

SUMMER 2012



DON'T LET YOUR E-WASTE GROW

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Cyprus makes renewables national and EU priority



A major challenge for the Cyprus Presidency of the EU Council is the adaption of new targets on renewable energy after 2020. Energy Commissioner Oettinger has hinted that the European Commission should be able to present new renewable energy targets for 2030 during the first half of 2013. As to the Environmental Council (expected to convene on 3 December), Nicosia has decided to speed up their work via an informal meeting of energy ministers on 17 September in Cyprus. It is worth noting that the UN has designated 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. At a national level, Cyprus has made it a priority to transition from carbon-intensive economy, and encourage the use of renewable energy. The share of renewable energy of total consumption is currently 5.8%, and Cyprus's goal is to make it 13% by 2020.

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France reveals its radioactive waste inventory



France had a stockpile of radioactive wastes amounting to some 1.32 million cubic meters in 2010, according to a new national radioactive waste report published by the management agency Andra in July. This represents almost a 13% increase from 2007.

Nuclear power accounted for 59% of this waste as of December 2010, while the second largest portion came from research (26%), defence (11%), industrial nuclear applications (3%) and medical applications (1%).

Not all these wastes have the same level of radioactivity. The most dangerous, so-called "HLW" (from high-level waste), account for only 0.2% of the total volume produced in 2010, representing 96% of its radioactivity. The amount of HLW in France has boosted by 400 m³ between 2007 and 2010.

The majority of the waste in this country in 2010 was short-lived low and intermediate-level waste (LLW/ILW), which is mainly associated with the operation and maintenance of nuclear facilities. While accounting for 63% of the total waste by volume, this LLW/ILW represents just 0.02% of the entire radioactivity of the waste.

Andra predicted that the total volume of radioactive waste in France is expected to reach 1.9 million cubic meters in 2020 and 2.7 cubic meters by 2030.

More information:
www.energymarketprice.com



New European Union Directive on e-waste

The European Union (EU) has adopted new rules on electrical and electronic waste (e-waste), which aim to allow EU member states to combat the illegal export of waste more effectively.

The new directive, which also seeks to improve e-waste recycling levels, drew upon research from a number of sources, including Basel Convention research and data.

Recent studies by the Basel Convention - which is administered by UNEP - on e-waste in Africa have highlighted the ongoing stream of used electrical and electronic equipment reaching the continent from industrialised countries, including the EU member states, for recycling or disposal.

Electrical and electronic equipment can contain heavy metals such as mercury and lead, as well brominated flame retardants, which can damage human health and the environment.

The new EU directive aims to improve collection schemes in member states, where consumers can return used electronic and electrical items free of charge, thereby increasing the recycling and re-use of products and materials.

The directive introduces a collection target of 45 percent of electronic equipment sold that will apply from 2016 and, as a second step from 2019, a target of 65 percent of equipment sold, or 85 percent of electronic waste generated.

From 2018, the directive will be extended from its current restricted scope, to all categories of electronic waste, subject to an impact assessment beforehand.

The new directive will also oblige exporters to test whether equipment works or not, and provide documents on the nature of shipments that could be thought illegal.

The new rules entered into force on 13 August 2012.

More information [here](#).



II. UNEP ON THE GROUND



UNEP's environmental recommendations for next Winter Olympics

UNEP has delivered recommendations to the Government of the Russian Federation as part of its efforts to strengthen the environmental legacy of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics. The studies and action plans were presented to Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Sergey Donskoy on 6 July and are now being reviewed by the government.

A team of two dozen UNEP-led international and local experts - with input from the WWF, the Russian Geographical Society and other non-governmental organizations - proposed close to 90 projects designed to minimize the impact of infrastructure developments around the Sochi National Park area, where the games will take place.

"The hosts of winter and summer Olympic Games face many challenges in delivering a world-class event for athletes and spectators, including with regard to environmental issues," said UNEP's Executive Director Achim Steiner. *"Yet the games are also an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy that can provide social and economic benefits in areas from ecotourism to improved management of ecosystems such as forests and river systems,"* Mr Steiner added.

Among the numerous proposals are projects to rehabilitate and maintain water quality in the Mzymta river basin alongside tackling potential sources of pollution linked with the development of the games.

Other proposed measures include: the establishment of a nature park for bird life; the establishment of a 'buffer zone' around the Caucasus State Natural Biosphere Strict Reserve; the establishment of a Western Caucasus Ecological Corridor to assist in the movements of wildlife; a comprehensive conservation plan and programme for the reintroduction of the Persian leopard; the establishment of ponds and wetlands for rare reptiles and amphibians; measures to engage young people in environmental activities linked with the games; and the expansion of a nursery for conserving and reintroducing rare and endangered species of trees and shrubs.

UNEP has a longstanding collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the greening of the Games that spans Athens 2004, Torino 2006, Beijing 2008 and Vancouver 2010.

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A step forward in Poverty-Environment in Kyrgyzstan

On 6-8 July, the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) national experts group, together with representatives of key ministries (agriculture, energy, economics, social and labour) held a three-day seminar entitled "Creating the basis for integrating poverty-environment in processes of strategic planning and budgeting in Kyrgyzstan" that took place in Issyk-kul. The participants discussed the ongoing work of PEI experts as well as opportunities of green economy in sectors such as agriculture, mining and energy. The National Report on State of Environment in Kyrgyzstan that was funded by PEI was presented at the event. Also, a delegation from Tajikistan presented their experience of PEI programme implementation.

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Staff of Moroccan Ministry of Environment trained in Geneva

Within the framework of the project entitled "UNEP's Assistance to the Government of Morocco under the Morocco-USA Joint Statement on Cooperation - Support to the National and Regional Observatories", UNEP organised a technical training and study week for five persons from the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (MEMWE). The major goal of the training was to create a reasonable level of proficiency in use of the Moroccan National Environmental Data Portal (*Portail National Environnement Marocain*, PNEM) for the trainees, and also discuss modifications to the application that could be implemented before finalisation of the project by UNEP (DEWA/GRID-Geneva) staff.

The PNEM is one of the first national versions of the global GEO Data Portal which underpins UNEP's flagship assessment and reporting process, specifically created for use of Morocco's MEMWE at their request, and to facilitate interaction between Morocco's National Environmental Observatory and the 16 regional observatories that interact with it. The PNEM will assist in assessment and reporting activities at the regional level in Morocco and in the compilation of environmental data at the national level.

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II. UNEP ON THE GROUND



CITES acts to curb smuggling of elephant ivory and rhino horn

The 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), adopted crucial measures to halt the escalation of ivory and rhino horn smuggling. The meeting, held in Geneva on 23-27 July, came after the Rio+20 Conference recognised the important role of CITES in its outcome document "The Future We Want".

Some 300 observers, including world specialists working for governments, intergovernmental bodies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, contributed to the deliberations. The meeting attracted a record number of 50 observer organizations and was open to the media.

"The Standing Committee has made full use of its compliance and enforcement procedures, which are a unique feature of CITES, in ensuring legal, sustainable and traceable trade. They have also recognized the need to work closely with all countries affected by the illegal supply chain of elephant ivory – range, transit and destination – if we are to tackle this problem effectively" said CITES Secretary-General John E. Scanlon.

The Committee decided unanimously to take urgent measures to tackle the current poaching and smuggling crisis threatening elephant and rhino populations. The 17 Committee members requested countries and territories that are most affected by illegal ivory trade to adopt a series of immediate measures to control domestic markets and combat smuggling.

Among other decisions taken by the Committee, nine are total wildlife trade suspensions for lack of legislation to penalize illegal wildlife trade (the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay and Rwanda) or for failing to report trade in CITES-protected species (Guinea-Bissau, Nepal, Rwanda, the Solomon Islands and the Syrian Arab Republic). The states concerned will not be able to engage in international trade in close to 35,000 CITES-listed species after 1 October 2012 unless they improve their legislation and/or submit their missing reports to the CITES Secretariat by that date.

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UNEP takes eco-disaster risk reduction message to Davos



UNEP was a patron of the 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference 2012 (IDRC Davos 2012), which brought together more than 1,000 risk and disaster experts, practitioners and government officials from 100 countries.

Held in Davos, Switzerland from 26 to 30 August, the event focussed on the transfer of cutting-edge knowledge, strategies and good practice across the diverse sectors, disciplines and end users involved in risk reduction and disaster management around the world.

UNEP's Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr Muralee Thummarukudy, moderated a session that explored the reasons behind the slow progress of translating the theory of disaster risk reduction into practice, and focussed discussion on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning and the role of improved ecosystems management.

"Although there is growing awareness that improving the management of ecosystems and natural resources plays an essential role in reducing human vulnerability to disasters, there has been a lag investing in disaster risk reduction in general and in ecosystem-based solutions for risk reduction in particular," Mr Thummarukudy said.

UNEP also took part in the Plenary Session on 'Mega-disasters with Cascading Effects', which explored the issue of major disaster events and how the global community can be better prepared.

The outcomes of the four-day conference will feed into the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013.

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II. UNEP ON THE GROUND



Festivities included the official launch of the National Public Participation Strategies in all five Caspian states. As a landmark of the civil society's commitment to the protection of the Caspian marine environment, NGOs took part in round table discussions to ensure their active involvement in the implementation phase of the newly launched Strategies.

In Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, the festivities, while including workshops and stakeholder meetings, also targeted a younger audience with drawing competitions, theatre performances, open-air events and education programmes.

Azerbaijani authorities held a demonstration of a vessel used to clean up the water surface from pollutants and waste, while in Russia, information on the Tehran Convention activities was summarised and presented in an e-bulletin.

In Iran, among other activities, a tribal house was constructed and information sessions on the Caspian region, its economy and environment were organized inside the tent throughout the day.

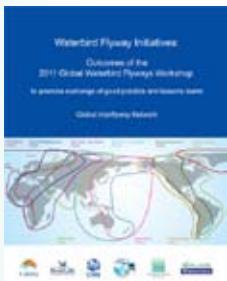
Organizers in all five countries also produced souvenirs such as T-shirts, caps and mugs featuring maps of the Caspian Sea or its unique inhabitants, such as the Caspian seal.

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New publication on birds' migratory routes launched

A new publication on migratory birds' migration routes was launched at the RamsarCOP 11, which took place in Bucharest on 6-13 July. BirdLife International, the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), the Ramsar Convention, Wetlands International and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) joined hands to present the publication entitled "Global Interflyway Network".



GIN Report

The publication summarizes the outcomes of an international workshop on Global Waterbird Flyways convened by the EAAFP Secretariat in Seosan City, Korea in 2011. The objective was to review good practice in international initiatives to conserve migratory water birds and other migratory species. The workshop brought together different flyway initiatives to share knowledge on best practices in developing and implementing flyway-scale water bird conservation. This facilitates a more global view of flyway efforts undertaken. Despite the growing number of flyway-initiatives, there has been little exchange of information and experience. The report identifies strong synergies in the approaches, challenges and opportunities to implement conservation initiatives across all flyways. An open and inclusive network on flyway-scale initiatives entitled "Global Interflyway Network" (GIN) will be set up since there is great value in building on an ongoing networking mechanism.

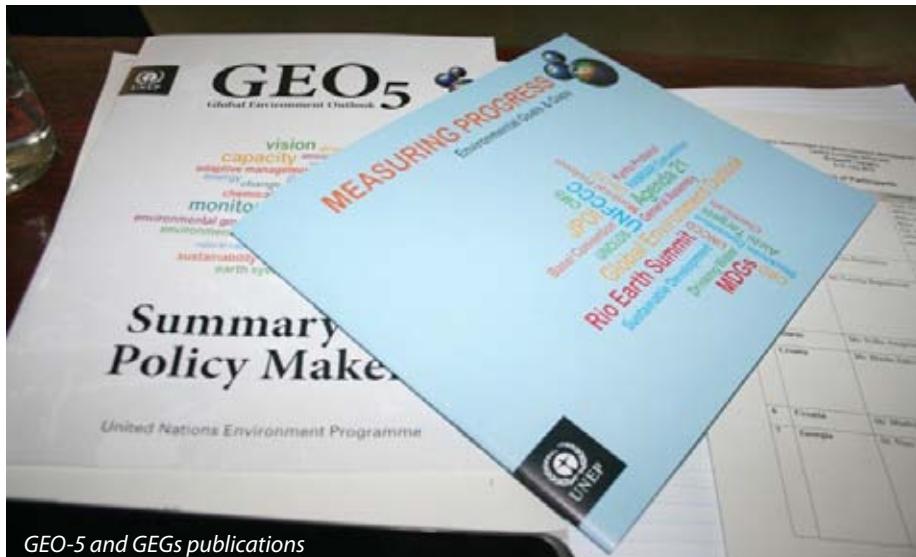
Other relevant flyway initiatives that were not represented at the October 2011 workshop are encouraged to participate in the GIN.

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II. UNEP ON THE GROUND

Global Environmental Outlook: taking GEO-5 to the country level



GEO-5 and GEGs publications



DEWA Regional Coordinator Ron Witt



UNEP-ROE Info Officer Isabelle Valentiny

On 9-10 July, UNEP organized the "GEO-5 European Outreach and Media Training Workshop". The workshop took place at the Central European University of Budapest, one of our close partners and Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) Collaborating Centres. Coming barely one month after GEO-5 launches in Rio de Janeiro and some 15 other cities around the world, the main purpose was to capitalize on the positive publicity generated and bring the broad messages of GEO-5 to the country level in national languages for popular uptake.

As this was also the first of all UNEP regional events organized, it was by necessity experimental in nature. Led by UNEP/Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) and Central European University (CEU), and with the participation of UNEP/Regional Office for Europe (ROE) and Moscow State University, the workshop paired one government invitee with one journalist/media person from the same country, to examine the main messages, conclusions and policy options offered by GEO-5, both for Europe and globally. Participants from 12 (South-) Eastern European and Caucasus countries were asked to work in pairs, each supported by one of the UNEP or close partner staff, to develop stories which could be published in and distributed by national or local media (e.g. magazines, newspapers, radio and/or TV channels et al.). The ultimate goal is to have the conclusions, main messages and policy solutions from GEO-5 work their way into the consciousness of many, diverse European citizens.

Due to the enthusiasm of country participants and the request that their final stories appear in an international publication, it was proposed that UNEP bring all of the stories together in a single document before the end of 2012. This should help to boost knowledge of GEO-5 and UNEP's work among national decision-makers and the public.

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UNEP IN EUROPE

NEWSLETTER

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Five more European nations join Climate and Clean Air Coalition

Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and the United Kingdom have been welcomed as new country partners in an international initiative to cut a range of climate-damaging pollutants that also have health and agricultural impacts.

The rapidly growing Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) has also been strengthened with the addition of six non-government partners, including the Stockholm Environment Institute, ClimateWorks Foundation and the Clean Air Task Force.

This brings to 27 the number of partners who have joined the Coalition since its launch in February this year.

"The need to limit short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) has grown. In the Arctic region, in particular, black carbon emissions and deposition must be reduced. Controlling all SLCP emissions will complement international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in order to combat climate change as effectively as possible. Limiting fine particulates will also alleviate health risks," Finland's Environment Minister, Ville Niinistö, said.

The Coalition, whose secretariat is hosted by UNEP, is targeting world-wide emissions of black carbon or 'soot', methane and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Fast action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants can have a direct impact on climate change, with the potential to reduce the warming expected by 2050 by up to 0.5 degrees Celsius.

More information: www.unep.org/ccac or ccac_secretariat@unep.org.



Right: Sylvie Lemmet, Director of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics



II. UNEP ON THE GROUND



Online Reporting System for Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements

On July 9, the Online Reporting System (ORS) for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) was presented at a side event to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention in Bucharest, Romania. The side event was organized by the Secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).

The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat, which was the first MEA Secretariat to fully adapt and use the ORS for its reporting. It is expected that after a successful completion of the AEWA MOP5 reporting cycle other MEAs - starting with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its associated instruments - will also begin using the ORS for their national reporting.

The new system provides a concrete way of streamlining national reporting under the various MEAs and ultimately harmonizes their reporting processes. It is designed as a flexible tool to create national reports online and is especially customized to the needs of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and their online reporting process.

Increased use of the ORS would not only provide greater synergies amongst MEAs in the area of reporting by providing a common platform, but would also allow for cost sharing for maintenance and harmonization of reports for Parties and a simpler handling of the reporting process for MEA Secretariats.

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Mercury negotiations presented to the Geneva International Community



On 26 July, the Geneva Environment Network Secretariat held a roundtable discussion for the Geneva International Community on chemicals negotiations involving two secretariats managed by UNEP's Chemicals Branch. The main speakers included Tim Kasten, Head of UNEP Chemicals Branch, Fernando Lugris, from Uruguay, Chair of the INC, Jacob Duer, Coordinator of the Mercury Negotiations Team, and Leonor Alvarado, Coordinator of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat.

The first part of the roundtable targeted mercury negotiations. In 2009, UNEP's Governing Council agreed on the need to develop a global legally-binding instrument on mercury and to complete negotiations prior to the 27th session of UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in 2013. The work to prepare this instrument is undertaken by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee supported by UNEP's Chemicals Branch. Following the conclusion of the negotiations, the text will be open for signature at a diplomatic conference (Conference of Plenipotentiaries), which will take place in 2013 in Japan.

The second part of the discussion focussed on SAICM, a policy framework meant to foster the sound management of chemicals; its secretariat is also supported by UNEP's Chemicals Branch. The third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM3) will be held in Nairobi on 17-21 September 2012.

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II. UNEP ON THE GROUND



Azerbaijan-Georgia Water Update

A draft of a water agreement between Azerbaijan and Georgia was submitted in June to both governments concluding a project by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), which lays the ground work for the sustainable use of water in the Kura River Basin.

The project is titled "Transboundary water convention and bilateral agreement on shared water resources between Azerbaijan and Georgia"; managed by OSCE and UNECE, it analysed the legal and institutional needs for accession to, and implementation of, the UNECE Water Convention in Georgia. It also assessed the costs involved in implementing the convention's requirements, which outline the sustainable management of transboundary waters.

The project was aimed at supporting Georgia in preparations for accession to the UNECE Water Convention and strengthening transboundary water cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia. It involved the relevant agencies and departments of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia, and Ministries of the Foreign Affairs of both countries.

Project members found that there was a good legal basis in Georgia for meeting the requirements of the convention.

The draft agreement on the Kura River was formulated through four bilateral consultation meetings between Azerbaijan and Georgia. It provides a framework for cooperation between two countries on water pollution prevention and control, conservation of biodiversity, emergency situations, data and information sharing, and public participation.

The agreement also outlines the potential establishment of a Joint Commission for protection and rational use of water resources of the Kura River Basin. Other considerations detailed are cooperation in monitoring, information exchange and early warning systems.

OSCE and the UNECE are considering developing an ENVSEC follow-up project if countries are ready to continue the bilateral consultation process.

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Photo by Victor Mello for ENVSEC ENVSEC

Four civil society grants awarded to NGOs



"Strengthening youth participation in environmental protection" project activists

Four civil society organizations in Azerbaijan will be issued grants after their projects were endorsed in early July by the Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE).

The CASE small grants programme, run by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Field Operations, issued a call for proposals in February this year and received 28 proposals for projects related to environment and security challenges. It was the fourth such call for proposals under the CASE scheme, implemented within the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). Other major partners include Austria, Canada, Finland, Luxembourg, United States and Statoil.

The CASE programme was designed by the OSCE to increase public and political awareness, and capacity, in the field of environment and security.

CASE projects in Azerbaijan focus on efficient use of potable water and protection of water quality, and natural and man-made factors of land degradation. Projects also include introducing a "Green Corps" model in Azerbaijan which involves environment and security awareness campaigns for youth. The winners of this round of the CASE programme in Azerbaijan will now receive help in preparing and implementing their projects.

ENVSEC's involvement in CASE is being directed towards projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan and regional coordination in the South Caucasus. Regional coordination activities will include two training sessions for civil society organizations on environment and security to be held in autumn this year.

The National Screening Board of the Armenian CASE programme is reviewing submissions and is expected to make a decision on the winners by September. Between four and six projects will be selected.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 2012

Environmental Education goes back to Georgia

The Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (Tbilisi+35) will be held by the Government of Georgia in partnership with UNEP and UNESCO from 6 to 7 September in Tbilisi, Georgia. The conference

will mark the 35th anniversary of the first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education held in 1977. Tbilisi+35 is expected to bring together around 300 delegates from around the world to highlight and discuss the global educational efforts made towards a sustainable world in the past 35 years and beyond. The conference is expected to discuss how to enhance international cooperation to make the best use of global educational efforts in humanity's struggle for a sustainable existence and its smooth transition towards a green economy; further, it will be used to provide a platform for decision makers to interact with UN-led forums devoted to environmental education and education for sustainable development; and will take stock of the implementation of major national, regional and international environmental education agendas since 1977, and define pathways beyond. The conference is expected to adopt the Tbilisi Communiqué: "Educate Today to Sustain the Future".

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Paving the way for sustainable management of forests



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The second meeting of the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe will take place from 3 to 7 September in Bonn, Germany at the kind invitation of the German government. FAO will carry out the functions of the Secretariat along with the support of Forest Europe Liaison Unit-Madrid and the European Forest Institute. The Committee will undertake a first reading of the draft negotiating text and begin a detailed consideration of the content. The committee should finalise the formulation of as many paragraphs as possible and give further guidance for elaborating the text further where agreement has not been reached. Following the decision at INC1, the Committee is expected to provide guidance on possible compliance mechanisms, including its scope, procedures, measures and institutional mechanisms. The Committee may also wish to consider paragraph 24 g. of the Oslo Mandate, "the possibility of the agreement being brought under the United Nations umbrella" and provide further guidelines on addressing paragraph 24 f. on secretariat arrangements.

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BASEL CONVENTION

Basel Convention Working Group for management of wastes

The eighth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention will be held from 25 to 28 September 2012 at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), in Geneva.

The Open-ended Working Group keeps under continuous review the implementation of the Convention's work plan, specific operational policies and decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties for the implementation of the Convention. It meets once every two years.

During the September meeting, the Working Group will discuss follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative on developing guidelines and a draft framework for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. It is also expected to review progress in the implementation of the strategic framework and on the development of a baseline for the midterm and final evaluations of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021.

The outcomes of the meeting will help set the stage for the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, which will be held back-to-back with the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions during a two-week period from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva. These back-to-back conferences will be held for the first time in tandem with an extra-ordinary meeting of the conferences of the parties charged with solidifying synergies among the three conventions.

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III. ON THE CALENDAR

Montreal Protocol Olympics for Customs & Enforcement

Customs & Enforcement Officers from China, the European Union, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia FYR, Russia, Serbia and Uzbekistan will receive the Ozone Protection Award 2012 of UNEP's Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia (ECA network) during the forthcoming Customs Cooperation Meeting to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 9-11 October 2012.

During the period from July 2010 to August 2012, the award winners reported 14 successful seizures of 72 pieces of equipment and 2990 refrigerant cylinders containing more than 35 metric tons of ozone-depleting chemicals and mixtures. In addition, informal Prior Informed Consent (iPIC) consultations prior to the issuance of trade licenses avoided 13 unwanted / illegal shipments of ozone-depleting chemicals and mixtures.

Preventing illegal trade in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) has been the challenge for Customs and Enforcement Officers during the past decades. From January 2010, the consumption of CFCs has been banned worldwide and the future challenge will be the increasing trade in methyl bromide and in hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The consumption of methyl bromide will be banned from 2015 and that of HCFCs from 2040.

The meeting is jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey and UNEP's Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia (ECA network) in cooperation with the Czech Republic.

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ALSO IN SEPTEMBER:



The **First Meeting of Signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks** will be held on 24-27 September in Bonn, Germany.



BASEL CONVENTION
the world environmental agreement on wastes

The **Eighth meeting of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group (OEWG8)** will take place on 25-28 September in Geneva, Switzerland.