

REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

UN Fish Stocks Agreement – Resumed Review Conferences

The FSA has recommenced another round of conferences (the first round was held in 2006) earlier this year, with particular attention to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and maximising State participation in the Agreement. The progress of the Review Conferences can be followed at http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/review_conf_fish_stocks.htm. (TRY)

9th UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) met to address the theme “Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity”. It engaged a broad range of participants in discussions of economic and social issues, including the financial crisis, forests, multinational corporations and, most prominently, climate change. The meeting urged support for indigenous peoples’ efforts to retain their values, cultures and identities, while engaging in necessary development. Further information available at: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html. (TRY)

Global Biodiversity Outlook 3

Drawing from approximately 120 national reports submitted by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 3rd edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* is now available at: <http://gbo3.cbd.int/>.

Instrument on Mercury

The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (INC-1) convened from 7–11 June. With a total of 20 sessions over five days to design and build an instrument on mercury prior to the 27th regular session of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, there was a delegates’ request to the Secretariat for significant interessional work, including the “elements of a comprehensive and suitable approach” to a legally binding instrument. INC-2 will take place from 24–28 January 2011 in Chiba (Japan). (TRY)

Basel Convention WG Considers Priorities

The Open-ended Working Group has agreed on a 10-year strategic plan for the Convention, which includes greater emphasis on (i) the links between waste management and achievement of the MDGs relating to human health and livelihoods; (ii) stronger controls on the rapidly growing ship dismantling industry; (iii) global recycling guidelines for used computers; and (iv) further support for enforcing the Ban Amendment on the export of hazardous waste from developed countries to developing countries (<http://www.basel.int/>). (TRY)

Rotterdam Convention Holds Consultation

Delegates from several African nations, as well as non-governmental organisations including farmers’ associations, discussed means to strengthen national capacities to identify Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPFs) under Article 6 to the Rotterdam Convention. Key outputs of the consultation included a draft plan of action for the collection of information on poisoning and intoxications. More information at <http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77>. (TRY)

41st Ramsar Standing Committee – Hosting Arrangements and New Initiatives

On-going discussions relating to its administrative situation – particularly its hosting relationship with IUCN – have begun to receive formal consideration. Examining output of the Convention’s Ad Hoc Working Group on Administrative Reform, the Committee favourably considered a proposal to reorganise the Ramsar Secretariat with UNEP, calling on the Working Group to determine more specific modalities for such a transfer, including: consideration of cost differentials. The Committee also approved three new Regional Initiatives for the Black Sea, Caribbean, and American mangroves. For decisions see: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-standing-sc41-decisions/main/ramsar/1-31-41%5E24613_4000_0. (TRY)

Aquatic Warbler MOU

At a recent meeting, the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) adopted the International Species Action Plan, with the goal of protecting the Aquatic Warbler throughout its range and envisaging concrete actions to be taken by States. Seven European and African States joined the MOU, bringing the total number to 22 (http://www.cms.int/species/aquatic_warbler/aquatic_warbler_meetings.htm). (TRY)



IMO: New Protocol to Convention on Liability for Hazardous and Noxious Substances at Sea

Delegates to IMO’s HNS Convention adopted the 2010 Protocol to address practical problems thought to be preventing some States from ratifying the Convention. The Protocol establishes a two-tier compensation scheme for damage caused by disposal of hazardous and noxious substances in bulk or in packaged form, amounting to up to US\$375 million. Additional information at <http://www.imo.org>. (TRY)

WIPO: Moving Toward an Instrument on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge

WIPO’s Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore has taken a step toward the commencement of formal negotiations on an international instrument or instruments. Negotiations can be followed online at <http://www.wipo.int/tk/en>. (TRY)

Cross-Regional Meeting on Ozone

European and Central Asian ozone officers met together under the auspices of UNEP and the government of Turkey. The meeting brought together the Regional Ozone Networks focusing on measures for phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs and HCFCs, through commercial measures relating to new products in refrigeration, air-conditioning and foam production. (TRY)

Caribbean States Discuss Disaster Management

A workshop in Saint Lucia brought together delegates from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other Caribbean States, to discuss proposals for legislation to improve national responsiveness to natural disasters. The work is aimed at the development of functional programmes for disaster-reduction around the world under the Hyoga Declaration. Reported online at <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/CaribbeanLegislationProject>. More information on the Hyoga Declaration at <http://www.unisdr.org/eng>. (TRY)

ADB Launches Solar Energy Initiative

At its Annual Meeting, the Asian Development Bank launched its new Asian Solar Energy Initiative (ASEI) focused on developing projects and knowledge-sharing mechanisms designed to attract commercial banks and the private sector to invest in them. The

ASEI will also establish and host the Solar Energy Forum, an international knowledge-sharing platform that will track solar development projects. More information at <http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2010/13232-asian-solar-energies-initiatives/>. (TRY)

Aral Sea

In a press encounter upon his return from the Aral Sea, the UN Secretary-General said:

It is clearly one of the worst environmental disasters of the world. I was so shocked. It really left with me a profound impression, one of sadness that such a mighty sea has disappeared. Standing on piers, on what was once piers, I could not see anything – I could see only a cemetery of ships marooned in the sand. It was shocking. I have learnt a great lesson, a very sad lesson and I am sending out this message to the whole world: we must work together – collectively. This is a collective responsibility, a responsibility shared among the communities in the region and shared among the nations of the world....

We should become better stewards in managing the environment. We need to save this planet. We must deliver this Planet Earth to our succeeding generations, so that they can live in a more hospitable, in a more environmentally sustainable way. That is a moral and political imperative of the leaders.

No Consensus on Mediterranean Water Strategy

Representatives of 43 countries at the 4th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water were unable to agree on the first major strategy of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to establish a political, methodological and financial framework for managing the water resources of the whole basin. Disagreement hinged on how to refer to Palestine, since Israel's representatives were unable to accept the reference to "occupied territories" and proposed the term "territories under occupation", which was not acceptable to the Arab block. The pre-final version of the "Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean" with contentious bracketed passages is accessible online at: <http://www.ufm-water.net/themes/SWM.doc/download>.

EU:

– EP Reflections on UfM

In the interest of addressing the major global challenges facing Europe and its neighbours south and east of the Mediterranean, the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs released a report (A7-0133/2010) outlining its position for ensuring the success of the upcoming 2nd summit of heads of State and government (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2010-0133&language=EN>).

– EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement

In a previously confidential legal opinion, the European Parliament's Legal Service provided its judgment on the conformity of the 2007 EU-Moroccan Fisheries Agreement with the principles of international law. The Agreement is scheduled to terminate in 2011. It does not refer to Morocco's jurisdictional limits under international rules of self-determination and does not make a distinction between the waters adjacent to Western Sahara and the waters adjacent to the territory of Morocco. The Legal Service's opinion has been reproduced at: <http://www.fishelsewhere.eu/index.php?cat=140&art=1077>. The text of the Agreement is online at: <http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/prepare/CreateTreatiesWorkspace/treatiesGeneralData.do?step=0&redirect=true&treatyId=1641>.

– IUU Fishing Regulation

The European Commission recently adopted Regulation No 468/2010 with an annexed list of vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Available online at: <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:131:0022:0026:EN:PDF>.

– Bio-waste

The Commission has released an 11 page communication "on future steps in bio-waste management for the European Union" (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0235:FIN:EN:PDF>).

– Halon

The Council has released a draft Commission Regulation seeking to move the Community towards a ban on halon compounds within the next 30 years (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st09/st09075.en10.pdf>).

– Illegal Timber Harvesting

After voting last year to ban trade in illegally logged timber, the text is now back at Parliament. Environment Committee MEPs have adopted a draft recommendation for a second reading reinstating most of Parliament's first reading amendments, as they are not satisfied with the fact that EU governments in the Council are shying away from a real ban.

– New Earth Observation System

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) satellite system will begin its initial operational phase from 2011–2013. It will allow the EU to systematically monitor and forecast the state of the Earth's subsystems without having to rely on data from American satellites as at present. The major users of the GMES will be policy makers and public authorities who will use the information to prepare better environmental legislation (<http://www.gmes.info/index.php>).

The Right to Sanitation

The European Council on Environmental Law (*Conseil européen du droit de l'environnement* (CEDE)) has adopted a resolution setting forth a draft European charter on the right to sanitation. Therein, CEDE recommends that European States apply the charter in their policies and legislation, as well as support international recognition of the right to sanitation as a human right. The International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) will submit the resolution to the UN Human Rights Council.

Environment and the European Court of Human Rights

On World Environment Day, the Council of Europe highlighted the Court's environment-related case-law and its impact on legislative developments in Europe. Examples given included:

- *López Ostra v. Spain*, 9 December 1994 (health problems in connection with nearby waste plant);
- *Guerra and Others v. Italy*, 19 February 1998 (dangerous substances released into atmosphere);
- *Hatton and Others v. United Kingdom*, 8 July 2003 (airport night flight noise);
- *Oneryildiy v. Turkey*, 30 November 2004 (deaths associated with gas explosion from nearby waste pile);
- *Fadeyeva v. Russia*, 9 June 2005 (health problems related to nearby steel plant);
- *Gómez v. Spain*, 16 November 2004 (neighbourhood night life noise);
- *Tătar v. Romania*, 27 January 2009 (health problems associated with nearby gold extraction).

Germany: Renewable Energy Forecast

The German Advisory Council on the Environment has given its opinion that renewable energy could be sufficient to meet Germany's entire energy demand by 2050. Although the potential is there, the storage capacity is still lacking (http://www.umweltrat.de/cdn_103/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/EN/CurrentPressReleases/2010/2010_05_PressRelease_100percent_renewable_electricity_%20supply.html?nn=396908).

Italy: Managers Go To Jail

In a recent court decision in Palermo, three former managers of the Fincantieri shipyard were sentenced to 3–7 years for the negligent homicide of 37 of their workers who died of asbestosis or lung cancer between 1979 and 1997. Additionally, they were ordered to pay damages of over €5 million to the victim's families and the Italian compensation insurance scheme.

UNEP Funding

According to UNEP's 2009 Annual Report, contributions to the Environment Fund grew by over 22 percent between 2006–2007 and 2008–2009, while extra-budgetary contributions increased by over 50 percent in the same period. The top 15 donors pledging to the Environment Fund in 2009 were: Netherlands, UK,

Germany, USA, Belgium, France, Finland, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Japan and Canada. The full report with detailed funding figures is online at: <http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/annual-report09/index.aspx>.

REDD+ Partnership

Fifty States have agreed on a framework for the rapid implementation of measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, particularly tropical rainforests in developing countries. During the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference, partners pledged US\$4 billion for the period 2010–2012 to the global forest partnership. It will be led by two co-chairs and supported with secretariat services by the World Bank and the UN. More information on the conference and the interim document adopted in Oslo is accessible at: <http://www.oslocfc2010.no/>.

African Economic Outlook 2010

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa have released a joint publication with the special theme: "Public Resource Mobilisation and Aid". The Outlook provides an analysis of African economies and evidence-based policy advice on key development challenges for policy makers, academics, civil society, as well as the general public within and outside the African continent. A section of the Outlook reports on the progress made

towards realising the Millennium Development Goals (http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_publsdt_aeo2010.shtml).

Furthering the Pacific Plan

Leaders of key regional intergovernmental agencies met during the 25th Meeting of the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) to review collective efforts towards regional integration. Assembled in Vailima (Samoa) at the Headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the ten agencies continued the consultative process aimed at achieving sustainable development in the Pacific in the most effective and efficient manner. More information at: www.sprep.org.

China: Development of Carbon Emissions Trade

A number of unofficial sources, including a report in *Bloomberg Businessweek*, indicate that China is expected to institute an emissions trading scheme by 2014. The government is reportedly formulating rules for a system that could require companies to reduce carbon emissions per yuan of profit in a market run by "associations" and overseen by the government (<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-05-28/china-may-start-state-guided-carbon-market-by-2014-update2-.html>).

All references by WEB and ATL, unless otherwise noted. 



The flag of the Alpine Convention reached the summit of Mt Everest thanks to the efforts of Apa Sherpa who has led a campaign for garbage clean-up and environmental awareness raising.

Courtesy: Alpine Convention