

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AUGUST 2008

MEETING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL



Photo courtesy of United Nations Headquarters

During the first week of August, the UNCBD Executive Secretary had an opportunity to meet with the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon in New York to provide a briefing on the outcomes of the Bonn Biodiversity Summit as well as present the challenges facing the COP10 meeting in Nagoya. Also at the meeting were Mr. Nambiar Vijay, United Nations Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Janos Pastzor, United Nations Secretary-General Climate Change Support Team, and Ms. Nandhini Krishna, CCD/CBD Liaison Officer in New York. Other issues discussed were: the UNCBD's Green Wave initiative, the high level segment of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the

preparations for the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, among others.

Mr. Djoghlaf also met with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Sha Zukang, who expressed full support in assisting CBD in implementing COP9 decisions. Also present at the meeting were Mr. David Connor, UN Division of Sustainable Development, and Ms. Krishna A



From L-R: Ms. Nandhini Krishna, Mr. Sha Zukang, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, and Mr. David O'Connor.

meeting was also held with Mr. Oscar de Rojas, Executive Secretary of the Doha Review Conference, and Mr. Nicholas Alipui, UNICEF Director of Programmes.

STATE OF PARANA DELIVERS ON ITS COMMITMENT TO OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE CBD SECRETARIAT



Photos courtesy of Antonio Pietrobelli—ExportNews Brazil

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the UNCBD, the State Government of Parana delivers on its commitment to its implementation. Signed during the high-level segment of the Bonn Biodiversity Summit, the objective of the agreement was to offset all carbon emissions arising out of the CBD Secretariat's operations between COP 9 and 10, including the travel of funded Party representatives to attend official CBD meetings (estimated at around 10,200 tons of carbon equivalent).

Between May and July 2008, less than two months after the MoC was signed, agents of the State of Parana's Environment Office supervised the planting of 57,000 tree saplings by land owners in several municipalities, and have already surpassed the proposed tree planting goals. All plantations were done in legal reserves on rural properties and farms, whose owners must sign legally binding commitments to permanent protection of the areas.



Press Release issued:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-08-01-treeplanting-en.pdf> (also available in French and Spanish)

ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOST COUNTRY AT ALL LEVELS

In August 2008, the UNCBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, met with some members of the Informal Host Country Committee, a group established in June 2007 to promote dialogue and enhance relations with the Host Country and relevant host country institutions and organizations with a view to a more efficient and effective operation of the Secretariat. Issues raised in the respective meetings were the difficulties being faced by the Secretariat regarding its operations, related mainly to security and office space, among others.



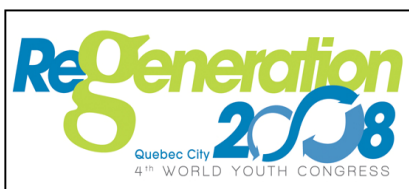
On 18 August, Mr. Djoghlaf had a meeting with Ms. Line Beauchamp, Minister, Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec, with the participation of Mr. François Crête, Directeur du cabinet, and Mr. Gerry Sklavounos, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister.

A meeting was held on 20 August 2008 with Mr. André Gamache, President and Chief Executive Officer of Montréal International, together with Mr. Dave Murphy, Vice President-International Organizations at the Montréal International.



A meeting was also held with a delegation from the Ministère des Relations Internationales du Québec, comprised of Ms. Louise-Esther Fortin, Mr. Éric Thérout and Mr. Pierre Simard, on 22 August.

WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS, QUÉBEC 2008



From 10-21 August, Quebec City hosted over 600 of the planet's most dynamic young activists in the field of sustainable development at the 4th World Youth Congress. Young journalists, cultural performers and activists representing 120 countries gathered to share experiences, and to document and show governments what young people are doing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Ms. Christine Gibb of the UNCBD Secretariat delivered a workshop on biodiversity and development.

COP 9 PRESIDENCY VISIT TO THE UNCBD SECRETARIAT, 12-13 AUGUST



From l-r: Timothy Hodges, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Jochen Flasbarth and Nicola Breier

Following the successful Bonn Biodiversity Summit, the UNCBD Executive Secretary Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif welcomed the visit of the COP9 Presidency to the Secretariat headquarters in Montreal to discuss the implementation of the Bonn decisions and the Nagoya road map, as well as the preparation of the first meeting of the Bureau of COP 9 to be held in Barcelona, Spain, on 4-5 October 2008 at the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Such a visit taking place less than a month after the conclusion of the Bonn meeting further demonstrates Germany's leadership and commitment to the achievement of the threefold objective of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. The COP9 Presidency comprised of Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director General, Federal Ministry for the Environment, representing His Excellency Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, German Federal Minister of the Environment and the President of COP 9, and Ms. Nicola Breier, the UNCBD focal point for Germany. The two-day visit of the COP9 Presidency coincided with the visit of Mr. Timothy Hodges, the co-chair of the Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS). The German delegation and Mr. Hodges met with relevant UNCBD staff members to discuss ABS-related matters, as well as with other Divisions.

Press Release:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2008/pr-2008-08-15-cop9-en.pdf> (also available in French and Spanish)

CBD GUESTS IN AUGUST

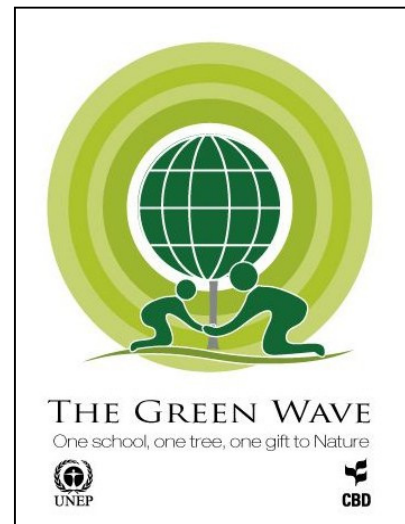


Visit of the new Consul General of Algeria in Montréal

The UNCBD Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, was pleased to welcome the visit of Mr. Abdelghani Amara, the new Consul General of Algeria in Montreal (in photo, at far right).

Other guests:

On 4 August, **Ms. Judith Hushagen, Managing Director of MANNET**, the company that administered the UNEP and UNEP MEA Staff Opinion Survey 2008, visited the Secretariat. Ms. Hushagen debriefed the Secretariat staff on the results of the survey. On 5 August, the **new Consul General of Chile in Montreal, Mr. Patricio Manuel Victoriano Munoz**, paid a courtesy visit to the Secretariat and had a brief meeting with the UNCBD Executive Secretary. On 14 August, **senior officials from the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans** visited the Secretariat and met with relevant staff members. Also welcomed to the Secretariat in August was **Mr. Robert Litzler, President, L'Association québécoise pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement**.



<http://greenwave.cbd.int/>

Other meetings:

- Visit of Judith Hushagen from MANNET for debriefing on the Staff Opinion Survey for UNEP and the UNEP MEA Secretariats, 4 August 2008
- Visit of the new Consul General of Chile to Montreal, 5 August 2008
- Visit of the new Consul General of Algeria to Montreal, 6 August 2008
- Meet with the United Nations Secretary General, with the participation of the Chef du Cabinet, the Director of the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team and the joint UNCCD-UNCBD Liaison Officer, 7 August 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Take part in the CI/UNEP-WCMC Workshop on REDD Biodiversity Benefits, 7 August 2008, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
- Deliver presentations and participate as a resource person in two meetings organised for countries of the COMIFAC region: Capacity development workshop for Indigenous and Local Community representatives of the Central African region on the CBD, in particular ABS and 8(j) programmes of work, 5-6 August 2008; Meeting of the GTBAC on the COP 9 outcomes and ABS process in the region, 7-9 August 2008, Hotel Makepe Palace, Douala, Cameroon
- Visit the Parque de Papa (Potato Park), 8 August 2008, Písaq, Peru
- Meet with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, as well as the Officer-in-Charge of CSD, 8 August 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Meet with the Secretary of the Doha meeting on financing for development, 8 August 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Meet with the Director for Programmes, UNICEF, 8 August 2008, New York, U.S.A.
- Meet with the Chief of Security Section at ICAO, 11 August 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Attend the GISIN Data Providers Workshop, 9-12 August 2008, Elmira, New York, U.S.A.
- Keynote presentation and panel member: GTZ Workshop "Integrating biodiversity conservation into climate protection", 10-11 October 2008, Bonn, Germany
- Visit of Timothy Hodges, Co-chair, Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, 12 August 2008
- Visit of the representative of the COP-9 President and German focal point, 12-13 August 2008
- Take part in the World Youth Congress, 13 August 2008, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.
- Deliver a presentation at the APEC Working Group on Intellectual Property on ABS and Traditional Knowledge, 13-14 August 2008, Lima, Peru
- Visit of senior officials from the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 14 August 2008
- Visit of Mr. Robert Litzler, President of AQPHERE, Trésorier de l'organisation internationale Planet'ERE, Co-organisateur du 5^e Congrès mondial d'éducation relative à l'environnement, 14 August 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Meet with Peruvian Society for Environmental Law as well as deliver a presentation on current developments regarding the ABS International Regime to the Centro Internacional de Papas/International Potato Centre, 15 August 2008, Lima, Peru
- Participate in the ninth coordination meeting of the United Nations Water, 16-17 August 2008, Stockholm, Sweden
- Attend the World Water Week, 17-23 August 2008, Stockholm, Sweden
- Participate in the third coordination meeting of the United Nations Water Task Force on Transboundary Waters, 18 August 2008, Stockholm, Sweden
- Meeting with Ms. Line Beauchamp, Ministre du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, Québec, 18 August 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Meeting with Mr. André Gamache, Director of Montreal International, 20 August 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Meeting with senior officials from the Ministère des relations internationales du Québec. 22 August 2008, Montreal, Canada
- Take part as a commentator in the panel on "Marine Genetic Resources and Bioprospecting" at the international conference "The World Ocean in Globalization: Challenges for Marine Regions", 21-23 August 2008, Oslo, Norway
- Take part in the Asian Regional Workshop on Biodiversity Indicators and Database Use and Applications, organized by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, 25-28 August 2008, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Attend the WIPO Symposium on Patent Landscaping and Transfer of Technology under the Multilateral Environment Agreements, 26 August 2008, Geneva, Switzerland
- MEA Management Team Teleconference, 27 August 2008
- Meet with UNEP-WCMC staff to discuss collaboration on the POW on Protected Areas, WDPA and CHM-related matters, 28-29 August 2008, Cambridge, U.K.
- Launching of the web page dedicated for the fifth anniversary of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 29 August 2008

5th Anniversary
of the Protocol on Biosafety

<http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/anniversary/>



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