



UNEP in Europe

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011



Amu Darya Delta from space

I. Good to Know

p.2

- A call for early elections in Spain
- Cyprus government resigns amid bailout rumours
- New Environment Minister in Greece
- 109bn euros in new loans to Greece
- France adopts plan to cope with climate change
- Agreement on security in the Caspian
- A new global energy and environment strategy by Kazakhstan
- Five countries block trade restrictions on asbestos
- Bulgaria says shale gas can boost energy security
- Security Council chaired by Germany debates climate threats
- Doubts cloud launch of EU biofuels sustainability schemes
- EU must prepare for resource crunch

II. UNEP's Work in the Region

p.5

- Environment and security assessment in the Amu Darya river basin
- Trade in snake skins under review
- Protecting nature and promoting development in the Carpathian region
- United Nations Graduate Study Programme
- Preparatory meetings for "The Eye on Earth Summit"
- A scientific task force on wildlife disease
- The potential of renewable energy technologies
- UNEP's ED meets with trade unions and workers in Spain
- Interns at UNEP promote information exchange through roundtables
- Poverty-Environment Initiative in Krgyzstan
- UNEP welcomes new Head in Brussels

III. Do Not Miss

p.9

- Montreal Protocol's contribution to the Green Economy
- Caspian States strengthen cooperation against oil pollution
- Fish in the Wadden Sea: exploring an unknown world
- UNEP in Astana
- UNEP European youth meeting

A call for early elections in Spain

On 29 July Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero called a general election for November 2010, four months earlier than expected. He said this would enable a new government to confront Spain's economic problems from January 2012. The conservative opposition Popular Party (PP) has demanded an early vote since 22 May when Mr Zapatero's socialist (SPOE) party lost in local polls.

"Early elections are what the majority of the electorate wanted, so this is good news," said Mariano Rajoy, the candidate of the Popular Party. Mr Zapatero will not be seeking a third term as prime minister, and opinion polls suggest his Socialist Party - led by former Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba - will lose.

In the current government, Rosa Aguilar has been Minister for the Environment Rural and Marine Affairs since October 2010. Ms. Aguilar is also currently President of UNEP's Governing Council.

Cyprus government resigns amid bailout rumours

Cyprus's cabinet announced its resignation on 28 July as a result of political and public pressure for a broad reshuffle after a massive munitions blast that has threatened to force the island into asking for an EU bailout. President Demetris Christofias asked for the resignations at a session of cabinet, government spokesman Stefanos Stefanou said. The 11 member cabinet will stay on until a reshuffle. "The president of the republic briefed ministers of his intention to proceed with a broad reshuffle of the government and asked they place their resignations at his disposal," Stefanou told reporters.

France adopts plan to cope with climate change



The French government announced on 20 July more than 200 measures to prepare for the impact of climate change as part of a plan for 2011-15. Some €171m (USD 242.74m) will be spent in addition to funds already allocated to anti-drought and flood prevention measures. The plan comprises measures to improve scientific knowledge on climate impacts and to strengthen monitoring, as well as adaptation measures in areas such as water consumption, forests, health, infrastructures and coastal zones. The plan follows a national climate adaptation strategy adopted in 2006. Many other EU countries have adopted such strategies, which are

required by the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The EU executive's 2009 adaptation white paper aims to facilitate cooperation between countries.

The government announced financial support for rainwater retention equipment and a programme to reduce leaks from water supply networks. It also wants to improve the efficiency of nuclear plants' cooling towers to limit increases in river temperatures.

New Environment Minister in Greece

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou replaced his finance minister on 17 June in a broad cabinet reshuffle to counter widespread opposition over tough new austerity measures. Former defence minister Evangelos Venizelos was appointed the new finance minister, replacing George Papaconstantinou, who became the new Minister of Environment (replacing Tina Birbili). Before being elected Finance Minister in October 2009, Mr Papaconstantinou was elected member of the Greek National Parliament for the Prefecture of Kozani in September 2007, and subsequently appointed PASOK's (centre-left party) Press Spokesperson in March 2008. In the June 2009 elections for the European Parliament, he headed PASOK's list of candidates and was appointed MEP for three months before becoming Minister of Finance.

109bn euros in new loans to Greece

The eurozone agreed a comprehensive package on 21 July designed not only to resolve Greece's debt crisis, but also to prevent contagion to other European economies. The package includes 109bn euros (157bn USD) in new loans to Greece, various options for Greece to extent its terms of repayment and reduce the amount it repays on existing loans, as well as supporting voluntary private sector participation in these options so that that banks share taxpayers' burden.

The agreement also grants additional powers to the European Financial Stability Facility to buy up bonds and to make credit available to countries such as Spain and Italy that are not at immediate risk of insolvency and doubles the length of repayment terms for the Irish Republic and Portugal, both of which have received financial assistance previously.

Agreement on security in the Caspian

Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, submitted the Agreement on Security Cooperation in the Caspian Sea to the State Duma for ratification on 21 July. The agreement was signed by the Presidents of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan during the Third Caspian Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan on 18 November, 2010.

The Agreement contains a provision that security in the Caspian Sea is the prerogative of the littoral states, which is crucial to Russia's interests. The document is a framework agreement and a legal basis for cooperation between parties' agencies in such areas as combating terrorism, organised crime, smuggling, human trafficking and illegal migration. The agreement also provides for cooperation in maritime and navigation security, and in the fight against piracy.

A new global energy and environment strategy by Kazakhstan

A new study by Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, was presented in Astana on 4 July 2011. The study entitled 'The global energy and environment strategy of sustainable development in the 21st century' constitutes a message to the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable development (the Rio+20 summit). It lays the foundations of a future energy and environment strategy for the 21st century and gives concrete examples and tools developed by Kazakhstan and its partners in the Eurasian Economic Community, with recommendations on how these models can be applied in a global context.

Anatoly Spitzyn, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, stated that the global energy and environment strategy is presented in the context of global trends, 'for the first time, and is completely new, which is why we believe that this strategy is important in the solution of global problems'.

Security Council chaired by Germany debates climate threats



Germany is using its month-long presidency of the UN Security Council to try to relaunch debate on the security implications of climate change. It fears sea level rise and climate-related food shortages could fuel political unrest and violent conflict. The council first discussed climate change in 2007 but some countries were keen to leave the issue to the UN's dedicated climate body, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Germany insists

the potential impacts of climate change go well beyond the UNFCCC's remit and established another debate on the issue on 20 July. In a note published ahead of this meeting, it sets out several questions including the implications of inhabitants of low-lying islands being left stateless and how to address climate-induced food risks. It also asks whether other climate change impacts such as more frequent storms might have security implications. UNEP's ED presented concrete evidence to the Council highlighting the implications of climate change on global stability and security.

Five countries block trade restrictions on asbestos

Canada, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Vietnam opposed adding chrysotile, also known as white asbestos, to a list of harmful substances that cannot be exported without the receiving country's consent it was reported on 27 June. Proposals to include three other chemicals in the Rotterdam convention's prior informed consent (PIC), herbicide alachlor and pesticides aldicarb and endosulfan, were adopted by parties to the convention in Geneva, Switzerland. Ukraine and Kazakhstan demanded further talks on white asbestos. Canada did not clearly state its reasons for opposing trade restrictions in this area. According to news reports in the country, the move was intended to protect asbestos mines in Quebec. One of these mines has just received a \$58m loan from the government.



Doubts cloud launch of EU biofuels sustainability schemes



The EU's approval of a first batch of seven sustainability schemes for biofuels marked a "big step" towards climate-friendly transport, Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger said on 19 July. But reactions have been mixed. Biofuels producers hailed the schemes for addressing sustainability concerns, but there was a chorus of criticism from NGOs over a perceived lack of definition, verification resources and sensitivity to land-use issues. The new system allows companies in Europe's €9 billion bio-diesel industry to seek a five-year green standard under the EU scheme, or comparable national ones. Certification will then be awarded to any which produce biofuels emitting 35% less greenhouse gas than petrol, with the figure rising to 60% from 2018.

EU must prepare for resource crunch

Europe's economy needs to undergo major changes to remain competitive in a resource-constrained world, Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said at an EU ministerial meeting in Poland on 22 July. Economy ministers discussed two reports conducted for the European Commission on resources and sustainable growth. The EU's throw-away culture will only make it more dependent on external resources and vulnerable to price increases, said Mr Potočnik. "This is the message that leaps out at me from reading [these reports]. It is a message that leaps from the industrial policy of Japan and [South] Korea. It is the message that leaps out from the latest Chinese 5-year plan," added the commissioner.

"Uncertainty will continue to define our response to climate change. By its very nature, both in terms of its causes and its effects, climate change requires a global response."

Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, UN Security Council debate, 20 July 2011

Bulgaria says shale gas can boost energy security

Bulgarian officials sought to ease growing environmental fears about drilling for shale gas, saying the unconventional resource could boost energy security and bring prosperity to the EU's poorest member state it was reported on 19 July. The centre-right government will sign a contract with U.S. energy major Chevron Corp to explore a potentially huge field in northern Bulgaria for shale gas within days, after granting it a five-year permit in June. The decision has been attacked by opposition Socialists and green groups, who have started a campaign against the drilling and said the process will damage the environment, poison underground waters and pose health hazards. Energy Minister Traicho Traikov said on 9 July the exploratory drilling would not be riskier than any other drilling for mineral resources, adding it would be strictly monitored to meet environmental norms.



Environment and security assessment in the Amu Darya River Basin



Boosting cooperation between countries sharing the waters of the Amu Darya, Central Asia's longest river, could be key to future peace and security in the region says a new report launched by UNEP in Geneva on 11 July.

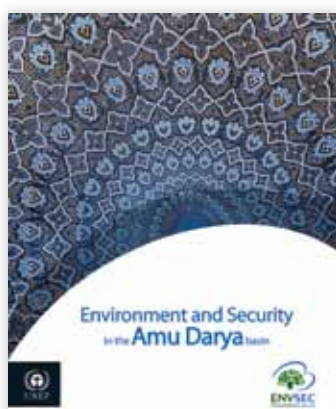
Big hydropower projects planned upstream, demand for irrigated agriculture downstream and growing concern that climate change is shifting weather patterns are emerging as major natural resource challenges for the four main nations involved—Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The new report, prepared by UNEP on behalf of partners in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), points out that water resources in the region are already impacted by decades of often unsustainable development dating back to the era of the Soviet Union. "From a security perspective climate change, water, energy and agriculture constitute the main areas of interest for this report as they reveal the potential for increasing instability and even confrontation as more flows are impounded upstream reducing those water availability and quality downstream," said UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

"Trust building, re-thinking agricultural production including irrigation systems and fostering cooperation on shared resources and infrastructure will be key to sustainable development in this part of Central Asia. The report sets out clear recommendations on how this can be achieved in a partnership between the countries concerned and the international community," he added.

The new report details persistent, new and emerging stresses which will require environmental diplomacy to boost cooperation, especially around flashpoints between the nations sharing the Amu Darya.

Further information: laura.rio@unep.org



Trade in snake skins under review

The 25th meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) closed on 22 July in Geneva with key scientific findings for the conservation and sustainable use of several reptiles, marine species and amphibians. A record number of over 200 delegates, from fifty countries, attending the meeting expressed concern about the sustainability of current levels of trade in skins of three species of snakes used in luxury products and another 20 animal species used in biomedical research, the food industry or as pets.

As part of a unique peer review and compliance mechanism developed by CITES to assess the sustainability levels of biological resources in trade, the Committee examined recently recorded trade in three snake species originated in South-east Asia: *Ptyas mucosus* (Oriental rat snake), *Python reticulatus* (Reticulated python) and *Naja sputatrix* (Indonesian cobra). The Committee largely endorsed snake-related recommendations identified in a previous workshop held in China that include tightening the controls on snake-breeding facilities and the supply chain for skin trade.

Further information:
juan.vasquez@unep.org



United Nations Graduate Study Programme

As part of the United Nations' wider outreach work with youth and the academic community, UNEP ROE participated in the 49th UN Graduate Study Programme (GSP) organized by the UN Office in Geneva on 4-22 July 2011. The three-week programme brought together 68 graduate students from 43 countries around the world under the theme: 'The United Nations working towards the Millennium Development Goals: success and challenges'. The interactive programme is intended to inform and introduce participants to the different activities of the United Nations through a series of lectures given by experts from the various departments of the UN office in Geneva as well as the UN specialized agencies.

UNEP moderated and coordinated the Environment Working Group. The students had the opportunity to learn more about how different programmes and activities undertaken by UNEP and other environment and development organisations contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

Interactive sessions focused on issues including: the Green Economy, environment and security, forest and biodiversity targets, water and sanitation targets, environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters, and the role of the financial sector in the implementation of the MDGs.

The GSP is part of the United Nations' wider outreach efforts with youth and the academic community.

Further information: wondwosen.asnake@unep.org

Preparatory meetings for "The Eye on Earth Summit"

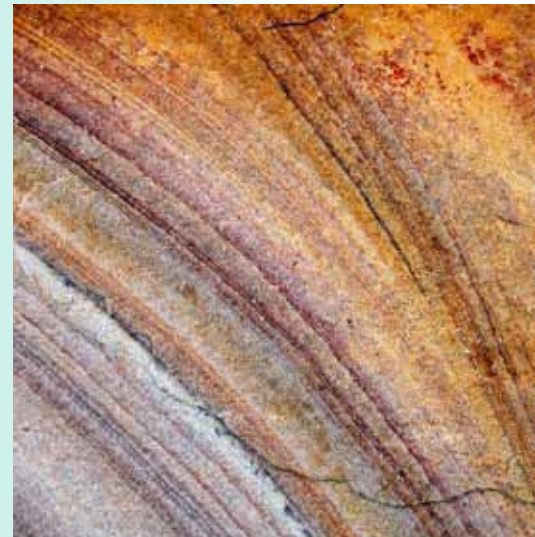


To prepare the ground for "The Eye on Earth Summit, Pursuing a Vision" in December 2011 in Abu Dhabi, representatives from GRID-Europe participated in two meetings in Geneva. The first meeting held on 20-21 July, focused on developing the content and structure of the summit, while the second, held on 27-28 July, brought together 5 groups working on the areas of technical infrastructure, capacity building, education and awareness building, and application showcasing. The overarching goal of the summit will be to ensure that reliable environmental and societal data is accessible to all those who need it whether scientists, communities or governments.

The Summit, which will be co-organized among others by UNEP, the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi and the European Environment Agency (EEA), is expected to result in a clear statement on strengthening existing initiatives and informed policy-making for a sustainable future. The event also represents an opportunity to focus attention on 20 years of collective efforts to make the best environmental information available to decision-makers.

Further information: geraldine.boezio@unep.org

Protecting nature and promoting development in the Carpathian region



A conference to kick off the 'BIOREGIO Carpathians project' was held in Brasov County, in Romania, on 27-29 July 2011. Funded under the EU Territorial Cooperation Programme for South East Europe, BIOREGIO' is the largest project designed to protect nature and promote development in the Carpathian region. UNEP Vienna is one of the 16 partners to the project consortium which also includes nature conservation agencies from each of the seven Carpathian countries and representatives of the seven Carpathian Ministries of Environment as observers. The project, which builds on existing frameworks of the Carpathian Convention, aims to harmonize and implement management plans for the protection of natural assets and protected areas, including NATURA 2000 sites in the Carpathians. A Joint Biodiversity Information System and a Red List of the most endangered habitats and species in the Carpathians are planned for this project.

Further information:
veronika.hopfgartner@unvienna.org

The potential of renewable energy technologies



UNEP Geneva Environment Network (GEN) convened an outreach event on 9 July in Geneva focusing on the 'Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation'. Released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in May 2011, the report covers the integration of the six most important renewable energy technologies into present and future energy systems. It also takes into consideration the environmental and social consequences associated with these technologies, and the strategies needed to overcome obstacles to their application and diffusion.

The Geneva outreach event brought together key governmental, non-governmental and business organisations to examine the findings of the report and to explore the future potential of renewable energy technologies to mitigate climate change and secure future global energy supplies. Renate Christ, IPCC Secretary together with Rolf Wuestenhagen, a leading author and Director of the Institute for Economy and the Environment at the University of St.Gallen, presented the report. Jean-Christophe Füg, Head of International Affairs at the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, illustrated the renewable energies challenges and opportunities associated with Switzerland's target of decommissioning its nuclear plants by 2034. The importance of increased private sector involvement in making renewable energy technologies market-proven was explained by Thomas Kerr, Director of the Climate Change Initiatives at the World Economic Forum. Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive Officer of the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) noted the need for enforced international renewable energy trade schemes to support the development of renewable energies. The discussions were moderated by Christophe Bouvier, UNEP's Director and Regional Representative for Europe.

Further information: diana.rizzolio@unep.org

UNEP's ED meets with trade unions and workers in Spain

UNEP's Executive Director and UNEP's Director and Regional Representative for Europe met with Rosa Aguilar Rivero, UNEP Governing Council (GC) President and Minister of Environment for Spain, and trade union leaders on 21 July in Madrid, Spain.

The purpose of the meeting was to address key issues that are critical for both workers and trade unions in the just transition to a Green Economy, including the potential for green jobs, both for developed and developing countries, as well as presenting an opportunity for the GC president to take trade union views into consideration in her work with UNEP's Governing Council. The meeting also served to strengthen dialogue between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and to develop a common understanding of a number of issues relating to trade unions and workers which are expected to be raised during the next UNEP Governing Council on 24 February 2011.

Further information: wondwosen.asnake@unep.org

A scientific task force on wildlife disease

Emerging infectious diseases resulting from changing ecological, agricultural and climatic conditions are increasingly posing a threat to wildlife, livestock and people worldwide. In order to address this growing threat, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched a Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases, on 27-28 June at a workshop in Beijing, to seek an integrated approach to manage the health of ecosystems, wildlife, livestock and people.



The Task Force, which includes the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, and governmental bodies from the United States, Australia and Mongolia, has agreed to enhance research on diseases that have an impact on both domestic and migratory wildlife, and that are of greatest concern with regard to food security, sustainable livelihoods and conservation; and to find ways to bridge the gaps between wildlife managers and health practitioners. The Task Force's 'One Health' approach will promote information sharing among government sectors, wildlife managers, NGOs and relevant UN agencies including UNEP, FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNESCO.

The priority areas for action by the Scientific Task Force will be presented at the next CMS COP on 20-25 November 2011 in Bergen, Norway.

Further information:
vlenarz@cms.int/ bheredia@cms.int

Interns at UNEP promote information exchange through roundtables



Interns at the International Environment House (IEH) in Geneva started a new dynamic initiative on 27 July that has attracted great interest from interns and staff members alike. The roundtables were initiated to provide interns and staff with information on UNEP's different branches and their activities, as well as the work of other environmental organisations. For each roundtable, a particular environmental topic is chosen to address questions that can range from International Environmental Governance to the Green Economy.

In the first roundtable, which was held on 13 July, Dr. Steven Stone, head of the Economics and Trade Branch, together with Dr. Moustafa Kamal Gueye, head of the Advisory Services Unit, explained the Green Economy Initiative, the Green Economy Report, and UNEP's work

with national governments in helping to move towards a green economy. Interns gained clear insights into the Initiative, especially with respect to the role that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) play in moving towards a green economy.

Angela Cropper, Special Adviser to UNEP's Executive Director, presented on UNEP's agenda and expectations for Rio+20, providing an opportunity for discussion around the key themes of the summit. Ivonne Higuero, Programme Coordinator and Ecosystems Management Sub-programme Regional Coordinator for UNEP ROE, shared with the interns the important role that ROE is playing in the context of Rio+20.

Further information: stephanie.weckend@unep.org

UNEP welcomes new Head in Brussels

UNEP would like to introduce Chris Vanden Bilcke who began his appointment as Head of UNEP's Liaison Office to the EU in Brussels on 1 August.



Mr Vanden Bilcke is a Belgian national and previously served as Head of Unit for Environment and Sustainable Development in the Belgian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs. His professional career has included assignments with the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU and the Belgian Ministry for Environment. Mr Vanden Bilcke graduated from University of Gent in Belgium and holds a degree in Law, specialized in Environmental Law.

Under his leadership, the Brussels Liaison Office will strive to continue to strengthen relations between UNEP and the EU, and intensify regular policy dialogues with the EU institutions.

Further information: chris.vandenbilcke@unep.org

Poverty-Environment Initiative in Kyrgyzstan

UNDP and UNEP held a workshop to launch the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) for Kyrgyzstan on 27 July in Bishkek. 44 participants, including high-level government representatives from the country's Ministries of Economic Regulation, Environment, and Regional Planning Department, endorsed the PEI to support Kyrgyzstan's efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national and sub-national policies and development processes.

The UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative for Kyrgyzstan aims to integrate the poverty-environment nexus into national, sub-national, sectoral and UN development processes, to improve environmental sustainability and ensure pro-poor economic growth. The current phase of the project, which began in March 2011 after it was endorsed by the First-Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the UN Resident Coordinator and the PEI, will run until December 2013.

The PEI is also being implemented in Tajikistan and Armenia.

Further information: aitziber.echeverria@unep.org





III. DO NOT MISS



Montreal Protocol's contribution to the Green Economy

UNEP defines a Green Economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. A Green Economy is characterized by substantially increased environmental and social investments that contribute to the growth of income and jobs, while reducing poverty and inequity. Since it came into force in 1987, the Montreal Protocol has reduced the production and consumption of nearly 100 industrial chemicals known as ozone depleting substances (ODS) and has cut significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions. Through the technology transfer under the Multilateral Fund for the Protocol, as well as independent efforts by governments and industry outside of the Protocol, it has contributed to "greening" the economies of both developing and developed countries.

To highlight the role that this multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) can play in the Green Economy, UNEP will present its new study on the Montreal Protocol's contribution to the Green Economy in terms of economic, social, environmental and institutional benefits, at a side event to be held at the Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe in Astana, Kazakhstan on 21 September 2011. The study was jointly commissioned by UNEP's Economy & Trade and OzonAction branches and the side event is organized by UNEP's Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia in cooperation with national partners and with financial support from the Multilateral Fund and Czech Republic.

Further information:

Environment & Trade Branch: steven.stone@unep.org

OzonAction Branch: halvart.koppen@unep.org



"Close to 80 percent of the world's energy supply could be met by renewables by mid-century if backed by the right enabling public policies"

Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation (SRREN).

Caspian States strengthen cooperation against oil pollution

The third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Tehran Convention will take place in Aktau, Kazakhstan on 10 – 12 August 2011. Ministers of Environment and high-level governmental officials of the five Caspian States will attend the meeting which is expected to result in the adoption and signing of two Protocols to the Tehran Convention: The Protocol on Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents and the Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The Ministers are also expected to approve the Protocol on Biological Diversity Conservation and the Protocol for Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities. In addition, they will discuss proposals for the location of the Convention Secretariat, review options for bio-resources protection and the enhanced involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention.

Signed and ratified by the five Caspian littoral states (Azerbaijan, I.R. of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkmenistan), the Tehran Convention entered into force in 2006. UNEP hosts the Convention's (interim) Secretariat which is located in the Regional Office for Europe in Geneva.

Further information:

Elena.Kvitsinskaia@unep.org

Fish in the Wadden Sea: exploring an unknown world

The Wadden Sea, comprising the Dutch Wadden Sea Conservation Area and the German Wadden Sea National Parks of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, provides vital ecological functions for a range of fish species in the course of their lifecycles. In addition, the Sea serves as an acclimatization area and transit route for species migrating to their spawning grounds located in fresh water. Research has shown that climatic changes have led to a reduction in populations of several fish species and that these could also potentially lead to a regime shift in the region's ecosystem, but the precise causes (natural or anthropogenic) of these changes are still largely unknown.

To mark the occasion of Wadden Sea Day on 25 August, a conference will be held in Wilhelmshaven in Germany bringing together policy makers, conservation managers, scientists, and non-governmental organisations to share insights in recent research on Wadden Sea fish species, to identify research priorities for projects designed to protect these fish and their environment in the area, and to discuss how the targets on fish in the Wadden Sea Plan 2010 can be met. The Wadden Sea Plan is a common framework for the protection and sustainable management of the Sea as an ecological entity. It is also the common management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

Further information:

jung@waddensea-secretariat.org / vlenarz@cms.int

UNEP European youth meeting



UNEP will organize a European youth meeting on 6-7 September 2011 in Bonn, Germany. The objectives of the meeting will be to explore opportunities and strategic options for young people to make a meaningful contribution to the ongoing discussions and debate on global environmental governance, the green economy and jobs, environment and health, as well as identifying opportunities for partnering with other youth groups and initiatives in Europe.

The meeting is expected to raise the awareness of young people on the role they can play in addressing issues of environmental concern. It will also seek to strengthen

existing youth networks and establishing new ones to enable the exchange of information, ideas and experiences. The meeting outcomes will feed into the Tunza International Youth conference to be held on 26-30 September 2011 under the theme of "Reshaping Our future through a Green Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles".

Further information: wondwosen.asnake@unep.org

"Failing to invest in our youth is a false economy. Conversely, investing in young people will pay great dividends for all."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's remarks to the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth New York, 25 July 2011

UNEP in Astana

UNEP and UNECE have jointly contributed to the preparation of an official background document on the Green Economy for the Seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 21-23 September. The document presents case studies showing how national and local initiatives, policies and financial mechanisms have the potential to achieve a green, inclusive, and competitive economy. The paper aims to inspire governments, industry and civil society to develop policy frameworks and instruments for a green economy. UNEP will also launch national and regional reports on organic agriculture for countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and a national scoping study for Azerbaijan.

UNEP's activities in Astana also include a side event to be organized by the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, which will bring together environment and security experts to assess current efforts to address the security risks linked to climate change and to agree on the future direction of work in this area.

Further information:

rie.tsutsumi@unep.org

Further information

on the ENVSEC side event:

ingunn.lindeman@unep.org



SAVE WATER, GROW GREEN!
ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE
7th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN 21-23 SEPTEMBER 2011