

# Convention on Biological Diversity

## Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) International Biodiversity Day 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP9)

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) will be held at the Maritim Hotel in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008. COP 9 will coincide with the International Biodiversity Day, on 22 May 2008. This year's theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD), "Biodiversity and Agriculture," seeks to highlight the importance of sustainable agriculture not only to preserve biodiversity, but also to ensure that we will be able to feed the world, maintain agricultural livelihoods, and enhance human well being into the 21st century and beyond.

COP9 this year was preceded by the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 18 to 22 February 2008. During SBSTTA13, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department organized and contributed to a number of side events which were all very well received by the delegates. One side event focussed on *Protecting Biodiversity Through An Ecosystem Approach To Aquaculture (EAA) And Enhanced Aquatic Biosecurity*; approaches which involve physical, ecological, social and economic systems taking into consideration stakeholders in the wider social, economic and environmental context of aquaculture. Biosecurity is a strategic and integrated approach that encompasses both policy and regulatory frameworks aimed at analyzing and managing the risks of the sector. The event discussed the relevance of EAA and aquatic biosecurity approaches to protect biodiversity. A second side event focussed on the *Ecosystem Approach to Capture Fisheries (EAF)* which is an appropriate

and necessary framework for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation. This side event presented an outline of the EAF framework as described in the FAO guidelines and presented a few case studies underlining the challenges and opportunities associated with it. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department also joined hands with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department to organize a side event on *Human Nutrition Indicators For Biodiversity*. Here, the focus was on the common goals of the sectors of nutrition and biodiversity and nutrition indicators developed to monitor, mainstream and value underutilized and neglected species, including aquatic species.

At COP9, the Food and Agriculture Organization will again address the delegates on several occasions when the issues for in-depth consideration are being discussed including *inter alia* agricultural biodiversity, invasive alien species, incentive measures and the ecosystem approach. FAO will highlight that the organization is actively engaged in a wide range of normative and field activities relating to food and nutrition security, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, monitoring and assessment of status and trends of inland water ecosystems, and global environmental change including climate change, specifically with regard to both positive and negative impacts of climate change on the spread of aquatic alien species and diseases and the considerable potential of the various forms of aquaculture in adaptation and mitigation. FAO will point out that the conservation and sustainable use of inland aquatic biodiversity needs to be promoted further by linking ecosystem considerations into integrated management practices and procedures, taking into account cross-sectoral consider-

ations. More than 80 percent of the world's finfish are farmed in inland waters, and to give due attention to the rapidly growing aquaculture sub-sector, including culture-based fisheries, the FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture has been established which will meet again this year for its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Puerto Varas, Chile, from 6 to 10 October 2008. In fact, the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) last year re-affirmed the great importance of aquaculture globally, and called for the establishment of a Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa (SPADA). COFI will provide further guidance and propose concrete actions to achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development, in line with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and in harmony with the articles of the CBD. In line with the above, FAO will invite delegates to bring issues of common concern forward to their country delegations who will be attending the meetings of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and its Sub-Committees on Aquaculture and Fish Trade.

FAO will organize three side events in Bonn: (i) Biodiversity for food and agriculture, 21 May at 13:15 in Salon Haydn, (ii) Monitoring and sustainably managing forest biodiversity, 21 May at 18:15 in Salon Haydn, and (iii) FAO and the Ecosystem Approach, 27 May at 13:15 in Salon G26.

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