Helped prepare and organize the Environment Management Group Technical Meeting held in February at UNEP in Nairobi, which led to the establishment of an Issue Management Group (IMG) on the 2010 and post-2010 biodiversity targets
- Participated in the high-level working group on the 2010 target and post-2010 target(s) organized by the German COP Presidency in March in Bonn, Germany. Participants exchanged ideas and views on the way forward to meeting international biodiversity commitments, such as taking a critical look at why the 2010 targets are not likely to be achieved, and discuss the framework of the post-2010 biodiversity target and the future of the global biodiversity agenda
- Liaised with various partners, including UNEP and IUCN, to discuss the possibility of jointly organizing regional workshops on the revision of the Strategic Plan
- Held a meeting with representatives from Norway to plan for the sixth Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity to be held in February 2010
- Based on the submissions of views as well as meetings held to date, prepared a synthesis/analysis of issues relevant to the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan
- Prepared, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Environment Management Group, a survey of existing targets and mandates relevant to the 2010 targets

#### FACT

By 2050, more than 200 million people could be rendered homeless by rising sea levels, floods and drought, while agricultural yields in some countries could be reduced by as much as 50% (UNESCO).

#### FACT

Global changes in the supply of ecosystem services have disproportionately benefited the rich world. For example, while the supply of clean water has increased in most of the world, half of the urban population in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean does not have access to clean water and suffers reduced health and higher costs of obtaining water (UNEP).



The logo and the messaging for the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity were unveiled on 8 September in Strömstad, Sweden, on the occasion of the high-level European Union meeting, Visions for Biodiversity Beyond 2010 – People, Ecosystem Services, and the Climate Crisis. Jochen Flasbarth, the representative of the COP 9 President, and Åsa Norman, Head of the Natural Resources Department at the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, unveiled the logo. Members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties were also present (Photo courtesy CBD)



The COP Bureau met in Strömstad, Sweden, in September. Discussions centred on the availability of financial resources for the implementation of COP 9 decisions, revision of the CBD Strategic Plan, update on TEEB study, preparations for the GBO-3, IVB and UNGA high level session, COP 10 and contributions to the UNFCCC COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen (Photo courtesy CBD)

- Consultations organized by IUCN Countdown 2010, in cooperation with the CBD Secretariat and other Pan-European partners
- Held discussions with least developed countries from Africa participating in a CBD workshop on the fourth national reports
- Held discussions on the linkages between an updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) and the Convention's Strategic Plan post-2010 during the third meeting of the Liaison Group on the GSPC, held in Dublin, Ireland
- Made presentations on the updated Strategic Plan, including processes, at the meeting on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Poverty Eradication in Vilm, Germany, the meeting of Pan-European Biodiversity Conference in Liege, Belgium, and at the margins of the second meeting on IPBES in

## Cities and Local Authorities — Acting Local, Thinking Global

It is through our daily activities that we impact biodiversity and it is through local actions that the situation can be addressed most efficiently. Humankind depends on healthy ecosystems to survive, and producers and consumers at the local level can take direct action to protect these invaluable resources. At COP 9 in Bonn, Parties recognized that the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention requires the full engagement of cities and local authorities. Since then, the Secretariat, as a facilitator of the Global Partnership of Cities and Biodiversity, has worked to promote relevant tools and guidelines, raise awareness on the importance of local efforts for biodiversity, share best experiences and encourage CBD Parties and other governments to assist cities and local authorities in implementing the Convention.

From 10-12 February, and following an announcement by Mah Bow Tan, Minister of National Development, in Bonn at COP 9, Singapore hosted the first expert workshop on the development of the Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity (CBI). Seventeen technical experts on biodiversity indicators as well as city executives and city representatives responsible for implementation and/or management of biodiversity and urban projects actively contributed to establishing and developing the index. In parallel, Singapore prepared a user's manual to provide necessary guidelines to local governments on how to evaluate biodiversity in their territories using the index. The manual was finalized in December, and the test-bedding of the index has started in local governments around the world.

In May, the Secretariat coordinated cities and local authorities' inputs to International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) celebrations. IDB was celebrated by cities and local authorities around the world and summaries of their activities were provided to the Secretariat.

In June, the Secretariat co-organized with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and its Local Action on Biodiversity (LAB) project, the Urban Nature Forum in Edmonton, Canada, at the ICLEI World Congress, where the first face-to-face meeting of the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity also took place. The Secretariat also contributed to the annual general assembly of the Canadian Environmental Network in June.

The Secretariat is working closely with the ICLEI/LAB in defining the terms of collaboration in order to prepare a series of publications on Cities and Biodiversity. The outline of the publication by ICLEI/LAB on how cities and local authorities can collaborate to protect urban biodiversity was presented at Urban Nature in Edmonton and will be launched at COP 10. A complementary publication, on how various levels of governments and institutions can collaborate in view of supporting the work of cities and local authorities in protecting biodiversity, is planned to be launched at the Nagoya City Biodiversity Summit, in 2010.

In addition, the Secretariat and the Global Partnership coordinated their efforts in view of developing a draft plan of action on urban biodiversity for the period 2011-2020. The general objective is to provide guidance and assist Parties in actively engaging cities and local authorities in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and in particular during the implementation phase of the new strategic plan of the Convention and Nagoya post 2010 biodiversity targets. The plan of action will be validated through a meeting in Curitiba, Jan 6-8, 2010, and submitted by Brazil to COP10, to be held in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010.



**OCTOBER**

The Latin American and Caribbean Indigenous and Local Community Capacity-building Workshop on the CBD including Article 8(j) and Access and Benefit-sharing took place in October at the CBD (Photo courtesy CBD)

LAC ILCs Capacity-building Workshop on the CBD including Article 8(j) and Access and Benefit-sharing (Photo courtesy CBD)

Nairobi, Kenya. These meetings provided important inputs to the updating of the Strategic Plan

- Prepared a regional workshop for South, East and Southeast Asia on the updating of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period beyond 2010, held in December in Tokyo, Japan. The workshop was supported by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment and Japan Wildlife Research Centre.

## Mountain Biodiversity

*Mountains are the water towers of the world*

Mountain environments cover some 27% of the world's land surface, and directly support the 22% of the world's people who live within mountain regions. Lowland people also depend on mountain environments for a wide range of goods and services, including water, energy, timber, biodiversity maintenance, and opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal. Mountains provide for the freshwater needs of more than half of humanity, and are, in effect, the water towers of the world. The world's principal biome types—from hyper-arid hot desert and tropical forest to arid polar icecaps—all occur in mountains. Mountains support about one quarter of the world's terrestrial biological diversity, with nearly half of the world's biodiversity hotspots concentrated in mountains.

### Relevant Issues

Mountains are vulnerable to a host of natural and anthropogenic threats, including seismic hazards, fire, climate change, land cover change and agricultural intensification, infrastructure development, and armed conflict. These pressures degrade mountain environments and affect the provision of ecosystem services and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.

The fragility of mountain ecosystems represents

a considerable challenge to sustainable development, as the impacts of unsuitable development are particularly intense, more rapid and more difficult to correct than in other ecosystems. The impacts of climate change—melting glaciers, the shifting of natural habitats, and the retreat and sometimes disappearance of species are stark reminders of the vulnerability of mountains ecosystems to rising temperature and precipitation changes.

### CBD Activities

- The Secretariat held discussions with the Mountain Research Initiative, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Carpathian and the Alpine Conventions on the modus operandi of preparing for the in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity by SBSTTA-14 and COP 10; and, interacted extensively with the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Forum secretariats, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Mountain Research Initiative, other relevant organizations, experts and other related Conventions
- Completed the first draft of the background document on the in-depth review of the implementation of the work programme on mountain biodiversity by SBSTTA-14
- After analyzing 96 third national reports, 15 voluntary reports received on implementation of mountain biological diversity programme of work, the Secretariat identified the key obstacles and challenges in implementing the programme of work. In collaboration with the Mountain Forum Secretariat an online survey was conducted seeking inputs on ways and means to address the identified obstacles including case studies and best practices.

### FACT

Up to 75% of tropical tree species depend on animal seed dispersal. Many tree species will no longer be able to reproduce without their seed dispersers, affecting ecosystem services (CBD)

### FACT

The economic losses due to lack of access to safe water and sanitation is estimated to be \$14 billion per year for Africa alone, equivalent to 5% of GDP across the continent. (UNESCO).

# RIDING *The Green Wave* FOR BIODIVERSITY



*The Green Wave* for Biodiversity aims to raise awareness and educate children and youth — tomorrow’s leaders and citizens — on the worldwide loss of biodiversity and the need for action to preserve life on Earth. Each year, a green wave of action takes place on the International Day for Biodiversity which, in 2009, brought attention to the problem of invasive alien species introduced by careless human activities and one of the biggest threats to local biodiversity worldwide. Through *The Green Wave*, children and youth in schools across the world have been learning about this and planting native trees.

On 22 May, children and youth in participating schools around the world, plant a tree at 10:00 am local time, creating a “green wave” across time-zones. Participants upload photos and text to *The Green Wave* website to share their stories with others. An interactive map goes live in the evening at 20:10 local time, creating a second, virtual, green wave. *The Green Wave* arose from an idea of staff at the German Agency for Nature Conservation and the Office of Environmental Response and Coordination of the Republic of Palau. It was launched by the German Minister of Environment in Bonn in May 2008. The Convention’s Secretariat has been coordinating and promoting the project, and interest, support and action has grown in 2009.

In 2009, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) of the Global Environment Facility became a special partner of *The Green Wave*. Working in more than 120 developing countries worldwide, the SGP helps community groups, indigenous peoples and national NGOs implement projects to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In countries including Belize, Egypt, Tunisia, Mauritius, Chile, Nicaragua, and Trinidad and Tobago, with SGP support and encouragement, local non-governmental and community organizations worked with schools to help educate on biodiversity and enable students to be a part of *The Green Wave* on 22 May. Through a memorandum of understanding with the CBD Secretariat, the aircraft manufacturer Airbus has been helping to promote *The Green Wave*. In 2009 they enabled a children’s photo competition through National Geographic that encouraged young people to engage in nature and consider the global loss of biodiversity. Eight winning photos were chosen from more than 2,500 entries from children in 99 countries. On 4 December 2009, an award ceremony for the winning children was held at the headquarters of National Geographic in Washington, DC, where the Executive Secretary was joined by ambassadors from the winners’ countries and senior officials of Airbus, National Geographic.

In 2009, an estimated 20,000 participants in over 600 groups from more than 70 countries took part in *The Green Wave*. Around the world, 69 schools of the international network of German schools, several of which participated in *The Green Wave* in 2008, were significant participants in 2009. In Brazil, children and youth in the city of Curitiba joined *The Green Wave* in 2008, when Curitiba launched a city-wide initiative, planting native trees through the entire municipal school network. On 22 May 2009 they celebrated *The Green Wave* at an event in a city park involving story telling and tree planting by the children from the municipal schools.

In Japan, with the encouragement of the Ministry of Environment, many schools across the country joined *The Green Wave*. Associations of potted native tree producers and a house builder provided potted-trees to the participating schools. On 22 May, the Vice Minister for Environment led a Green Wave ceremony in Tokyo at the Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden as part of the celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity. The CBD Executive Secretary, Ahmed Djoghlaif, took part in the event and the following day took part in another Green Wave ceremony in Ishikawa with the Governor and kindergarten kids. In Aichi prefecture, a tree-planting ceremony with elementary school children was held on 22 May at the Expo 2005 Aichi Commemorative Park, and schools carried out tree-planting events. Schools have collected seeds of indigenous trees and started raising seedlings for planting in *The Green Wave* 2010. The Ministry of Environment translated *The Green Wave* website into Japanese to make it more accessible to children and youth in Japan.

Some countries established major national programmes linked to *The Green Wave*, for example Algeria where more than 300,000 school-children from nearly 4,000 schools took part in an afforestation initiative involving planting of more than 300,000 trees that will contribute to the UNEP-led Billion Tree Campaign.

These are just some of the response and some of the events carried out. On World Environment Day, in June 2009, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a message thanking those who have supported *The Green Wave* and reminding us that there is no better place to start raise awareness and inspiring action for biodiversity than in schools and families. From a small start, with the growing participation in 2009, *The Green Wave* is now set to make a big splash in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity.

## Capturing Biodiversity through the Eyes of Children and Youth

To increase public understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth and to highlight the vital role that children and youth, citizens, communities and countries play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, *The Green Wave*, Airbus and National Geographic launched a children's international biodiversity photo competition in July 2009.

Eight winning photos, depicting a visual delight of natural wonders, were chosen in December from entries sent by children around the world. In addition to the winning entries, divided into three categories – International, USA/Canada and Airbus (internal), 20 young people received honourable mentions for their impressive photos.

For more on the winning photos and the honourable mentions, see: [www.seethebiggerpicture.org](http://www.seethebiggerpicture.org) or [www.cbd.int/2010/welcome](http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome)



Clémence Bonnefous, Airbus Winner, age 7, France



Alex Marttunen, International Winner, age 11, Finland



Anthony Avellano, USA/Canada Winner, age 12, United States



Julia Kresse, Airbus Winner, age 15, Germany



Prerona Kundu, USA/Canada Winner, age 11, United States



Vinzent Raintung, Airbus Winner, age 8, Germany



Chad Nelson, USA/Canada Winner, age 12, Dominican Republic



Patryk Majchrzak, International Winner, age 16, Poland



Senior officials from the G77 Secretariat in New York visited the Secretariat in October in the margins of the South-South Cooperation Steering Committee meeting (Photo courtesy CBD)



The unveiling of the logo and slogan of the COP 10/MOP 5 meetings and the 2010 IYB logo took place in Tokyo. Left to right: Issei Tajima, Vice-Minister of the Environment, Japan, Sakihito Ozawa, Minister of Environment, Japan, and Ahmed Djoghlaif (Photo courtesy CBD)

## FACT

Food security for indigenous peoples and local communities is at risk, as up to 80% of protein intake in rural households in central Africa comes from wild meat (CBD).

## Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Oceans play critical role in climate change

Covering 70% of the planet's surface area, oceans contain diverse habitats that support an abundance of marine life. Life in our seas produces a third of the oxygen that we breathe, offers a valuable source of protein and moderates global climatic change. Examples of marine and coastal habitats include mangrove forests, coral reefs, sea grass beds, estuaries in coastal areas, hydrothermal vents, and seamounts and soft sediments on the ocean floor a few kilometres below the surface.

### Relevant Issues

Recent global marine environmental assessments have observed serious declines in marine living resources, losses of coastal habitats, elevated pollution levels, and poor water quality in many areas. More significantly, overall deterioration of the marine environment is being exacerbated by the effects of climate change, and coastal communities and local economies are adversely impacted by such trends as poverty, land use changes, overfishing, nutrient loading, sewage, and coastal developments, which put the capacity of the marine environment beyond its sustainable limit.

In general, pressures on coastal and marine biodiversity are increasing. Some 50% of the world's population will live in coastal areas by 2015, putting unsustainable pressures on coastal resources. These human pressures will combine with the impacts of climate change, which will become more severe in the future.

The ocean plays a critical role in climate change. The ocean is one of the largest natural reservoirs of carbon, with an estimated daily uptake of 22 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide. The gas equilibrium at the ocean-atmosphere interface facilitates

the constant exchange of gases in both directions, making the oceans of considerable importance in the global carbon cycle. There are important interactions and feedbacks between changes in the state of the oceans and changes in the global climate and atmospheric chemistry, which can influence the ability of the oceans to absorb additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thus affecting the rate and scale of global climate change.

Rising concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will result in sea water becoming more acidic, hence reducing the biocalcification of tropical and cold-water coral reefs, as well as other shell-forming organisms, such as calcareous phytoplankton, with resultant impacts on the entire marine food chain. By 2100, 70% of cold-water corals will be exposed to corrosive waters. Cold-water coral reef ecosystems provide habitat, feeding grounds and nursery areas for many deep-water organisms, and support characteristic and commercially important fauna several times as diverse as that found on the surrounding seabed. Tropical coral reefs provide in excess of US\$ 30 billion annually in global goods and services, such as shoreline protection, tourism and food security.

### CBD Activities

- Organized, with financial support from the Governments of Canada and Germany, an Expert Workshop on Scientific and Technical Guidance on the Use of Biogeographic Classification Systems and Identification of Marine Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in Need of Protection, in Ottawa, Canada. Key outcomes included: review and synthesis of progress on the identification of areas beyond national jurisdiction; scientific guidance on the use and further development of biogeographic classification systems; scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction; recommendations

## FACT

Worldwide it would be possible to secure vital nature-based services worth around US\$5,000 billion per year by investing US\$45 billion in protected areas (TEEB).





Germany unveiled the German Logo and slogan for the 2010 United Nations International Year of Biodiversity in October at the old town hall of Bonn. At the reception hosted by Jürgen Nimptsch, Mayor of Bonn, Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme presented the logo. Representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Bonn, the German Federal Environment Ministry (BMU), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), other UN agencies based in Bonn, and representatives of the City of Bonn and relevant organizations attended the reception (Photo courtesy CBD)



The Canadian launch of the logo and messages for the International Year of Biodiversity were unveiled at Montreal City Hall in October in a ceremony co-organized by the Ville de Montréal and the Secretariat of the Convention. Here, Line Beauchamp, Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, and the Mayor of Montreal, Gérald Tremblay, flank the logos (Photo courtesy CBD)

## CBD Submits Reports on Ocean Acidification and Climate Change to Copenhagen

The Convention submitted two reports to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.

The *Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biological Diversity* study, prepared in collaboration with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, highlights the direct link between climate change, ocean health and human well-being, and shows that ocean acidification from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cause irreversible damage to ocean ecosystems. Findings include:

- By 2050, ocean acidity could increase by 150% — 100 times faster than any change in acidity experienced in the marine environment over the last 20 million years, giving little time for evolutionary adaptation within biological systems
- Increasing ocean acidification will mean that by 2100 some 70% of cold water corals, a key refuge and feeding ground for commercial fish species, will be exposed to corrosive waters
- Given current emission rates, the surface water of the Arctic Ocean will become under-saturated with respect to essential carbonate minerals by 2032, and the Southern Ocean by 2050, causing disruptions to large components of the marine food source.

The Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, published as *CBD Technical Series No. 41, Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation — Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change*, provided biodiversity-relevant information to the meeting. Findings include:

- Issues of climate change and biodiversity are interconnected, through both climate change effects on biodiversity, and changes in biodiversity that affect climate change
- Observed changes in climate have already adversely affected biodiversity at the species and ecosystem level, and further changes in biodiversity are inevitable with further changes in climate
- Resilience of biodiversity to climate change can be enhanced by reducing non-climatic stresses in combination with conservation, restoration and sustainable management strategies
- Ecosystem-based adaptation, which integrates the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into an overall adaptation strategy, can be cost-effective and generate social, economic and cultural co-benefits and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity
- A portfolio of land-use management activities including REDD can cost-effectively contribute to mitigating climate change and conserving biodiversity
- Activities to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change can have positive or negative effects on biodiversity, but tools are available to increase the positive and decrease the negative effects
- Some renewable energy sources can have adverse effects on biodiversity depending on design and implementation
- The consideration of economic and non-economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and related incentives and instruments can be beneficial when implementing climate change related activities.

More information:

CBD Technical Series No. 41: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change:  
[www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf)



Viviana Figueroa (JPO, Spain), at the LAC ILCs Capacity-building Workshop (Photo courtesy CBD)



David Ainsworth, programme officer at the CBD, and Gerald Dick, Executive Director of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, sign MOU to bring the outreach and education expertise of Zoos and Aquariums into the programme of work for CEPa (Photo courtesy CBD)

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## FACT

The rate of loss of freshwater species diversity is the fastest for any of the world's major biomes. The rate of loss of freshwater biodiversity (1970-2000) was almost double that of marine and terrestrial biomes (WWF).

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on capacity-building for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and biogeographic classification system; and, recommendations on data and analysis for identifying EBSAs and biogeographic classification systems

- Attended the first meeting of the Intersessional Technical Working Group on Ocean Fertilization, at IMO Headquarters in London, UK; and the first meeting of the Intersessional Legal and Related Issues Working Group on Ocean Fertilization, also at the IMO. The Secretariat provided necessary technical inputs, collecting information and collaborating with relevant organizations and partners
- A consultancy was commissioned, in close consultation with UNEP and FAO, with funds provided by the Government of Spain and UNEP, for compiling relevant scientific information on the impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats
- Attended the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Scientific Group under the London Convention and the third meeting of the Scientific Group under the London Protocol, held in Rome, Italy, providing technical inputs, collecting information and collaborating with relevant organizations and partners
- Compiled necessary information for the project on Biodiversity for Development: good practice toolkit on sustainable fisheries, in collaboration

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## FACT

The degradation of forest ecosystems makes national and local economies weaker and more vulnerable to climate change (CBD).

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with the FAO, UNEP, IUCN, International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, and other relevant experts.

## Invasive Alien Species

One of the main drivers of biodiversity loss

Invasive alien species (IAS) are species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threaten biological diversity. Alien species that become invasive are considered to be a main direct driver of biodiversity loss across the globe. In addition, alien species have been estimated to cost our economies hundreds of billions of dollars each year.

### Relevant Issues

Increasing travel, trade, and tourism associated with globalization and expansion of the human population have facilitated intentional and unintentional movement of species beyond natural barriers, and many of these alien species have become invasive. Invasive alien species are considered to be one of the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss at the global level.

Invasive alien species can produce substantial environmental and economic damage, and their negative effects are exacerbated by climate change, pollution, habitat loss and human-induced disturbance. Increasing domination by a few invasive species increases global homogenization of biodiversity, reducing local diversity and distinctiveness.

Human health can also be affected by IAS, as infectious diseases are often IAS imported by travelers or vectored by exotic species of birds, rodents and insects. Alien species can also have indirect health effects on humans as a result of the use of pesticides and herbicides, which infiltrate water and soil.



## NOVEMBER

Dancers from the Quebec Mohawk community perform at the reception of the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions in November 2009 (Photo courtesy CBD)

## Reaching out to the World

The programme of work for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) advanced considerably in 2009, through the development of increased relationships with partners, and the participation of the Secretariat in a number of key events.

**CEPA TOOLKIT** — Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France and the Autonomous University of Madrid, the Secretariat released French and Spanish translations of the CEPA toolkit. Produced in partnership with the Commission for Education and Communication of IUCN, the toolkit is used extensively in capacity-development workshops around the world.

**EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** — The Secretariat was a partner in the 5th World Environmental Education Congress that took place in Montreal in May. The Secretariat, along with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Commission on Education and Communication of IUCN, also participated in the mid-term conference for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in Bonn Germany in April and May. A workshop was held and biodiversity was integrated into the text of the final communiqué of the conference.

**MOU WITH WAZA** — The Secretariat signed an MoU with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The MoU brings the outreach and education expertise of Zoos and Aquariums into the programme of work for CEPA.

**CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN THE ASEAN REGION** — With the financial support of the government of the Netherlands, the European Commission, and the partnership of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the government of Indonesia, the capacity-development workshop for CEPA and Media Relations was held in Jakarta in November. The workshop brought together 60 representatives of the government and media for training on communication, the International Year of Biodiversity, Access and Benefit-Sharing and other important communications issues.



Providing an opportunity for people to enhance their knowledge of biodiversity, the website for the International Year of Biodiversity was launched in Montreal at a ceremony presided over by Jochen Flasbarth, representative of the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The launch was also attended by representatives of the Canadian authorities and staff from Montreal, International.

With 2010 just around the corner, the Secretariat mobilized partners and created tools for the upcoming celebrations of the **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**. The Implementation Plan for the year was circulated to partners including UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP, GEF, and biodiversity-related conventions and others, who have created their own plans. The Secretariat worked with partners to create messages and a unique logotype for the year. The logo has been launched around the world and is being used by governments, civil society organizations and other partners in their celebrations. An interactive website featuring the message of the UN Secretary General was launched in November, which quickly became one of the most popular pages of the CBD website [www.cbd.int/2010](http://www.cbd.int/2010). A Facebook page was created in December, which gathered over 1000 members in less than a week. As the celebrations are about to begin, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution reiterating the importance of the celebrations and calling on all governments and agencies to mark the year. It will be a historic year for biodiversity and the Convention.



A member of the Mohawk Nation addresses delegate at the WGBJ-6 opening ceremony (Photo courtesy CBD)



Sixth Meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Photo courtesy CBD)

### *CBD Activities*

- Helped establish an Invasive Alien Species liaison group to exchange information and facilitate communication between secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organization for Animal Health, Committee on Fisheries in FAO, World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, International Maritime Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, Global Invasive Species Programme and The Invasive Species Specialist Group in the Species Survival Commission of The World Conservation Union
- Prepared and distributed a booklet for International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) and other relevant materials for the celebration of the IDB

### **FACT**

Some 312 Gt of carbon is stored in the world's protected area network, or 15% of the world's terrestrial carbon stock (UNEP).

## **A Year in the Life of the Clearing-House Mechanism**

During 2009, the activities of the CBD Secretariat related to the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) can be summarized as follows:

- CBD website maintenance –with over 500 pages and 3000 web posting requests, this large and dynamic website requires daily updates and a sustained effort to maintain its quality
- Managing website translation – to make the best use of limited resources available for website translation, the CBD Secretariat is improving its web page translation system to keep track of translation status and by pre-translating web content using free online translation services
- Supporting CBD programme areas/initiatives – several important web portals were developed during 2009, such as those for Access and Benefit-Sharing, Biodiversity for Development, LifeWeb, and the International Year of Biodiversity, which includes a social networking component through Facebook
- Providing online services – a range of services are available on the CBD website and its related web portals. These include various on-line databases, discussion forums, the Aichi-Nagoya International E-Conference on the Post-2010 Target, online maps and videos through Web 2.0 technologies, and dissemination services via mail, newsletters and Twitter microblogging
- Improving knowledge management – realizing the importance of knowledge management, the Secretariat requested that a consultancy be carried out in order to provide expert guidance and recommendations to pave the way for further action during 2010. In parallel, the Secretariat was actively involved in UNEP's recent initiative to strengthen knowledge management among MEAs
- Supporting National Clearing-House Mechanisms – the Secretariat collaborated with key partners and CHM National Focal Points to support the development of National CHM websites, particularly with the European Environment Agency which has been upgrading the CHM Portal Toolkit, the Belgian CHM Partnership which provides capacity-building to developing countries, and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity which assists ASEAN member countries in establishing their national CHM websites
- Facilitating biodiversity information exchange – whenever possible, contributions were made to partner initiatives aiming at exchanging biodiversity-related information, including the Global Invasive Species Information Network, the World Database on Protected Areas, Ecolex as a gateway to biodiversity-related law, and the future Node Portal Toolkit of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.



Nicola Breier, of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany, poses with two delegates from Cambodia at WGBJ-6 (Photo courtesy CBD)



Nancy Hamzawi, CBD Focal Point for Canada, addressed delegates during the reception, which was hosted by the Government of Canada and the CBD Secretariat (Photo courtesy CBD)



Launching the IYB-UK Partnership, Huw Arranca-Davies, UK Minister for biodiversity with Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary (Photo courtesy CBD)

theme on invasive alien species, including the *Business.2010* issue focusing on invasive alien species

- Helped with celebrations of IDB at national, regional and organizational levels by, among other things, disseminating aforementioned publications and preparation of video messages of the Executive Secretary and others to raise public awareness
- Participated in the International Day for Biological Diversity Symposium 2009 at the UN University in Tokyo, Japan, on invasive alien species and other relevant events commemorating IDB 2009 in Japan.

## Dry and Sub-Humid Lands Biodiversity

**Dry and sub-humid lands have great biological value and are the original source of many of the world's food crops and livestock**

The biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands provides critical ecosystem services to support two billion people, 90% of whom live in developing countries. Thus the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands is central to livelihood development and poverty alleviation.

Dry and sub-humid lands, including arid and semi-arid regions, grasslands, savannahs, and Mediterranean landscapes, encompass approximately 47% of the Earth's terrestrial area, with the largest areas found in Australia, China, Russia, the United States, and Kazakhstan. There are six countries with at least 99% of their area classified as dry and sub-humid lands: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Iraq, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, and Turkmenistan.

## Relevant Issues

Desertification leads to biodiversity loss in a number of ways, causing habitat degradation, reducing ecosystem productivity, and enabling the spread of invasive alien species. Such biodiversity loss also threatens ecosystem services vital for the livelihoods of millions of people, especially in Africa. Likewise, the loss of biodiversity undermines the health of dryland ecosystems and makes them more vulnerable to desertification.

Food security is also threatened by desertification and biodiversity loss. Agriculture and agricultural biodiversity account for 20 to 60% of national GDP in Africa, with most of this production taking place in dry and sub-humid lands. However, almost half of African dry and sub-humid lands are vulnerable to desertification, with climate change expected to further increase this vulnerability by expanding exposure to wind and water erosion, prolonged drought and wild fires.

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change identified dryland ecosystems, including wetlands in drylands, as being particularly vulnerable to climate change. Sustainable land management in agricultural areas can increase carbon sequestration in the soil through techniques such as integrated pest management, conservation tillage, intercropping, and the planting of cover crops. When cover crops are used in combination with conservation tillage, soil carbon content can increase annually for a period of up to 50 years. The sustainable management of grazing land can provide similar co-benefits, since such lands contain between 10 and 30% of the world's soil carbon stocks.

The combined impacts of climate change, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss will have unprecedented and far-reaching implications for all segments of society, but it will be the poor that will suffer the most.

## FACT

Ongoing global decline in pollinators such as bats and bees has negatively affected agricultural productivity: in one study of 30 crops, estimated harvest loss through lack of pollination was US\$ 54.6 billion, representing a 46% loss of crop yields (FAO).



John Scott, CBD programme officer for traditional knowledge, with representatives of the indigenous and local communities (Photo courtesy CBD)



Cambodia presents CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif with its donation for the Convention's Museum of Nature and Culture (Photo courtesy CBD)

## FACT

Of the 20 plant species that supply 80% of the world's food, six species (maize, potatoes, barley, sorghum, tomatoes, and apples) originated in mountains (CBD).

## CBD Activities

- Developed a toolkit –*Pastoralism, Nature Conservation and Development*—that demonstrates the link between biodiversity protection and sustainable land management. The kit is one of a series of guides which aims to compile good practices that support biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in a number of different development sectors. The guides are geared towards governments, development agencies, businesses, and NGOs
- Participated in the ninth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the CBD, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, United States. The main objective of the meeting was to take stock of the activities agreed at the previous meeting of the JLG and to further define proposals for joint activities
- Participated in the high level panel of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- Contracted IUCN to carry out a study on biodiversity, soil conservation, pastoralism and climate change mitigation and adaptation in dry and sub-humid lands

## Bureau Preparations for 2010

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties held six meetings, and one joint COP-SBSSTA Bureau meeting, in 2009; included are some key points discussed by the Bureau:

- 15 November, Montreal: Revised Strategic Plan and post 2010 targets and the Co-Chairs proposals for intersessional process post Montreal
- 8 November, Montreal: Preparations for the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)
- 7 November, Montreal — second joint COP-SBSTTA Bureau meeting: Preparations for the third Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 3); Revision of the new Strategic Plan: 2010 biodiversity target and post-2010 target
- 1 November, Montreal: Concept note for the International Year of Biodiversity — high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly at its 65th session; Revision of the Strategic Plan; Preparations for the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation
- 9-10 September, Strömstad: Revision of the Strategic Plan; Preparations for GBO 3; Update on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study; Preparation of the International Year of Biodiversity; Preparing for Copenhagen (CBD contribution); Preparations for COP 10
- 30 March, Paris: Report by the President on the outcome of the high-level working group on the 2010 Biodiversity Target and post-2010 targets; Preparations for COP 10: discussion of the concept paper prepared by Japan; Preparations for the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly
- 13 February, Nairobi: Revision of the Strategic Plan — status update on the development of the draft to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting; Briefing of the Co-Chairs on the implementation of the Bonn mandate on ABS.

Minutes of all the Bureau meetings can be found at: [www.cbd.int/cop-bureau/minutes.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/cop-bureau/minutes.shtml)



Spencer Thomas, SBSTTA 14 Chair and representative of Grenada, presents a gift to the CBD Executive Secretary, for the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture (Photo courtesy CBD)



The CBD Executive Secretary with representatives of the indigenous and local communities at WG8J-6 (Photo courtesy CBD)

## Support to the implementation of the CBD Gender Plan of Action welcomed by the Conference of the Parties through decision IX/24:

- Government of Finland contributed €190,00 for the establishment of a full-time Gender Programme Officer, including support to the other Rio Conventions on gender mainstreaming
- Government of the United Kingdom contributed €10,000
- Government of Norway pledged \$25,000
- HIVOS, the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation, of the Netherlands contributed \$300,000
- Swiss Development Corporation gave 30,000 for women's participation in COP 9
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature through the Office of the Global Senior Gender Advisor secured funding for the elaboration of the CBD Gender Plan of Action and continues to give technical support, advise and resource mobilization to the Secretariat including the elaboration of the *Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*

## Developing Draft Guidelines for Gender mainstreaming

Thirty-three delegates, from the CBD, IUCN and the UNDP, attended a one-day workshop in May at the Secretariat to validate the draft guidelines developed in collaboration with the IUCN Senior Gender Adviser's office to mainstream gender into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). While not all staff within the Secretariat work directly with NBSAPs, their input was welcome because many staff work with guidelines and toolkits and are requested to mainstream gender into their respective programmes of work. Objectives of the workshop included to build understanding on the goals of gender mainstreaming into the NBSAPs and the CBD's related mandate; raise awareness on gender mainstreaming in current NBSAPs; and determine the next steps. The draft guidelines were sent to all national focal points for peer review in November and will be finalized in early 2010.

- A first draft of the document on proposals on management options for drought and biodiversity within dry and sub-humid lands was transmitted for peer review and comments to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the UNCCD and UN Development Programme
- Two draft pre-session documents to be considered by SBSTTA-14 were made available for peer-review: Integration of climate change impact and response activities within the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and, Biodiversity of Dry and Sub-humid Lands: Follow-Up to Requests of the Conference of the Parties in Decision IX/17.

## Inland Waters Biodiversity Among the most threatened ecosystems

Inland water systems include lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, groundwater, springs, cave waters, floodplains, as well as bogs, marshes and swamps. They can be fresh or saline within continental and island boundaries. The biodiversity of inland waters is an important source of food, income and livelihood, particularly in rural areas in developing countries. Other values of these ecosystems include: water supply, energy production, transport, recreation and tourism, maintenance of the hydrological balance, retention of sediments and nutrients, and provision of habitats for various fauna and flora.

## FACT

Nearly 1.1 billion people depend on forest protected areas for their livelihoods (FAO).



The COP-MOP Bureau met at the Secretariat in November (Photo courtesy CBD)

## Relevant Issues

Inland water ecosystems are often extensively modified by humans, more so than marine or terrestrial systems, and are amongst the most threatened ecosystem types of all. Physical alteration, habitat loss and degradation, water withdrawal, overexploitation, pollution and the introduction of invasive alien species are the main threats to these ecosystems and their associated biological resources.

Freshwaters are amongst the world's most threatened ecosystems and the rate of loss of freshwater dependent biodiversity is the fastest of all the major biomes. This reflects the continuing loss of important ecosystem services provided to people. Water knows no boundaries. The need to manage it at the ecosystem, or catchment/basin, level is well recognized. Where water flows across political borders improved international cooperation over its management is critical.

More water is needed to meet human development targets for food, drinking water and sanitation, whilst many river basins are already water stressed and a good deal more will soon be so. It is evident that the main impacts of climate change, as reflected through the impacts of environmental changes on people, are on the water cycle. The problems are escalating, becoming more complex to manage and even more urgent. We need to think about how to use ecosystems to help us sustain what we need – adequate and nutritious food, clean water, protection from floods and droughts, sustaining basic sanitation needs and helping us to recycle valuable nutrients and regulate our climate, among others.

## CBD Activities

- Provided comments on, and inputs to, the third edition of the *United Nations World Water Development Report*

- Developed, in collaboration with UNEP, a briefing note for the UNEP Governing Council on water, environment and sustainable development linkages
- Completed key sections on background information in preparation for the in-depth review to be undertaken at SBSTTA-14, including summarizing the outcomes of the WWDR3, reviewing activities of relevant partners, analyzing the third national reports, comprehensive summary of indirect drivers of change related to water use and trends, climate change and inland waters, responses and an executive summary
- Drafted a toolkit on drinking water, biodiversity and poverty alleviation (as part of the CBD toolkit series on Biodiversity and Development)
- Contributed to the UN-Water drafting group preparing a statement and briefing note on Water and Climate Change for UNFCCC COP-15
- Attended the Stockholm International Water Week in Sweden where the following meetings were also held: the UN-Water senior programme managers meeting; the UN-Water task forces on monitoring, reporting and indicators, climate change and liaison meetings for the development of the fourth World Water Assessment Report; with the Ramsar Secretariat to discuss implementation of the joint work programme and inputs into the in-depth review.

## Island Biodiversity

**Island economies are among the most vulnerable of the developing countries**

Islands and their surrounding near-shore marine areas constitute unique ecosystems often comprising many plant and animal species that are endemic—found nowhere else on Earth. As the legacy of a





Some of the participants at the one-day awareness-raising workshop for journalists in Canada organized by the CBD Secretariat (Photo courtesy CBD)



The Secretariat, with funding from the Government of Spain and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, organized a training workshop in Mexico on the identification and documentation of living modified organisms for Latin America and the Caribbean region (Photo courtesy CBD)

unique evolutionary history, these ecosystems are irreplaceable treasures. They are also key to the livelihood, economy, well-being and cultural identity of 600 million islanders — one-tenth of world population on less than 1/50 of its surface. Some of the most spectacular coral reefs surround islands. A healthy coral colony helps regulate carbon dioxide and provides sanctuary to a variety of aquatic life.

### Relevant Issues

The Earth's 100,000 islands are exceptionally rich reservoirs of biodiversity. Environmentally fragile and economically vulnerable, they are home to some of the Earth's most exclusive life forms and ecosystems. Island species are unique in their vulnerability. Of the 724 recorded animal extinctions in the last 400 years, about half were island species. Over the past century, island biodiversity has been subject to intense pressure from invasive alien species, habitat change and over-exploitation, and, increasingly, from climate change and pollution. This pressure is also keenly felt by island economies — almost a quarter (44 out of 192) of the CBD Parties are island States and small island developing States (SIDS). Among the most vulnerable of the developing countries, SIDS depend on the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity for their sustainable development.

### CBD Activities

- Supported the establishment of a global coordinating unit for the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA), a collaborative platform for islands in the CBD, with assistance from the government of Italy, at IUCN's Washington, D.C. office. GLISPA, in turn, leveraged over US\$30 million in grants to island projects, and assists regional and global activities such as the Micronesia and Caribbean Challenges, the SeaLevelRise Foundation, and

the Western Indian Ocean and the Coral Triangle initiatives

- Contributed to the implementation of the Global Islands Database (GID), a GLISPA project, and participated in an online demonstration and exchange led by UNEP-WCMC. The GID project, supported by the Government of Italy, will be an important tool for island decision-makers in regional and national planning, and particularly for creating ecological corridors and regional networks of protected areas
- Enhanced cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme through a memorandum of understanding, with the objective of collaborating closely on issues of common interest relating to the three objectives of the CBD. Joint activities include active involvement in GLISPA activities and on issues related to invasive alien species
- The CBD Secretariat jointly organized several workshops, including:
  - » Sub-regional workshop on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and biodiversity mainstreaming for the Pacific
  - » Capacity-building workshop for integrating climate change in implementation of the CBD in small island development States
  - » Indigenous communities, tourism and biodiversity workshop series.
- Collaborated with partners from relevant organizations to update the GLISPA web page and post GLISPA communication materials. ❖



In November, the Secretariat dedicated one of its conference rooms in memory of Mrs. Fee Chon Chong Low, for her invaluable contribution to UNEP. Apart from the Secretariat staff, members of the COP Bureau, the Malaysian delegation, and staff from UNEPGEF attended the ceremony. (Photo courtesy CBD)



Scientific Panel Review of the draft GBO 3, from left to right, Ahmed Djoghtaf, Thomas Lovejoy, UNEP-STAP Chair, A.H. Zakri, Co-Chair of the Scientific Review Panel on GBO 3, and Robert Hoff (Photo courtesy CBD)

# CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

## FACT

Of the 7,000 species of plants that have been domesticated over the history of agriculture, a mere 30 account for 90% of the food that we eat every day (FAO).

The year 2009 was yet again another busy and productive period for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. During the year, the number of ratifications and accessions to the Protocol increased from 151 countries to 157 (as of 15 December 2009). As well a number of activities were undertaken to advance the implementation of the Protocol. The most notable achievements included:

- Meetings and online discussions to contribute to further development of guidance on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management
- Revamping of the Biosafety Clearing-House to improve access to and retrieval of biosafety information
- Further negotiations on international rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms in the context of the Protocol
- Regional training workshops on identification and documentation of living modified organisms (LMOs)
- Survey on the application of and experience in the use of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on living modified organisms.

During the year, preparations were also made for the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP 5), which is scheduled to take place from 11 to 15 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

## Risk assessment and risk management

During 2009, a series of discussion groups were launched under the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, through the Biosafety Clearing-House, to assist the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management (AHTEG) in the development of further guidance on risk assessment and risk management of LMOs.

The first series of four regional real-time online conferences on risk assessment and risk management for Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America took place in February and March. Substantive issues discussed included the development of a “roadmap” on the necessary steps to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with Annex III to the Protocol and the development of further guidance material on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management. The outcome of the real-time conferences served as inputs for the first meeting the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management which took place in April 2009. The meeting produced a draft text for a roadmap on the steps in risk assessment and established four sub working groups to further develop the roadmap and guidance documents on living modified crops with resistance or tolerance to abiotic stress, living modified mosquitoes and living modified organisms with stacked genes or traits prior to the Group’s second meeting, scheduled for April 2010. In November and December 2009 another series of online Discussion Groups took place to provide further input into the work of the AHTEG,



Abdelwahid Bouabdallah, Director General of Air Algérie, with the CBD Executive Secretary. Air Algérie is a partner for the IYB celebrations (Photo courtesy CBD)



Member of Philippine delegation presenting group work at the Sub-regional Capacity-development and media relations workshop for the ASEAN region, Gran Melia Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia, November 30 to December 3, 2009-12-18 (Photo courtesy Ministry of Environment of Indonesia)



CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaflanked by Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, Canada, and Line Beauchamp, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks for the province of Quebec, at the Copenhagen Climate Conference (Photo courtesy CBD)

## DECEMBER

including the way forward for the further development of the draft guidance documents being prepared by the Group.

### Biosafety Clearing-House

During the year, the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) was further revamped to improve access to and retrieval of biosafety information. New common formats for submission of information to the BCH were developed and a new procedure for validation of information submitted to the BCH was introduced. A new tutorial on the use of the BCH was developed and is currently available in English, French and Spanish. As mandated by the COP-MOP, a new Roster of Biosafety Experts was developed and available through the BCH at: <https://bch.cbd.int/database/experts/>. By 12 December 2009, 75 experts had been nominated to the Roster by Parties or other Governments.

### Liability and Redress

In February, the first meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress was held in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting further negotiated international rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms in the context of the Protocol, based on the proposed operational texts from outcomes of COP-MOP 4. The Group agreed to work towards a legally binding instrument in the form of a supplementary protocol with the understanding that the final decision in this regard would only be taken by COP-MOP. It produced a draft text for a supplementary protocol on liability and redress to the Biosafety Protocol, which will serve as a basis for further negotiations. The second meeting of the Group is scheduled for February 2010.

### Handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms

During 2009, the Secretariat in collaboration with different partners organized two regional training of trainers' workshops on the identification and documentation of living modified organisms for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshop for the Africa was held in Bamako, Mali, from 14 to 18 September 2009 and the one for Latin American and the Caribbean region (GRULAC) was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 23 to 27 November 2009. A total of 36 people attended the Bamako workshop and 34 attended the Mexico City workshop. The workshops were aimed at introducing customs officers and border protection personnel to the requirements of the Protocol regarding the identification and documentation of LMOs and techniques and methodologies that may be used for the implementation of these requirements. The participants took part in practical laboratory sessions on LMO identification in introduced them to the use of lateral flow strip tests, ELISA tests as well as qualitative and real-time quantitative PRC (polymerase chain reaction) machines.

During the year, the Secretariat also organized through the BCH an Online Forum on Standards for LMO Shipments from 18 to 29 May. The objectives of the Online Forum were to: identify the relevant standards with regard to handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms; identify where gaps exist; and, suggest possible modalities to fill the gaps.

### Socio-economic considerations

In 2009, the Secretariat in collaboration with the Division of Global Environment Facility (GEF) Coordination of the United Nations Environment



Meeting with Dr. Kerri-Ann Jones, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (Photo courtesy CBD)



Mr. John Sartore, National Geographic photographer, with the winners of the 'See the bigger Picture' photo competition (Photo courtesy CBD)



Signing of Memorandum with Conservation International. Ahmed Djoghlaf with Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International (Photo courtesy CBD)

Programme (UNEP) conducted an online Survey on the Application of and Experience in the Use of Socio-Economic Considerations in Decision-Making on Living Modified Organisms. The survey was available in English, French and Spanish and was open to anyone although pre-registration was required. A total of over 500 completed responses were received. A final report on the survey will be issued in early 2010. The results will feed into relevant processes under the Protocol including the sixth Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-building Activities scheduled to take place in February 2010.

### Preparations for COP-MOP 5

During the year, the Secretariat made a number of preparations for the fifth Conference of the Parties

serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP 5). These included the development of the COP-MOP 5 website, a journalist dialogue workshop, development of outreach materials and the development of the draft Strategic Plan for Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation which are expected to be adopted at COP-MOP 5.

In November 2009, the Secretariat launched the COP-MOP 5 webpage which is available at [www.cbd.int/mop5/](http://www.cbd.int/mop5/). In the same month, a Journalist Dialogue Workshop was held in Montreal to educate journalists about the Protocol and to update them on the key issues to be discussed at COP-MOP 5. A number of outreach materials were also developed. These included the COP-MOP 4 decision booklet and a new brochure on the Protocol, which will also be used during the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). ✎



Short-tailed bat on tree, Little Barrier Island, New Zealand (Photo courtesy Ministry for the Environment New Zealand/ J. L. Kendrick)



## Epilogue: SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The year 2010 will be a historic one for the Convention, marking the UN-declared International Year of Biodiversity and both the Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity (COP 10) to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, and the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 5), also in Nagoya, from 11 to 15 October 2010.

The logo for the International Year of Biodiversity comprises a host of symbolic iconographic elements depicting the all-encompassing scope of biodiversity. By intertwining representations of flora and fauna with human figures, the logo demonstrates how biodiversity is life and how we as humans are forever part of, and not separate, from the biodiversity

that surrounds us.

Posters for IYB were printed in all 6 UN languages. The slogan, *Biodiversity is life*. *Biodiversity is our life*, highlights the crucial role that biodiversity plays in supporting all life on Earth.

The COP 10 logo, in the form of origami, portrays our life in harmony with nature, by arranging diverse flora and fauna in a circular shape with an adult and a child in the center. The adult and child represent our commitment to safeguard our precious biodiversity for the next generation. Origami, the Japanese paper folding art, is a reflection of Japanese culture and wisdom. The slogan, “Life in harmony, into the future” corresponds to the spirit of the logo and articulates the need for coexistence between humans and biodiversity for the sake of future generations. ♡



Life in harmony, into the future  
いのちの共生を、未来へ  
COP 10 / MOP 5







Convention on  
Biological Diversity



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

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