

REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

UN GHG Footprint

The UN's first inventory of emissions arising from its agencies, headquarters, and field operations reports that the UN emits the equivalent of 1.7 million tons of CO₂ annually (1 million from peacekeeping missions (<http://www.unep.org/publications/MovingTowardsClimateNeutralUN/>). (ATL)

11th UNEP/GCSS/GMEF

The Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia and President of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum has forwarded the draft Nusa Dua Declaration to be considered at the 11th special session in Bali, Indonesia (http://www.earth-summit2012.org/fileadmin/files/Earth_Summit_2012/09_12_29_Draft_Nusa_Dua_Declaration_pdf.pdf). (ATL)

The Executive Director has presented a background note to be discussed at the Ministerial Roundtable, the theme: "Environment in the multilateral system", providing these an opportunity to explore UNEP's current and future contribution to the 2010–2011 cycle of CSD (Background note: UNEP/GCSS.XI/INF/7). (ATL)

CSD-18

Regional Implementation Meetings have now concluded and background papers have been posted on http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/esd/csd18_nms.shtml. Additionally, the Chair has offered a summary (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18_bure-chairness.shtml). (ATL)

Forests in Europe

The 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe has adopted a process for exploring the possibility of a legally binding agreement on forests in the pan-European region. A working group will explore all alternatives (http://www.mcpfe.org/eng/Commitments/Documents/Meetings_2009/MCPFE+Expert+Level+Meeting.9UFRnO5S.ips). (ATL)

EU:

– Agreement on "Climate Goals" up to 2020

Through the so-called "energy-climate package", the EU has already provided for a 20 percent cut in "climate-harming gases" from 1990 levels. The EU maintains its conditional offer of a 30 percent reduction, if other developed countries commit to comparable emission reductions and developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and capabilities. See: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/97>.

Germany remains the international leader in combating climate change. Between 1990 and 2008, its emissions decreased by 22.2 percent, which is equivalent to approximately 280 million tons. (ATL)

– Council Meeting (Environment)

Regarding chemicals, the European Council adopted the following conclusions *inter alia*:

- Combination of their effects (17820/09); and
- Regional approaches to management of water and the marine environment, including implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (17797/09). (ATL)

– Waste Agency?

A new Commission study proposes setting up a dedicated agency to better implement and enforce EU waste law (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/report_waste_dec09.pdf). (ATL)

– Illegal Logging

The Council has agreed on a draft regulation laying down obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the European market. The regulation would oblige operators to seek sufficient guarantees that the products they sell have been harvested according to the relevant laws of their country of origin (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st05/st05571-ad01.en10.pdf>). (ATL)

– Funding Slightly Increased

State subventions for "environmental protection" grew to approximately EUR 13 billion in 2008. It is noted, however that

reporting stakeholders define "environmental protection" in widely different ways. (ATL)

– Call for Black Sea Conservation

The Environmental Council of the EU has formally acknowledged that "the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea is so critical as to necessitate urgent action", calling for *inter alia* the "expedient establishment" of a pilot project using existing financial instruments, that will address maritime spatial planning, in the Baltic Sea Region. (See EU Press release: "Council conclusions on regional approaches to management of water and the marine environment, including implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region," 2988th Environment Council meeting, Brussels, 22 December 2009).

Japan: Sustainable Use through the Sale of Wild Venison

A organic food delivery services provider in Japan is encouraging consumption of venison from the culling of the overpopulated Japanese Yezo deer in order to conserve biodiversity (see <http://www.japanfs.org/en/mailmagazine/newsletter/pages/027961.html>). (ATL)

WIPO: Negotiations on Traditional Knowledge Begin

The World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore entered a new phase in December (http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2009/article_0058.html). Sometimes called the opening of binding negotiation, these controversial negotiations are already thought to be stalemated on operational and procedural grounds. Plans for a meeting early 2010 have been shelved. This delay may enable better coordination with the ABS Protocol negotiations (see page 26).

Biosafety

The introduction of new genetically modified crops has recently garnered attention in several countries, including public meetings and a higher level of GM introductions in the UK (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/6953732/GM-crops-to-be-planted-in-Britain-again-this-year.html>). Active opponents still claim that governments are not taking a sufficiently protective approach to GMO control (see <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/bt-brinjals-biosafety-test-done-in-private-labs-ramesh/569320/>).

Private Sector GM Data Released

New Scientist reports that in the UK, Monsanto has been forced to release raw data from toxicology studies it carried out on three strains of its modified maize (<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20527444.000-engineered-maize-toxicity-claims-rounly-rebuffed.html>). On the basis of this data, claims that eating the maize could result in liver/kidney damage have been dismissed by a government agency and independent toxicologists.

USA:

– Transoceanic Pollution

Recent reports suggest that Asian air emissions are resulting in increased ozone levels on the Pacific Coast of the USA. This direct impact may fuel increased levels of participation in the Climate Change and mercury negotiations (http://feeds.latimes.com/~r/latimes/news/science/environment/~3/pvOjK5v61rl/la-na-ozone21-2010jan21_0_3710391.story; <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20527443.600-asian-pollution-crosses-the-pacific.html?DCMP=OTC-rss&nsref=online-news>).

– Ban Imposed on Red Snapper Fishing

Beginning in January, a new federal rule requires Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina to ban commercial fishing for red snapper. Officials also propose to temporarily close a large marine area to virtually all fishing, in an effort to help restore declining species populations (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122007340&ft=1&f=1007>).

(All References written by TRY unless otherwise noted.) 