

REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

UN/GA: New President

Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations has been elected President of the 66th session of the General Assembly. Following election, he was presented with the "PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly", which was prepared by the office of outgoing President Joseph Deiss (Switzerland) and the Swiss Mission in New York. PGA Handbook: http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/topics/intorg/un/missny/news.Par.0013.File.tmp/UN_PGA_Handbook.PDF. (ATL)

CBD: Genetic Resources

A CBD-sponsored meeting allowed States to discuss international implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The meeting emphasised multilateral issues relating to Protocol compliance by private actors and other mechanisms. See <http://www.cbd.int/absicnp1/documents/>.

UNESCO: Preparations for Rio+20

Irina Bokova, speaking before the 186th session of the UNESCO's Executive Board, outlined the organisation's preparations for the 2012 Environmental Summit (Rio+20), including the broadened concept of "green societies" and the potential role of the organisation in UNEP's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Her statement (in French and English) is available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001923/192314m.pdf>.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The UN DRR Platform held its 3rd international meeting, attended by more than 2,600 representatives from over 168 governments, 65 NGOs and 25 intergovernmental organisations. Addressing such issues as reconstruction and recovery, the economics of DRR, and synergies with the international climate

change and development agenda, the session included the first World Reconstruction Conference (WRC), hosted by the World Bank, creating even further opportunities to highlight and address development challenges in responding to disasters triggered by natural hazards. Reports of these meetings are available online at <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2011/>.

CBD/CITES Bushmeat Meeting

A joint meeting of the CBD and CITES Bushmeat working groups has adopted recommendations to the two Conventions' COPs to reverse the growing trend of illegal trade in the meat and other parts of wild mammals, birds and reptiles. The recommendation is available online at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=LGBUSHMEAT-02>.



North Island Kokako

Courtesy: CBD

UNEP: Report on Metal Recycling

The International Resource Panel cites evidence that less than one-third of some 60 metals studied have an end-of-life recycling rate above 50 percent and 34 elements are recycled at a rate of less than 1 percent. The report and its recommended policy considerations are available online at: http://www.unep.org/resourcepanel/metals_recycling/files/pdf/Metals_Recycling_Rates_110412.pdf.

FAO: Guide on Forest Governance

FAO's new publication titled: *Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance* (covering policy, legal, institution and regulatory frameworks; planning and decision-making processes, implementation, enforcement and compliance) is available online at <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/27526-0cc61ecc084048c7a9425f64942df70a8.pdf>.

Forest Europe Ministerial Conference Opens Negotiations

Ministers and high-level forest officials from the 46 States that are signatories of FOREST EUROPE participated in an Oslo Conference, which adopted *inter alia*, the Oslo Ministerial Mandate for Negotiating a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe,



and the Oslo Ministerial Decision: European Forests 2020, which outlines a vision, goals, targets and actions for European forests. The forum also adopted European 2020 Targets for forests. The report and these documents are available online at <http://www.foresteuropa.org/>.

Initiative to Prepare National Laws on REDD+

Senior legislators from Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Mexico met to launch the GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative to develop complementary legislation to prepare the way for efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). The legislators involved in this new initiative will report back on their progress at the World Summit of Legislators prior to UNCSD (Rio+20). (ATL)

IUCN:

– Mediterranean Red List

IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species now includes an *Overview of the conservation status of the marine fishes of the Mediterranean Sea*. In this document, IUCN warns that more than 40 species of marine fish currently found in the Mediterranean could disappear in the next few years, recommending more intensive implementation of [European] Council Regulation (EC) N° 1967/2006, on sustainable fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea. The study is available online at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/overview_of_the_conservation_status_of_the_marine_fishes_of_the_mediterranean_sea_rep.pdf.

– Revised Focus in Caucasus

IUCN's office in the Caucasus has recently changed its role. It now focuses on strengthening nature conservation through the Caucasus Cooperation Centre through biodiversity conservation and natural resources management. The change is described in a Strategy Paper, available online at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_in_the_caucasus_concept_paper_1.pdf.

OECD: Environmental Policy Reviews

Citing Norway's good record of environmental protection and sustainable development, the OECD's review of Norway's environmental performance notes the country's invigorated

environmental policy, improved air and water quality and fall in the number of threatened species, as well as its active role in spearheading international initiatives on climate change. These achievements are only partially attributed to the country's strengthening GNP. The OECD has recently also published an Environmental Performance Review of Portugal. Both documents are available at <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment>.

EU Council:

– Protection of Water Resources

The European Council has adopted conclusions on "Protection of water resources and integrated sustainable water management in the European Union and beyond". The full text of that document is posted at http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/122943.pdf.

– Ministers on Biodiversity

The 3103rd Environment Council meeting adopted conclusions on the "EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020" on 21 June. Full text: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/122950.pdf. (ATL)

– Revised Directive Regarding Electrical/Electronic Equipment

The European Council has revised its 2003 directive on hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment expanding its coverage to include additional product categories, such as mobile phones, refrigerators, electronic toys, cables and spare parts, while retaining temporary exemptions for key energy-saving products relevant to attainment of EU renewable energy and efficiency targets. Final text of the Directive is available at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/pe00/pe00062.en10.pdf>.

Brazil: New Study Charts Deforestation Increases

A new study by Imazon has documented continuing increases in the rate of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon region. The study's publication coincides with consideration by the Brazilian Congress of a bill that would reportedly weaken relevant forest laws. See http://news.mongabay.com/2011/0617-imazon_2011.html.

Canada: New Protected Area on Indigenous Lands

The government of the province of Manitoba has declared more than 8,000 km² of boreal forest and wetlands on First Nations land on the east side of Lake Winnipeg as protected territory. The decision is reported by CBC at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2011/06/16/mb-poplar-lake-land-protected.html>.

Croatia: New Protected Area Faces Challenges

Members of the NGO community have filed appeals of the Croatian Water Management Board's series of navigation and flood protection projects affecting the Hungarian and Serbian border area which is within the recently declared Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve. The European Commission and the EU-Foreign Ministers are requested to take these actions into consideration in July when they consider Croatia's accession to the European Union. Mura-Drava-Danube Management Concept: <http://www.sterna-albifrons.net/xoops/files/Drava-Vision-2009-2020.pdf>. (ATL)

Madagascar: Major Programme for Species Protection

The government of Madagascar reports receiving a World Bank loan of \$52 million to help protect rare biodiversity that has come under increasing threat during a protracted political crisis. This is the Bank's first loan to the country since suspending its Madagascar programme following Andry Rajoelina's military-backed coup in 2009. The decision to commit these funds does not signify re-engagement with the country, however, as the money will be channelled through independent organisations rather than directly through the government. The World Bank's press release on this loan is available at <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22946204~menuPK:34463~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>.

All References by TRY and ATL, except as noted.

