

## REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

**Tiger Conservation**

Concerns about wild tiger extinction have surfaced in several countries, including Bangladesh, where coastal tiger populations are seriously endangered according to a WWF-led study (<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/pawprintpost/post/2010/01/big-cats-threatened-by-climate-change-scuba-gear-needed/1>). The Indonesian government reportedly proposes to allow private persons and corporations to “adopt” captive-born animals as pets for US\$100,000 a pair, with the funds raised to be used to promote tiger conservation. ([http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hBfsB3p3PXuErn3\\_bo\\_0Cem-oNTW](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hBfsB3p3PXuErn3_bo_0Cem-oNTW)) (TRY)

**Increased Attention on Pollinators**

In a sometimes confusing global discussion, the link between the decline in bee populations and plant extinctions is changing. Formerly, it was claimed that the loss of pollinators brought about a decline in plant populations. Recently, reciprocal claims are made – that the decline in pollinators has been caused by plant extinctions. (See, e.g., <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2010/01/20/ciencia/1264005079.html>) (TRY)

**Condor Conservation**

The US National Park Service and Argentina’s *Administración de Parques Nacionales* have entered into a “sister park agreement” for the conservation of Californian condors and Andean condors. (<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jan2010/2010-01-19-091.html>) (TRY)

**Rio+20 Conference**

The UN General Assembly, by Resolution A/64/236, has decided to organise a new United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (see *EPL* 40/1, p. 3). The first of three preparatory meetings will take place on 17–19 May at UN HQ, reporting to the 65<sup>th</sup> GA. PrepCom II is scheduled for March and the final meeting is envisaged to be held in 2012 immediately preceding the conference. The Resolution suggested the following as potential results for the 2012 Summit: A common work programme for the Rio Conventions in the area of REDD; a new mercury convention; a new legally binding agreement under UNFCCC; a convention on corporate accountability related to the green economy; a convention on access to information, participation and justice in the area of the environment following Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. (<http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/rio20/index.shtml>)

**Secretary-General’s Climate Change Financing Advisory Group**

The new High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing co-chaired by Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the UK, and Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, conducted their first meeting at the end of March. The Group includes high-level officials from Ministries and Central Banks and other experts. It is charged with mobilising financing promised during UNFCCC COP-15. The Group’s final report to the Secretary General is expected before COP-16 (November 2010, Mexico City). (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sga1223.doc.htm>)

**Hashimoto Action Plan II**

The UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) has been asked to continue its mission of galvanising contributions towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation through 2012. The Hashimoto Action Plan II builds on five areas of focus: financing, sanitation, monitoring and reporting, integrated water resources management, and water and disaster, while including for each area a new focus on neglected and emerging issues. ([http://www.unsgab.org/HAP-II/HAP-II\\_en.pdf](http://www.unsgab.org/HAP-II/HAP-II_en.pdf))

**ILC: Shared Natural Resources**

In preparation for the UN International Law Commission’s upcoming 62<sup>nd</sup> session, the Secretariat has released the topical summary of discussions held in the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA (A/CN.4/620). With regard to shared natural resources (see *EPL* 37/4 at p. 272), Section E, Number 2 addresses comments and observations made by delegations in relation to the oil and gas aspects of the topic. Following these discussions,

the Commission prepared a questionnaire on practices relating to oil and gas including information whether or not the Commission should address the subject.

**UNECE: “Environment for Europe”**

Preparations are underway for the 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Astana (Kazakhstan) on 21–23 September 2011. The Commission has chosen *Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems and Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development* as the main themes. (<http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html>)

**UNECE: Water Convention**

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal Board took place in mid-April and discussed studying options for a mechanism to assist Parties in solving implementation problems, from which there is some expectation that a proposal will be forthcoming in time for MOP-6 in 2012. A further item was the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary ground waters. ([http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/legal\\_board/legal\\_board.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/legal_board/legal_board.htm))

**Keeping an Eye on the IPCC**

The UN Secretary-General and the IPCC Chair announced that the InterAcademy Council (IAC) – an umbrella organisation for national academies of science – will conduct an independent review of the IPCC’s processes and procedures to ensure that its procedures for producing assessments are closely followed. The IPCC has started work to prepare the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) slated for publication in 2014. (<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/press/pr-1003210-UN.pdf>)

**Rotterdam Convention: Chemical Review Committee**

During its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, experts recommended that two pesticides – endosulfan and azinphos methyl – be included in the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. The recommendations to list both pesticides will be forwarded in the form of a draft decision to COP-5 in June 2011. (<http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=b&id=166&sid=18&tid=42>)

**ITTO and CBD Move toward Greater Cooperation**

In the interest of further engaging key organisations to promote conservation and the sustainable use of forests, the secretariats of CBD and ITTO have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to closely collaborate over the coming four years. The agreement seeks to bridge activities of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity with the 2011 International Year of Forests, as well as *inter alia* the organisation of an International Conference on Biodiversity and Conservation in Transboundary Forests. ([http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics\\_pdf\\_download/topics\\_id=2288&no=0](http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=2288&no=0))

**Analysis of Arctic Environmental Governance**

The IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (IUCN-CEL) Arctic Task Force is undertaking an analysis of existing instruments applying to the Arctic, as a necessary contribution before further commitments are made regarding the negotiation of hard or soft international law in this region. The Task Force convened an informal consultation in February 2010 in Ottawa (Canada) where 21 diverse experts formulated a list of “Action Items” focused on synergising independent initiatives to support and thus strengthen the Arctic environmental governance regime. Its final report is expected soon.

**Arctic Ocean’s Foreign Ministers’ Meeting**

A meeting of five Arctic Ocean coastal States (the “Arctic 5” or A5) took place on 29 March 2010 prior to the G8 foreign ministers meeting in Gatineau (Canada). In addition to discussions on maritime shipping regulations, oil-spill clean-up capabilities, and search and rescue capacities, the meeting drew attention to the fact that Arctic Ocean coastal States may be undermining the Arctic Council by excluding three Member States (Sweden, Finland and Iceland) and the Indigenous Permanent Participants. An earlier meeting in Ilulissat (Greenland) encountered diplomatic protests that simmered down only when those States were assured that their exclusion would be a “one-off” occurrence. The Chair’s summary

may be accessed at <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communications/2010/120.aspx>.

### Draft International Covenant on Environment and Development

Further to Resolution 4.101 from the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (see *EPL* 39/1, pp. 58–61), the International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) in cooperation with the IUCN Environmental Law Programme recently convened a meeting to finalise amendments to prepare the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision of the Draft Covenant. Over two days, a group of 18 participants, volunteering in a personal capacity, convened in Bonn (Germany) to undertake an article-by-article evaluation of the provisions and to make proposals for amending the extensive explanatory text. The final draft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> revision (now containing 79 articles), reflecting the most recent developments in international law and practice, is currently undergoing review. Publication is slated for summer 2010 in time to convey the revised text to participants of the UN/GA High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity in September. The 2<sup>nd</sup> revision published in 2004 can be downloaded at: <http://www.i-c-e-l.org/indexen.html>.

### Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP)/15<sup>th</sup> Meeting

PEP 15, an informal network of development agencies, multilateral development banks, UN agencies and international NGOs met in Lilongwe (Malawi) to continue dialogue on tackling issues called for under Millennium Development Goal 7. The Chair noted that work on PEP in the near term would include establishing a working group to do more analytical work, as well as formulating key messages for PEP and the green economy. (<http://www.iisd.ca/ymp/pep/pep15/>)

### 2010 Climate Investment Fund Partnership Forum

As a collaborative effort among multilateral development banks and countries to bridge the financing and knowledge gap between now and a post-2012 global climate change agreement, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were approved by the World Bank's Board of Directors in 2008. The 2010 CIF Partnership Forum met in Manila (Philippines) to reflect on the first year of CIF operations, engage in dialogue on knowledge gained to date, and extract useful lessons learned to inform further implementation. (<http://www.iisd.ca/ymp/climate/CIF2010>)

### North Atlantic Ocean Garbage Patch

A new study points to millions of tons of marine debris (mostly plastic) covering an area approximately the size of central Europe that is slowly rotating within the North Atlantic Gyre. The researchers took samples at over 6,100 sites off the coast of the United States in the Caribbean and Atlantic and found more than 80 percent of the plastic debris between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> parallels. The greatest density was 200,000 pieces per km<sup>2</sup>. (<http://www.sea.edu/academics/research.aspx>).

### Baltic Sea: More Money and More Conferences for a Sick Ecosystem

Heads of State and government, and ministers from eleven States, as well as numerous businesses and NGOs met in Helsinki (Finland) with the goal of making the Baltic Sea considerably cleaner by 2020. They proposed public-private partnerships, making 143 commitments towards protecting and improving the ecological condition of the deteriorating inland sea. The EU has proposed yearly conferences of the participating countries (the first to be held in October 2010 in Tallinn) to review compliance. A list of the commitments has been posted at <http://www.bsas.fi/commitments/all-commitments>.

### Consultation on Atomic Waste

The European Commission is currently conducting a public consultation (in the form of a questionnaire) related to a possible legislative proposal governing the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and aims at re-launching an initiative to enact binding legislation in the field. ([http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/consultations/2010\\_05\\_31\\_fuel\\_waste\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/consultations/2010_05_31_fuel_waste_en.htm))

### EU:

#### – 2009 General Report

The *General Report on the Activities of the European Union 2009* has now been released. Chapter 2 “Countering Climate Change and Saving Energy” includes sections on “20% by 2020 – The Climate and Energy Package”, “Energy” and “Copenhagen – What Happened

and Didn't Happen”. Chapter 5 “More Improvements for Europe's Citizens” includes a section on “Assuring Europe's Food Supplies and a Sustainable Use of the Seas”. ([http://europa.eu/generalreport/en/2009/files/rg2009\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/generalreport/en/2009/files/rg2009_en.pdf))

#### – 2020 Strategy

The European Commission has released *Europe 2020: A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* (available online at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/COMPLET%20EN%20BARROSO%20%20%20007%20-%20Europe%202020%20-%20EN%20version.pdf>). Prior to its release, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) criticised a leaked draft as neglecting green economic growth. In a letter to Commission President Barroso, the EEB called upon the Commission to make substantial improvements (see <http://www.eeb.org/EEB/index.cfm?LinkServID=FFDD4B44-B125-305E-16E30727FA8471D0&showMeta=0>). Discussions of the strategy will continue at the next Council meeting in June.

#### – Council Meeting (Environment)

In its recent meeting, the Council adopted conclusions on two long-term matters: (i) Biodiversity post-2010, which sets a vision on biodiversity protection in the EU for 2050 and a new headline target for 2020 ([http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/fr/article\\_9571\\_fr.htm](http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/fr/article_9571_fr.htm)), and (ii) Climate change and follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference ([http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article\\_9587\\_en.htm](http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_9587_en.htm)).

#### – Framework Directive on Soil Protection

In a progress report to the Council on the proposal for a framework for the protection of soil, the General Secretariat refers to the latest Presidency text, with footnotes illustrating the position of delegations and providing an outline of the main outstanding issues. No significant change has been registered so far and it is confirmed that there is no prospect for attaining a qualified majority in favour of the proposal in Council at this stage. (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st07/st07100.en10.pdf>)

#### – Regulation for Emissions from Light Commercial Vehicles

In an annex to a note to the Working Party on Environment, the General Secretariat conveyed the text of a proposal for a regulation setting emission standards for new light commercial vehicles as part of the Community's integrated approach to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st07/st07652.en10.pdf>)

#### – Reacting to Waste-Related Infringements

The environment committee of the European Parliament has called on the Commission to distribute lists of member States that fail to properly implement EU legislation on waste, water and nature protection. MEPs also pointed out that late implementation does not seem to affect the Commission's agenda on reviewing legislation. According to 2008 figures, there are 140 waste-related infringement procedures pending against member States, representing 19 percent of all environmental infringement cases. ([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/implementation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/implementation_en.htm))

#### OECD: Report Cites Opportunity for Luxembourg

The new Environmental Performance Review of Luxembourg provides impetus for the State to re-evaluate the value of the environment in stimulating and supporting economic activity. The report points out that while Luxembourg is the wealthiest country in the OECD, it also produces more CO<sub>2</sub> per capita than any other member country and more municipal waste than most. On the upside, it is commended for reducing key air pollutants and its strong commitment to development cooperation. For further reading see: [www.oecd.org/Luxembourg](http://www.oecd.org/Luxembourg).

#### Germany: Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2009

Following initial calculations of the German Environment Agency, greenhouse gas emissions were 8.4 percent lower in 2009 as compared to 2008 (approximately 80 million tons). In comparison to 1990, emissions in 1999 were 28.7 percent lower. The Environment Minister attributed the reductions to the world financial crisis, as emissions in the industry and trade branches had fallen by 20 percent. He went on to say that the goal is growth through “climate protection” and therefore the German government will continue to force the expansion of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency.

All References prepared by ATL/WEB, unless otherwise noted. 