

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

APRIL 2011

Meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of
the three Rio Conventions



Rio Conventions Executive Secretaries

The eleventh meeting of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio Conventions was held on 11 April 2011 at the UNCCD Secretariat premises in Bonn, Germany. Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD chaired the meeting which discussed (i) current and requested activities undertaken by the JLG, (ii) support for the coordination of national planning and reporting processes, (iii) cooperation on gender mainstreaming (iv) plans for joint events at Rio+20, including the Rio Conventions Pavilion and (v) joint outreach and communication initiatives. Main outcomes from the meeting include an agreement to formalize the terms of reference and modus operandi of the JLG, a set of joint high level activities identified for Rio+20 as well as the 20th anniversary of the conventions in 2012, and new and revised joint publications on climate change adaptation, forests and gender. The JLG also agreed to meet via video-conference in early June 2011 in order to report back on actions.

Meeting of the Biodiversity-related
Conventions Liaison Group

The eighth meeting of the Biodiversity-related Conventions Liaison Group (BLG) was held on 13 April at the office of the CITES Secretariat, International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the SCBD chaired the meeting which was attended by 4 of the 5 biodiversity –related

conventions, with ITPGRFA sending apologies. The meeting addressed the following items: (i) update on the activities of the Japan Fund and capacity building support for the implementation of the Nagoya Outcomes, and other activities being undertaken by BLG members in support of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity; (ii) activities in preparation for UN Decade for Biodiversity; and (iii) the need for a more formal agreed *modus operandi* for the BLG to be developed and agreed by September 2011. The BLG will meet next in September 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, for its annual retreat.



Biodiversity-related Conventions Liaison Group Members

Mission to Cuba



Abelardo Moreno,
Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
with CBD-ES

At the kind invitation of the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the CBD Executive Secretary paid an official visit to Cuba and held meetings with senior government officials from the Foreign Affairs and Environment Ministries of to discuss ways and means to enhance relation between Cuba and CBD, on the implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit outcomes, including the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, and preparations for CBD COP 11 to be held in India in October 2012. Meetings were also held with relevant organizations and agencies.

Signatories to the Nagoya Protocol
on Access and Benefit-Sharing



Ecuador

In April, five countries became signatories to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. They include: Ecuador (1 April), Central African Republic (6 April), Seychelles (15 April), Mali (19 April), and Sudan (21 April).

The signature follows the signing of the Protocol by Colombia, Yemen, Algeria, Brazil, Mexico and Rwanda in February.

The Nagoya Protocol, a landmark treaty that links conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with development, was agreed by the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in October 2010. It was opened for signature on 2 February 2011 in New York and will remain open until 1 February 2012.



Central African Republic

Seychelles



Mali

Sudan

Expert Meeting on the modalities of operations of the ABS Clearing-House Montreal, Canada

The Secretariat organized an expert meeting from 11-14 April 2011, in Montreal, Canada, on the modalities of operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House thanks to the financial support of the European Commission and with a view to providing input to the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol to be held from 6 to 10 June 2011 in Montreal, Canada.

The experts considered issues for the establishment of the ABS Clearing-House including the role of the ABS Clearing-House in implementing the Nagoya Protocol, opportunities for collaboration with existing systems, considerations for establishment of the ABS Clearing-House and priorities for a pilot phase. The outcomes of the meeting will be considered by the Intergovernmental Committee with a view to adopting the modalities of the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House at the first meeting of the COP-MOP in accordance with Article 14, paragraph 4 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

BCH Portal on Socio-Economic considerations

The Secretariat created a collaborative portal in the BCH for the purpose of facilitating the work on socio-economic con-

siderations. Online discussion groups on socio-economic considerations were convened through the portal in order to facilitate the preparation of the online regional conferences requested in paragraph 24 of decision BS-V/3. Over 90 participants registered for the online discussion groups and 250 messages were posted over the seven weeks the discussion groups were running. For more information, please visit the collaborative portal on socio-economic considerations at: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml.

Meeting of the Biosafety Clearing-House Informal Advisory Committee Montreal, Canada

The Secretariat hosted the sixth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH IAC 6) in Montreal from 30 March – 1 April 2011. The meeting was attended by 13 experts, 7 observers and 4 CBD staff members. Participants discussed the following principal items: (i) Strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP decision BS-V/16): its relevance to the Biosafety Clearing-House and future challenges; (ii) Latest developments in the Biosafety Clearing-House and on-going projects; (iii) Collaboration with the UNEP-GEF BCH II Capacity-Building Project; and (iv) Implementation of COP-MOP decision BS-V/2. The report of the meeting including the Committee's conclusions

and recommendations is available at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/meetings/documents.shtml?eventid=4734>.

Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing and/or Funding Biosafety Capacity-building Activities / Meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety Chisinau, Rep. of Moldova

The seventh Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing and/or Funding Biosafety Capacity-building Activities was held 4-6 April 2011 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. A total number of 30 participants from 16 Governments and 9 organizations attended. The Governments of Norway and Spain provided financial support for some of the participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend the meeting. The discussions mainly focussed on the following items: (i) Capac-

participants made a number of recommendations on: (i) the organization of the workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms and other related activities; and (ii) The second comprehensive review of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol.

Central and Eastern European Regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of LMOs under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Secretariat organized and serviced the Central and Eastern European Regional Training of Trainers' Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of LMOs under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety from 11 to 15 April 2011 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The workshop was made possible through the fi-



Participants at the CEE workshop

ity-building for enforcement of national biosafety regulatory frameworks; and (ii) Capacity-building needs and initiatives relating to the implementation of the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

The eighth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety was held 7-8 April 2011 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. It was attended by 18 participants from 12 countries and 6 organizations. The par-

nancial support of the European Union.

The workshop was attended by 25 participants, including customs officers and related border

(cont'd on page 4)



Field study visit to the port of Koper, Slovenia, during the CEE workshop



BCH-IAC members

Asia Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in support of the Nagoya Outcomes
Da Lat, Vietnam

The Asia Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcomes is planned to take place in Da Lat, on 8 April 2011, in collaboration with the GEF Country Support Programme. Thirty participants from a total of 12 countries, including national focal points to the GEF and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), attended the workshop. Preceded by the GEF Asia Expanded Constituency Workshop, participants discussed about partnerships, funding, and national experiences, and had a briefing with civil-society organizations organized by the GEF-NGO network in the region. Issues on the agenda include: Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization; the Global Biodiversity Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 and UN Decade for Biodiversity; implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization; and Innovative Financial Mechanisms.

Second Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Revising and Updating NBSAPs
Isle of Vilm, Germany

The second regional capacity building workshop on revising and updating National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) took place on the Isle of Vilm, Germany from 15-19 April 2011. The workshop was hosted and co-sponsored by the Government of Germany and the Government of Japan through its Japan Biodiversity Fund to support implementation

of the CoP-10 Nagoya Outcomes. The meeting was attended by 44 participants from 25 countries, with resource persons from different institutions, including IUCN-CEC, UNDP Regional Office for Central Europe, UNEP-WCMC, and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The meeting provided an opportunity for countries from all parts of Europe to meet and exchange early experiences with the challenge of integrating the Nagoya Strategic Plan and its associated Aichi Targets into national biodiversity planning processes. Different sessions of the workshop focused on each the 5 goals of the Strategic Plan, using one or more of the 20 Aichi Targets to explore, in participatory work-



Participants at the NBSAP meeting in the Isle of Vilm

ing groups, how to set a target and then identify the key stakeholders, activities and resource needs to achieve the target by 2020. Practical examples of the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the broader landscape were included in a one day field trip organized by Germany.

South America Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcomes
Cartagena, Colombia

The South America Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcomes, part of a series of regional workshops organized by Global Environment

Botanic Gardens Conservation International agreement

On 18 April, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The objective of the agreement is to have an effective partnership on the implementation of the consolidated and updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 and related decisions by the Conference of the Parties that will benefit Parties and stakeholders and contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the promotion of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.



Facility's Country Support Programme in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, was held on 30 April 2011 in Cartagena, Colombia. The workshop gathered together, for the first time, focal points from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Points from eight South

Knowledge was at the Dalhousie University to address 15 faculty staff of the Department of Sustainability on the Nagoya Protocol and discussed implications for issues of sustainability. An opportunity was also provided to address 300 students and university staff on the Nagoya Protocol. More than 200 students were engaged in a mock Nagoya Protocol negotiations and negotiations strategies were discussed after the presentation to provide some practical advice and a grounded reality to the student's negotiations.



Dalhousie University students during a mock Nagoya Protocol negotiations (Photo credits: Dalhousie University)

American countries to discuss the financial challenges involved in implementing the Nagoya Biodiversity Outcomes. Issues on the agenda include: Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization; Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and NBSAPs; Review of implementation of the Convention's Strategy for Resource Mobilization: funding needs, gaps, priorities and planning; and Innovative Financing for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Dalhousie University briefing

In early April, the CBD Programme Officer for Traditional

MISIA, Honorary Ambassador for COP 10 has submitted to the CBD an Activity Report for 2010. The report highlights "Life in Harmony" Photography Project, MISIA Forest Project, *Kazaguruma* Campaign for Biodiversity, Biodiversity Band (in support of *The Green Wave* initiative), among others. The report is accessible at: <http://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-10/doc/2010-misia-report-en.pdf>

CEE meeting (cont'd from page 2)

control personnel, regulators and laboratory personnel. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the participants to: (i) the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding the identification and documentation of LMOs; and (ii) techniques and methodologies that may be used for the implementation of these requirements. It also aimed at facilitating exchange of information and national experiences on the implementation of the identification and documentation requirements. The workshop included practical laboratory sessions on the detection of LMOs, which were conducted at the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia and the National Institute of Biology, and a field-study visit to a customs-control point where participants learned about the operation of Slovenian border control and its efforts in controlling the entry of LMOs to the country. Participants agreed to form an online discussion group to continue exchanging information on challenges in the region for the identification and documentation of LMOs.

Sibthorp Trust Seminar on Ecosystem Management Cirencester, UK

The CBD Secretariat took part in the Sibthorp Trust Seminar on Ecosystem Management held on 14-15 April at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, UK. The objective of the Seminar, attended by about 35 high profile experts and practitioners, was to advance the arguments for integrated and holistic solutions to ecosystem management in order to change existing mindsets and to identify changes needed in policy and practice. Not much integration of ecosystem approach has been made since its adoption by CBD Parties in 2000 and despite the development of operational guidelines in 2004. The SCBD Representative made a presen-



Participants at the Sibthorp Seminar in Cirencester, UK

tation on "Barriers to the application of the ecosystem approach - Concerns expressed by Governments and institutions." In concluding the seminar, participants developed a series of key messages for different audiences. Communication, including a good understanding of the principles, was found as the most important barrier to the wide adoption of ecosystem approach. The proceedings of the meeting will be made available including all the messages.

International Protection of Landscapes Paris, France

The CBD Secretariat participated in the meeting on "the International Protection of Landscapes" co-organized by UNESCO and the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry on 18 April 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to inform Delegations of Members States to UNESCO about landscape protection and exchange views both formally and informally on a possible International Convention on Landscape. The representative of the SCBD made a presentation on "Landscape protection in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity" and took the opportunity to inform the meeting about the CBD provisions and work on landscapes as well as the relevant targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the importance of integrating the landscape approach in NBSAP planning and revisions. The meeting was attended by 177 delegates (governments and organizations) and encouraged UNESCO (World Heritage

Convention and the conventions on cultural diversity) to continue the consultations for possible conclusions ready for Rio 2012 on a possible international convention on landscape protection.

First International Planning Meeting for EXPO 2012 Yeosu Korea

CBD Secretariat was represented by Ms. Jihyun Lee at the First International Planning Meeting for EXPO 2012 Yeosu Korea, organized by EXPO Organizing Committee of Korean Government, from 5 to 7 April 2011, in Seoul and Yeosu, Republic of Korea. The EXPO Planning Meeting was well attended by about 300 representatives from more than 100 countries and 10 UN/international organizations. The Organizing Committee members updated participating countries and organizations of the details of the EXPO preparation and provided specific guidance on the operational modality of the Pavilion development and organization of various activities during the EXPO, including the possibility of financial support to the developing countries. A field visit to Yeosu EXPO site was organized, where the construction of Pavilion buildings is underway, making a significant progress. Together with other UN/international organizations, such as UN Secretariat, IOC/UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, OECD, IPCC, and PEMSEA, CBD Secretariat will develop its own Pavilion on the theme of conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, which is expected to be visited by more than 8 million Korean and foreign visitors for three months starting from 12 May 2012. CBD Secretariat will also collaborate with UN-Ocean members and Monaco Blue Initiative to organize a high-level event, tentatively scheduled for 20 June 2012.

IN MEMORIAM



It is with deep regret that we announce the passing away of a valued member of the CBD family, **Denis Hamel**. Denis is remembered for his invaluable contribution to the work of the CBD, as well as for his deep love of nature, in particular his passion for bird-watching. Denis will be deeply missed. We extend our sincere condolences to his family. Denis

is survived by his partner France Leduc and sons, Jean-François and Antoine.

CBD staff observe a minute of silence for Denis Hamel on 29 April.



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