



IUCN UNFCCC Newsletter

Focus on: COP16 – Cancún, Mexico, 29 November-10 December 2010

Dear reader,

This is the fifth issue of the newsletter showcasing IUCN's contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process.

It focuses on the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 29th November – 10th December in Cancún. During the conference IUCN will promote and support nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular REDD+ and Ecosystem-based Adaptation, as well as general confidence building measures with regards to the UNFCCC process.

Please send us your feedback, comments, contributions, and inform us if there is anything you wish to showcase in these newsletters or on our website!



IUCN Photo Library © Jim Thorsell – Monarch Butterfly Reserve in Mexico

> IUCN @ Cancún

http://www.iucn.org/unfccc/events/2010_cancun/

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The Cancún Conference

The United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29th November to 10th December 2010. It will convene the sixteenth conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16) as well as the sixth conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 6).

It will be the first COP following the famous Copenhagen conference held in December 2009, which failed to reach an aspired new global legally-binding deal on climate change. There appears to be broad expectation that the adoption of a legally binding agreement may be postponed beyond December 2010. IUCN believes that while negotiations continue towards the ultimate objective of a global, legally binding agreement, it is vital that the COP takes confidence building measures in the form of a balanced package of decisions on REDD-plus, adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building.

VOICES FROM THE IUCN DELEGATION

Interview with Claire Parker



Senior Policy Consultant
Climate Change Policy
IUCN

Global overview

What has been the development since Copenhagen and where do we stand right now?

The Development since Copenhagen has been painfully slow. Copenhagen resulted not only in the Copenhagen Accord, but with quite a few nearly-ready agreements on REDD-plus, on adaptation, on technology-transfer, and capacity-building. During the past year Parties have held a number of negotiating sessions where they have tried to progress these issues and most importantly to achieve progress on the very important issue of finance. So far it doesn't look though as if they have managed any break-throughs. The mitigation question remains unchanged from what it was in Copenhagen. This has to do with the fact that the US cannot engage because of the lack of domestic legislation and that China is reluctant to fully engage in terms of taking commitments while all the Annex I countries have not put on the table stronger mitigation options.

What do you expect from the Cancun negotiations, what do you think will be possible in Cancun?

The hopes for Cancun are that the COP will be able to finalize the issues on which progress had been achieved before and after Copenhagen and will be able to adopt a balanced package of decisions on these issues. That would be the best outcome. In addition, the governance of the new Climate Fund should progress further and maybe some decisions can be adopted on that as well.

How do you think the UNFCCC process will be taken forward afterwards?

The big hurdle for the UNFCCC process is what is called the legal form of the next agreement. Will it be a global, legally binding agreement that involves all parties and replaces the Kyoto Protocol (KP)? Will it be an agreement that is additional to the Protocol with a second KP commitment period? Or will it have a different form altogether? Parties are much divided on this and as long as that issue is not solved, the UN process itself will make little progress. Some people think that this question may not be solved by 2012 and that the present KP Commitment period may have to be extended to fill the vacuum.

What will you be focusing on in Cancun?

I will be focusing on the mitigation and the finance issues. I will also keep an overview of how the negotiations are going in general to be able to advise the delegation and in particular, how the IUCN position on REDD, ecosystem-based adaptation, oceans, gender and indigenous peoples comes through in the negotiations.

Interview with Ninni Ikkala



IUCN Climate Change
Coordinator

Adaptation

What do you expect from the Cancun negotiations on adaptation?

There is some hope of achieving an agreement on an international Adaptation Framework at Cancun, which would provide support for national level adaptation actions. This would then eventually form part of a post 2012 climate change agreement, but could potentially be initiated even without a global deal.

What are the main issues around this topic and what will IUCN be doing on it in Cancun?

There are some unresolved issues remaining on adaptation, including on amounts of finance, institutions to disburse such finance and definition of countries most vulnerable to climate change. IUCN will be promoting that a reference in the negotiating text to natural resource management as an adaptation action is retained. This is a short reference but critical for us, as it encompasses the notion of ecosystem-based adaptation and recognizes that ecosystems are critical for increasing the resilience of both ecosystems and people!

VOICES FROM THE IUCN DELEGATION

Interview with
Carole Saint-Laurent



Photo © IISD
Senior Forest Policy Advisor
IUCN

REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)

What do you expect from the Cancún negotiations on REDD?

Progress on REDD-plus has been one of the most significant achievements of the past three years. Parties were very close to a deal on this in Copenhagen. It will be important in Cancun to agree to a decision based on the consensus that was reached in the negotiations up to the Copenhagen COP and on elements from the Copenhagen Accord. Such a decision is needed to catalyze and guide pilot activities around the world, linked to robust national frameworks.

What are the main issues around this topic and what will IUCN be doing on it in Cancun?

In Cancun we will be looking to secure key aspects of REDD-plus that have emerged from the negotiations. The starting point for implementation has to be national REDD-plus strategies to provide the framework for the definition and location of activities. Those national strategies should allow space for the full scope of REDD-plus as envisaged in the Bali Action Plan; build in social, environmental and governance safeguards; as well as monitoring, verification and reporting systems, which comprehensively include safeguards and co-benefits.

We will also be looking in Cancun to reinforce agreement on the need for the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including particularly women, indigenous peoples and local communities, through enhanced multi-stakeholder processes; and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Finally, IUCN will be urging Parties to provide finance for early action and to prioritize those activities that are framed within the context of national REDD-plus strategies; that provide for equitable distribution mechanisms; and that optimize biodiversity, livelihood and mitigation benefits while promoting the application of the safeguards.

Interview with Dorothee Herr



IUCN Marine Programme Officer

Oceans and Coasts

What will you be focusing on in Cancun?

The overall focus of my participation within the UNFCCC is to achieve more visibility and action on ocean-related climate change issues, in particular ocean acidification. Despite sharing a common cause and driver with climate change, namely too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, ocean acidification is currently not formally addressed within the Climate Convention.

What are the main issues around this topic and what will IUCN be doing on it in Cancun?

The more CO₂ there is in the atmosphere, the more CO₂ dissolves in the oceans. This triggers chemical changes in the seawater which are threatening marine life and people who depend on it. IUCN will raise awareness on ocean acidification through information material as well as through its side-event where the latest scientific findings on ocean acidification will be presented and possible opportunities for including ocean acidification into the UNFCCC discussed.

Interview with Lorena Aguilar



IUCN Global Senior Gender Adviser

Gender

What will you be focusing on in Cancun?

I will be supporting the mainstreaming of gender in the texts that are under discussion, especially those dealing with the "Shared Vision". The discussions on REDD and financing mechanisms are also of importance.

What will IUCN be doing on it in Cancun?

We will be organizing a series of events before and during the negotiations. These include an international forum on gender and climate change; an updating session with delegates from the Parties in relation to the development of gender-sensitive climate change initiatives/programmes; and a side event on women and REDD+, launching the Global Initiative on REDD+ and Gender Equality.

IUCN at COP 16

Side events

Taking action on Ocean Acidification: opportunities under the UNFCCC

Ocean acidification is a direct consequence of increased human induced CO₂ emissions. Scientific experts will present the latest knowledge of impacts on marine life and climate change. Socio-economic consequences and needed political action will be discussed by country representatives.

Tuesday, 7th December 2010

18:30 – 20:00.

Room: Sandia.

The missing link to success: Women in REDD. This side event will also launch the **Global Initiative on REDD+ and Gender Equality**. The event is a collaboration between the government of Norway, WEDO, WOCAN and IUCN.

Monday, 29th November 2010

13:20—14:40

Room: Sandia

Parallel Events

Forest Day 4

IUCN is co-organizing a sub-pleinary on biodiversity, (organized by CBD, GEF and IUCN); a sub-pleinary on adaptation and mitigation/resilience, (organized by World Bank) and a learning event on promoting synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation, (organized by IUCN and IUFRO).

Sunday, 5 December 2010

Cancun Center, Conventions and Exhibitions

More info on Forest Day 4: <http://www.forestsclimatechange.org/ForestDay-4.html>

Oceans Day

IUCN will also contribute to the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands in Cancun.

December 4, 2010

9:00-18:00

More info: <http://globaloceans.org/content/news>

Dialogues for Water and Climate Change

The National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA) and partners are going to convene Water and Climate Change Dialogues in parallel events. IUCN will take the opportunity to launch its project "Climate Change Governance Capacity: Building regionally- and nationally tailored ecosystem-based adaptation in Mesoamerica". [More information on the dialogues](#)

30th November – 6th December;

project launch on 1 December, 16:00 – 18:00

Hotel Fiesta Americana Coral Beach, Cancun Mexico

Visit us at the IUCN booth

IUCN will have a stand in the Cancún Messe, the main area for all the exhibitions, side events and cultural presentations. Please come by and visit us there!



> Read out position paper

http://www.iucn.org/unfccc/events/2010_cancun/iucn_position/

> Watch

IUCN's Deputy Director General, Bill Jackson outlining IUCN's expectations for the UNFCCC meeting in Cancún

http://www.iucn.org/unfccc/events/2010_cancun/news/video/