



The Convention on
Biological Diversity
Year in Review 2008

**The Convention on Biological Diversity
YEAR IN REVIEW 2008**



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PREFACE

Sixteen years after the World Summit in Rio de Janeiro, life on Earth is at a crucial point. Biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate. For the future well-being of humanity and our planet we must halt this. To do so, we need the full support of all sectors of society, economy and government, including heads of State.

In this spirit of political and social cooperation, Germany assumed the CBD Chair from Brazil, which was such an excellent and welcoming host two years ago, and hosted the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4) under the motto 'One Nature - One World - Our Future.'

The decisions taken at the meeting in Bonn, including during the High-Level Segment attended by the environment ministers of the Parties on the last three days, sent out a global signal that the debate on nature conservation is back on the international agenda. I do not mean to say that we adopted groundbreaking decisions on every issue or that we have achieved our overarching objective of significantly slowing global biodiversity loss. But for the first time the CBD Parties showed considerable willingness to compromise and to move on from their stubborn stances - in some cases of many years - in order to make significant progress together.

I would like to list a few examples of success that are especially important to me and that I am very proud of:

I was particularly delighted that a breakthrough was achieved in Bonn on an international access and benefit-sharing (ABS) regime. As we increasingly depend on nature's database, we must guarantee a fair sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. Delegates were able to agree on a concrete mandate which lays down a fixed and ambitious timetable and a text as a basis for negotiations on an international regime over the next two

years. Thus, after 16 years, the international community has finally succeeded in finding a common path which will lead us to an internationally binding agreement on the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity.

For the first time ever a Conference of the Parties adopted a strategy for mobilising new sources of financing. Of particular note is the fact that the meeting succeeded in initiating a process in the framework of the CBD to review the use of innovative financing mechanisms, such as the use of revenues from the auctioning of CO₂ emission allowances for biodiversity conservation.

In the past, a lack of funding was a major problem for the conservation of forests. The Conference of the Parties achieved a breakthrough on this issue. The earmarking of funds for the LifeWeb Initiative will provide financing on an unprecedented scale for existing and new forest protected areas.

New successes for forest conservation were also achieved in terms of content. For instance, the aim of protecting 10% of all forest types was strengthened, and the identification of priority areas for biodiversity initiated. We agreed that measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation need to be taken under the CBD and decided to protect forests against unsustainable biofuel production and use. The Conference of the Parties also voiced much stronger support for additional national and international measures against illegal logging and trade in illegally logged timber.

To date only 1% of global marine areas are under protection. There are no international criteria for the selection of particularly valuable areas. But a breakthrough was achieved in Bonn: criteria were adopted for the designation of protected areas. This represents a big step forward in achieving the overarching objective of creating a global network of marine protected areas by 2012.

The delegates agreed that improved cooperation was needed between the Rio Conventions, in particular in the field of climate policy. An expert



SIGMAR GABRIEL
Federal Environment Minister,
Germany, COP 9 President



group was appointed to this end, with the mandate to elaborate recommendations on how biodiversity aspects can be incorporated into the ongoing process to develop a mechanism for reduced emissions from deforestation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In a difficult but ultimately constructive negotiation process, a separate decision was adopted on biofuels and biodiversity. This significantly strengthens the standing of the issue biofuels and biodiversity within the CBD. Agreement was also reached that the production and use of biofuels must be sustainable. Furthermore, there was recognition that the CBD remains the right framework for developing this link, also with regard to processes for establishing general sustainability requirements for biofuels.

The High-Level Segment at COP 9 was challenging, exciting and inspirational. By getting involved in the COP process, the ministers of 157 countries and 37 countries at deputy-minister or state-secretary

level demonstrated great leadership and proved instrumental for achieving significant progress during COP 9.

At the High-Level Segment of the Bonn meeting we launched the LifeWeb Initiative. Facilitating the financing of new or existing protected areas in a swift and non-bureaucratic way, and focusing on establishing forest protected areas so urgently needed to curb the rapid destruction of primeval forests, the global initiative enables developing countries to designate valuable natural regions as protected areas and finance this jointly with the aid of industrialised countries and other donors.

The pledge by Chancellor Merkel to increase funds for international nature conservation by billions of euro over the coming years shows the strong commitment by Germany to preserve our global biodiversity. The German government will make 500 million euro available between 2009 and 2012, in order to quickly find solutions to the problem

of conserving forests and other ecosystems in the places where such areas are under threat. From 2013, Germany will make a long-term commitment of half a billion euro per year for the international conservation of rainforests and other endangered ecosystems. These funds will help breathe life into the LifeWeb Initiative.

On the first day of the meeting Germany took over the CBD Chair until the next Conference of the Parties in Japan in autumn 2010. We are aware of the major responsibility we bear in ensuring the decisions taken in Bonn are implemented fully and in good time. Over the next two years we will fulfil this responsible role and will resolutely advance implementation of the Bonn decisions in close cooperation with the Parties. With only two years left to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target set by heads of State and government in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, the German COP Presidency will be guided by a clear roadmap to COP 10. The “Bonn Agenda on Global Biodiversity” adopted during the High-Level Segment is this roadmap. It highlights the aspects I consider to be particularly crucial for the German Presidency:

- Access and benefit-sharing. Finalising the ABS regime in time for adoption at COP 10 is the key task of the German CBD Presidency. I intend to invite ministers from across the world to form a high-level group of Friends of the Presidency to give political guidance on the CBD process, with special focus on ABS.
- Life Web Initiative: The enhanced management of existing protected areas and the establishment of additional ones are crucial to fill the gaps in the global net of protected areas.
- Mobilising financial resources: Appropriate financing of all three pillars of the CBD is vital. We will pay special attention to enhancing cooperation between the CBD, GEF and other funding institutions and mechanisms, and continue our efforts to establish new and innovative funding mechanisms.
- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: We aim to provide a comprehensive report before COP 10 comparing the costs of action with the costs of inaction on biodiversity.

- Beyond 2010: A thorough assessment on the 2010 target is necessary and, together with other institutions, we will analyse to what extent we have reached the 2010 target. We want to understand why countries or regions were able to meet the challenge or not. We will accept the invitation of the President of the UN General Assembly to cooperate in the preparation of a special UNGA session on biodiversity.
- Global biodiversity governance: The CBD has accomplished much since Rio, but we have to assess whether the approach, the governance and the way we work is efficient and appropriate. We will start a discussion within the CBD, with other partners in the UN, and with those who might have an outside view on our Convention. Biodiversity needs an effective science-policy interface, thus we support the establishment of the “Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” (IPBES), which is the new name of the IMoSEB process now under the guidance of UNEP.

The CBD is not a nature conservation convention. It is much more. It is about how to organise our life on Earth in a resourceful and responsible way. It is about the protection of nature, about the sustainable use of biodiversity and not least about access to, and fair sharing of, benefits that arise out of genetic resources. The decisions reached at COP 9 represent a new global starting point for biodiversity. In Bonn we achieved as much as we aimed for, and as much as we could. We reached agreement on the most contentious key issues and overcame the gridlock of the past few years. We are now moving forward with concrete actions to preserve and conserve our biodiversity for generations to come.

We will do our utmost to ensure that the COP 9 decisions are implemented comprehensively and in good time. We will enhance cooperation and team-spirit amongst parties and bodies of the CBD. We will try to bridge gaps inside the CBD family and to others outside. We will also try to convince those countries still outside the CBD to join and make the Convention the real global one for all life in all countries on Earth! ✨

FOREWORD



ACHIM STEINER
Executive Director,
United Nations Environment
Programme, United Nations
Under-Secretary General

The year 2008 will be remembered as one of the landmark years in history as a result of the food and fuel shocks, the credit crunch; turmoil in the financial markets and finally a full-scale economic crisis.

The theme of International Biodiversity Day — Biological Diversity and Agriculture — echoed to at least one if not more of these challenges: namely the important link between sustainable agriculture and food production and the natural world.

The UN Secretary-General, in marking the Day on 22 May, underscored the need for diversity in agricultural species as a key cornerstone for human sustenance. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) made the link between climate change and biodiversity in the context of growing uncertainty over which crop and livestock varieties will be able to tolerate rapidly changing conditions such as drought, floods and increased pests.

A great deal can be learnt by marrying modern science with the on-the-ground, traditional and indigenous knowledge of farmers. In the Andes for example, farmers guard against crop failure from heat or frost by planting a number of different varieties of potatoes rather than relying on just one or two types.

It underlines the central importance of maintaining diversity in agriculture; diversity in wild-living relatives and functioning healthy ecosystems. And not just for agriculture in terms of genes for improved crop varieties but also for new and more effective pharmaceuticals as well as for buffering communities and countries against climatic shocks.

One of the most persistent challenges facing the world, in particular, developing countries is poverty and unemployment or under-employment. Progress needs to be urgently made. Poverty is both a challenge to maintaining biodiversity but biodiversity and ecosystems are also an opportunity for overcoming it.

One of the most encouraging developments that

took place at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 9) was a decision by governments to continue the negotiating an international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS).

If this can be successfully accomplished by the next CBD COP in Japan in 2010, the international community may have found a way of recompensing countries including local communities for the use of their genetic resources. This in turn could trigger financial flows from North to South boosting incomes and livelihoods while supporting investments in conservation and more sustainable harvesting of nature-based resources.

The economics are perhaps getting brighter as a result of the climate change agenda too, and especially the progress being shown on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) under the climate convention.

Norway has pledged close to \$3 billion and other developed countries are also stepping up to the bar.

UNEP, along with the UN Development Programme and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, have also launched the UN REDD Programme.

Nine countries have already expressed formal interest in receiving assistance through the UN-REDD Programme — Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tanzania, Viet Nam, and Zambia. The programme has many aims but central is building the capacity of key countries to take part in REDD projects under a new climate change agreement that must be agreed to in Copenhagen in late 2009.

UNEP attaches great importance to safeguards to ensure that local and indigenous peoples benefit from REDD are not marginalized by such initiatives. If this can be resolved the implications for biodiversity and ecosystems, and for addressing climate change, are profound.

Deforestation currently accounts for 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. A report by an advisor

to Gordon Brown, the UK Prime Minister, estimates that deforestation rates could be halved with an investment of \$17 to \$33 billion a year.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity report, commissioned by the government of Germany and the European Commission and launched at CBD, estimates that an annual investment of \$45 billion could secure the ecosystem services of the world's 100,000 protected areas worth \$5.2 trillion a year.

Meanwhile at the IUCN Congress in Barcelona, the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre not only unveiled with partners the new World Data Base on Protected Areas, but also published figures estimating that around 15% of stored carbon is held in the globe's protected area estate.

Thus \$45 billion would seem to be something of a bargain but one that could play a part in maintaining this natural infrastructure while stimulating jobs and incomes in conservation-based enterprises while also countering climate change.

Let me mention a few other important developments. Just before the CBD Cop in Bonn, Germany governments gathered for the meeting of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Achievements here included a roadmap towards an "International Instrument on Liability and Redress" under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Apart from the issue of ABS, other important developments took place at the CBD COP itself including:

- Scientific criteria and guidance for marine areas in need of protection
- Adoption of the Convention's Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Substantial progress on the Convention addressing major global challenges/issues of climate change, biofuels, and in meeting the Millennium Development Goals

UNEP continued to give important support to the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership aimed at assessing how well or how badly the world is doing in reversing the rate of loss of biodiversity.

One significant move in 2008 has been the understanding that a post-2010 framework of indicators and targets will be needed to maintain momentum. This all dovetails into the CBD's resource mobiliza-

tion strategy including mainstreaming biodiversity across all sectors of society.

Furthermore, UNEP has been facilitating the consultative process to explore mechanisms to improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for human well-being and sustainable development. Such mechanisms could include components of early warning, multi-scale assessments, policy information and capacity development. The first intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on this topic was held in Malaysia in November 2008, and its outcomes will be presented to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2009. So this has been quite an extraordinary year. One marked by progress on several fronts but also by the dramatic events due to the food, fuel and financial crises.

We know that unless climate change is checked and the destruction and degradation of the natural world is not addressed, then the crises of today will seem as nothing to the ones shortly to come. It is also clear that economies cannot deal with all of these in isolation picking off one challenge at a time.

Faced with the aftermath of the Great Depression of the last century, President Roosevelt adopted his New Deal. He intervened to steer the US economy onto a healthier and wealthier footing and in doing so triggered the greatest growth the world has ever seen.

Growth in the 21st century has to be Green Growth—growth that puts resource efficiency and investments in clean and green energy and in the planet's ecosystems at the heart of economic activity, sustainable development and job creation.

In October UNEP launched its Green Economy Initiative—dubbed a Global Green New Deal—with this transition in mind. We are bringing some of the brightest and the freshest economic minds on board and plan to release a series of interim reports over the coming months culminating in strategic, comprehensive and forward-looking report in 18 to 24 months time.

From the ashes of the current crises, there has emerged inordinate opportunity. We are determined to assist governments in making that change and in making that transition to a Green Economy: Anything less will short-change the planet and mortgage the future of six billion, shortly rising to nine billion people. ❖

INTRODUCTION: PUTTING KEY BIODIVERSITY ISSUES ONTO THE GLOBAL POLICY AGENDA



AHMED DJOGLAF
Executive Secretary,
Convention on Biological Diversity

This past year proved a landmark year for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and indeed for all concerned with biodiversity preservation across the globe. From the concerted efforts and strong leadership of Germany showing the way ahead for conserving and preserving biodiversity before, during and after the successful biodiversity meetings in Bonn, to the leaders of the G8 countries placing biodiversity firmly on the political agenda, biodiversity-related issues catapulted to the forefront of government agendas and into the global consciousness of millions of stakeholders.

The biodiversity meetings in Bonn, the largest biodiversity-related meetings ever held, can be called the birthplace of a universal 'Globale Naturallianz' for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention with the full and active engagement of all stakeholders. The ninth meeting of the

Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the CBD and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4), featured some 6400 participants, adopted 55 decisions and included about 250 side events with coverage by more than 664 journalists from 27 countries. New groups of stakeholders also participated, through the convening of various parallel events, including the Planet Diversity Conference, a scientific summit and a global summit of cities.

Several important breakthroughs were achieved in Bonn. Delegates reached agreement on a firm process toward the establishment of international rules on access to genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits from their use, producing a plan for the negotiations that not only sets out a clear roadmap leading up to 2010, but also provides a short list of



The High-Level Segment at COP 9 featured three Heads of State. From l-r: Bonn Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann, Mr. Srgjan Kerim, UN General Assembly President, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, COP 9 President Sigmar Gabriel, Canadian Minister of Environment John Baird and Mr. Eckhard Uhlenberg, Minister for the Environment and Conservation, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

options as to what elements should be legally binding and which not. Biosafety delegates agreed to work towards legally binding rules and procedures for liability and redress for potential damage caused from the transboundary movements of genetically modified organisms, and there were significant measures to increase the global network of protected areas. The COP also decided to integrate climate change activities within each CBD programme of work and, among other things, develop options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions.

The high-level segment at COP 9 was exceptional. Chaired by German Federal Environment Minister and COP 9 President, Sigmar Gabriel, it featured three heads of State — German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, and President Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr of Palau — as well as European Commission President, Jose Manuel Barroso, and the President of the sixty-second session of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Srgjan Kerim, and featured the participation of 157 countries at the ministerial level, and 37 countries at the deputy-minister or state-secretary level, as well as other organizations.

This participation of heads of State is unprecedented. It highlights the fact that world leaders recognize the importance and the urgency of conserving our biodiversity and reducing the rate at which we are presently losing animal and plants species to extinction, estimated to be between 100-1000 times the natural extinction rates. To this end, Chancellor Merkel promised that Germany would provide €500 million (approximately US\$740 million) through 2013 to protect forests, and €500 million a year after that. This remarkable initiative complemented a decision by Norway to provide €600 million a year for the following three years.

Chancellor Merkel also launched the Life Web initiative to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries that are in a position to establish additional marine and terrestrial protected areas. Germany will provide €40 million (about US\$60 million) to this initiative, which will be managed by the Secretariat of the Convention. Under the initiative, Indonesia announced it will declare 20 million hectares of its territory as marine protected areas. When established, this will become the



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 United Nations 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 191 members — 190 countries and the European Community.

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

largest marine protected area in the world and will complement the Micronesia Initiative, presided over by the President of Palau and aimed at achieving by 2010 the goal of a global representative network of marine and terrestrial protected areas.

The meetings also served to reaffirm the continuity of the Convention in the long term, with the mobilization of the presidencies of Japan for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

On the political front, G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to increase their efforts to stem biodi-

Representatives of the International Youth Conference “Biodiversity on the Edge” demanded the integration of sustainable development education into school curricula; a protocol on protected areas; no patents on living organisms; prohibition of genetically modified organisms; full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities; and measurable targets for biodiversity protection



iversity loss and achieve the 2010 target by endorsing the Kobe Call for Action on Biodiversity and then committing themselves to a ground-breaking plan in July at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit by endorsing a plan of action with five key elements: Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target, sustainable use of biodiversity, biodiversity and protected areas, private sector engagement, and strengthening scientific capabilities for monitoring biodiversity.

Much attention this year has focused on the unprecedented global food crises. The price of basic staples — wheat, corn, rice — are at record highs and global food stocks are at historical lows. The protection of the world’s biodiversity is essential to the world’s food supply. This year’s International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), celebrated under the theme Biodiversity and Agriculture, stressed the need to properly protect and manage the world’s biodiversity in order to ensure a secure supply of food for a growing world population. It has been estimated that an increase of 1% in the cost of food could result in more than 16 million “newly hungry” people. By 2025, more than 1.2 billion people may be affected, in particular in Africa.

If current extinction rates continue, it will be difficult to provide sufficient food for a global population that is expected to reach nine billion by 2050. With climate change creating uncertainty over which plant and livestock species will remain viable under

changing conditions, biodiversity will become even more critical. Agricultural production directly depends on the resources and services provided by the diversity of nature.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, “Of the 7,000 species of plants that have been domesticated over the 10,000-year history of agriculture only 30 account for the vast majority of the food we eat every day. Relying on so few species for sustenance is a losing strategy.” It is clear that we must do better to preserve and conserve all species on Earth. Biodiversity plays a major role in providing a balanced diet for more people. Greater diversity provides for a more varied diet, which permits people to strike a proper balance between growing and raising the right kinds of foods. Hence, we need to promote the idea that our nutrition should be based to a large extent on the land’s ability to support a certain diet.

To confront the current food crises, we must organize agriculture in a manner that both protects and supports surrounding ecosystems. We can ensure a secure food supply if we take the necessary measures to use our resources properly. We need to ensure that we use our water resources efficiently. We need to use the right mix of fertilizer. We need to keep our soils fertile and we need to keep our forests and wetlands intact. Through the CBD, countries are working on guidelines for agricultural practices. In particular, there are a series of initiatives under the



The Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions: Luc Gnacadja (UNCCD), Ahmed Djoghlaif (CBD) and Yvo de Boer (UNFCCC)

Convention to protect soil biodiversity, curb the loss of pollinators, and maintain the variety of foodstuffs needed to ensure proper food and nutrition.

We cannot underestimate the importance of preserving our biodiversity. The landmark book *Sustaining Life*, launched at the biodiversity meetings in Bonn, states that with regard to medical care, a new generation of antibiotics, new treatments for thinning bone disease and kidney failure, and new cancer treatments may all stand to be lost unless the world acts to reverse the present alarming rate of biodiversity loss.

In the quest to preserve biodiversity it is important to seek out and forge new partnerships. This year the CBD and Airbus partnered to raise public awareness on the importance of biodiversity and the importance of engaging young people in the global biodiversity agenda through the German, in collaboration with the CBD, *Green Wave* initiative. The initiative, launched in Bonn on the occasion of IBD, is geared towards providing support to schools around the world to educate students on protecting biodiversity and reducing biodiversity loss. *The Green Wave* is a multi-year biodiversity campaign that aims to empower the leaders of tomorrow by teaching children and youth the importance of preserving our biodiversity for the future well-being of our planet, and contributes to the CBD programme of work on communication, education and public awareness.

Airbus, in a memorandum of understanding signed in July with the CBD, will promote awareness of *The Green Wave* initiative by working with airlines and other industry members to further develop support for the campaign and the CBD. Airbus launched a major public awareness campaign to promote the *The Green Wave* in several major publications, including TIME, Newsweek and National Geographic, and on news websites such as the BBC and CNN. Airbus has also invited other airline manufacturers and airlines to support the objectives of the Convention and *The Green Wave*.

Our efforts to have universal membership in the CBD took another positive step with the accession of Brunei Darussalam, one of the richest countries in term of biological diversity and a partner to the Heart of Borneo Initiative, and the 191st country to join the CBD. I call on all countries that have not yet done so, especially the United States of America, to join the Convention on Life on Earth as soon as possible and preferably before the next meeting to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

The stage has now been set for the year 2010 and Nagoya. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, during the International Year of Biodiversity, it is expected that we will adopt not only targets for the reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss beyond 2010 but also landmark international regimes on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use, as well as on liability and redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Secretariat remains fully committed to achieving these strategic goals.✎



CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif meets with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



1. KEY BIODIVERSITY DEVELOPMENTS IN 2008

Tobago's Main Ridge Forest became a protected reserve in 1776. The oldest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere

(Courtesy of The Tourism Development Company Limited of Trinidad and Tobago)

The following section focuses on some of the most important biodiversity-related developments regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity, and biodiversity in general, over the past year.

Concrete Mandate on Access and Benefit-Sharing Clear roadmap for the next two years

The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources in areas within their jurisdiction. Parties to the Convention therefore have the authority to determine physical 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, as it is one of the three fundamental objectives of the Convention.

In Bonn, a concrete mandate was adopted with a clear roadmap for the next two years, to enable an international Access to genetic resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) regime to be adopted at COP 10 in Japan. This international regime will further operationalise the third objective of the Convention which provides for “the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of

genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.”

Minister Sigmar Gabriel called finalizing an ABS regime in time for adoption at COP 10 a key task of the German COP Presidency. Minister Gabriel said he intends to invite ministers from across the world to form a high level group of Friends of the Presidency to give political guidance on the CBD process, with special focus on ABS.

The Nagoya Roadmap towards an International Regime on ABS in 2010

At its ninth meeting in Bonn, in May 2008, the COP extended the mandate of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and reiterated its instruction to finalize the negotiation of the international regime before its tenth meeting, in 2010.

To this end, the COP adopted a detailed calendar of meetings or “roadmap” to achieve this objective

Access and Benefit-Sharing — The Road to Bonn

At COP 4 in 1998, the Conference of the Parties established a Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing to clarify concepts and principles related to the issue of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use, such as “prior informed consent”, and “mutually agreed terms”.

Taking into account the work of the Panel of Experts on ABS, COP 5 (2000) established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS with the mandate to develop guidelines and other approaches to assist Parties and stakeholders with the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention.

The BONN GUIDELINES on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization, developed by the Working Group, were adopted by COP 6 in 2002. These guidelines are voluntary. They are meant to assist Parties when establishing administrative, legislative or policy measures on ABS and/or when negotiating agreements for access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

At the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa, governments called for the negotiation of an international regime to promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Further to this call for action, at COP 7 in 2004, the COP mandated the Working Group on ABS to elaborate and negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing with the aim of adopting an instrument/instruments to effectively implement the provisions in Article 15 (Access to Genetic Resources) and 8(j) (Traditional Knowledge) of the Convention, and the three objectives of the Convention.

The COP also agreed on the terms of reference for the Working Group, including the process, nature, scope and elements for consideration in the elaboration of the regime.

The mandate of the Working Group was extended at COP 8, where the COP requested the Working Group to complete its work as soon as possible and no later than 2010. It also designated two Co-chairs to lead the negotiation process: Timothy Hodges from Canada and Fernando Casas from Colombia. Further to COP 8, two meetings of the Working Group on ABS, as the negotiating body of the international regime, were held prior to COP 9. The Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing held its fifth meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 8 to 12 October 2007, and its sixth meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 January 2008.

Access and Benefit-Sharing — Why it is Important?

- An international regime can ensure that biodiversity-rich developing countries obtain a fair and equitable share of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources originating from its territory by setting out a clear and transparent framework for access and benefit-sharing.
- The sharing of benefits, through technology transfer, research results, training and profits can contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in biodiversity rich developing countries.
- Access to genetic resources in exchange for fair and equitable sharing of benefits can contribute to further research and development contributing to human well-being through its use in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture and many other sectors.
- Access to genetic resources is also essential to ensure a better understanding of the world wide web of life through taxonomic research.

and decided that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS should meet three times prior to COP 10. In addition, the COP decided to establish three distinct groups of technical and legal experts to address key substantive issues at the core of the negotiation process. These expert groups are intended to assist the Working Group by providing legal and technical advice, including, options and/or scenarios on issues related to (i) compliance; (ii) concepts, terms, working definitions and sectoral approaches; and (iii) traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

A Clear Basis for Negotiations

Another key development at COP 9 was the adoption of a text, first developed by WG-ABS 6, in Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2008 as the basis for the future negotiation and elaboration of the international regime. This text comprises different sections on the objective, scope, main components and nature of the international regime. The section on main components addresses fair and equitable benefit-sharing, access to genetic resources, compliance, traditional knowledge associated with genetic



The Congo Basin holds up to one-quarter of the world's tropical forest

(Courtesy of IUCN)

resources, and capacity-building. In preparation for the upcoming meetings of the Working Group on ABS, Parties, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders are invited to submit views and proposals, including operational text and supporting rationale, on the main components of the regime.

Forest Biodiversity

Improving forest governance

Forests cover approximately 30% of the Earth's terrestrial surface and provide critical ecosystem services including food, fodder, medicine, shelter, nutrient cycling, and cultural and recreational value. Forests store carbon, provide habitat for biodiversity and help alleviate land degradation and desertification. Forests also have a potentially significant role to play in climate change adaptation planning through maintaining ecosystem services and providing livelihood options.

However, forests are increasingly threatened as a result of deforestation, fragmentation, climate change and other stressors which can be linked to human activities. As a result, the resilience of forest ecosystems is lowered, reducing the ability of forests to cope with changing environmental conditions. Climate change, in particular, is expected to impact

on forest biodiversity and the ability of forests to provide soil and water protection, nutrient cycling and other ecosystem services.

Each year about 13 million hectares of the world's forests are lost due to deforestation, and deforestation is currently estimated to be responsible for up to 20% of the annual human induced CO₂ emissions. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the conservation and restoration of forests can considerably reduce emissions at a low cost and with potential co-benefits for adaptation and sustainable development.

Forests have been on the international political agenda since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) did not agree on a proposed international instrument on forests, forests are central to reaching the objectives of the three Rio conventions. An international arrangement on forests developed out of the UNCED, ultimately leading to the adoption of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests in 2007, in the framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

The Convention addresses the loss of forest biodiversity through a comprehensive programme of work adopted in 2002. The programme contains

129 actions to be implemented by Parties to the CBD according to their national priorities. Actions are grouped into three elements: Conservation, Sustainable Use, and Access and Benefit-sharing; Socio-economic framework; and, Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring. Individual actions address issues such as the fragmentation of forest habitats, forest fires, invasive alien species, market failures, forest certification and the establishment of forest protected areas.

In February 2008, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) made several recommendations to improve the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on forest biodiversity. Based on these recommendations, Parties at COP 9 agreed to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work; and to address, as a matter of priority, human-induced threats to forest biodiversity. These include forest degradation, unsustainable use of forest products and resources, climate change, illegal land conversion, forest fires, and invasive alien species.

Specifically, Parties recognized the need to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work in view of the 2010 Biodiversity Target, among others, through the following activities:

- Address obstacles to sustainable forest management and seek to resolve land tenure and resource rights and responsibilities
- Strengthen efforts on forest protected area networks and ecological connectivity, and on sustainable financing
- Promote scientific research to better understand the impacts of climate change, including mitigation and adaptation activities, and environmental degradation on forest biodiversity and on the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities
- Promote and implement sustainable forest management and the ecosystem approach in all types of forests
- Strengthen forest law and governance at all levels
- Recognize the potential role of voluntary market-based certification schemes, tracking and



(Courtesy of Chris Buddle)

chain-of-custody systems, and public and private procurement policies.

The use of genetically modified (GM) trees, control on trade in illegal timber and forest products, and references to impacts of climate change were among the more contentious issues during the discussions. After high-level consultations, delegates agreed to reaffirm the precautionary approach and only authorize the release of GM trees after completion of studies in containment as well as thorough, comprehensive and transparent risk assessments.

With regard to GM trees, the COP also urges Parties to:

- Acknowledge the entitlement of Parties, in accordance with their domestic legislation, to suspend the release of GM trees
- Welcome the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, established under the Cartagena Protocol, and request the Executive Secretary to make available the outcome of its work for consideration by COP 10.

The COP invites Parties, other governments, and relevant organizations to:

FACT

Deforestation, mainly conversion of forests for agriculture activities, was estimated at an alarming rate of 13 million hectares per year in the period 1990-2005

(Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005)

The CBD and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)

Introduced at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, and approaches to stimulate action, were immediately welcomed by the COP to the CBD. Capacity-building, technical assistance and financial support to facilitate actions by developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation have been recognized as being urgent needs, and the UNFCCC, through its Bali Action Plan, is continuing to identify and discuss a potential range of policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation, including financing options.

Related CBD Activities

One of the objectives of the revised programme of work of the CBD on forest biodiversity calls for mitigation of the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity. Furthermore, in adopting the 2010 Biodiversity Target, Parties to the CBD and other governments agreed to effectively conserve at least 10% of the world's forest ecosystems and to reduce the loss of natural forest habitat.

Actions to reduce deforestation are also promoted through the programme of work on protected areas, which was adopted to support the establishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas.

Finally, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation has been identified as a key nexus for synergies between the CBD and the UNFCCC within the cross-cutting issue on biodiversity and climate change.

At COP 9 in Bonn, Germany, Parties adopted several decisions on REDD, including:

The COP invited Parties, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations to:

- Ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention, but support the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity and provide benefits for forest biodiversity, and, where possible, to indigenous and local communities. The decision also called for the involvement of biodiversity experts including holders of traditional forest-related knowledge, and the respect of the rights of indigenous and local communities in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations.

The COP requested the Executive Secretary to:

- Collaborate with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and the World Bank, in order to support Parties efforts to address reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in the framework of the UNFCCC.

The COP recognized:

- The need to provide biodiversity relevant information to the processes under the UNFCCC in a timely manner; and
- Established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, including representatives of indigenous and local communities and small island developing States, with a mandate, to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change and the decision of the COP to the UNFCCC on the Bali Action Plan as well as its Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change so as to support the enhanced implementation of synergies.

From 12-14 November 2008, the Secretariat co-organized a Global Indigenous Peoples Consultation on REDD, which resulted in the adoption of a global strategy. The event was co-organized with Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples Research Centre), the UN University, and the UN REDD Programme.

The second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change, which was established by COP 9, developed recommendations regarding the biodiversity implications of various climate change mitigation activities, including REDD, during its meeting in London, from 17-21 November 2008. The Secretariat is working with the Secretariat of the UNFCCC Secretariat to upload all relevant information on the biodiversity implications of REDD onto the UNFCCC web platform.

A bi-monthly e-Newsletter (www.cbd.int/forest/redd/newsletters) was launched in October by the Secretariat to inform CBD National Focal Points and other interested recipients about biodiversity aspects in relation to REDD.

- Ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation do not run counter to the Convention's objectives but support implementation of the work programme and provide benefits for forest biodiversity, and, where possible, to indigenous and local communities
- Address impacts that the production and use of biomass for energy, in particular large-scale and/or industrial production and use, might have on forest biodiversity and on indigenous and local communities.

Forest related decisions, e.g. with regard to biofuels and REDD, were also taken under agenda items agriculture and biofuels, incentive measures, climate change, and protected areas.

Collaboration with other International Organizations

In 2008, the Secretariat has increased its cooperation with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a group of 14 international organizations. With active participation from the Secretariat, the CPF has developed a joint strategic response of the forest sector to the climate change agenda, which was launched at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2008. A short-term staff exchange was organized with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat in July 2008, and several bilateral meetings with CPF members were organized in the course of the year, such as the World Bank, GEF, UNEP, UNDP, IUCN, and CIFOR. The Secretariat also participated in all FAO Regional Forestry Commission meetings (Africa and Near East, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America Regional Forestry Commissions).

Strengthening the Web of Life — The Life Web Initiative

The Life Web initiative, a global initiative on protected areas, was launched by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany at the High-Level seg-

Breathing Life into the Life Web

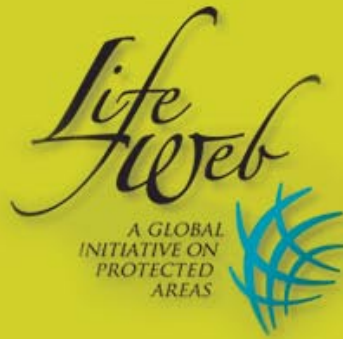
In launching the Life Web initiative to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries that are in a position to establish additional marine and terrestrial protected areas, German Chancellor Merkel promised that Germany would provide €500 million (approximately US\$740 million) through 2013 to protect forests, and €500 million a year after that. This remarkable initiative complemented a decision by Norway to provide €600 million (approximately US\$806 million) a year for the following three years.

ment of the Bonn Biodiversity meeting in May 2008. It was decided at COP 9 that the initiative would be implemented by the CBD. Facilitating the financing of new or existing protected areas in a swift and non-bureaucratic way, and focusing on establishing forest protected areas needed to curb the rapid destruction of primeval forests, Life Web enables developing countries to designate valuable natural regions as protected areas and finance this jointly with the aid of industrialized countries.

The purpose of the initiative, which supports the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on protected areas through enhancing partnerships at a global level, is to match voluntary commitments for the designation of new protected areas and the improved management of existing areas with commitments for dedicated (co-) financing of these areas and will provide significant resources to ensure the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas around the world.

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

During COP 9 nearly 60 Parties already showed their interest in participating in the Initiative and announced their willingness to establish new protected areas comprising an area of nearly 460,000 km².



The LIFE WEB 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 under-funded 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.

Life Web — 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.

Life Web — What it is not:

- The Life Web 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

Life Web — 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

Protected Areas

The purpose and scope of the CBD programme of work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), adopted in 2004, is to support the establishment and maintenance of comprehensive, effectively managed and ecologically representative national and regional systems of protected areas by 2010 on terrestrial and by 2012 in marine areas. The PoWPA provides a blueprint of how to establish protected areas, how to manage them, how to govern them and what tools can be used to achieve the planned work. It charts the way forward in detail and with clear

targets. It is a framework for cooperation between Governments, donors, NGOs and local communities on protected areas.

Progress in implementation of PoWPA

The year 2008 was an eventful one for the CBD PoWPA, and for protected areas in general. The PoWPA is now four years old and there are many signs of progress. Since its adoption, some 2,300 new terrestrial protected areas and 50 new marine protected areas, covering approximately 60 million hectares, have been established.

The PoWPA has also triggered countries to declare ambitious protection goals

COUNTRY	NATIONAL-LEVEL TARGET
Mongolia	Protect 30% of national territory
Brazil	“Double ‘integrated protected areas’ and expand sustainable use areas from 2.5% to 8% coverage of national territories”
China	Increase land in PAs to 16.14% by 2010, and establish 51 model management PAs in State Forestry Administration reserves. By 2015, increase total terrestrial area under protected area coverage to 16.8%.

Caribbean Challenge (announced 2008):

Bahamas	20% of marine & coastal areas in MPAs by 2020
Dominican Republic	20% of marine & coastal area in MPAs by 2020
Grenada	25% of marine & coastal area in MPAs and 25% of terrestrial area in PAs by 2020
Jamaica	20% of marine & coastal area in MPAs by 2020
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	20% of marine & coastal area in MPAs by 2020

Micronesia Challenge (announced 2006):

Federated States of Micronesia	30% marine, 20% forest in PAs by 2020
Palau	30% marine, 20% terrestrial area in PAs by 2020
Marshall Islands	30% marine, 20% forest in PAs by 2020

Coral Triangle Initiative (to be announced 2009):

Indonesia	20% marine area in MPAs by 2020
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Others

Amazon / AARPA: Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador	The second phase of ARPA launched raising the overall target by 10 million hectares to 60 million hectares. Donors committed to a further US\$105 million to the programme including US\$30 million from WWF.
Balkan (Dinaric) Countries: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovenia	Dinaric Arc governments signed an historic agreement on the margins of COP 9 and commit to cross-border CBD implementation including the establishment of 13 new protected areas and the enlargement of 9 others

The Value of Nature

Protected areas are the foundation for safeguarding ecosystems, species and genes in all their abundance and diversity. They are the backbone for the stability and functioning of ecosystem processes and the provision of ecosystem services such as natural carbon storage, water cycles, pollination, control of diseases and flood control. Properly designed and managed protected areas support livelihoods of local communities and strengthen local and national economies. Protected area networks are our “Safety-Nets for Life on Earth.” To demonstrate the multi-faceted value of PAs, not only in terms of conservation, but also in terms of income generation for the local communities alleviating and combating poverty, and in terms of the spiritual and scriptural value and dimension of biodiversity, a comprehensive brochure “The Value of Nature — ecological, economic, cultural and social benefits of protected areas” was produced. This brochure is an attempt to generate a stronger call to action for policy makers and other stake-holders. (www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-value-nature-en.pdf)

The Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas

Setting the stage for COP 9, the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas under the Convention was held at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, 11 to 15 February 2008. In the backdrop of, President of Federated States of Micronesia, Ministers

of Environment of Ecuador, Madagascar and Mexico, showcasing their achievements, commitment and the importance they attach to PoWPA, the Working Group reviewed implementation of the programme of work and explored options for mobilizing, through different mechanisms, adequate and timely financial resources for implementation and adopted recommendations for consideration by COP 9.

COP 9

At COP 9 in Bonn, the Brazilian Environment Minister, announced the creation of four new protected areas, three of them in the Brazilian Amazon, totaling 2.3 million hectares. In the Bonn meeting 5,000 participants adopted a landmark decision to enhance implementation of the CBD PoWPA. In its decision the COP requested that Parties designate a national focal point for better coordination of implementation activities. The COP encouraged Parties, relevant international organizations and NGOs to enhance activities and resources towards organizing and forming regional technical support networks to assist countries in implementing the PoWPA inter alia through convening regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops, making available tools, sharing of information, and establishing sub-regional forums. In its decision the COP urged Parties to finalize the ecological gap analysis not later than 2009 and invited Parties to develop sustainable financing plans. The COP also invited Parties to explore funding opportunities for implementing the PoWPA in the context of addressing climate change.

Protecting against Biodiversity Loss

Setting aside areas for special protection has long been used to counter an unprecedented loss of biodiversity over the last century. Yet the established protected areas have not always been representative of all the biomes, species and genetic resources requiring protection, nor have they been managed effectively to protect biodiversity. For example:

- Only 5% of the world's temperate needle-leaf forests and woodlands, 4.4% of temperate grasslands and 2.2% of lake systems are protected
- Marine coverage lags far behind with only about 0.6% of the ocean's surface area and 1.4% of the coastal shelf areas protected
- For a large percentage of the 825 terrestrial ecoregions and 64 large marine ecosystems, which are characterized by distinct populations of species, the target of 10% protected area coverage is yet to be achieved
- While over 5% of ecoregions are completely protected, in three out of five ecoregions, less than 10% of the surface is protected
- In 140 ecoregions, equivalent to 17% of all ecoregions, less than 1% of the surface is designated as a protected area.

CBD and The Nature Conservancy Launch Enhanced Strategic Partnership

The Secretariat of the Convention and The Nature Conservancy entered into a groundbreaking partnership agreement in October 2008. The agreement will:

- Continue to strengthen implementation of the programme of work (PoW) on Protected Areas, in collaboration with the PoW on Protected Areas Friends Consortium
- Continue to catalyze commitment and implementation of the PoW on Island Biodiversity, in connection with the Global Island Partnership
- Broaden collaboration to catalyze government action on forests, marine and coastal biological diversity, invasive alien species, inland waters, sustainable use, biodiversity and climate change, and other relevant programmes in consortium with other interested actors
- Analyze common factors of success for catalyzing and implementing commitments under the Convention, particularly in the area of national, regional and international collaboration
- Strengthen the science and understanding of linkages among biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

A significant new area of work through this agreement will be to understand and communicate to governments the significant linkages among biodiversity conservation and solutions to climate change.

Capacity Building and Expert Workshops

During the year the Secretariat, in collaboration with the PoWPA Friends organized the following capacity building and expert workshops:

- Workshop to strengthen national and regional capacities in the sub-region of Francophone Africa with a view to promoting and facilitating the implementation of the programme of work on Protected Areas, 7-10 January 2008, Libreville, Gabon (www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/pa/wscbpa-afr-01/official/wscbpa-afr-01-04-fr.doc)
- Latin American Sub-Regional Workshop on Protected Areas, 23 - 25 September 2008, City of Salinas, Province of Santa Elena, Ecuador (www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/pa/wspala-01/official/wspala-01-03-en.doc)
- Expert Workshop on Integrating Protected Areas into wider Land- and Seascapes, 1 - 4 November 2008, International Academy of Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany (www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/pa/ewsipals-01/official/ewsipals-01-03-en.doc)

Agricultural Biodiversity

Strengthening Capacity and monitoring status and trends

Biodiversity, at all three levels—genes, species, and ecosystems—is the basis for the sustainability, productivity and resilience of agricultural systems. It is the foundation of the contribution of agriculture to human well being, and includes not only basic staple foods, but the opportunity for a healthy, bal-

anced, and therefore diverse nutrition and, especially in developing countries, sustainable livelihoods and a means out of poverty.

The Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity aims to promote: the positive effects and mitigate the negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity in agro-ecosystems and their interface with other ecosystems; the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of value for food and agriculture; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The programme of work was reviewed by the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 13), with the full participation of the Parties, relevant international and other organizations, the private sector, civil society, and local and indigenous communities. COP 9 concluded that the programme is a relevant framework for achieving the objectives of the Convention, and to address emerging issues such as climate change.

The COP urged Parties to: strengthen their capacity for implementation; further develop and apply methods for assessing and monitoring status and trends of agricultural biodiversity; promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders when applying the ecosystem approach to agriculture; ensure that national sectoral and cross-sectoral plans promote the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity; to implement agricultural policies that contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity and discourage those policies that cause biodiversity loss; strengthen dialogue with farmers; promote opportu-

FACT

The world loses 5-10 million ha of agricultural land every year due to severe degradation, but in Africa, Latin America and Central Asia there is a great potential for expanding land under cultivation

(Source: FAO)

FACT

About one billion people live on \$1 a day. Should the cost of their food rise by 20%, 100 million people could be forced back to this level, the common measure of absolute poverty. This can potentially undo gains in poverty reduction that have been achieved in some countries during the past decade of growth.

(Source: THE ECONOMIST)

nities to participate in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans for agricultural biodiversity; and improve the policy environment to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity.

Enhanced information sharing was also highlighted and COP: encouraged Parties and other governments to gather lessons learned on conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity for consideration in climate-change adaptation and mitigation planning; and invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to identify methods and means to evaluate contributions made by the work programme, and, together with other relevant organizations, to compile and disseminate information on the positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices and policies on biodiversity, best practices for sustainable use and enhancement of ecosystem goods and services in agriculture and the impact of trade-related incentives.

COP 9 also considered the controversial subject of

biofuels and its impacts on biodiversity. The meeting decided to incorporate the issue of biofuels into the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. A second decision on “Agricultural biodiversity: biofuels and biodiversity” was also adopted which acknowledges the need to mitigate the potential negative impacts, and increase the positive impacts, of biofuel production and use on biodiversity. This also agreed that biofuel production and use should be sustainable in relation to biodiversity.

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Integrates climate change activities, Cautions against ocean fertilization

The impacts of climate change are of great concern to the Convention. COP 5 highlighted the risks of climate change, in particular, to coral reefs and to forest ecosystems, and drew attention to the serious impacts of biodiversity loss on these systems and their associated livelihoods. In 2001, the Subsidiary

Promoting Biodiversity — Key to Food Security

It is estimated that more than 850 million people are currently undernourished, at a time when high food prices are putting the hungry at greater risk and pushing many more over the brink into poverty. During the second half of the 20th century, the global food system was able to respond to the doubling of the world population by more than doubling food production, and contribute significantly to reducing poverty.

But this came at a cost. One of the least discussed costs is the alarming loss of agricultural biodiversity and the increasing reliance of agriculture on a dangerously narrow base of biodiversity. Globally, there are 6,500 breeds of domesticated animals, but 20% of these are under threat of extinction. FAO data indicate that during the past six years a breed has been lost each month. Of the 27,000 species of higher plants, about 7,000 are used in agriculture, but only 30 crops provide an estimated 90% of the world population's dietary energy requirements; less than 14 animal species account for 90% of global livestock production.

Biodiversity, the foundation of all crops and domesticated livestock and the variety within them, is the basis for providing stability to agriculture. It also provides and maintains ecosystem services essential to agriculture. These include regulation of pests and diseases; nutrient cycling, sequestration and conversion; maintenance of soil fertility and biota including regulating soil organic matter and soil water retention; and pollination by bees and other wildlife. Animals and insects pollinate approximately 80% of angiosperms, which amounts to about 300,000 flower-visiting species.

Food security is about more than access to staples and requires a sustainable healthy and nutritious diet. Agricultural ecosystems that are 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. Even within a particular crop, nutrient contents vary significantly between varieties. Different varieties of rice vary in their protein content from 5 to 14%; beta-carotene content of different sweet potato varieties can vary by a factor of 60; and in different banana varieties, the provitamin A content ranges up to 8,500 fold from one variety to another.

Feeding a growing population, and meeting the Millennium Development Goals collectively, is challenging enough in a stable world. But climate change has now to be factored in. As areas of the Earth become warmer or colder, wetter or dryer, we shall need nature's bounty to help us cope. Approximately 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity is found within indigenous peoples' territories. Despite the fact that these communities are usually the first to face the impacts of climate change, indigenous communities are also the custodians of unique knowledge and skills and the genetic and biological diversity in plant and animal production that may be vital in adapting to climate change.

Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) to assess the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.

At COP 7, Parties were encouraged to manage ecosystems so as to fortify their resilience to extreme climate events helping to adapt to climate change. SBSTTA was requested to provide guidance for promoting synergy among activities to address climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, and activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by seeking collaboration with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Hence, in 2006, the AHTEG on biodiversity and adaptation to climate change produced a technical report providing such guidance to countries. In 2006, at its eighth meeting, the COP highlighted the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into

all relevant national policies, programmes and plans in response to climate change, and to rapidly develop tools for the implementation of biodiversity conservation activities that contribute to climate change adaptation. The COP also noted the need to identify mutually supportive activities to be conducted by the secretariats of the three Rio conventions, Parties and relevant organizations.

A number of activities were implemented, with the generous contribution of the Government of Canada. These activities aim to provide technical and scientific guidance on the integration of biodiversity considerations within adaptation planning, the links between the conservation of forest biodiversity and climate change, including within the framework of reducing emissions from deforestation, and the links between biodiversity, water, wetlands and climate change. A regional capacity building workshop on the enhanced integration of climate change within NBSAPs and implementation of the CBD was held for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago as

FACT

High food prices may stimulate a supply side response where market signals are transmitted to food producers who have the capacity to increase production and — where existing transport and market infrastructure allow — supply the market. This may prove an important opportunity for promoting agricultural and rural development in many low-income countries — if an enabling policy environment and supportive measures are established quickly.

(Source: FAO)

Soaring Food Prices

In 2008 the world experienced a dramatic increase in food prices. During the first three months, according to the FAO, international nominal prices of all major food commodities reached their highest level in almost 50 years, while prices in real terms were the highest in nearly 30 years. While the food situation differs from country to country, FAO projects that food prices are likely to remain high in the next few years and are expected to affect most developing country markets.

Once again it is those in most desperate need of food that are suffering the most. Some 800 million people are already affected by chronic hunger, and their ranks are being swelled by millions of poor people unable to afford the food that they and their families need for a healthy life. Estimates suggest that the number of hungry people increased by about 50 million in 2007 due to high food prices. Aside from provoking social unrest in countries of the developing world, it is also prompting short-term policy responses from governments in both exporting and importing countries that risk exacerbating instability in world markets and challenging globalization.

The FAO says food buyers in cities and rural areas that spend a large share of their net income on food will be the most adversely affected. It also suggests that high food prices may stimulate a supply side response where market signals are transmitted to food producers who have the capacity to increase production and — where existing transport and market infrastructure allow — supply the market. This may prove an important opportunity for promoting agricultural and rural development in many low-income countries — if an enabling policy environment and supportive measures are established quickly.

In order to reduce the number of undernourished in the world and meet growing demands, FAO estimates that global food production needs to double by 2050. These production increases must occur mainly in developing countries where the majority of the poor and hungry live, and where more than 95% of the projected population increases will occur.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CELEBRATIONS 2008

Celebrated under the theme of Biodiversity and Agriculture, this year's International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), held every 22 May, highlighted the importance of sustainable agriculture, not only to preserve biodiversity, but also to ensure that we will be able to feed the world, maintain agricultural livelihoods and enhance human well being into the 21st century and beyond. This year there were two official IBD celebrations — at COP 9 in Bonn, Germany; and in Montreal, Canada, headquarters of the Convention's Secretariat.

CELEBRATIONS IN BONN

A special event was organized by the Secretariat on the margins of the COP 9 meeting. Dr. Robert Watson, UK Chief Scientific Adviser, delivered a keynote presentation on findings of the report of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development. Statements were also made by Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of Bonn; Mr. Bakary Kante, on behalf of the UNEP Executive Director; Mr. Sergio Zelaya, on behalf of the UNCCD Executive Secretary; Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, on behalf of the COP-9 President; Mr. James Butler, FAO Deputy Director-General; Mr. Emile Frison, Director-General of the Bioversity International Director-General, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary. The message issued by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was also read.

To help raise awareness about IBD 2008, the CBD Secretariat prepared an information kit comprising a booklet on the theme of 'Biodiversity and Agriculture,' available in English, French and Spanish; a poster and logos available in the six official UN languages; as well as a CD containing messages from the UN Secretary-General and the CBD Executive Secretary both reflecting the theme of this year's celebration. The kit also included an online educational web portal for primary school students and five accompanying lesson plans for educators.

Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity at COP 9. From l-r: Robert Watson, Chief Scientist, UK, Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of Bonn, and Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary

From l-r: German State Secretary Gert Lindemann, Bakary Kante, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, and Sergio Zelaya, on behalf of the UNCCD Executive Secretary, participate in the International Day for Biological Diversity celebrations in Bonn.



CELEBRATIONS IN MONTREAL

The Secretariat also participated in the IBD celebrations at the Montreal Botanical Gardens on 22 May, and 23-25 May, as part of the Botanical Garden's Great Gardening Weekend. Events organized throughout the week included films, activities and shows. The Secretariat also ran an interactive kiosk on biodiversity to raise awareness about the IBD and the work of the Convention, and disseminated posters and brochures.


CELEBRATIONS IN COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

The International Day for Biological Diversity provides an annual opportunity for countries to raise awareness on biodiversity and the activities of the Convention. This year more than 35 countries celebrated IBD in a variety of ways, comprising both official and unofficial activities. Based on information received from countries, the following is a brief sampling of some of the IBD activities that countries undertook:

Two new specially protected areas, a National Park and a State Nature Reserve, were created in **AZERBAIJAN** on the eve of IBD. Activities aimed at raising public awareness were carried out by school children, students and the general public, with posters, booklets and promotional news reels prepared for these purposes.

The Environment Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of **CYPRUS** launched a photography competition on biodiversity, with the aim of providing an opportunity for teachers to explain to their students the importance of biodiversity, and also to inform the general public of the importance of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) in **ETHIOPIA**, with the participation of key stakeholders and collaborators, held celebrations at Wondo Genet. Invited guests and IBC staff visited the Wondo Genet Field Gene Bank, created to conserve the genetic resources of medicinal, horticultural, forage and pasture plants. About 200 people attended a symposium, organized in partnership with GTZ and the East and Central



Africa Plant Genetic Resource Network, which emphasized the value of agricultural biodiversity for food security, human nutrition, improved rural livelihoods, and the need for actions to halt the loss of agricultural biodiversity and to enhance the contributions that rural landscapes make to human well-being.

In **GUYANA**, the Environmental Protection Agency, as National Focal Point to the Convention, coordinated several activities. These included discussions held at primary and secondary schools, an exhibit on agricultural biodiversity, an essay competition for students at the Guyana School of Agriculture, a brochure and press release, and a televised panel on biodiversity.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of **INDIA** encouraged governments of all Federal States, Centres of Excellence, and other concerned agencies, to celebrate IBD by, among other things, making use of the posters and other materials available on the CBD website. The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) organized a public meeting on the theme of Biodiversity and Agriculture, inaugurated by the State Agriculture Minister and presided over by the Chairman of KSBB. Gujarat Science City, in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, started a unique programme of DNA Clubs — clubs that provide hands-on training for children, lectures by eminent experts, field visits to national institutes engaged in biotechnology research and nature walks — for the promotion of bioscience and bioresources in school curriculums.

In **JAPAN**, the Forestry and Products Research Institute and Waseda University Environmental Research Institute, with support from the Forestry Agency and the Ministry of the Environment, celebrated IBD by holding a symposium titled “Biological Diversity in Satoyama — Harmonizing Forests and Agriculture” at Waseda University in Tokyo.

In **NEPAL**, local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development and Wetland Friends of Nepal coordinated four separate awareness and outreach events organized to celebrate both World Migratory Bird Day and IBD.

The Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and Forestry in **SAINT LUCIA** gave a televised address on the theme of Biodiversity and Agriculture. Other events included an exhibition featuring posters, handouts on planting and maintenance of trees and fruit, a vegetables/fruits and selected traditional tree crops display; a seminar sponsored by the European Union under the Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) Project on Banana Commercialisation and Agriculture Diversification to stake-

holders and agricultural officers; lectures to schools in the northern part of the country by the Department of Forestry on the IBD theme; and IBD-related activities were broadcast on the national news.

Celebrations in **SOUTH AFRICA** were held at the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve as part of a Sustainable Living Festival, to increase public and policy awareness for the regional biodiversity and the concept of the biosphere as a possible driver for sound regional development. As part of the celebrations, some 300 participants monitored the species and ecosystem variety of 19 different sites in four eco-regions: Grassland, afro-montane forest, savannah and aquatic ecosystems. Within only 24 hours more than 1000 different species were found. Over 10 media teams from South Africa (SA) and Germany attended the 24 hour monitoring which was supported by German Development Co-operation (GTZ, DED, KfW and BMZ), GEO magazine, the Province Governments, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the South African Air Force, FAO, IUCN, Kruger National Park, the CBD Secretariat and many other partners.

Activities in **SYRIA** included a Ministry of Local Administration and Environment sponsored workshop and course on Introduction to CITES and Enforcement Training; and a workshop on the Regional Project for Development of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Region. The Director of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorate in the General Commission for Environmental Affairs was interviewed on television about the CBD and the theme of IBD, helping to increase public awareness of biodiversity issues; the Syrian Society for Conservation of Wildlife held, in cooperation with the General Commission for Management and Development of Al Badia (Steppe), a consultative meeting with all relevant national institutions and local communities in and around Palmyra city on Difficulties facing the protection of the Bald Ibis bird and a future national action plan for its protection. Several articles on biodiversity were also published in the media.

The **EUROPEAN COMMISSION** organized an awareness raising event dedicated to Soil and Biodiversity in Bonn during COP 9. The event was designed to communicate the crucial role played by soil biology in sustaining life on Earth, the goods and services it provides, and the need to protect and more sustainably use soil biodiversity. The event included presentations from experts and day-long interactive exhibits for families and children.



left: James G. Butler, FAO Deputy Director General addresses the plenary at the opening of SBSTTA 13
right: Nicola Breier, Germany, at the closing session of SBSTTA 13



part of the regional NBSAP workshop.

At COP 9 delegates agreed to, among other things, sections on proposals for integrating climate change activities within the Convention's programmes of work during their in-depth reviews; options for mutually supportive actions addressing climate change within the three Rio conventions; ocean fertilization; summary of the findings of the global assessment on peatlands, biodiversity and climate change; and three annexes relating to ongoing activities in the framework of the Rio conventions; an indicative list of activities by parties to support synergies; and terms of reference for an AHTEG on biodiversity and climate change.

The COP decided to integrate climate change considerations into each programme of work, considering the assessment of potential impacts of climate change and both the positive and negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on relevant ecosystems. Parties are urged to enhance their integration of biodiversity-related climate change considerations in the implementation of the CBD, with the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders. The COP also requested that the CBD Secretariat cooperate with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions.

A second AHTEG on biodiversity and climate change was established in recognition of the need to provide biodiversity-relevant information to the UNFCCC process, which includes representatives of indigenous and local communities and small island developing states. In order to best prepare for the AHTEG the COP called for the establishment of an Internet-based discussion group to identify major issues related to the items to be discussed by the AHTEG. The online dialogue took place from 6 to

17 October 2008, and the AHTEG meeting from 17 to 21 November 2008. A report from the AHTEG was presented to the UNFCCC at its fourteenth meeting in Poznan, Poland. At this meeting, the CBD Secretariat also issued and Action Pledge under the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change on behalf of some of the AHTEG members.

Regarding ocean fertilization, the COP requested Parties to ensure that ocean fertilization activities do not take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities, and urges parties to act in accordance with the decision of the 1972 London Convention. The COP also recognized the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity, particularly peatlands, in addressing climate change and called for further research and collaboration on a number of issues such as multiple nutrient loading, the impacts of climate change on pests of plants and capacity building.

Addressing Climate Change within the Three Rio Conventions

Within the framework of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, a number of specific activities were recommended by the COP to the CBD. This includes, among other things, publish an electronic bulletin on synergies between the three Rio conventions, including reports on progress from Parties, create tools to inform Parties about relevant activities on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, on combating environmental degradation, desertification/land degradation and climate change, including through updating existing tools and publications such as the clearing-house mechanism under the

FACT

If temperatures rise by more than three degrees, yields of major crops like maize may fall by 20-40% in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America

(Source: FAO)



left: Delegates at the Heart of Borneo Initiative COP 9 side event

right: COP 9 — Side event: High-Level Panel Discussion on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation. From l-r: Monique Barbut, Global Environment Facility; Karin Kortmann, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany; Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr, President of Palau; Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD; and Veerle Vandeweerd, UNDP

Convention and national biodiversity information systems, produce educational materials bearing in mind cultural circumstances and delivery methods based on the needs of the target audiences, and develop Web-based communication tools.

It was also noted by the COP that the most effective way to promote synergies between the Rio Conventions is through actions at the national level. Accordingly, the COP suggested a series of actions that could be implemented by Parties where relevant. These include, among others: strengthened collaboration among focal points, cooperation on national-level planning, technology transfer, coordinated research, monitoring and systematic observation and harmonized reporting.

CBD to Develop Sound Policy Frameworks on Biofuels

Biofuels refer to any fuel derived from biomass, such as alcohols, biogas, fuelwood, vegetable oil and animal fats, which can be used as a substitute for fossil fuel. The potential impact of biofuels on biodiversity, climate change and livelihoods as been identified an emerging issue to be addressed. Depending on the feedstock used, where and how it is grown and the manner in which it is processed, the greenhouse gas balance, energy yields and environmental impacts of biofuels may differ greatly. In addition, much of the biofuels currently being produced are based on agricultural products, thus

FACT

Six out of 10 adults polled in the UK agreed that 'many scientific experts still question if humans are contributing to climate change', and that four out of 10 'sometimes think climate change might not be as bad as people say.' In both cases, another 20% were not convinced either way. Despite this, three quarters still professed to be concerned about climate change.

(Source: Ipsos MORI poll)



The CBD receives a gift from a Pakistani Indigenous group for the CBD Museum of Nature and Culture at the close of ABS 6

Mayors from around the world gather at the Mayors Conference — Local Action for Biodiversity, which ran parallel to COP 9. From l-r: Dr. Leong Chee Chiew, National Parks Board (Singapore), Mayor Takehisa Matsubara (Nagoya), Ahmed Djoghlaif (ES, CBD), Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann (Bonn), Mayor Gérard Tremblay (Montréal), Mayor Carlos Alberto Richa (Curitiba) and Mayor Obed Mlaba (Durban).



Mayors from around the world gathered in Bonn for parallel event to the COP 9 meeting



environmental concerns, such as the use of fertilizers and pesticides, water consumption and the possible invasiveness of some of the species used in biofuel production, have arisen. Concerns over increased deforestation and the drainage of wetlands for the expansion of agricultural land are also emerging. In terms of socio-economic impacts, the demand for biofuels could potentially increase rural incomes and create employment opportunities. On the negative side, increased commodity prices resulting from the diversion of agricultural products from the food to the energy sector, as well as trade distorting subsidies and import tariffs, can have serious consequences for developing countries with implications for agricultural production and food security.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention, at its twelfth meeting, held in Paris in July 2006, considered the interlinkages between biodiversity and liquid biofuel production as a new and emerging issue related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Following this meeting, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to synthesize and submit additional information at COP 9.

In Bonn, Parties adopted a separate decision on

biofuels and biodiversity which significantly strengthens the issue of biofuels and biodiversity within the Convention.

The agreement, which integrates the issue of biofuel production and use into the Convention's agriculture and biodiversity programme of work, details that the production and use of biofuels must be sustainable and thus minimize the negative effects production of biofuels have on biodiversity that affects socioeconomic conditions, such as the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities, and food and energy security. In addition, Parties are encouraged to strengthen development cooperation to promote sustainable production and use of biofuels through the transfer of technologies and information exchange.

Agreement was also reached on a concrete process up to COP 10 in Nagoya in 2010. This process prescribes the documentation of the impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and the drawing up of proposals on how the issue of biofuels and the connection to biological diversity can be further considered in the framework of the CBD. The results of this process will then be discussed at COP 10.

Cities and Biodiversity

For the first time the world's urban population is now greater than that of rural areas, having reached 3.2 billion people. It has increased nearly fourfold since 1950. Every year, more than 50 million people, the equivalent of the populations of Spain and Portugal combined, are added to the population of the world's cities. It is predicted that in 2030, four out of five of the world's urban dwellers will live in developing countries. If not managed adequately, the growth of the urban population may accelerate the unprecedented loss of biodiversity of our planet. However, the loss of biodiversity is not inevitable, and the unsound urban management is not the unavoidable destiny of cities.

Aware of the critical mandate of local authorities and particularly cities, the CBD Secretariat is working with networks of cities, international organizations and other UN Agencies to encourage Parties to support cities making a difference, and to provide governments at all levels with the tools and technology to allow cities to fully incorporate biodiversity

issues into urban planning and development.

Following the adoption of the Curitiba Declaration on Cities and Biodiversity in Brazil, in March 2007, through an initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba in collaboration with mayors and representatives of 24 cities, including Bonn, Montreal and Nagoya, the role of cities in protecting biodiversity was acknowledged at COP 9.

As part of the Bonn biodiversity meetings, 50 mayors, from 30 countries, representing over 100 million urban dwellers met on 26-27 May under the theme “Local Action for Biodiversity” to underline the importance of urban biodiversity. The “Bonn Call for Action” was submitted to the high-level segment held with the participation of Heads of State and Government and more than 100 ministers of the environment. For the first time ever, for any UN environmental convention, cities spoke at the highest-level forum, thus setting a precedent for future meetings of the COP to the Convention and other related intergovernmental processes.

At COP 9 in Bonn, Parties discussed the role of local authorities in the implementation of the Convention and for the first time ever adopted a decision on cities and biodiversity. This decision encourages the 191 Parties to the Convention to recognize the role of cities in national strategies and plans, and invites Parties to support and assist cities in implementing the Convention at local level. Indeed, one of the greatest achievements of COP 9 is the recognition that the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention requires the full engagement of cities and local authorities. It is hoped that this initiative will strengthen the engagement of cities and local authorities in addressing the challenges of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and in implementing the Convention.

Hence, a plan of action on cities and biodiversity will be submitted to COP 10, to be held in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010. A Nagoya Summit on Cities and Biodiversity will be convened during the meeting.

Capacity-building for indigenous and local communities, tourism

The Secretariat of the Convention organized, with the generous support of the Government of

Spain and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) and the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute (NZTRI), the second workshop of the Indigenous communities, tourism and biodiversity workshop series: New information and web-based technologies, from 3–5 November 2008, in Apia, Samoa. The Secretariat gathered together representatives from 11 Pacific Islands: Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Palau and Cook Islands. The workshop focused on building capacity on areas of interest to indigenous and local communities and in particular with regards to the use of web based technologies and tools for marketing purposes; promoting knowledge on biodiversity tourism in the Pacific region, and; testing and assessing CBD and other web tools available to indigenous and local communities, refining needs assessments for future training workshops in this series. Additional workshops are scheduled to take place in Latin America and Africa, with a focus on forest basins and dry and sub-humid areas.

Biodiversity and Tourism

Following the launch of the Users’ Manual on the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development in 2007, a side-event on its implementation was organized during COP 9 in May 2008. The

FACT

Cities occupy only 2.8% of the Earth’s surface, but urban dwellers control the use of 75% of the planet’s natural resources.

(Source: UNEP)

The Mayor of Montreal, Gérald Tremblay, Bonn Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann and David Cadman, President of ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, were part of a press conference held after the Mayors Conference to promote the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention



Participants to the South-South Cooperation brainstorming session at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, together with the Botanical Gardens Director, Gilles Vincent, and CBD staff members



event introduced the experiences made within the GEF-UNEP Project ‘Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity through Sound Tourism Development in Biosphere Reserves in Central and Eastern Europe’, implemented from March 2005 until May 2008 in mountain ecosystems in the three Biosphere Reserves Babia Gora (Poland), Aggtelek (Hungary) and Šumava (Czech Republic). The project is a model case for the implementation of the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development and demonstrates the ways in which local development related to tourism can contribute to the conservation goals of protected areas.

The Secretariat is supporting the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC Partnership), a coalition of 32 organizations working together to foster increased understanding of sustainable tourism practices and the adoption of universal sustainable tourism principles. The Partnership was initiated by Rainforest Alliance, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Foundation, and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and was launched at the Sustainable Tourism Criteria at the World Conservation Congress in October 2008. These criteria are based on the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism and will be the minimum standard that any tourism business should aspire to reach in order to protect and sustain the world’s natural and cultural resources while ensuring tourism meets its potential as a tool for poverty alleviation.

Under the objectives of the Biodiversity for Devel-

opment unit, the Secretariat published an information brochure on ‘Tourism for Development and Nature Conservation’ introducing tools and guidelines focusing on the role tourism and biodiversity can have relative to poverty alleviation and development.

The Secretariat also participated in the third International Forum on Fair Tourism from 20 October to 22 October 2008 in Bamako, Mali, organized by the Union of French Tourism Associations (UNAT), with the support of the French government and the UN World Tourism Organization. The Secretariat delivered a keynote presentation on Tourism, Biodiversity and Development and facilitated a workshop to develop a training programme on tourism, biodiversity and development, as part of the Biodiversity and Development unit’s work plan.

Biodiversity for Development

A Biodiversity for Development initiative was established in November 2007 by the Secretariat of the Convention with the support of the French and the German governments as a follow-up to the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation (Paris—September 2006) and the last Trondheim/UN Conference on Ecosystems and People—Biodiversity for Development—The road to 2010 and beyond (Norway—November 2007). The main goal of the initiative is to demonstrate the benefits of biodiversity to development and poverty alleviation in integrating biodiversity into relevant development processes.

The three inter-related objectives of the initiative are:

1. Promote the integration of biodiversity considerations into sectoral policies or cross-sectoral strategies (e.g. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or National Sustainable Development Strategies) and incorporate the development dimension into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
2. Facilitate the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of lessons learned and good practices regarding the integration of biodiversity into development sectors and poverty reduction strategies and programmes;
3. Establish a network of professionals from among the main organizations and cooperation agencies in charge of development and poverty alleviation at the international and regional levels.

The work of the Biodiversity for Development unit, comprised of two programme officers and two programme assistants (as of December 2008), is conducted in close collaboration with the relevant programmes of work of the Convention as well as a range of international partners.

Important activities conducted in 2008 include:

- Establishment of a professional network gathering CBD implementing agencies, bi-lateral development cooperation agencies UN Regional Economic and Social Commissions and various organizations and existing initiatives
- Organization of a high-level panel discussion during COP 9 on biodiversity, poverty alleviation and development. The panel comprised government ministers from five countries and representatives from GEF, UNEP and UNDP and was also honoured by the participation of President Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr., of the Republic of Palau
- Production of informational materials: a six-panel exhibit, a brochure and an eight-page booklet introducing the initiative; a brochure highlighting the links between biodiversity and the tourism sector; a poster “Forests: More than Trees”; and three newsletters
- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the implementation of the related work plan on biodiversity mainstreaming in the forest sector
- Contributed to the organization of three regional NBSAPs workshops to increase the awareness of National Focal Points and participants on the need to mainstream biodiversity in economic development sectors and poverty reduction strategy papers
- Participated in various international events to introduce the initiative and its outcomes.

Financial Resources and Mechanism

The past year witnessed a renewal of the financial commitment by Governments, which was envisaged in the Convention 16 years ago, as well as renewed interests in improving the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

COP 9 conducted an in-depth review of the availability of financial resources. For the first time since the inception of the Convention, Governments agreed to a comprehensive strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention’s objectives, with the agreed mission to substantially enhance international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity in order to achieve a substantial reduction of the current funding gaps in support of the effective implementation of the Convention’s three objectives and the 2010 target.

The resource mobilization strategy is both substantial and substantive and sets out eight strategic goals to be achieved in the coming years:

- Improve information base on funding needs, gaps and priorities, including assessing economic costs of the loss of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services, of the failure to take measures to fulfill the three objectives of the Convention, and benefits of early action to reduce loss of biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services, as well as improving priority-setting for guiding resource allocation to biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services



- Strengthen national capacity for resource utilization and mobilize domestic financial resources for the Convention's three objectives
- Strengthen existing financial institutions and, promote replication and scaling-up of successful financial mechanisms and instruments
- Explore new and innovative financial mechanisms at all levels with a view to increasing funding to support the three objectives of the Convention
- Mainstream biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in development cooperation plans and priorities including the linkage between the Convention's work programmes and Millennium Development Goals
- Build capacity for resource mobilization and utilization and promote South-South Cooperation as a complement to necessary North-South cooperation

- Enhancing implementation of access and benefit-sharing initiatives and mechanisms in support of resource mobilization
- Enhance the global engagement for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives.

The strategy for resource mobilization provides a sound basis for further elaborating the strategic plan of the Convention after 2010. It offers a flexible framework for the development of measurable targets and/or indicators addressing all relevant funding sources, according to national priorities and capacities, and taking into account the special situation and needs of developing countries.

The strategy also serves as a strong signal for the donors of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The replenishment of the fifth phase of the GEF offers the first measurement of the effectiveness of the strategy for resource mobilization. A successful substantial replenishment is essential for advancing the agreed targets under the strategy for resource mobilization. The COP decided to review the implementation of this strategy at every subsequent meeting. Accordingly, the Secretariat was requested to prepare global monitoring reports for consideration by the COP.

To effectively communicate the message to the highest-level political process, the COP adopted the message on finance and biological diversity to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008. The COP President was requested to transmit the message on finance and biological diversity to the President of the UN General Assembly for consideration by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development.

Financial Mechanism

At its ninth meeting, the COP achieved considerable improvement in providing its guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention, in line with the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the Council of the GEF. For the first time ever, the COP suggested a forward-looking outcome-oriented four-year framework of programme

priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity, in anticipation of the fifth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. It further set the stage of consolidating all its existing guidance into a streamlined, prioritized one at its next meeting.

The COP concluded the third review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, and noted the reform measures introduced by the GEF to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the financial mechanism. The GEF Council was requested to consider eight-point actions to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism:

- Improve results-based reporting on the total contribution of the GEF to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including the GEF's contribution to incremental-cost financing and leveraging co-financing
- Report on implementation of the four-year framework for programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity to COP 10
- Enhance the role of the GEF in providing and leveraging resources for activities to achieve the Convention's objectives
- Address capacity constraints in developing countries Parties, especially small island developing States and least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition with regard to the implementation of the Resource Allocation Framework
- Improve the project information system, including through data sets and web-based data tools, to increase the accessibility of project information and allow for better tracking against the guidance from the COP
- Promote exchange of experience and lessons learned in addressing sustainability of funded projects on biological diversity
- Elaborate and transmit to the COP well-summarized evaluation products and full evaluation reports relevant to biological diversity and to the guidance provided by the COP
- Include in its regular report findings, conclusions and recommendations of all relevant evaluations of the GEF Evaluation Office.

Status of funding

The Secretariat conducted an in-depth analysis of biodiversity finances using the Rio Marker data developed jointly with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development through the Creditor Reporting System. In 2006, the total marked development assistance to biological diversity was around US\$2.09 billion from 16 developed countries and the European Communities. Japan accounted for 55% of total marked biodiversity assistance and the European Communities, the only multilateral institution with marked data for biological diversity, accounting for 21%. Other five large donors in order are France, Denmark, Spain, United States and Belgium.

For the period from 2000 to 2006, marked biodiversity assistance nearly tripled in nominal terms, increasing from US\$0.76 billion in 2000 to US\$2.09 billion in 2006. There are considerable variations in marked aid to biodiversity between years, but the overall trend-line is upward steadily. Improved reporting has likely contributed to better capture of biodiversity-related aid activities. The triple nominal increase in marked aid to biodiversity was largely due to the phenomenal growth in the European Communities' development assistance to biodiversity, which increased from a two-year average of nearly US\$2 million in 2000-2001 to nearly US\$400 million in 2005-2006. Considering bilateral assistance alone, marked bilateral aid to biodiversity increased by 170% on a two-year average basis for the period 2000-2006. France, Spain, Austria, Denmark, Portugal, Belgium and Japan have led in the rise of marked assistance to biodiversity.

Among 165 donor agencies/sources that provide data to the Creditor Reporting System, the marked aid to biodiversity has captured data from 77 donor agencies/sources. This implies that less than half of donor agencies/sources extend official development assistance to biological diversity.

On a two-year average basis for 2005-2006, Africa accounted for 22% of total marked official development assistance to biological diversity, Asia and the Pacific 59% and Latin America and the Caribbean 14%. Considering the whole period 2000-2006, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean received

a slightly higher share, 22% and 16% respectively. Asia had 55% of all marked aid to biodiversity from 2000 to 2006. Comparing the two-year averages for 2000-2001 and 2005-2006, marked biodiversity aid flow to Africa increased by 71%, Asia and the Pacific by 164%, and Latin America and the Caribbean by 68%. As a result, Africa's share in total marked biodiversity assistance decreased by 4%, Latin America and the Caribbean fell by 3%, while Asia and the Pacific gained by 13%.

Marked biodiversity aid flow to the Least Developed Countries was US\$209 million in 2006, one of the lowest years for the period under study. The two-year average of marked aid to biodiversity for 2005-2006 increased by only 63% from the 2000-2001 average, the lowest among all developing regions. Correspondingly, their share in total marked flows to biodiversity decreased from 18% in 2000-2001 to 15% in 2005-2006.

In the two-year period 2005-2006, marked bilateral assistance to biodiversity is 1.91% of total bilateral official assistance, and European Communities' marked assistance to biodiversity is 3.36% of its official development assistance. European Communities have made remarkable progress in increasing its official development assistance to biodiversity over the period 2000-2006. As a percentage of its official development assistance, European Communities' assistance to biodiversity increased from a two-year average of 0.03% in 2000-2001 to 3.36% in 2005-2006. In contrast, the percentage of marked bilateral assistance to biodiversity to bilateral official development assistance decreased from a high of 2.63% in 2000-2001 to a low of 1.91% in 2005-2006. This shows that the increased bilateral assistance to biodiversity was largely due to the global increase in overall official development assistance.

For the period 2000-2006 as a whole, biodiversity accounts for 2.38% of total bilateral official development assistance. Several countries have a higher percentage of biodiversity in their total bilateral official development assistance from 2000 to 2006. Denmark has marked as high as 7.73% of its official development assistance as aid to biodiversity, and this is followed by Japan with 6.44%. Other above-average countries are the Netherlands, New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, Finland and Norway. The percentage of biodiversity in bilateral official

development assistance decreased by 0.73% from 2000-2001 to 2005-2006. However, this percentage has increased for the same period in a number of countries, including Japan, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, France and Austria.

In Asia and the Pacific as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, aid to biodiversity has positively contributed to overall increase in total official development assistance. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the growth rate of marked aid to biodiversity nearly doubles that of total official development assistance. On the contrary, official development assistance to Africa and the Least Developed Countries increased considerably higher than the global average over the period, but marked aid to biodiversity fell far behind - a drag on aid increase. The official development assistance to Africa increased by 160%, but its aid to biodiversity only grew by 71%. In the same fashion, the official development assistance to the least developed countries increased by 145%, but the aid to biodiversity only 63%.

Sectoral distribution of aid to biodiversity evolves over time, but certain sectors remain of principal importance to biodiversity. In 2006, water supply and sanitation, general environmental protection, agriculture, forestry, energy, government and civil society, and fishing account for the largest sectoral shares in marked aid to biodiversity. Water supply and sanitation and general environmental protection together explain over 70% of marked assistance to biodiversity. Taking the period 2000-2006 as a whole, water supply and sanitation and general environmental protection remain the principal sectors of channelling official development assistance to biodiversity. Other important sectors are agriculture, fishing, forestry, energy, government and civil society.

Sectoral contribution of aid to biodiversity for the period 2000-2006 grew in varied paces. In water supply and sanitation and forestry, marked aid to biodiversity grew faster than official development assistance in these two sectors, implying better integration of biodiversity. Marked aid to biodiversity lagged behind nominal growth of official development assistance in Government and civil society, energy, general environmental protection. In agriculture and fishing, while official development assistance increased, marked aid

to biodiversity actually decreased despite strong theoretical linkages between biodiversity and these two sectors.

Among major categories of general environmental protection in 2006, environmental policy and administrative management accounted for 65%, biosphere protection 7%, biodiversity conservation 13%, site preservation 1%, flood prevention/control 1%, environmental education/training 2%, environmental research 11%. For the whole period between 2000 and 2006, environmental policy and administrative management made up 53% of total development assistance to general environmental protection, biosphere protection 10%, biodiversity conservation 17%, site preservation 3%, flood prevention/control 9%, environmental education/training 3%, environmental research 6%. Policy development and administrative management has been the single important factor in driving development cooperation for general environmental protection. Taking two-year nominal averages of bilateral assistance (2000-2001 and 2005-2006), environmental research grew fastest among all categories of general environmental protection, followed by environmental policy and administrative management. Environmental education and training as well as biodiversity conservation increased modestly. Biosphere protection, site preservation and flood prevention/control actually decreased appreciably.

Official development assistance under Rio markers amounted US\$4.2 billion in 2006. Among these, climate change-only projects represented 44%, biodiversity-only projects 29%, desertification only projects 5%, projects addressing more than one Rio issue 22%. For the whole period between 2000 and 2006, climate change-only projects comprised 45% of official development assistance under Rio markers, biodiversity-only projects 24%, and desertification-only projects 6%, projects addressing more than one Rio issue 25%.

Taking two-year nominal averages of bilateral assistance (2000-2001 and 2005-2006) official development assistance under Rio markers increased by 134% from the two years 2000-2001 to 2005-2006. The largest increase was in climate change only projects, and projects addressing biodiversity, climate change and desertification. Biodiversity-only

projects increased by 155%, a little bit higher than average. The share of desertification only projects saw nearly no change in the past six years. The proportion of projects marked for both biodiversity and climate change actually decreased significantly. Aid projects addressing biodiversity, climate change and/or desertification are mostly found in

such sectors as general environmental protection, forestry, agriculture, water supply and sanitation; and, to a much lesser extent, energy generation and supply, government and civil society, education, industry and fishing also contain projects addressing biodiversity, climate change and/or desertification. ❖

Mainstreaming Biodiversity — G8 Endorse Biodiversity Plan of Action

G8 leaders, at the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit 2008 in July, reaffirmed their support for the three objectives of the Convention and reiterated their commitment to increase their efforts to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 Biodiversity Target and related Millennium Development Goals by endorsing the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity. Adopted by the G8 Environment Ministers in May 2008, the plan outlines five key areas for action:

Achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target and follow up actions:

- Encourage implementation of the Potsdam Initiative-Biological Diversity 2010; promote international collaboration for sharing technology and knowledge; promote international collaboration for preparation and publication of the third Global Biodiversity Outlook; encourage the provision of science-based information on biodiversity and ecosystem services to the public and to policy-makers; initiate a dialogue process to consider options for following up the 2010 target, including the development and adoption of a post-2010 target under the aegis of the CBD.

Sustainable use of biodiversity:

- Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity taking into account international achievements in this area and considering models of sustainable natural resource management based on the benefits of living in harmony with nature as recognized in SATOYAMA in Japan; promote sustainable forest management, including the conservation of forest biodiversity, by improving forest governance and by addressing illegal logging and related trade collectively and individually, and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD).

Biodiversity and protected areas:

- Strengthen collaboration for identifying gaps in the designation and management of protected areas, taking into account the situation of respective countries and existing international designations such as UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme, the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage Convention and integrate into networks of globally important ecosystems for biodiversity conservation, including forests, wetlands and marine and coastal areas; enhance implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas by supporting initiatives such as Germany's voluntary Life Web Initiative; welcome the International Year of the Reef: 2008 in this context as a means to raise awareness of the vital environmental and economic importance of coral reef ecosystems to people worldwide and to promote improved coral reef conservation.

Private sector engagement:

- Strengthen global initiatives and fora promoting dialogue, cooperation and joint activities among various stakeholders, including business, NGOs and researchers, such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Global Biodiversity Forum; work to mainstream the concept of biodiversity in society through partnerships with the private sector and extending exchanges of information about successful experiences and practice; encourage corporate social responsibility, with a view to making the private sector a full partner in biodiversity conservation, and promote enabling environments for private investment in sustainable management of biodiversity.

Strengthening scientific capabilities for monitoring of biodiversity:

- Further promote international collaboration in research, monitoring, assessment and information sharing of biodiversity in particular by strengthening cooperation among existing organizations focused on research and monitoring of natural systems, including through the use of remote sensing and ground observation so that impacts of climate change can also be monitored.

G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders Declaration on Biodiversity

Recognizing the crucial importance of the conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity as highlighted at the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Bonn, we share the concerns regarding the vulnerability of biodiversity. We endorse the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity and reiterate our commitment to increase our efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 Biodiversity Target, including by reducing threats from the illicit trade in wildlife. We will promote a co-benefits approach that will lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well. We note the importance of improving the interface between research activities and the public and policy makers.

(Source: www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/index.html)

The Economic Value of Biodiversity

A report setting out a “comprehensive and compelling economic case for the conservation of biodiversity” was presented at COP 9 in Bonn by the report’s author Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, Managing Director in the Global Markets division of Deutsche Bank AG. The work was launched in 2007 by Minister Sigmar Gabriel of Germany and Stavros Dimas, Commissioner responsible for Environment in the European Commission, to promote a better understanding of the true economic value of the benefits we receive from nature. The report presented at COP 9 is the interim report of the work which will continue in 2009 and 2010.

COP 9 welcomed this initiative and encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to contribute to the work. It also encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to intensify efforts to assess, as appropriate, the economic costs of the loss of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services and of the failure to take measures to fulfil the three objectives of the Convention, as well as the benefits of early action to reduce loss of biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services, in order to inform decision-making and awareness-raising.

According to the findings of the interim the report, if we do not adopt the right policies, the current decline in biodiversity and the related loss of ecosystem services will continue and in some cases even accelerate. If we continue with “business as usual”, the report suggests that by 2050 we will be faced with serious consequences:

- 11% of the natural areas remaining in 2000 could be lost, mainly as a result of conversion for agriculture, expansion of infrastructure, and climate change
- Almost 40% of the land currently under low-impact forms of agriculture could be converted to intensive agricultural use, with further biodiversity losses
- 60% of coral reefs could be lost - even by 2030 - through fishing, pollution, diseases, invasive alien species, and coral bleaching due to climate change.

Climate change is exacerbating this problem, and it is the world’s poor who are most at risk from the continuing loss of biodiversity. They are the ones most reliant on the ecosystem services which, according to the report, are being undermined by flawed economic analysis and policy mistakes.

The report further suggest that poverty and the loss of biodiversity are inextricably linked: the real beneficiaries of many of the services of ecosystems and biodiversity are predominantly the poor. The livelihoods most affected are subsistence farming, animal husbandry, fishing and informal forestry - most of the world’s poor are dependent on them.

Economic Costs

While the annual loss of biodiversity and ecosystems are typically estimated, in terms of social wellbeing, as equivalent to a few percentage points of GDP, the report suggests that if we re-express these in human terms, based on the principle of equity, then the argument for reducing such losses gains considerable strength. While not all values of biodiversity can be measured in economic terms, the report suggests that economic evaluation is a productive approach to measure the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the quality of human life, and to better understand the trade-offs between different possible uses of ecosystems.

The report presents the results of a preliminary analysis of the costs of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services from forests. Between the years 2000 to 2050 it is estimated that early on, forest ecosystem services will be lost with a value equivalent to approximately €28 billion each year. This value increases over the period to 2050. Mr. Sukhdev estimates that the net present value of services from forests ecosystems lost each year is between €1.35 trillion and €3.1 trillion.

2. ACHIEVING GLOBAL MOMENTUM

FACT

Humpback whales and the southern right whale have recovered sufficiently to be classified on the IUCN Red List as being “least concern,” meaning they are less threatened with extinction.

(Source: IUCN)

Bonn, Germany, a burgeoning hub of international cooperation, in particular in the area of environment and sustainable development, provided the appropriate setting for the ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held 19 to 30 May 2008 in Bonn, and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4), held from 12 to 16 May. The meetings served to initiate the process of building global momentum for nature protection and stewardship. The decisions taken at the conference marked the return of nature and species conservation to the international environmental policy agenda.

Progress in the Implementation of the Strategic Plan, the 2010 Target and relevant Millennium Development Goals

Process for revising Strategic Plan, CBD to proceed with GBO 3

Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan (2002-2010) of the Convention was adopted in April 2002 and includes as its mission, the 2010 Biodiversity Target to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the benefit of all life on Earth. A framework to assess progress towards the target was adopted at



German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed the linkages between poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation and pledged EUR 500 million for protection of forests and ecosystems between 2009 and 2012, and an additional 500 million every year thereafter.



left: Addressing the High Level Segment, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper called reaching the 2010 target today's greatest environmental challenge

right: Ambassador Raymundo Santos Rocha Magno of Brazil, on behalf of the outgoing presidency of COP 8, hands over the COP presidency to COP 9 President, German Federal Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel

COP 7 and refined at COP 8.

At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the COP agreed on the process for the revision of the Strategic Plan. On the basis of the fourth national reports, the in-depth reviews of the programmes of work of the Convention, the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other material gathered for the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook as well as views on the limitations of the current Strategic Plan, the Executive Secretary will prepare a synthesis/analysis of issues relevant to the revision and updating of the Strategic Plan. A first version of this will be circulated for review by Parties and others in early 2009, and a revised synthesis/analysis will be made available to the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, together with a draft updated Strategic Plan. The Working Group will develop a draft decision on the matter for the consideration of COP 10, where it is due to adopt a new Strategic Plan for the Convention and a new biodiversity target.

Global Biodiversity Outlook

The Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO) is the flagship publication of the Convention. Preparations are currently underway for the production of its third edition, to be formally launched in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity. Several ancillary products, including but not limited to, brochures, fliers, presentations, key messages and a web-based data portal, are also planned. The publication will be an important vehicle for informing a variety of

audiences of the importance of biodiversity and the progress made in meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

At COP 9, the COP gave the go ahead to the CBD to proceed with the preparation of the third edition of the GBO and to continue working with the organizations contributing to the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership on the delivery of the globally agreed headline indicators on the basis of the latest scientific information. Following the call for financial support for the preparation of GBO 3 contributions have been received from Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the European Commission.

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

Ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities

Traditional knowledge refers to the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities around the world. Developed from experience gained over the centuries and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge is usually transmitted orally from generation to generation. It tends to be collectively owned and takes the form of stories, songs, folklore, proverbs, cultural values, beliefs, rituals, community laws, local language, and agricultural practices, including the development of plant species and animal breeds. Some times it is referred to as an oral traditional for it is practiced, sung, danced, painted, carved, chanted and performed down through millennia. Traditional knowledge is mainly of a practical nature,



left: Sigmar Gabriel, German Federal Minister of Environment and COP 9 President, delivers his opening statement at COP 9.

right: To offset carbon emissions of the Convention's Secretariat from COP 9 to Cop 10, scheduled for October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif and Roberto Requiao, Governor of the Brazilian State of Paraná, signed an agreement which will see the State Environment Secretariat of Paraná plant 100,000 trees covering approximately 120 hectares, more than one hectare of future rainforest per staff member



particularly in such fields as agriculture, fisheries, health, horticulture, forestry and environmental management in general.

The international community recognizes the close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities on biological resources. There is also broad recognition of the contribution that traditional knowledge can make to both the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity, two fundamental objectives of the Convention. The COP has established a working group specifically to address the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention. Open to all Parties, indigenous and local communities' representatives play a full and active role in its work.

In its most recent decision on Article 8(j), the COP requested: progress reports on the implementation of the Article 8(j) from both the national reports and from the thematic areas of the Convention; a review and refocus of the work programme, considering items not yet started; the development of guidelines for documenting traditional knowledge (considering possible threats and benefits); participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities in the Convention; development of elements of sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge; elements of an code of ethical conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities; indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target; diverse media materials promoting the role of indigenous and local communities in conservation and sustainable use for 2010; and the consideration of recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum

on Indigenous Issues.

The decision contains preambular references taking note of UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and welcoming the International Expert Meeting on responses to climate change for indigenous and local communities in the Arctic Region (held in March 2008).

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Safeguarding marine life under threats through the implementation of CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity

Oceans cover 70% of the planet's surface area and marine and coastal environments 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.

Marine fish and invertebrates are among the last sources of wild food on the planet, providing over 2.6 billion people with at least 20% of their average per capita protein intake. Moreover, the world's oceans host 32 of the 34 known phyla on Earth and contain somewhere between 500,000 and 10 million marine species. Species diversity is known to be as high as 1000 per square metre in the Indo-Pacific Ocean, and new oceanic species are continuously being discovered, particularly in the deep sea. It is

FACT

Reefs provide services worth on average between US\$100,000 and US\$600,000 per square kilometre each year, for a total global value between US\$30 and US\$180 billion annually. In some regions, such as Sri Lanka, the value is estimated to be 10 times the global average. Protecting areas of reef costs about 0.2% of the value they bring.

(Source: UNEP)



left: European Commission President José Manuel Barroso addresses the High-Level Segment

right: Some of the children that took part in the opening ceremonies of COP 9

therefore not surprising that the genetic resources in the oceans and coasts are of actual and potential interest for commercial uses.

According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the world's oceans and coasts are highly threatened and subject to rapid environmental change. Major threats to marine and coastal ecosystems include: land-based pollution and eutrophication; overfishing, destructive fishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; alterations of physical habitats; and invasions of exotic species. These are further aggravated by observed and potential impacts of global climate change including sea level rise, ocean temperature change and ocean acidification. Overfishing is widely acknowledged as the greatest single threat to marine wildlife and habitats. The FAO says nearly 70% of the world's fish stocks are now fully fished, overfished, or depleted.

As far as the world's coral reefs are concerned, one-third of reef building corals around the world, according to the Global Marine Species Assessment, are threatened with extinction. Analysis shows that reef-building corals are more threatened than any group of land-dwelling animals except amphibians. Main threats include climate change, destructive fishing, declining water quality from pollution, and degradation of coastal habitats.

Adopted in 1998, and reviewed and updated in 2004, the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity focuses on integrated marine and coastal area management, marine and coastal living resources including coral reefs and deep sea habitats, marine and coastal protected areas, mariculture, and invasive alien species. The

road ahead for conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystems lies in a more effective implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management in the context of the Convention's ecosystem approach. This includes establishment and effective management of marine and coastal protected areas to promote the recovery of biodiversity and fisheries resources, and controlling land-based sources of pollution. For open-ocean and deep-sea habitats, sustainability can only be achieved through increased international cooperation to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, habitats and species.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention has a key role in supporting the work of the UN General Assembly with regard to marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, by focusing on the provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach, and in delivering the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Historic decision made by COP 9 to adopt the scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, and the scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas

In its decision at Bonn, the COP 9, among other things, reiterated the UN General Assembly's central role in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, and reaffirmed that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities

FACT

Nearly a quarter of cetacean species are considered threatened. Of those, more than 10% (nine species) are listed as "Endangered" or "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List, the highest categories of threat. Two subspecies and 12 subpopulations are listed as "Critically Endangered". However, more than half of the cetacean species (44 species) are classed as "Data Deficient", meaning future research is of a great priority.

(Source: IUCN)



left: Sigmar Gabriel, German Federal Environment Minister and COP 9 President, speaks during Greenpeace Kids for Earth event, with Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, and Bonn Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann

right: German group Hühner perform the COP 9 theme song, "I'm a part of it" during the opening plenary of COP 9



in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

COP 9 also reaffirmed that our future lies in the ocean and recognized that strong evidence has been compiled, which emphasizes the need for urgent action to protect biodiversity in selected seabed habitats and marine areas in need of protection.

COP 9 then took a historic step forward for the conservation of marine biodiversity, particularly in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, by adopting scientific criteria for identifying biologically and ecologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats as well as scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish representative network of marine protected areas.

This adoption further strengthened the role of CBD in providing scientific and technical support to the UNGA processes relevant to the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

As a next step, COP 9 decided to convene an expert workshop in order to provide scientific and technical guidance on the use and further development of biogeographic classification systems, and guidance on the identification of areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria.

The role of indigenous and local communities in the future process was highlighted, and COP 9 called on Parties to integrate the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and to ensure the integration of social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the identification of marine areas in need of protection as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas.

Moreover, in the context of UNGA processes related to conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, COP 9 invited Parties and others to cooperate in further developing scientific and technical guidance for the implementation of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments for activities and processes under their jurisdiction and control which may have significant adverse impacts on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. For this purpose, COP 9 decided to convene an expert workshop to contribute to the development of such scientific and technical guidance, building on ongoing relevant sectoral, regional and national environmental impacts assessment efforts.

COP 9 also alarmed a warning bell on the potential impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity, and requested Parties and others, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean fertilization activities do not take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities.

Invasive Alien Species Filling the gaps

Considered to be a main direct driver of biodiversity loss across the globe, invasive alien species (IAS) are species living, and often thriving, outside their natural habitat and threatening native biodiversity. They have invaded and affected native biota in almost every ecosystem type on Earth, and have affected all major taxonomic groups.



left: Delegates at the opening of COP in Bonn

right: Go 4 BioDiv — International Youth Summit 2008 (parallel event to the COP 9 meeting)

In economic terms, the costs of invasive alien species are significant. Total annual costs, including losses to crops, pastures and forests, as well as environmental damages and control costs, have been conservatively estimated to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars and possibly more than one trillion.

Recognizing the urgent need to address their impact, the COP established IAS as a cross-cutting issue at its fourth meeting. At COP 6 it adopted Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species. An in-depth review of the ongoing work on these species was prepared by the Executive Secretary for COP 9, aided by consultations with relevant international bodies and instruments on whether and how to address the lack of international standards covering the problem, in particular animals that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The decision on IAS at COP 9 includes sections on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework, with the COP encouraging Parties to use the risk assessment guidance and other procedures to close identified gaps on IAS; and follow-up the in-depth review of the work programme, which contains sub-sections on: national, regional and sub-regional activities and capacity building; exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned, and development of tools; management of pathways and assessments; communication, education and public awareness; and provision of resources.

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Further enhancing implementation

Adopted in 2002, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) aims to halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity, and is the first such strategy to be developed under the Convention. Considering issues of sustainable use and benefit-sharing, the strategy aims to contribute to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It includes 16 outcome-oriented global targets set for 2010, and provides a framework to facilitate harmony between existing initiatives aimed at plant conservation, to identify gaps where new initiatives are required, and to promote mobilization of the necessary resources.

At COP 7 Parties developed a flexible coordination mechanism to facilitate and promote implementation, and monitoring, of the GSPC at all levels — national, regional and global. At its twelfth meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) carried out an in depth review of the GSPC. In cooperation with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and relevant organizations, and taking into account contributions from Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, the Secretariat published a Plant Conservation Report that could provide inputs to the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and serve as a communication and awareness-raising tool on the implementation of the strategy.

At COP 9, Parties were urged to nominate focal points and develop national and regional strategies

FACT

Estimates place the total number of plants in the world at approximately 300,000 species, with many of these are in danger of extinction, threatened by habitat transformation, over-exploitation, invasive alien species, pollution and climate change.

Source:

for plant conservation. Parties and others were also urged to further enhance implementation, and to consider the development and implementation of the Strategy beyond 2010, taking into account current and emerging environmental challenges on plant diversity, including an update of current targets. Thus, prior to COP 10, the COP requests that SBSTTA provide proposals for the consolidated update of the Strategy, and review the implementation of targets related to sustainable use of plant diversity during the in-depth review of the work programme on sustainable use.

The COP also requested the CBD, in collaboration with others, develop a toolkit to enhance implementation; identify regional tools for the exchange of information; facilitate capacity building, technology transfer, and financial support programmes to assist developing countries, including those with high levels of biodiversity and those that are centers of origin; and coordinate regional workshops on implementation and to compile results for consideration by SBSTTA.

Cooperation with other conventions and engagement of stakeholders

Engaging stakeholders and building partnerships

Business and Biodiversity

Businesses possess biodiversity relevant knowledge, technical resources and managerial skills and all businesses, irrespective of their size, sector and location, ultimately depend on biodiversity. How companies manage biodiversity is increasingly seen as relevant to their bottom line performance. The importance of business was highlighted this past year by the Potsdam Initiative. Adopted in March 2007 by the Group of Eight (G8) and Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, the Potsdam Initiative included a focus on the business community and market incentives.

Business is referred to in the Convention text, in Conference of the Parties decisions and in the Convention's Strategic Plan. At its eighth meeting in 2006, the Conference of the Parties adopted the first decision focusing exclusively on business engagement. This decision covers, in particular, the engagement of Parties with the business community

when developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; the participation of business in Convention meetings; the compilation, dissemination and strengthening of the business case for biodiversity; and the compilation and development of good business practice.

At COP 9, business engagement was discussed under the agenda of Cooperation with Other Conventions, International Organizations and Initiatives and Engagement of Stakeholders. A document prepared for the occasion provided an overview of the 'business and biodiversity' agenda since March 2006, an overview of efforts by Parties and organizations in implementing the business decision taken at COP 8, and reports on the business related activities undertaken by the Executive Secretary over 2006-2008.

The decision on business adopted at COP 9 on promoting business engagement provides a framework for priority actions, which focuses on the continued development and promotion of the business case for biodiversity and the dissemination of best practice. A particular focus of the decision is on addressing the needs of small and medium sized companies and developing countries.

In addition to this specific decision, business engagement is relevant to many other decisions adopted at COP 9. These include: payments for ecosystem services, notably in the context of forest biodiversity, incentive measures and resource mobilization; biodiversity offsets, particularly in the context of protected areas and resource mobilization; biofuels; certification schemes; public and private procurement policies; compilation of good practices, notably with respect to invasive alien species; and the mobilization of the financial services sector.

At the high-level segment in Bonn, 34 internationally active companies presented themselves to the environment ministers at the High-Level Segment. These companies have all signed up to the Business and Biodiversity Initiative launched last year with the goals of greater involvement of the business sector in biodiversity conservation. The companies signed a "Leadership Declaration", whereby they committed themselves to making the conservation of biodiversity a fixed component of their future corporate and management policies. The scope of the companies involved ranges from the tourism, timber and construction industries to financial ser-

Gender

In March 2007, the Executive Secretary appointed a Gender Focal Point in line with a series of internal mandates within the UN system calling for gender equality and the mainstreaming of gender issues within all UN processes. In highlighting the important role played by women, the mandates also note that gender is not a women's issue but that of girls and boys, and men and women.

With financial support of the Dutch Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS), the CBD Secretariat and IUCN conducted jointly a workshop for the elaboration of a CBD Gender Plan of Action held from 16 to 18 January 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland. Participants included staff from the Convention Secretariat, IUCN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), and indigenous and local community representatives.

Presented for consideration at COP 9, the CBD Gender Plan of Action was welcomed by the COP. Reflecting the increasing awareness that gender equality and women's empowerment are important prerequisites for environmental conservation and sustainable development, the action plan defines the role of the CBD Secretariat in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality.

In cooperation with IUCN, a series of factsheets were prepared and published in 2008 addressing gender and biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, ABS and NBSAPs. These factsheets have been translated into French and Spanish and will be made available on the CBD website for which a Gender portal was also created in 2008. Draft guidelines for mainstreaming gender considerations into the NBSAPs are now being developed.

CBD Gender Plan of Action

The CBD Gender Plan of Action defines the role that the CBD Secretariat will play in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality. It also reflects the increasing awareness that gender equality and women's empowerment are important prerequisites for environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The plan comprises four objectives:

- Mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of the CBD and the associated work of the Secretariat
- Promote gender equality in achieving the three objectives of the CBD and the 2010 Biodiversity Target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss
- Demonstrate the benefits of gender mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing from the use of genetic resources
- Increase the effectiveness of the work of the CBD Secretariat.

vices, the food industry and the natural cosmetics sector. The companies' activities are very diverse. Some have decided to improve their own environmental management; others are supporting specific measures to conserve biodiversity. The German Federal Environment Ministry states it intends to continue this initiative during its CBD Presidency up to COP 10.

The Convention publishes a newsletter on business and biodiversity, Business.2010, which is available at: www.cbd.int/business/newsletter.shtml

For the first time, the celebrations of IBD coincided with the holding of a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. At COP 9, a special plenary session was held to commemorate the event. Robert Watson, of the International Assessment of

Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development was the keynote speaker. Messages were also received from the UNSG, the ED of UNEP and other distinguished dignitaries.

The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Commission for Education and Communication (CEC) at IUCN's World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain in October. The CEC agreed to integrate the programme of work for CEPA into their activities for the next four years and will be an important partner for the upcoming programme of CEPA workshops. In partnership with the CEC of IUCN, the Secretariat published a toolkit on CEPA and distributed it at COP 9 and the WCC of IUCN.

The Secretariat organized the first of a series of regional workshops on CEPA and media rela-

The Green Wave — Empowering the Leaders of Tomorrow

A global initiative, under the motto “One school, one tree, one gift for nature”, *The Green Wave*, aimed at empowering youth to take charge of their future, was launched in Bonn on 22 May, during the Bonn Biodiversity meetings and on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) by the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, CBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, the Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Diekmann, and Dr. Beate Jessel, the President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

Geared towards providing support to schools around the world to educate students on the crucially important task of protecting Earth's biodiversity and reducing biodiversity loss, *The Green Wave* aims to empower the leaders of tomorrow by teaching children and youth the importance of preserving our biodiversity for the future well-being of our planet and ourselves.

The Green Wave builds on the 20 +10 Schools & Trees for Biodiversity project initiated and carried out in 2007 in schools in ten countries around the world, and contributes to the CBD programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness. *The Green Wave* website (<http://greenwave.cbd.int/>) is a joint initiative between the Secretariat of the Convention and the Government of Germany.

Specifically, *The Green Wave* initiative entails that in participating schools, children and youth will each year plant one tree in or near their schoolyard on or around 22 May — IBD. The tree should be a locally important tree species, ideally a locally indigenous species related to the IBD theme. At 10:00 am local time they will water the tree, thus creating a symbolic “green wave” travelling east to west around the world. Participants will then upload photos and text to *The Green Wave* website to share their tree-planting stories with others. An interactive map will go live at 20:10 local time, creating a second “green wave.” Each year, *The Green Wave* will contribute to worldwide celebrations of IBD. The campaign supports other national, international and global tree planting initiatives such as UNEP's Billion Tree Campaign.

In 2008, school children from 19 countries around the world celebrated biodiversity by planting a tree and sharing their experience with others around the world on *The Green Wave* website. This year, students participated from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay, the Philippines, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States of America.

tions in Trinidad and Tobago in the first week of November, in parallel with the NBSAP workshop. Participants from government and the media worked on issues of strategic communication, media relations, mainstreaming biodiversity into education and the International Year of Biodiversity. The Panos Caribbean was an important partner for the media portion of this workshop.

A strategy for the International Year of Biodiversity was prepared and approved by COP 9. As a follow-up, the Secretariat prepared an action plan in the summer of 2008 and has begun implementation. A number of partnerships have already been established. Bioversity International has already begun a campaign for 2010, and has started its planning for a series of events. UNESCO has agreed to organize a travelling exhibition for 2010 and to help launch the year at its headquarters. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) have also agreed to mark the year. The Consortium of Scientific Partners has created a programme of events for the year.

Partnerships with media were also established. Television Trust for the Environment will produce episodes in the Earth Report Series for the year. The Wildscreen Film Festival and ARKive will provide

films for use by Parties during the year as part of their celebrations. Programming with the BBC for the year is under development.

Ecosystem Approach Key to achieving CBD objectives

The ecosystem approach is the basic framework for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It encompasses conservation and development concerns, thereby providing an effective framework and processes for achieving sustainable development in a balanced way. The 12 principles of the ecosystem approach and operational guidance were adopted at COP 5 and COP 7. To help practitioners implement the ecosystem approach and share experiences, the Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook was created and is continuously updated (www.cbd.int/ecosystem/sourcebook/).

Experiences with the application of the Ecosystem Approach were reviewed at COP 9. Parties concluded that the Ecosystem Approach, as developed, remains



an effective framework to achieve the objectives of the Convention across multiple work areas. At present the focus should be on expanding application, capacity building and in particular generating and disseminating further and simplified guidance for specific sectors and users. The meeting also noted the need to take into account the application of the Ecosystem Approach in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in climate change

adaptation and mitigation activities. Recommended activities included developing effective cooperation at all levels for the application and monitoring of the approach and providing financial and technical support to indigenous and local communities to carry out case studies and projects consistent with national laws and traditional sustainable use and resource management systems. Further development of the sourcebook in collaboration with partners was

Communication, Education and Public Awareness

Call for doubling efforts on CEPA, Encouraging parties to create national committees

The Convention stresses the importance of public awareness on biodiversity issues as it is central to building support for its implementation. The Convention Secretariat is mandated to help Parties explain and communicate the scientific and technical work of the Convention to a variety of groups, and to integrate biodiversity into the education systems in all Parties to the CBD.

During 2008, the Secretariat advanced the programme of work for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). The network of partners was expanded and a number of capacity-building activities were carried out that will provide the foundation for action on the road to 2010 and the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB).

At its January meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) for CEPA endorsed the draft strategy for the IYB, developed the "Agenda for Action," a rolling implementation plan for the Programme of work on CEPA, and provided valuable input to the outreach and communication elements of the upcoming Global Biodiversity Outlook 3.

The Secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) co-organized an expert workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity into education in Paris in March. Experts from around the world developed a set of principles to guide Parties as they integrated biodiversity into their formal and non-formal learning activities. As a result of the meeting, the Conference of the Parties called for the Secretariat and UNESCO to work to include biodiversity as a topic in the 2009 UNESCO conference on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

At COP 9, the Secretariat collaborated with the COP 9 presidency to organize a fair on the best practices in Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA fair) during COP 9. The fair brought together presentations and displays from Parties, IOs and NGOs on ways to communicate biodiversity.

FACT

Is getting the word out a problem? A study examining the front pages of *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, considered to be two of the most influential daily publications in the USA, found that environmental stories comprised only 1% of the total front page.

(Source: The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism)

South-South Cooperation

The SCBD hosted an expert meeting for South-South Cooperation on biodiversity for development from 6-7 November 2008 in Montreal in response to COP decision IX/25, which, among other things, emphasized that South-South Cooperation is important for development in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. The decision noted the initiative of developing countries to prepare, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and other partners, a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development, based on the draft framework devised during the brainstorming meeting held in November 2006.

The meeting, organized in conjunction with the chair and Secretariat of the Group of 77 and China, was attended by 18 delegates, 15 of whom were representing their respective countries as counselors in Permanent Missions to the UN in New York. The meeting was co-chaired by the current Chair of the G-77, HE Ambassador John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, by Professor James Seyani of Malawi, COP 9 Bureau member, and by Dr. Linus Spencer Thomas, SBSTTA chair.

The two-day meeting reviewed the framework of a multi-year plan of action (MYPOA) on South-South Cooperation on biodiversity as a complement to the Development Platform for the South which has been devised by the G-77. It furthermore produced a content outline of the Plan for review and feedback along with a tentative timeline and guidance for the consultations and adoption of the MYPOA. Taking into account the comments made by participants at the meeting, it will be sent jointly to the Chair of the G-77 and China and the President of the UNGA HL Committee on South-South Cooperation, in order to allow broader circulation and input.

(Meeting documents, including final report, at: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMSSC-01)

also encouraged.

Pursuant to COP decision IX/7, the Secretariat is publishing on quarterly basis “the Ecosystem Approach e-Newsletter (www.cbd.int/ecosystem/ea-newsletters/)”.

Technology Transfer and Cooperation

A practical strategy for implementing the programme of work, the role of intellectual property rights, and South-South technology transfer

In 2004, COP 7 adopted the programme of work on Technology Transfer and Technological and Scientific Cooperation. Grouped under four programme elements, it spells out a number of strategic considerations to be taken into account in its implementation by the various actors, as well as a number of operational targets and related activities required from Parties, other governments, international organizations, business, stakeholders, and the Secretariat. The purpose is to promote and facilitate the access to, and transfer of, technologies required for implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. Such transfers would take place from developed to developing countries, and among developing countries and other Parties.

The decision on technology transfer and cooperation taken by COP 9 includes a strategy for the practical implementation of the work programme on technology transfer and technological and scientific cooperation, as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by Parties and international organizations. The strategy conceptualizes technology transfer and

scientific and technological cooperation, and suggests concrete activities on enabling environments for technology transfer and cooperation, both on the receiving and the providing end. It also suggests a number of facilitating mechanisms, highlights the role of champions and the possible establishment of a Biodiversity Technology Initiative, and identifies funding needs and possible funding mechanisms.

COP 9 also considered a technical study on the role of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in technology transfer under the Convention, which had been prepared in cooperation with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The study provides a succinct review of the different impacts, and the associated benefits and costs of intellectual property rights that may arise during the different phases of technology transfer under the Convention, and draws a number conclusions, both of a general nature and applying to the individual phases considered. It also identifies potential options to increase synergy and overcome barriers to technology transfer and cooperation.

COP 9 invited relevant international organizations and initiatives, research institutions at all levels, and non-governmental organizations, to undertake further research on the role of intellectual property rights in technology transfer in the context of the Convention, and pointed to a number of research topics of interest. COP 9 also encouraged Parties to engage in South-South technology transfer and cooperation on science, technology and innovation, as well as explore alternative models for triangular,

FACT

Dry and sub-humid lands encompass some 47% of the Earth's terrestrial area and include many fragile environments that need priority attention to avoid irreversible biodiversity loss.

(Source: CBD)

regional or multilateral cooperation, as complementary mechanisms to North-South activities.

Dry and Sub-Humid Lands Biodiversity

Technical and financial support for developing countries,
Sustainable wildlife management

The Convention's work programme on dry and sub-humid lands seeks to fill gaps in our knowledge base; support best management practices through targeted actions in response to identified needs; and promote partnerships among countries and institutions. It further aims to promote synergies and coordination with related conventions.

The COP endorsed the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands at its fifth meeting. Since its adoption, the work programme has been supported by a number of regional and international efforts which have placed increasing importance on the conservation and sustainable use of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity. Through the adoption of a joint work programme with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which seeks to address the multiple and increasing threats to dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, including climate change, the work of the CBD has also been closely linked to other relevant conventions.

In the decision at Bonn, the COP emphasized the links between the implementation of the programme of work and local livelihoods and poverty alleviation. The decision also continues a strong focus on linking biodiversity and climate change. In particular, COP invited relevant organizations and donors to provide technical and financial support to developing countries, to identify and conduct land-use options for dry and sub-humid lands that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and generate income for indigenous and local communities, including through involving private sector and public partnerships and through the establishment of a special fund to support such activities. The COP also encouraged parties to enhance sustainable wildlife management through land-use planning to minimize human-wildlife conflicts and achieve sustainable use of wildlife.

In response to COP decisions calling for enhanced collaboration between the CBD and the UNCCD, several activities have been carried out. These include:



Kids for Earth — Greenpeace International highlighted Amazon rainforest destruction and cautioned that biofuel plantations are replacing forests and areas used for food production



Students participating at the Bonn biodiversity meetings



Greenpeace International: Kids for Earth celebrations at COP 9

a consultative workshop on the achievement of the 2010 target in dry and sub-humid lands, held at the margins of SBSTTA 13 in order to identify obstacles to the achievement of the target and priority activities to overcome these obstacles; a number of joint activities were proposed to the Global Mechanism. The priority activity on payments for ecosystem services in dry and subhumid lands was selected



left: Gocoo & GoRo from Japan perform at the Live Nature concert in Bonn during COP 9



right: Maori artists Moana & the Tribe perform at Live Nature, which featured performers from the five continents

for initial consideration; and written comments were submitted to the UNCCD Interagency Task Force on Reporting for consideration by participants at the first meeting of the task force.

Inland Waters Biodiversity

Inland water ecosystems (freshwaters and coastal wetlands) continue to be the most threatened of the major biomes. The rate of loss of biodiversity from freshwaters (1970 – 2000) was approaching twice that of marine or terrestrial biomes (Fig. 1). This is primarily due to the pressures placed upon freshwater resources through unsustainable water use and inappropriate land management activities. Freshwater is central to human development and the pressures placed on finite freshwater ecosystems are rapidly escalating. Yet we continue to undervalue these ecosystems.

Adopted as a CBD thematic area in 1998, the inland waters programme of work, adopted at COP7, identifies actions to halt biodiversity loss from freshwaters and sustain the services that these ecosystems provide. The Ramsar Convention is the lead implementation partner for wetlands for the CBD.

Achievements at CBD COP-9: Inland waters and climate change:

Inland waters are becoming increasingly prominent in relation to climate change because the main impacts of climate change are on the hydrological (water) cycle. Not only does this make inland water ecosystems very vulnerable to climate change, it also creates the opportunity for improved management of these ecosystems to contribute to helping us cope with the impacts of climate change. For example, wetland ecosystems are critical for sus-

FACT

Peatlands are the most efficient carbon stores of all terrestrial ecosystems with at least 550 Gt of carbon in their peat, equivalent to 30% of the Carbon in soils, 75% in the atmosphere, equal to all terrestrial biomass, and twice the carbon stock in the forest biomass of the world. The current total CO₂ emission from degrading peatland ecosystems equals almost 8% of global emission from fossil fuel burning.

(Source: The Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change)

Excerpts from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's warning that water shortages are increasingly driving conflicts

"Increasingly, fights are erupting over such basic human needs as water or arable land. I find this trend deeply worrying. Our experiences tell us that environmental stress due to lack of water may lead to conflict and would be greater in poor nations. Today everyone knows Darfur. More than 200,000 people have died. Several million have fled their homes. There are many factors at work in this conflict, of course. But almost forgotten is the event that touched it off — drought. A shortage of life's vital resource. We can change the names in this sad story: Somalia. Chad. Israel. The occupied Palestinian territories. Nigeria. Sri Lanka. Haiti. Colombia. Kazakhstan. All are places where shortages of water contribute to poverty. They cause social hardship and impede development. They create tensions in conflict-prone regions. Too often, where we need water we find guns."

(UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Davos World Economic Forum, 2008)

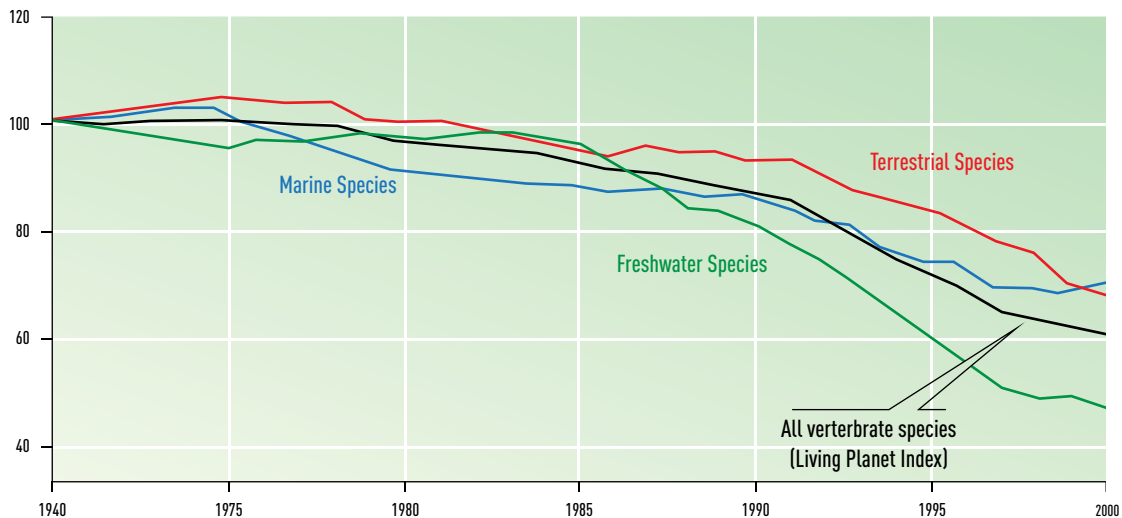


FIG. 1: The Rate of Loss of Biodiversity from Freshwaters 1970-2000

taining water supplies during increasing droughts and for helping nature cope better with intensifying flooding events.

CBD COP9 welcomed the findings of the Global Assessment of Peatlands and invited Ramsar COP 10 (in Korea in 2008) to take the lead in developing further guidance on the important issue of linkages between water, biodiversity, wetlands and climate change. Ramsar COP 10 responded by giving climate change much prominence and instructed its Scientific Body to treat it as a priority issue.

Improving international cooperation

COP 9 urged Parties to strengthen relevant international cooperative arrangements regarding water resources allocation and management. This will not only promote poverty reduction through improved sustainability of the services that inland water ecosystems provide, but also contribute to conflict reduction.

Island Biodiversity

Further funding needed, In-depth review of programme of work

At its eighth meeting in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006, the COP adopted the first programme of work dedicated solely to the uniqueness and fragility of island biodiversity, with an aim to reduce significantly the rate of island biodiversity loss by 2010 and beyond as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of islands, particularly small island developing States. The programme of

work sets out almost 50 island-specific priority actions arranged under 11 goals, which are in turn organized under seven focal areas.

In a follow up decision at Bonn, the COP recognizes initiatives and achievements in the island biodiversity work programme, and the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) in particular, as one of the mechanisms for its implementation. The COP encourages the development of an island Web portal and as a response; GLISPA has defined as one of its priorities the development of a global island database, which will be used for regional planning and to raise awareness on island biodiversity. This database will help implement the programme of work on island biodiversity and will be important in creating conservation corridors and regional networks of protected areas. The COP also welcomes contributions for establishing a coordination mechanism for GLISPA, and calls for further support to the partnership; it welcomes the initiative of New Zealand to organize a workshop on invasive alien species for islands, disseminating the experience of the Pacific Invasives Initiative, and requests the fifteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to undertake an in-depth review of the programme of work for consideration by COP 11.

Parties also stressed that the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, capacity building, and access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits and poverty alleviation all require effort in the implementation of the programme of work.

FACT

A recent assessment of the dollar value of all our natural ecosystems estimated the global value of wetland ecosystems at 45% of the total. This reflects the many valuable functions of wetlands. Yet wetlands account for less than 3% of the global terrestrial area (less than 1% of the total earth surface) – placing them as by far the most valuable ecosystems on a global per unit area basis.

(Source: The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands)

Introducing the second annual Linnaeus Lecture, on 23 May in Bonn, Johan Bodegård, Swedish Species Information Centre, emphasized that the world is facing a major challenge in meeting the increasing needs of its growing population, suggesting this will place enormous pressures on global ecosystems



Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, outlined several of the problems facing governments in general, and the CBD in particular, and suggested, among other things, that an ecosystems approach is imperative as market mechanisms cannot correctly value nature



Klaus Töpfer, UNEP-Tongji University, praised the CBD's success at raising biodiversity on the international agenda, and stressed the need for technological advancement and regular scientific assessments of ecosystems and biodiversity



Global Taxonomy Initiative

Need for capacity-building activities, Calls for widely accessible species checklist

FACT

Taxonomists have named about 1.78 million species of animals, plants and micro-organisms during the past 250 years of research — yet the total number of species inhabiting the globe is still unknown. Experts put the number of all living organisms at somewhere between five and 30 million.

(Source: CBD)

The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) is a set of activities and objectives that highlight issues, facilitate information exchange, and promote technical cooperation in the process of implementation of the CBD programmes and issues. Providing guidance to governments, taxonomists, non-governmental and international organizations, which are responsible for implementing the GTI, the initiative also outlines strategies, planned activities, expected products, timelines, lead actors and resources needed.

In its decision at COP 9, the COP welcomed progress toward the establishment of a possible special fund for the GTI, and encourages BioNET-International and the Interim Steering Committee of the GTI Special Fund to continue seeking funding sources so as to operationalize the Fund prior to 2010, taking into account the objectives of capacity-building,

promotion of technology transfer and contributing to an accelerated accumulation of knowledge on species diversity in countries including those with high levels of biodiversity, and establish, as soon as possible, a trust fund through a steering committee reflecting regional balance.

The need for capacity-building activities and the mobilization of funds, including training in taxonomy, in order to enable developing countries to implement the planned activities, were all emphasized by the COP. Parties and others were invited to provide adequate support for the development of a widely accessible checklist of known species stating the valid scientific names and their synonyms, and timely support to developing countries, in the implementation of the annexed planned activities, including related human, systemic and institutional capacity building.

Incentive Measures

Contributing to biodiversity conservation

In 2000, at its fifth meeting, the COP adopted a programme of work on incentive measures which spells out a number of targets as well as the activities required from Parties, other governments, international organizations and the Secretariat to achieve these targets. In reviewing the implementation of the programme of work in Bonn, the COP emphasized that incentive measures should contribute to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components and not negatively affect biodiversity and livelihoods of other countries; contribute to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty; take into account national and local conditions and circumstances; and be consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations.

Subject to the availability of funds, the COP decided to put more emphasis on:

- Assessing the values of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, as an important basis for public awareness campaigns and policy action
- Development of methods to promote science-based information on biodiversity in consumer decisions, for example through eco-labeling

- Provision of guidance on promotion of biodiversity-based products that are produced in a sustainable manner as alternative sources of income at a local level, including within community-based conservation programmes
- Studies on approaches to develop markets and payment schemes for ecosystem services at local, national and international levels, their advantages as well as potential limitations and risks, and their potential implications for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities
- Analysis of the effects of different incentive measures and the impact on biodiversity across different groups in different geographical areas and over time
- Methods for assessing the effectiveness of incentive measures, including positive incentive measures and the removal of perverse incentive measures.

The COP invited a number of relevant international organizations to continue their pertinent work on these items, and requested the Executive Secretary to encourage this work. The COP also invited relevant organizations to promote scientific and technical cooperation among Parties on the design and implementation of incentive measures that are appropriate to national circumstances, including on valuation of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services and for the promotion of biotrade.

Furthermore, the COP also decided to put more emphasis on the implementation of the programme of work through enhanced sharing of information on good practices, lessons learned, difficulties encountered, and other practical experience on its implementation, as well as assessments, studies, analyses, and capacity building.

The COP requested the Executive Secretary to convene an international workshop on the removal and mitigation of perverse, and the promotion of positive, incentive measures, consisting of government-nominated practitioners with balanced regional representation, as well as experts from relevant organizations and stakeholders, with a view to collecting, exchanging and analysing information, including case-studies on, good practices for, and lessons learned from, concrete and practical



Jonas Nagahedi Mbongu Sodi, COMIFAC Executive Secretary, signs Memorandum of Cooperation agreement with CBD



A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the CBD and Bioversity International. From l-r: Emile Frison (Director General of Bioversity International), Veerle Vandeweerd (UNDP) and Ahmed Djoghlaif (CBD Executive Secretary).



Veerle Vandeweerd, UNDP, signs a Memorandum of Cooperation with the CBD. Looking on are Ahmed Djoghlaif and the President of Palau, Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr. The signing ceremony took place in the margins of the COP 9 side event High-Level Panel Discussion on Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation.

experiences in identifying and removing or mitigating perverse incentive measures, and to identify a limited number of good practice cases from different regions. It also requested the compilation and analysis of relevant information, including analyses and studies from relevant international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Identification, Monitoring, Assessment and Indicators

Building on the framework and experiences of biodiversity assessments

The use of reliable indicators is essential to the development of measures designed to achieve the

aims of the Convention. Global headline indicators for assessing progress towards the three objectives of the Convention and other key issues have been identified as part of the framework for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The Convention has also developed guidance to assist Parties in the design of national-level monitoring programmes and indicators.

In the decision taken at COP 9, Parties and others are invited to promote and support, where appropriate, response scenarios that build on the framework and experiences of biodiversity assessments, such as the Millennium Assessment (MA). The COP also addressed the importance of, when designing integrated assessments, taking into account, among other things, the engagement of stakeholders, the MA principles, conceptual framework and results.

The COP also noted that there is the need for: further improvement of the availability and interoperability of biodiversity data and information; to consider the MA framework and experiences in preparing in-depth reviews of the CBD work programmes and a revision of the Strategic Plan beyond 2010; and making full use of the MA framework and findings in NBSAP review and implementation.

Scientific and Technical Cooperation and the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM)

Parties are encouraged to develop strong and sustainable national CHMs

The clearing-house mechanism is the information-exchange platform of the Convention. Created pursuant to Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention, to promote scientific and technical cooperation, it has evolved into a global network of websites consisting of national clearing-house mechanisms, partner organizations and the main website of the CBD.

The COP extended the mandate of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) informal advisory committee and decided to review it at COP 11. Parties were encouraged to take steps with a view to establishing strong and sustainable national CHMs, which includes preparing a national CHM implementation strategy, developing links between the national CHM and existing networks, identifying

top: COP 9 Bureau members in Bonn
bottom: CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif and Sigmar Gabriel, German Federal Environment Minister and COP 9 President, prior to the opening of COP 9, during which Gabriel called for a clear mandate for concluding negotiations on ABS and for improved financing for global biodiversity conservation





Colourful art created by children and youth displayed at the conference site highlighted the degree to which they identify with — and relate to — our planet's biodiversity

relevant biodiversity-related information sources and encouraging the use of the national CHM as a tool for dialogue with civil society, major groups and stakeholders.

The COP encouraged partners holding biodiversity-related information to contribute to the establishment of regional, subregional or thematic CHMs. It urges the Global Environment Facility to continue providing funding for the establishment and maintenance of national CHMs.

Positioning the central CHM to assist Parties as a provider of online services

The COP, among other things, requested the CBD to build a knowledge base with an online submission system; improve the Convention's website, its accessibility, and make it available in all UN languages; strengthen the Secretariat's capacity in areas related to the CHM, such as information technology, website, knowledge management and other modern information services; further collaborate with key partner organizations, including developing synergies with the other Rio conventions for national implementation and support to the CHM, and with the United Nations Environment Programme for biodiversity issues and knowledge management. The CBD should also take into account the strategy for the preparation of the International Year of Biodiversity when further developing the services offered by the clearing-house mechanism leading up to the year 2010.

Operations of the Convention

Refining meeting schedule, Proposals for emerging issues, Peer review of SBSSTTA documentation

The COP called for further refining the tentative schedule for meetings up to 2010, and reminded Parties, Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), working groups and the Executive Secretary to take into account previous COP decisions when recommending any decision for adoption to avoid duplication.

On the SBSTTA modus operandi, the COP calls upon Parties to participate in the peer-review process for SBSTTA documentation and the Executive Secretary is requested to compile Parties' submissions on new and emerging issues for SBSTTA consideration.

According to the COP, criteria for identifying new and emerging issues include relevance of the issue to the implementation of the CBD's objectives and work programmes; new evidence of unexpected and significant impacts on biodiversity; the urgency of addressing the issue; and actual geographic coverage and potential spread. The COP requests SBSTTA to review and discuss the proposals and, as appropriate, identify new and emerging issues and elaborate the scientific and technical analysis with options for action, and submit this analysis for COP consideration.

The COP also noted the ongoing review and revision of the administrative arrangements between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat, and urges the UNEP

Some of the participants of the Naturathlon 2008 run prior to the race. The oldest participant was 74 years old and some came from as far away as Palau



First Meeting of the COP 9 Bureau — Barcelona

The first meeting of the COP 9 Bureau was held on 4 October 2008 in the Centre de Convencions Internacional Barcelona (CCIB), in Barcelona, Spain, back to back with the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress. Representing Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, the President of COP 9, Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director General, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany, chaired the meeting. As President of the Bureau, Mr. Flasbarth considered COP 9 to have achieved important steps, particularly with respect to ABS, the biodiversity — climate change nexus, bio-fuels and linking protected areas to funding mechanisms. He said the Presidency recognizes the challenge facing the Secretariat in addressing all decisions with limited resources.

The Bureau President outlined the possibility of organizing a high-level ministers meeting to assess progress since COP 9 and expressed the willingness of the Government of Germany to fund a staff position to enhance the human resources of the Secretariat with regards to the LifeWeb initiative. Mr. Flasbarth said the German government's initial budget of the initiative stood at €40 million and that €30 million in projects had already been allocated. For the period until 2012, in addition to this budget line, another €500 million will be provided by Germany. The President informed the Bureau of the Presidency's interest in enhancing cooperation between the CBD and the GEF, and in exploring new avenues of innovative funding and raised the issue of the study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), launched by the G8 + 5 meeting at Potsdam in 2007. He also stated that UNEP had agreed to establish a Secretariat to support the work of Pavan Sukhdev and his team. He further noted that it was the wish of the Presidency to link TEEB to the official UNEP agenda, and to release a report prior to COP 10 demonstrating the economic impacts of non-action.

The co-chairs on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) presented a report submitted for the consideration of the Bureau and underlined that the mandate received at COP 9 required difficult and demanding action during the inter-sessional period and that they counted on the Bureau in moving the process forward. They also highlighted the importance of WGABS-7, including studies and the results of two expert group meetings, in setting the tone for negotiations. On this note the co-chairs underlined their need to be actively involved and engaged in consultations at the regional and inter-regional levels and view their participation in Bureau meetings as vital. The co-chairs emphasized the need for resources to complete the task at hand, and the status of stakeholder engagement, and expressed satisfaction that stakeholder participation in the ABS process had improved as they had held informal consultations with business, academics, NGOs and various representatives of indigenous and local communities.

With regard to the revision of the Strategic Plan, Mr. Flasbarth said an honest assessment would have to be made in reviewing the implementation of the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The main challenge being how to devise post-2010 targets in an honest, credible and positive manner and indicated that it would be desirable to have this endorsed at the UNGA High Level Segment to be held in September 2010. The COP 9 Presidency would like to convene an Eminent/Wise Persons workshop in the winter of 2008/2009 to brainstorm on the post-2010 Biodiversity Target, similar to the Potsdam workshop held in 2006, and also suggested that in parallel to the UN interagency process, a bottom up consultative process should be launched involving stakeholders, the scientific community and the general public.

The Bureau representative of Japan indicated that his Government had initiated national level and regional preparations and that the city of Nagoya had established preparatory committees with the participation of inter alia, industry and the municipality. In addition, a coordination committee has also already been established at the Centre where COP 10 will take place.



The CBD booth at COP 9 in Bonn

Executive Director and the CBD Executive Secretary to finalize the revision for COP 10 consideration. It also decided to adopt the annexed steps for admission of observers to CBD meetings. These steps note that any interested body or agency should inform their Secretariat of its wish to be represented as an observer, and include its statutes and any other relevant information. A list of bodies will then be prepared and submitted to each COP.

Administrative and Budgetary Matters

Core budget approved

Conscious of the projected US\$800,000 shortfall in the Convention's core programme budget for 2007/2008 due to currency devaluation, discussions focused on identifying priorities for core funding. In the decision, the negative effect of recent currency fluctuations on the budget was recognized and the COP approved use of the working capital reserve of the General Trust Fund to cover shortfalls in the 2007/2008 budget, and decided to replenish

the reserve from 1 January 2009 through assessed contributions. The COP approves a core programme budget of US\$11,391,900 for 2009 and US\$12,355,100 for 2010. Priority meetings to be funded from the core budget include COP 10, SBSTTA 14, WGRI 3, one meeting of the Working Group on 8(j) and one meeting of the Working Group on ABS. The COP authorizes the Executive Secretary to draw up to US\$150,000 from surplus and savings from the General Trust Fund for the CBD, to be used for temporary shortfalls in the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Developing Country Parties.

Voluntary contributions by donors, notably towards two ABS meetings and the preparation of GBO 3, and agreement to limit staff increases, kept the nominal increase in the core budget to 6% over the previous biennium. Sweden and Spain pledged funds for ABS 7 and Germany and Japan for ABS 9. Japan, Sweden and Canada pledged for the ABS expert meetings, and Japan and the United Kingdom pledged funding for the preparation of GBO 3. ❖

3. THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted in January 2000 as a supplementary agreement to the CBD. Its objective is to contribute to ensuring the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biodiversity, taking also into account risks to human health. The Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003 and to date, 31 December 2007, 143 states as well as the European Community have ratified it.

Additional information about the Protocol is available at:

- CBD: www.cbd.int/biosafety
- Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.biodiv.org>
- FAQ: www.cbd.int/biosafety/faqs.asp

The year 2008 was highlighted by two major milestones — the fourth meeting of the governing body of the Protocol, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4), held in Bonn, Germany from 12 to 16 May, and the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol. In close cooperation with Parties and other stakeholders, the Secretariat also continued to support the implementation of the Protocol through organization of meetings, training workshops, side events, online conferences, discussion groups and other activities. The Protocol web pages have been redesigned to facilitate easier access to information by Parties and other stakeholders.

The number of ratifications and accessions to the Protocol grew from 143 countries to 153 (as of 20 November 2008). Countries that became Parties to the Protocol in 2008 are: Guinea, Guyana, Myanmar, Suriname, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Burundi, Georgia, Central African Republic and Honduras. The number of countries that finalized their first draft national biosafety frameworks funded by UNEP-GEF reached 104.

The fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol, marked on 11 September, presented an opportunity to review the progress and reflect on the challenges encountered in implementing the Protocol. The theme of the anniversary was *The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Five years of global cooperation towards sustainable development*. The theme serves to highlight the spirit of consensus and cooperation that has characterized the Protocol process to date and to underline the contribution of the Protocol to the implementation of Agenda 21, the global programme of action on sustainable development, adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The fifth anniversary was celebrated by Parties and other stakeholders around the world to promote further awareness of the Protocol, and mobilize support for its implementation.

Building on the achievements of the first three meetings, COP-MOP 4 made additional important decisions aimed at advancing the implementation of the Protocol as the Parties adopted 18 decisions. One major achievement is the decision to advance the process for the elaboration of international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms (LMOs).

Other important decisions adopted by COP-MOP 4 include:

- A comprehensive decision on risk assessment and risk management, including the establishment of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to develop further guidance on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management, an online forum through the Biosafety Clearing-House to be convened prior to two meetings of the expert group and at least one online conference per region to be convened prior to each of the expert group meetings



- Decisions to further advance and report on the capacity-building efforts to implement the Protocol, including approval of a revised set of indicators for monitoring the updated Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol, measures to promote long-term education and training in biosafety and to strengthen the Coordination Mechanism, and adoption of new criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be nominated to the roster of biosafety experts
- A request for the Secretariat to organize an on-line conference to identify existing standards with regard to the handling, packaging, transport and identification of LMOs and to identify any gaps in standards and suggest possible modalities to fill such gaps to further facilitate the implementation of Article 18 of the Protocol

- A request to the Secretariat to implement a number of activities to facilitate ease of access to and use of the Biosafety Clearing-House
- Decisions on issues related to compliance based on the recommendations of the Compliance Committee
- Initiate process to develop a draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs.

left: A side event organized by the UNEP-GEF BCH Project in collaboration with CBD launched the new Help section jointly developed by the SCBD and UNEP. From left: Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Director, Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination, UNEP, and Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Project Manager, UNEP-GEF Project for Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing House and CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif

right: Delegates at the opening session of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety meeting in Cartagena, Colombia in March

Capacity-Building, Education and Training

During 2008, the Secretariat organized two capacity-building meetings and participated in a number of other related meetings and events.

The fourth Coordination Meeting for Governments



Participants at the opening session of COP-MOP 4

and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities was organized in New Delhi, India, on 11 to 13 February. The meeting, which comprised 39 participants, including government officials and representatives of organizations, resulted in, among other things, recommendations for COP-MOP 4 regarding measures for improving capacity-building for addressing socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding LMOs and for the implementation of identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.

Jochen Flasbarth, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety at COP-MOP 4



Opening of the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



Ambassador Raymundo Santos Rocha Magno, on behalf of the outgoing COP-MOP President (Brazil), addresses the plenary

The fifth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety, convened in New Delhi, India, from 14 to 15 February, was attended by 22 participants, who made recommendations to the COP-MOP 4 regarding measures to further improve the roster of experts and to further develop the preliminary set of indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan of the Protocol. COP-MOP 4 adopted these recommendations.

In March, the Secretariat gave a presentation to more than 200 participants on “Biosafety capacity evaluation” at a workshop on capacity evaluation tools related to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective was to increase awareness and knowledge about the purpose and scope of the tools developed by international organizations to evaluate capacity in the areas of food safety, animal and plant health, as well as the experiences and results of their practical application.

The Secretariat also organized a side event for COP-MOP 4 on the outcomes of the second international meeting of academic institutions and organizations held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Among other things, discussions related to opportunities and challenges to biosafety education and training.

Liability and Redress

After years of negotiation, the past year was a turning point for reaching an agreement on liability and redress. The achievement was based on recommendations from the last two liability and redress meetings, held prior to COP-MOP 4, organized by the Secretariat.

The fifth meeting of the Working Group on Liability and Redress, held in Cartagena, Columbia, from 12 to 19 March, revised the working draft on approaches and options for rules and procedures in the context of Article 27 of the Protocol. The group agreed to some core elements and reduced options for operational text. The outcome of the Working Groups was submitted to COP-MOP 4.

The Working Group further established a ‘Friends of the Co-Chairs’ group, that included representatives from each region. The group met from 7 to 10 May in Bonn, Germany, and continued the negotia-



Side event organized by UNEP-GEF BCH Project in collaboration with CBD

tions on the rules and procedures on liability and redress in the context of the Protocol. The outcome of the meeting was submitted to the COP-MOP 4. As a result of the deliberations of the Parties at COP-MOP 4, the negotiations on liability and redress will continue in 2009 within the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs established by COP-MOP 4.

Risk Assessment and Risk Management

With regard to risk assessment and risk management under the Protocol, the Secretariat carried out and facilitated several activities. Among these, the Secretariat organized a workshop, launched the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management through the BCH, and held the first round of Discussion Groups within the online Forum.

An Asia Sub-regional Workshop on Capacity-building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 7 to 9 April. Attended by 40 delegates from governments and organizations, the main outcome of the workshop was a set of recommendations for COP-MOP 4 regarding priorities for capacity-building for the effective implementation of risk assessment and risk management at the national/regional levels, with emphasis on the application of risk assessment principles on the emerging biotechnology applications,

human and financial resources, guidance material on risk assessment and networking among risk assessment experts in the region. The recommendations were considered by COP-MOP 4, which also took note of the conclusions and recommendations of three other regional and subregional workshops held in three other regions prior to 2008.

The online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, established by COP-MOP 4, was launched by the Secretariat through the BCH. This Forum will serve as a virtual platform where experts can interact and exchange opinions on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management of LMOs. The online Forum will be comprised of discussion groups and real-time conferences. The outcomes of these events will serve as one of the inputs for the deliberations by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, which will meet twice in the current intersessional period and will report to the COP-MOP 5. The Forum comprised 125 National Experts and 30 Observers at its launch.

The first round of Discussion Groups within the online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management took place from 10 to 23 November. The aim of these Discussion Groups was to identify major issues related to risk assessment and risk management of specific types of LMOs (trees, fish, microorganisms and pharmaplants).

The risk assessment records in the Biosafety Clearing-House were reviewed and made more

user-friendly, with 121 new records being created and linked to the relevant national decisions. Decisions taken on specific LMOs were also linked to the respective BCH LMO records to facilitate cross-referencing and improve retrieval of relevant data. Risk assessment records and records contained in the LMO, gene and organism registries were assessed for completeness. The Secretariat also developed new common formats for the submission of risk assessment reports, LMOs, gene and DNA sequences, and organisms.

The Secretariat also made presentations on risk assessment of LMOs. One presentation, at the science symposium “Plant Risk Assessment Challenges for the 21st Century: New Crops and New Uses,” was organized by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Ottawa, Canada, from 12 to 14 March. An opening address highlighting the need for environmental risk assessment capacity-building in developing countries was made at the COP-MOP 4 side event “Tools to support environmental risk assessment of transgenic crops” organized by the GMO Environmental Risk Assessment Methodologies (GMO ERA) project. Also, a presentation on risk assessment under the Protocol was made to students of the International Master in Environmental Assessment course, McGill University, during their visit to the Secretariat on 1 October.

The Biosafety Division became part of the IPPC Pest Risk Analysis Steering Committee and assisted on the development of a joint work plan, which is aimed at establishing synergies within the CBD and

IPPC mandates. The work plan includes mechanisms of collaboration between the IPPC and the CBD on issues related to living modified organisms, development of guidance materials on risk assessment and management of LMOs, standardization of terminology, capacity building and information sharing.

Biosafety Clearing-House

In 2008, the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), the mechanism to facilitate exchange of information on LMOs and assist Parties to implement the Protocol, initiated several activities. The Secretariat organized the fourth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH-IAC), organized and participated in six workshops relating to the BCH and improved several operational features.

At the BCH-IAC meeting, convened in November at the Secretariat in Montreal, the members of the Committee assessed the revamping of the BCH, reviewed the registration section and discussed the multi-year programme of work for the operation of the BCH.

In collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme — the Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) Project on BCH, the Secretariat organized four regional workshops directed at BCH National Focal Points (NFPs). These were held in Cairo, Egypt, for the African and Asian sub-regions in March and a training workshop for BCH-NFPs was held before COP-MOP in Bonn, Germany in May. Finally, in July, the Secretariat participated in a training workshop in Fiji for Pacific countries.

BCH activities also improved operational features, as approved by COP-MOP 4. To improve the ease of reporting information, the Secretariat redesigned the registration section of the BCH and developed new common formats for the submission of information. The Secretariat also initiated the implementation of the online registration pages which are expected to be completed before the end of 2008. Two online forums, the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and the Online Forum on Capacity-Building, were prepared and launched in November.

In September, in accordance with a decision by COP-MOP 4 on the roster of biosafety experts, all

The fifth meeting of the Working Group on Liability and Redress took place from 12 to 19 March 2008 in Cartagena, Colombia, during which the Working Group revised the working draft on the elaboration of options for rules and procedures in the context of Article 27 of the Protocol. The group agreed to some core elements and reduced options for operational text identified pertaining to liability and redress. From left to right: Charles Gbedemah, CBD Secretariat, Jimena Nieto Carrasco, Co-Chair (Colombia) and H.E. Juan Lozano Ramirez, Minister of Environment (Colombia)





Participants to the International Youth Conference for the Protection of Biological Diversity – Biodiversity on Edge flank the CBD Executive Secretary

records in the roster were removed and a new roster was established. An online common format for the nomination of experts was made available on the BCH.

Following a decision by COP-MOP 4 on monitoring and reporting under the Protocol, an updated analysis of the first national reports, that includes submissions received by the Secretariat after the deadline, was completed within three months after COP-MOP 4 and made available through the BCH.

A survey of BCH users was launched on 1 December 2007 and was made available on the home page of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) in four languages in both electronic and printable format. In accordance with a decision by COP-MOP 3, the BCH has now been translated into all six official UN languages. In collaboration with the UNEP-GEF BCH Project, the BCH help system has been extensively updated including comprehensive, context-sensitive 'Help' information made available from individual BCH pages. During the year, the databases in the BCH and the submissions of national reports also continued to expand. These include the capacity-building databases including information on public awareness projects, the Biosafety Information Resource Center (BIRC) and guidance material on risk assessment.

Compliance

The Compliance Committee held its fifth meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 21 November.

The Committee reviewed the outcomes of COP-MOP 4 regarding compliance and also reviewed general issues of non-compliance based on the revised analysis of the first national reports.

Public Awareness and Outreach

Concerning public awareness and outreach, the Secretariat undertook a number of public activities within the framework of the previous and new outreach strategies (2008-2012) for the Protocol.

In January, the Secretariat participated in a gender workshop in Geneva to develop a plan of action and to mainstream gender issues in the CBD Secretariat. The workshop also included representatives of UN agencies and other stakeholders including the IUCN.

The Secretariat organized several side events during COP-MOP 4 and a Communication, Education and Public Awareness fair on experiences of implementing the Protocol. The side events covered issues related to the BCH, capacity-building, cooperation, risk assessment and public awareness. During the fair, Parties and other stakeholders had the opportunity to display outreach materials and make presentations. Some of the presentations were also webcasted during COP-MOP 4.

Together with the Aarhus Convention Secretariat, the CBD Secretariat facilitated the international workshop on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding GMOs, which was held from 19 to 20 May in Cologne, Germany,



MOP Bureau members meet prior to MOP 4

immediately after the fourth meeting of Parties to the Protocol. More than 80 participants, including National Focal Points for the Biosafety Protocol, attended. The participants shared experiences, good practices and lessons learned regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs and identified the most pressing needs and challenges in respect to these issues and possible measures to address them.

The Secretariat continued to hold presentations for university students during the year. In April, a presentation was held regarding handling, transport, packaging and identification requirements under the Protocol during a sustainable development conference at Concordia University for students with a degree in business administration. In the summer, a presentation on the Protocol was given to a group of visitors to the SCBD from the summer school on 'International and European Environmental Law' at the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales from the University of Montreal. In October, a presentation was given to a visiting group of students from Concordia University to the Secretariat explaining, among other things, the Protocol in general and the issue of liability and redress under the Protocol. In the same month, a presentation was given to an international development studies class at McGill University. The presentation discussed the Protocol in general and its role in sustainable development.

The African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum in collaboration with several other entities, including the African Union, was held in Nairobi from 22 to 26 September. More than 200 participants, including agricultural research organizations, academic institutions, and representatives of international donors and the private sector attended the meeting,

shared information and experiences in the development and application of biotechnology for Africa's development. A representative of the Secretariat made a presentation on the nature and role of the Protocol in supporting the safe development and use of modern biotechnology.

Five publications were issued and a CD-ROM with the entire collection of the Protocol publications was set up during 2008. The CD-ROM was disseminated during major events such as COP-MOP 4. The Secretariat also published the fourth issue of the *Biosafety Protocol News* newsletter, which featured articles relating to the first five years of the entry into force of the Protocol. The fifth issue of the *Biosafety Protocol News* was also issued, which featured articles on capacity-building activities: best practices and lessons learned. The Secretariat also issued a publication on "Rules, Procedures and Mechanisms Applicable to Processes under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" and a pamphlet to highlight the developments of the Protocol. The Secretariat also contributed relevant information on the Protocol to the 'Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements' published by the Green Customs Initiative.

A number of outreach materials to mark the Protocol's fifth anniversary were developed for a dedicated website and a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM was disseminated to all Parties and other stakeholders. The web page for the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol was viewed and linked through other websites by a number of Parties and other stakeholders (www.cbd.int/biosafety/anniversary). The outreach materials in the CD-ROM and web page contained messages from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of COP-MOP 4 and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the fifth edi-

tion of the *Biosafety Protocol News*, a press release, several banners for an online exhibit, a poster and a document which contained milestones since the entry into force of the Protocol and news coverage of the anniversary.

Other outreach activities involved a comprehensive re-design and continuous update of the website of the Protocol, a kiosk for visibility of the Protocol, several interviews, webcasting during COP-MOP 4, participation during an event for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) and expansion of records on public awareness in the Biosafety Clearing-House under the capacity-building database and in the Biosafety Information Resource Center (BIRC), webcasting participation during an event for the IBD day in the Botanical Garden.

Collaboration and partnerships with other organizations

In 2008 the Secretariat continued to strengthen its collaboration with different partner organizations. The Secretariat participated in the fourth meeting of the partners of the Green Customs Initiative held in Paris from 23 to 25 January. The meeting was also attended by representatives of other partners in the Initiative and resulted in, amongst other things, a work plan for the Green Customs Initiative for 2008. In February, the Secretariat provided materials for a presentation on the Protocol that was given during the first Green Customs workshop in the Latin American region, which was held in Venezuela.

The Secretariat also organized a side event during COP-MOP 4 to provide an introduction to the Initiative and its activities as well as an overview of the SCBD's involvement. In September, the "Green Customs Guide to Multilateral Environmental Agreements" was published. The SCBD contributed information on the role of customs officers in the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Guide.

A meeting between the secretariats of the CBD and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) was held on 18 February at the margins of the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), in Rome, Italy. Among the issues discussed,

the following were directly relevant to the Biosafety Protocol: development of standards of mutual interest under the IPPC and under the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol; capacity-building and technical assistance; mechanisms for sharing information through the International Phytosanitary Portal, the clearing house mechanism of the CBD and the Biosafety Clearing-House of the Biosafety Protocol. It was also re-affirmed at this meeting that the two secretariats will work together to avoid duplication, encourage cooperation at both the international, regional and national levels and use one another's expertise as appropriate.

Socio-Economic Considerations

The Secretariat assisted the UNEP-GEF Project on Biosafety in the organization of a workshop on socio-economic considerations, which was held from 21 to 23 July in Mexico City, Mexico. Sixteen experts in the field of socio-economic considerations and biosafety attended the workshop to discuss research being undertaken in a project funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.

Financial Mechanism and Resources

In July the Secretariat had a meeting with staff from the GEF Evaluation Office. Consequently, an invitation was sent to all Parties and other stakeholders to actively participate in the survey for the independent mid-term review of the GEF Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) and provide feedback on their experiences with the RAF with respect to the GEF support for the implementation of the Protocol and make suggestions for improvement. The findings of the review will be presented to the GEF Council at its November 2008 meeting.

Status of Ratification or Accession to the Protocol

As of 20 November 2008, with the recent ratifications of Central African Republic and Honduras, the number of Parties to the Protocol has increased to 153. The list of Parties is available on the website: www.cbd.int/biosafety/signinglist.shtml. ❖



Nagoya Castle

(Photo courtesy of Nagoya Convention and Visitors Bureau)

“The stage has now been set for the year 2010 and Nagoya. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, during the International Year of Biodiversity, it is expected that we will adopt not only targets for the reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss beyond 2010 but also landmark international regimes on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use, as well as on liability and redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Secretariat remains fully committed to achieving these strategic goals.”

—Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, delivered a keynote address at the “Kick Off seminar for the success of COP-10” in June, organized by the Ministry of Environment of Japan in collaboration with the “COP 10 Promotion Committee” of Aichi Prefecture and the City of Nagoya. Mr. Djoghlaif also took part in a press conference which was covered by all four TV channels in Nagoya and major newspapers.





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Terraced fields together with local farmers in Yunnan, China

[Photo courtesy of Dr. Dayuan Xue]