

# people

**KATHARINA KUMMER-PEIRY** (Switzerland) has been appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention



on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Ms. Kummer-Peiry brings to the Convention substantive knowledge of the Convention and strong negotiation and leadership skills. Her career spans several years with the Government of Switzerland as Head of Environmental Affairs Section in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and as a University lecturer and more recently as a consultant on environmental policy and law. Ms. Kummer-Peiry has authored and contributed to a number of publications on international chemicals and waste management, and is a recognized international expert on chemicals management. She holds a PhD in International Law and a Master of Law. Ms. Kummer-Peiry will assume her duties in September 2007.

British Member of Parliament **BARRY GARDINER** has been appointed the



Prime Minister's special representative on forestry. He will be working alongside Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai and the former Prime Minister of Canada Paul Martin. Part of the UK's strategy on mitigating climate change involves investing substantial funds in protecting and rehabilitating tropical rainforests, such as that in the Congo Basin. Mr Gardiner said "Climate change is the political issue of our generation and the destruction of forests contribute to 20 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases each year. It is a privilege to be able to do something that will make a real difference to the lives of our children and future generations."

**MARYAM NIAMIR-FULLER**, has been appointed Director, Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination of UNEP. Ms Niamir-Fuller holds a Master's Degree in Regional Planning and a PhD in Rangeland Management and Soil Conservation. She brings to UNEP 27 years of experience in the technical



areas of sustainable rural development and environmental management in Africa, West Asia, Asia and Latin America, including work with USAID, several UN Agencies and international NGOs. She also has seven years of experience with the GEF, and since 2003, as Principal Technical Advisor for UNDP's GEF Unit in the Focal Area of Land Degradation, and Head of the Sustainable Land Management Team. She has authored numerous technical publications, is an accomplished public speaker as well as a member of several scientific committees.



By driving around the globe in a solar-powered vehicle Solartaxi draws attention to the world's reliance on fossil fuels, and points out that there are plenty of alternatives already available. Covering at least 50'000 km, 50 countries, 15 months and 5 continents, the Solartaxi team lead by **LOUIS PALMER** has embarked on a world circumnavigation, from West to East, starting and ending in Lucerne, Switzerland. The public can follow progress online, read travelogues, and even stage a welcoming event in their home town. For more information see [www.solartaxi.com](http://www.solartaxi.com)

The Banksia International Award of Australia acknowledges individuals or organisations who have made or are making a significant contribution for the betterment of our environment on a global level. Governor **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, who governs the world's sixth largest economy (California), was the recipient of this year's award, presented on 20th July, 2007 at the Sydney Convention



Centre. The importance of Governor Schwarzenegger's environmental platform is not so much in its details as in the fact that a popular, high-profile Republican elected official is taking environmental problems seriously and putting forward thoughtful ideas for solving them. Some of which include: world's first low carbon standard for transportation fuels; creating the Hydrogen Highway; launching the Breathe Easier campaign; establishing the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; promoting the clean power of the sun; and promoting eco-friendly behaviour in the workplace.

[www.banksiafndn.com](http://www.banksiafndn.com)

**NUNATAK** is the British Antarctic Survey's Rothera Research Station's house band. The five person indie rock band is part of a science team investigating climate change and evolutionary biology on the



Antarctic Peninsula - a region where temperatures have risen by nearly 3°C during the last 50 years. Nunatak is a Greenlandic word and refers to an exposed summit of a ridge mountain or peak (not covered with snow) within an ice field or glacier. The band shot to global fame when it performed at this year's Live Earth concert on 7 July. Concerts from all 7 continents aimed to raise awareness of climate change world-wide.

[www.antarctica.ac.uk](http://www.antarctica.ac.uk)