

rights contemplated by the proposed law include the right to appropriate clothing; the right to essential medicine and sanitation; the right of persons with disabilities; the right to family reunification; the freedom to choose residence; and the freedom to seek freely opportunities for employment.

If approved by Congress and (it is hoped) signed into law by the President, the law to protect the rights of IDPs will be first in Asia and a model for countries facing similar issues of displacement and violation of the people's rights as the government is unable to serve the general welfare of its constituents.

## Conclusion

Overall, the foregoing Philippine legal initiative would further the promotion of the rights of environmentally displaced persons including the great majority of Filipinos who are dependent on wetlands for their livelihoods, subsistence and sustenance. It will not only help to manage unexpected displacement of wetlands-dependent persons but also reduce overall climate change vulnerabilities. It will bring about climate-resilient communities and help ensure that wetlands-dependent people are aware, informed, empowered, prepared and adaptive.

Above all, it will make a difference if wetlands and climate-change-related international conferences, meetings and workshops could include in their recommendations the matter of human rights or the human aspect of wetlands management as an adaptation measure. It will also give life

to the function of law as a channel for the application of science to productive social and economic consequences which will serve the interest of all. This is the path of law within the continuously growing field of science in wetlands management *vis-à-vis* man and climate change.

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## REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

### UN General Assembly: Reports to On-going Session

#### - Implementation of UN Environmental Conventions

The secretariats of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have submitted reports on their respective implementation to the UN General Assembly (UNGA). They are available online as a single document (UN Doc. A/69/317) at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/317](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/317).

#### - Dialogues on Small Island Developing States

The Report submitted by the Chairs of the September 2014 Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, addressing multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues that took place during that Conference, is before the UNGA as UN Doc. A/CONF.223/11, available at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.223/11](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.223/11).

#### - Financial Report of UNEP

The financial report and audited financial statements for the 2012-2013 biennium submitted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to the UNGA (UN Doc. A/69/5/Add.7) are available at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/5/Add.7](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/5/Add.7). The audit includes a report of UNEP's work as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), making various recommendations regarding project budget compliance, procurement planning, monitoring, follow-up and its upcoming migration to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) reporting framework.

#### - International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The UN Secretary General's report to the UNGA on the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN Doc. A/69/364) is available online at [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/364](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/364). It includes an overview of current and developing disaster risks and the need to address them in the UN's post-2015 agenda and framework. Appended to the report is an "Update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of El Niño/La Niña". (TRY)

#### - High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

The reports, documents and ministerial declaration of the second annual session of the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) are now available online at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/secondhlpf.html>. (TRY)

#### - Reconstitution of the Chambers of ITLOS

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has reconstituted its chambers, setting a new general procedure that "all disputes are dealt with by the Tribunal as a full court unless both parties agree to refer the dispute to a chamber". The reconstitution is announced in a press release, which also lists the current members of the various tribunals, at [http://www.itlos.org/fileadmin/itlos/documents/press\\_releases\\_english/PR\\_218\\_E.pdf](http://www.itlos.org/fileadmin/itlos/documents/press_releases_english/PR_218_E.pdf). (TRY)

#### Minamata Convention on Mercury – INC-6

The Minamata Convention on Mercury's Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee held its sixth session (INC-6) in Bangkok, working to prepare the way for that Convention's entry into force. (At present, the Minamata Convention, although signed by 128 countries, has received only nine of the 50 ratifications necessary

before it can enter into force. INC-6 will be reported in *EPL* 45/1. In the meantime, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)'s report of the meeting can be accessed at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb2833e.pdf>. (TRY)

### CITES Standing Committee 65

The 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva, produced decisions and recommendations on a variety of issues including Asian big cats, cheetahs, rhinos and elephants. IISD's report of that meeting is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb2184e.pdf>. The Standing Committee will meet again before the CITES CoP-17, late in 2015.

### IUCN World Parks Congress Makes a Promise

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) hosted its Sixth decadal World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, producing, *inter alia*, the four-part "Promise of Sydney" – the declaration of "an ambitious agenda to safeguard the planet's natural assets, ranging from halting rainforest loss in the Asia-Pacific and tripling ocean protection off Africa's coasts to a business commitment to plant 1.3 billion trees along the historic Silk Road". Press release at [http://www.iucn.org/news\\_homepage/news\\_by\\_date/?18645/IUCN-summit-delivers-major-commitments-to-save-Earths-most-precious-natural-areas](http://www.iucn.org/news_homepage/news_by_date/?18645/IUCN-summit-delivers-major-commitments-to-save-Earths-most-precious-natural-areas). The four parts of the "Promise of Sydney" are available by clicking the component names at [http://www.worldparkscongress.org/about/promise\\_of\\_sydney.html](http://www.worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney.html). (TRY)

### International Tropical Timber Council

The 50<sup>th</sup> session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) was held in Yokohama, Japan, in November. Topics discussed included the enhancement of cooperation between the ITTC and CITES; the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015–2016; forests in the UNFCCC; the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative; and the selection of the next ITTO Executive Director. The session was reported online at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb2485e.pdf>. The ITTO/CITES partnership is reported online at <http://forests-l.iisd.org/news/itto-and-cites-highlight-partnership/>.

### GEF Council-47

The 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GEF Council convened in Washington DC in October. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Council for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund. A one-day consultation of civil society organisations preceded the meeting. IISD's summary of these events is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/crsvol192num12e.pdf>. This meeting will be reported in *EPL* 45/1.

### UN Regional Commissions' Joint Statement on Energy for Sustainable Development

The Economic Commissions for Asia and Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Africa have published a Joint Statement for the 5<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development, making suggestions on energy efficiency, renewable energy policies and proposing an energy market reform. The Statement is available online at [http://www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/press/pr2014/Energy\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_Fifth\\_International\\_Forum.pdf](http://www.unecce.org/fileadmin/DAM/press/pr2014/Energy_Joint_Statement_Fifth_International_Forum.pdf).

### UNIDO ISID Forum

The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) hosted the second global forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) under the theme "Partnerships to Scale up Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development", showcasing UNIDO's ISID Programme for Country Partnerships through Ethiopia and Senegal as pilot countries. IISD's summary of the meeting is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/crsvol225num1e.pdf>.

### CMS CoP-11

The 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP-11) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was held in Ecuador in November. The CoP considered 32 proposals to add species to the CMS appendices, adopting 31, including the polar bear and the African lion. IISD's report on the meeting is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb1859e.pdf>.

### UNEP

#### – Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans was held in Greece in October, to discuss the role of such instruments in sustainable development

#### – UNEP e-card

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner has shared the ozone success story (see p. 502) with *EPL* and others.

### EU

#### – Commission Requests ICJ ruling on German Interpretation of "Water Services"

The European Commission (EC) brought an unsuccessful action in the Second Chamber of the European Court of Justice asserting that Germany had failed to fulfil its obligations under the Water Policy Directive (2000/60/EC) by narrowing the definition of "water services" in a manner that excludes certain services (*inter alia*, impoundment for the purposes of hydroelectric power generation, navigation and flood protection, abstraction for irrigation and industrial purposes, and personal consumption). The governments of Austria, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, the UK and Denmark were granted leave to intervene in support of Germany. Finding that the EC's complaint, although legally flawed, was sufficiently specific, the Chamber went on to conclude that Germany's approach to implementing the directive was proper, dismissing the EC's claim. *European Commission v. Federal Republic of Germany*. Case C-525/12. Judgment of the Court (2nd Chamber). 11 September 2014. Online at <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/celex.jsf?celex=62012CJ0525&lang1=en&type=TEXT&ancre>. (TRY)

#### – CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Ships

The Council of the European Union and the European Parliament have come to an agreement on new EU-wide rules for monitoring, reporting and verification of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from ships. From January 2018, ship owners will be obliged to monitor emissions on an annual basis. Press release at [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/145955.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/145955.pdf).

### African Mountains Regional Forum

Under the auspices of the Albertine Rift Conservation Society and the Africa Mountain Partnership Champions Committee, in partnership with the East African Community, UNEP, the Austrian Development Cooperation, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, a new African Mountains Regional Forum held its inaugural meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, in October. The session's theme was "Towards a Shared Mountain Agenda for Africa" and it addressed major emerging issues, including the promotion of a regional framework on sustainable mountain development in Africa. IISD's report of the meeting is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/crsvol194num5e.pdf>.

### Australia: Feral Cats Endanger Wildlife

German media reports indicate that as many as 80 million wild animals endemic to Australia are killed by feral domestic cats every year. These reports estimate that 15–20 million such cats are on the loose in Australia, and that each kills up to four creatures daily. It also alleges that they are responsible for the extinction of at least 28 species within the last century. "Verwilderte Katzen bedrohen Australiens Tierwelt". 16 October 2014. *derStandard.at* GmbH 2014. Available at <http://derstandard.at/200006912252/Verwilderte-Katzen-bedrohen-Australiens-Tierwelt>.

### China: Renewable Energy Prospects

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has published a report on renewable energy prospects for China, stating that China can increase its use of renewable energy from 13 to 26 percent by 2030 and elaborating on its ability to expand renewables in the power sector from 20 to 40 percent by 2030, making it the world's largest renewable energy user. IRENA. *Renewable Energy Prospects: China. REmap 2030 analysis*. Abu Dhabi: IRENA. Available at [http://www.irena.org/remap/IRENA\\_REmap\\_China\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.irena.org/remap/IRENA_REmap_China_report_2014.pdf).

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