

# NEWSLETTER

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Issue

01  
2010

Topics

Climate and Energy | Nature and Species Protection |  
Europe and International | Economy and Innovation

Publications



## Ceremony launches the International Year of Biodiversity 2010

On 11 January 2010, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, Federal Environment Minister Dr Norbert Röttgen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme Achim Steiner and other prominent guests officially launched the International Year of Biodiversity at the Berlin Museum of Natural History. At the ceremony, Dr Norbert Röttgen announced to set up a “Federal Biological Diversity Programme” to implement the recently adopted National Strategy on Biodiversity. “We must do everything possible both nationally and internationally to stop the loss of habitats and species,” said Röttgen. [more]

- International Year of Biodiversity
- [www.cbd.int/2010](http://www.cbd.int/2010)

INFO

Germany met 2008 Kyoto climate commitments

P. 2

Way cleared for IRENA Centre of Innovation and Technology

P. 3

## Climate | Energy



### Germany met 2008 Kyoto climate commitments

Germany met its climate protection target under the Kyoto Protocol in 2008 and remains a leader in international climate protection. In 2008 greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 22.2 per cent compared to 1990.

According to the Kyoto Protocol, Germany has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions in the period 2008-2012 by 21 per cent below 1990 levels. Dr Norbert Röttgen is

convinced that Germany's mitigation strategy will lead to success. [more]

➤ [2010 report under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(PDF file\)](#)

INFO

### Global climate agreement remains our goal

Looking back on the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, Federal Environment Minister Dr Norbert Röttgen has made clear that despite the disappointing turnout of Copenhagen the goal of a comprehensive, global agreement on climate protection targets is not to be given up. He also stressed the fact that after all China and the US have indicated their willingness to comply with the procedures agreed upon. "We now have to build on this," said Röttgen. [more]



### Climate protection through conservation of mangroves in the South Pacific

Dr Norbert Röttgen is supporting the protection of endangered mangrove forests in five island states of the South Pacific. Using funds from the Environment Ministry's International Climate Initiative amounting to 2.3m euros, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) will press ahead with mangrove conservation in the region.

Mangroves are extremely important for small island states as they form the basis for nearshore fishery and protect the coasts from the rise in sea level resulting from climate change. [more]

➤ [www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en](http://www.bmu-klimaschutzinitiative.de/en)

INFO

## Climate | Energy



### Way cleared for IRENA Centre of Innovation and Technology in Bonn

The third meeting of the Preparatory Commission for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi has decided on the budget for 2010. This also clears the way for setting up the IRENA Centre of Innovation in Bonn, which the German government will support with an additional 3 million US dollars. The German delegation was headed by State

Secretary at the German Environment Ministry Jürgen Becker, who promoted close cooperation among the member states. [more]

- [www.erneuerbare-energien.de/english/irena](http://www.erneuerbare-energien.de/english/irena)
- [www.irena.org](http://www.irena.org)

INFO

### EEX in charge of auctioning emission allowances

Starting from this year, the Leipzig European Energy Exchange (EEX) will auction greenhouse gas emission allowances on behalf of the German government on a weekly basis. This is the result of an invitation to tender issued by the Federal Environment Ministry. In accordance with legal stipulations, the auctioning procedure replaces the previous sales practice. The concept for auctioning on the stock exchange relies to a large extent on the existing market infrastructure and thus proves to be a cost-effective, secure and efficient path for Germany. [more]

- [Ordinance on the Auctioning of Emission Allowances](#)

INFO

### Forecast on the use of flexible cooperation mechanisms for achieving national targets

As prescribed by the EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Germany has published a forecast document on the use of flexible cooperation mechanisms and notified this to the European Commission. The German government predicts that Germany will achieve a renewables' share of 18.7% in gross final energy consumption in 2020. This means Germany expects to slightly exceed the 18% target set in the Directive and is thus not dependent on the flexible mechanisms to achieve its target. [more]

## Europe | International



### EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources

The EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources sets ambitious, binding targets for the EU: a 20% share of renewables in final energy consumption and a minimum 10% share of renewables in the transport sector by 2020. Forming part of the European climate and energy package, this Directive introduces the first ever Europe-wide

regulation covering all areas of renewable energies - electricity, heating/cooling and transport. Political agreement on this package was reached at the European Council in December 2008. [more]

### Breakthrough in the fight against biopiracy

After tough international negotiations substantial progress towards an international agreement against biopiracy was achieved in Montreal, Canada on 15 November 2009. The goal of the envisaged agreement is to ensure a fairer distribution of the economic benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. It was not until the last day of the week-long of negotiations that the just under 500 delegates representing the 194 Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity agreed on a complete negotiating text. [more]



### Germany and Brazil strengthen bilateral climate cooperation

On 3 December 2009, Federal Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen and Under Secretary General at the Brazilian Ministry for External Relations, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on combating climate change at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin. The Memorandum promotes increased cooperation in the areas of climate

protection, energy, research and technology. Germany and Brazil also agreed to establish a working group under the lead responsibility of the Federal Environment Ministry and the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations. [more]

➤ Memorandum of Understanding (available in German only)

INFO

## Europe | International

### Are associations “undertakings”?

Within its legislation on state aid control, the EU Commission has decided that nature conservation associations shall be considered as “undertakings”. Following this interpretation, any future state aid or funding for environmental or nature conservation associations would have to be notified to the Commission for approval. State aid which has not been approved might have to be recalled in case of third party complaints. The German government does not approve of this decision and has submitted proceedings for annulment of the Commission’s decision to the European Court of First Instance. [more]

- State of affairs and reasons
- Background paper

INFO

## Nature | Species Protection



### New TEEB report: nature to become part of economic accounting

The latest report of the global TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) study was officially presented in Brussels on 13 November 2009. The report calls on governments to give nature and its services thorough consideration in economic accounting. It stresses that recognising the services and goods nature provides for society must be made a

political priority. “Investments in ecosystems pay off,” said Parliamentary State Secretary Ursula Heinen-Esser at the presentation, also praising the report as a useful tool for policymakers. [more]

- TEEB Study
- [www.teebweb.org](http://www.teebweb.org)

INFO

## Economy | Innovation

### Environment Ministry presents Memorandum on Product Carbon Footprint

Ambitious climate targets can only be met through major changes in products and consumption patterns. Carbon footprinting and CO2 labelling of products and services are meaningful incentives for producers to make their goods more climate friendly and to provide better information to consumers about the climate effects. The Federal Environment Ministry has presented a memorandum that establishes guidelines for the methodology of the product carbon footprint. [more]

## Publications



### The International Climate Initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany

The German government's Climate Initiative, launched in 2008, is a practical example of how to provide financing. Auctioning certified emission reductions to German industry generates new and additional funding, which is reinvested in ambitious national and international climate protection projects. For the Initiative's international component, up to 120m euros was deployed in 2009 for additional climate protection projects in newly industrialising and developing countries, as well as in the transition countries. The International Climate Initiative underlines Germany's commitment to contribute to the post-2012 international process. [more]

#### Links

Publications  
BMU Image Bank  
Ecards  
Survey  
E-Mail Subscription

#### Illustrations

Front page: UNESCO  
Page 2: BPA  
Page 2: Jürgen Sack / iStockphoto  
Page 3: IRENA  
Page 4: BMU / Brigitte Hiss  
Page 4: Thomas Köhler / photothek.net  
Page 5: Laurence Chaperon  
Page 6: BMU

#### Imprint

Published by: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Responsible: Karl Tempel (BMU)  
Editor: Martina Hildebrand (BMU)  
Production: wilhelm innovative medien GmbH

ISSN 1612-5509

Download newsletter: [www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)  
Unsubscribe from newsletter: [www.bmu.de](http://www.bmu.de)