

**MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES
OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
JULY 2008**

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW OF THE ECOSOC

The CBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, participated in the Annual Ministerial Review of the High-level Segment of the 2008 Substantive Session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which took place at the UN Headquarters in New York. In his statement, Mr. Djoghlaif highlighted the UN's priority challenges as identified by the UN Secretary-General – natural disasters, climate change, the food crisis and the surge in fuel prices – are deeply rooted in the unprecedented loss of biodiversity. Mr. Djoghlaif also took part and addressed the participants during the High-Level Roundtable on “The Role of Ecosystem Services in Sustainable Development”.

Statements:

High-Level Segment: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-07-01-ecosoc-en.pdf>

High-Level Roundtable: <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/statement08/Djoghlaif.pdf>



**IBD 2009 THEME:
“BIODIVERSITY AND INVASIVE
ALIEN SPECIES”**

The Secretariat has announced that the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) in 2009 will be “Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species”. The theme reflects on the reality of how invasive alien species have invaded and affected native biota in almost every ecosystem type on Earth. A Task Force comprising of international and non-governmental organizations has been established to work on the issue of invasive alien species to provide assistance in the preparations of the IBD in 2009. Outreach and information materials will be posted on a web portal in October 2008. Parties are invited to incorporate these into their national and local IBD celebrations.

Notification issued:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2008/ntf-2008-087-ibd-en.pdf>

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS OVERSEAS ENTITIES: STRATEGIES TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS (REUNION ISLAND)

The Secretariat participated in the first international conference “The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss”, which was held from 7 to 11 July 2008 at Saint Denis, Reunion Island. The event, organized by IUCN, the Regional Council of Reunion Island and the French Observatory of the Impacts of Global Warming (ONERC), in partnership with the French Ministry of Internal Affairs and Overseas and Territorial Collectivities, was one of the first initiatives of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Message from Reunion Island adopted by the participants stresses the importance of the implementation of the Convention's work programme on island biodiversity and the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA).

Statement: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2008/sp-2008-07-11-eu-fr.pdf>

CBD Press Release: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-07-11-eu-en.pdf>



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AIRBUS



Following the recent visit of the CBD Executive Secretary to the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, the Airbus entered into a partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD, in support of the Green Wave initiative, in the margins of the Farnborough International Airshow. Coinciding with the signing of the agreement, Airbus launched a major public awareness campaign to promote *Green Wave* in several major publications, including *Time*, *Newsweek* and *National Geographic*, and on news websites such as the BBC and CNN. To further promote the Green Wave initiative and engage the support of airlines and other industry members,

Airbus will convene, in partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), a meeting in September 2008 to establish a coalition of interested airlines to be known as the "Friends of the Green Wave Initiative."

In photo (l-r): Mr. Tom Enders, CEO of Airbus, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary.

Press Release:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-07-16-greenwave-cbd-en.pdf>

For Airbus advertisement on the Green Wave:

<http://greenwave.cbd.int/files/The%20Green%20Wave%20Advertisement.pdf>

HOSTING OF THE FIRST MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE STANDARD MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

Following discussions held during the joint COP and ITPGRFA Bureaux meeting, in the margins of the COP-9 meeting, the Secretariat was pleased to host the first meeting of Experts on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System of the International Treaty on 22-23 July at its headquarters in Montreal. This collaborative effort demonstrates the close links between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty. The meeting was opened by Mr. Ravi Sharma, on behalf of the CBD Executive Secretary. Ms. Valerie Normand of the CBD Secretariat took part in the meeting as an observer.



THE GREEN WAVE

One school, one tree, one gift to Nature



ALGERIA SIGNS THE GREEN WAVE

During his visit to Algeria in July 2008, the CBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, met with the

Ministers of Environment and Agriculture of Algeria, together with other

relevant officials. A number of leading local media were present during the meeting.

On 30 July, His Excellency Mr. Cherif Rahmani, Algerian Minister of Environment signed an agreement with Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, in support of the Green Wave initiative. This partnership is another demonstration of Algeria's commitment in the preservation and conservation of the biological diversity and the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.



MEETING OF THE CONSORTIUM OF SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS ON BIODIVERSITY (CSP)

The Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity held a meeting via teleconference on 24 July 2008 to discuss the potential activities and events to be organized for the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) in 2010. A number of CBD and other UN meetings were identified as possible avenues for the CSP members to hold or advertise their activities for 2010. Other activities to increase biodiversity awareness, such as a common website broadcasting the museum's collection, were also discussed. The CSP members will also provide inputs on the logo and common messages that will be developed for the IYB 2010 and will use them in the outreach materials produced for that year.

Other meetings:

Meeting with the Director, Outreach Division, UN/DPI, 1 July 2008, New York
Briefing of the Ambassadors of the Group of 77 on the outcome of COP-9, 1 July 2008, New York
Participated in the High-Level Dialogue on "The Role of Ecosystem Services in Sustainable Development", 2 July 2008, New York
Meeting with the Coordinator of the United Nations Regional Commissions, 3 July 2008, New York
Meeting with the United Nations Under Secretary-General for Safety and Security, 3 July 2008, New York
Meeting with the Executive Director, UN-HABITAT, 3 July 2008, New York

Attend the second international review meeting - UNEP Initiative on assessing impacts of trade liberalization on biodiversity, 1-3 July 2008, Geneva, Switzerland
Take part in the celebrations of the National Day of Algeria, 5 July 2008, Ottawa, Canada
Telephone interview with Radio Algeria, 7 July 2008
Attend the Forum on Gender and Environment, 7 July 2008, Mexico City, Mexico
Visit of Catalina Santamaria of UNFF, as part of UNFF-CBD staff exchange programme 7-11 July 2008
Participated in the European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss", including attendance at GLISPA side event, 7-11 July 2008, St. Denis, Reunion Island
Teleconference with ABS Co-Chairs, 8 July 2008
Interview with One Planet Pictures, 10 July 2008, St. Denis, Reunion Island

Meeting via teleconference for the socio-economic considerations project, 11 & 16 July 2008
Attend the International Coral Reef Initiative General meeting, 12-13 July 2008, Florida, U.S.A.
Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with AIRBUS, in the margins of the Farnborough International Airshow, 16 July 2008, Farnborough, U.K.
Sustainable Aviation Briefing Event, in the margins of the Farnborough International Airshow, 16 July 2008, Farnborough, U.K.
Visit of the members of the German Parliament, 16 July 2008
Visit of Ryo Kohsaka, Japan, 16 July 2008

Visit of Nooriya Koshen Chief, Staff Development & Training Unit Human Resources Management Services (UNON), followed by a meeting with the CBD Retreat Task Force, 21 July 2008
Visit and meet with staff of the United Nations Forum on Forests, 21-25 July 2008, New York, U.S.A.
Attendance as expert to UNEP-GEF Regional Training Workshop on the BCH for Asia-Pacific, 21-25 July 2008, Nadi, Fiji
Take part in the scoping exercise on socio-economic considerations, organized by UNEP-GEF, 21-25 July 2008, Mexico City, Mexico
Meeting via teleconference of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, 24 July 2008
Meeting with the Algerian Ministers of Agriculture and Environment, to discuss IYB meeting in 2010, 30-31 July 2008, Algiers, Algeria
Interview with Algeria Radio TV and other local newspapers, 30-31 July 2008, Algiers, Algeria

CBD VISITORS in JULY



Members of the German Parliament

On 16 July, the Secretariat welcomed the visit of the **members of the German Parliament**, which comprised of: **Mr. Andreas Weigel and Mr. Bernhard Schulte-Drueggel**, together with **Ms. Angelina Heidrich (Internationaler Naturschutz-BfN)**, and **Mr. Jörg Metger (German Consul General in Montreal)**. A briefing was made on the objectives and work of the Convention, as well as the CBD's Parliamentarians and Biodiversity initiative was presented. The meeting discussed Germany's possible role in the initiative, and also ways to raise parliamentarians' outreach and define an action plan for 2008-2010.

United Nations Forum on Forests

As part of a short-term staff exchange between the CBD and UNFF Secretariats, **Catalina Santamaria, Forest Policy Advisor for Biodiversity at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** visited the Secretariat for the period of 7-11 July 2008, which was then followed by the visit of **Tim Christophersen, CBD Programme Officer for forest biodiversity**, at the UNFF Secretariat, for the period 21-25 July. Discussions focused on the preparation of the UNFF-8 report on forests and biodiversity conservation, as well as to discuss possible elements of a draft joint work programme for the UNFF and CBD Secretariat and cooperation on regional forest-related issues.



Students from Université de Montréal's CERIUM

Students from Université de Montréal's CERIUM summer course in European and International Environmental Law visited the Secretariat on 2 July 2008. Presentations on the work of the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol were made by CBD staff members Olivier Jalbert and Kathryn Garforth.

United Nations Office in Nairobi

On 21 July, the Secretariat welcomed the visit of **Nooriya Koshen, Chief of Staff Development & Training Unit, Human Resources Management Services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi**. A meeting was held with the members of the CBD Retreat Task Force to discuss the training needs of the Secretariat.



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