COP10 OF CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

AND THE COP-MOP5 OF CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Ilham Atho Mohamed



The Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held from 18 to 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. Minister of Housing and Environment Mr. Mohamed Aslam participated in the High Level Segment of COP10 from 27 October to 29 October. A statement was also made by the Minister in the High Level Segment session of 28 October, where he highlighted the importance of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss by governments through policy making and effective planning.

Further, Minister Mohamed Aslam met the Executive Secretary of CBD to present the first copy of the Fourth National Report of Maldives to CBD and to discuss on the role Maldives could play to mainstream biodiversity in addressing climate change.

In total 47 decisions were made in COP10 including the successful adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of



Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The protocol has 36 Articles and will be open for signature by Parties to the Convention at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 February 2011 to 1 February 2012. The protocol will come into force 90 days after being ratified by at least 40 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



In addition to the protocol, a new Strategic Plan of the convention for the Period of 2011 to 2020 was also adopted. This was followed by the ambitious call by the parties to the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2011 to 2020 "The United Nations Decade for Biodiversity".

The Fifth Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parities to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety preceded COP10 of CBD, which was held from 11 to 15 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

In this historic meeting of the Protocol, a supplementary protocol, namely, Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress was adopted. This protocol has 21 Articles and will be open for signature at the UN Headquarters in New York from 7 March 2011 to 6 March 2012. The supplementary protocol will enter into force 90 days after being ratified by at least 40 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.



In addition, a ten year Strategic Plan of the protocol for the period of 2011 to 2020 was also adopted. This is the first such strategic plan of CPB.

4TH NATIONAL REPORT TO CBD OFFICIALLY RELEASED



The Fourth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity was officially released on 25th November 2010 by the Minister of Housing and Environment, Hon. Mohamed Aslam in a meeting held at the ministry.

The meeting was held to brief the stakeholders on the outcomes of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) and the Fifth Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COPMOP5).

In addition to the status, trends and threats to biodiversity, the report also highlights the status of implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in the Maldives and the present efforts to mainstream biodiversity in national, sectoral and cross-sectoral plans of the country.

Remarks were also made by the Minister, where he noted that the report shows a 40% decrease in the local fish catch level in the past 5 years. He also highlighted the importance of involving officers at a province level when addressing climate change issues and biodiversity loss.

MALDIVES RELEASES AUDIT OF CARBON EMISSIONS FOR 2009

The Maldives took a major step towards carbon neutrality today, with the publication of an audit of the country's carbon emissions. The Maldives 'Carbon Audit' includes detailed analysis of the country's greenhouse gas emissions for 2009, projected emissions for 2020 under a 'business as usual' scenario and key areas where the Maldives can slash its greenhouse gas emissions. Next year, the Maldives will publish a Carbon Neutral Master Plan, which will detail precisely how the country intends to reach carbon neutrality.

President Mohamed Nasheed joined Baroness Ariane de Rothschild of the Rothschild banking dynasty and Flora Bernard of the environmental consultancy firm BeCitizen, to present the Carbon Audit during a 'virtual press conference' this afternoon, held online and involving participants based in Geneva, Paris and the Maldives.

The President was also joined by Vice President Waheed, the government's climate change council and members of the local press corps.

On March 15, 2010, the Government of the Maldives, La Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild and BeCitizen signed in Geneva a strategic partnership to implement the commitment entered into by the Maldives in 2009 to become carbon-neutral by 2020. Under this agreement La Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild (CBR), BeCitizen and the Benjamin de Rothschild family are financing the country's Carbon Audit carried out by BeCitizen. CBR and BeCitizen undertake, with the support of the Government of the Maldives, to look for

the funding required to fulfill the Carbon Neutral Master Plan 2010-2020.

Speaking today, President Nasheed said: "Creating a carbon neutral economy helps combat climate change, enhances our energy security and safeguards our future development and prosperity. If the Maldives becomes carbon neutral, we believe other countries will want to do the same."



A new development model

To shift towards a carbon neutral economy, the Maldives will need to rely on four main thrusts: committed public programmes and tax incentives; technological solutions adapted to the geographic context of the country; awareness-raising and capacity-building work to win the support of the population and involve society at all levels; and innovative financing mechanisms. The Maldives will be able to rely in particular on public-private partnerships, use micro-finance mechanisms and benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) provided for by the Kyoto Protocol to put in place the Positive EconomyTM.

"Our commitment alongside the Maldives did not come about by chance", explains Ariane de Rothschild, vice-president of the Edmond de Rothschild Group and president of BeCitizen. "Since its origin, our family has been involved in various environmental projects in the world by contributing its support or the financial expertise of our banking group. We are convinced that the model advocated by BeCitizen, which is capable of

generating economic growth whilst restoring the ecological capital, is a winning concept. It relies on renewable energy forms and recovery of environmental assets. La Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild will devote all its skills to achieving this ambition to help the Maldives fund this environmental development and set an example for the rest of the world, in order to avoid the worst."

The Audit highlights the need for a radical shift from

'business as usual', fossil fuel based economic development: "Under a 'business as usual' scenario, by 2020 the Maldives would consume twice as much imported oil, its emissions would double and the country would be dangerously exposed to increases in the oil price, over which it has no control. " explains Flora Bernard, associate director of BeCitizen.

In 2009, the equivalent of 1.3 million tons of CO2 (tCO2eq) was emitted by the Maldives. This figure corresponds to the combustion of diesel fuel oil for power generation (50%) in the 200 inhabited islands and 97 resorts, domestic transportation (22%), the emissions from the fishing industry (13%) and waste treatment (15%).

In relation to the number of inhabitants (310,000) in the Maldives, these emissions correspond to 4.1 tCO2eq per individual. By way of comparison, India records 1.7 tCO2eq/per person/per year, China 5.5 tCO2eq, France 9 tCO2eq and the United States 23.5 tCO2eq.

In accordance with the rules of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), emissions from international air transport are not taken into account but BeCitizen estimates that the flights of the 650,000 tourists who visit the Maldives each year represent an additional amount equivalent to 1.3 million tCO2eq.



Immediate practical measures

The audit is very clear about the ability of the Maldives to achieve its ambition. "Achieving carbon neutrality by 2020 is possible", affirms Flora Bernard. "It will primarily involve the country becoming energy-independent, while ensuring that the solutions also bring other environmental benefits in terms of carbon storage, resource management and biodiversity conservation." To achieve this goal, BeCitizen recommends implementing actions in the following fields:

Energy efficiency: reducing current consumption by means of appropriate equipment (solar air conditioners, thermal insulation, efficient domestic appliances);

continued on page 4

mphis Newsletter | Issue 25 | November 2010

- Renewable energy forms: solar, wind, biomass, marine energies...;
- Transport: rethinking the means of land transport (development of electric public transport in Male, cycling) and sea transport (e.g. solar ferries);
- Waste: waste recovery (biogas, compost...);
- Carbon sequestration: notably in the biomass (e.g. mangrove);
- Offsetting: purchase of carbon credits resulting from projects that have a genuine positive impact on both the climate and social development.

These measures will need to be wholly part of a positive urban development and resort programme. This programme should set ambitious objectives for positive buildings and resorts that produce more energy than they consume, which they can then sell to neighbouring islands that cannot be positive.

Several measures can already be applied today, particularly as regards energy efficiency, decentralized energy production and transport.

Becoming energy-independent

In 2009 the Maldives was the most fossil fuel-dependent country in Asia. To correct this energy, economic and social vulnerability, the country now realizes how essential it is to gradually attain energy independence. The significant savings achieved by the Maldives becoming less oil-dependent will allow resources to be transferred to the development of the environmental economy: a situation that will foster the emergence of a new growth model. The environment in the form of net renewable energy production, net carbon storage, recovery of local water and waste resources, biodiversity conservation and reduction of the impact on health will then become a source of sustainable growth. This form of growth will have a real social impact by improving living standards and creating new jobs.

Today the publication and the conclusions of this audit allow the government of the Maldives to move on to the next stage, which is the precise definition of the public policies and actions to be implemented as part of the Carbon Neutral Master Plan 2010-2020.

Source: President's Office
Website (URL: http://presidencymaldives.gov.mv
/4/?ref=1,5,5777)

ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES

Ahmed Anwar Abdul Azeez

Who are Environmental Refugees?

The Climate Institute defines environmental refugees as "people fleeing from environmental crises, whether natural or anthropogenic events, and whether short or long term." An inability to gain a livelihood due to environmental degradation, natural disasters, or development projects obligates environmental refugees to migrate from their homelands.



Environmental Refugees world wide

1995 by the Climate Institute identified 30 million environmental refugees worldwide. Red Cross research shows that more people are now displaced by environmental disasters than war. And in 2010 number environmental refugees are estimated to be 50 million people.



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Lack of recognition

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees defines refugees as victims of persecution, war, or civil conflict who have fled their home countries. Neither the Geneva Convention nor the UNHCR regard environmental displacement as a determinant of refugeestatus. The difficulty of defining what constitutes an environmental refugee creates an additional obstacle to international recognition.

And therefore environmental refugees do not have the same legal standing in the international community. It should be noted that the UN Environment Programme has recognized the existence of environmental refugees and has played an important role in bringing the issue to the world's attention.

Reasons for displacement

Reasons for displacement include;

- Land degradation,
- Drought, deforestation,
- Natural disasters,

And anthropogenic events like development projects, population pressure etc.

Land degradation



WFP reports that, more than 135 million people are affected by drought.

- The number of people being fed by the UN World Food Programme due to drought has more than quadrupled in the last four years.
- In 2006, Sichuan Province, China experienced its worst drought in modern times, with nearly 8 million people and over 7 million cattle facing water shortages.

■ 30 % of earth's land surface affected by land degradation.

Millions of people in Indonesia, Brazil and India are affected by deforestation.

Natural disasters

According to the Oxfam report (November 2007) the average number of disasters per year during 1980s was about 120 but now the number has increased to nearly 500. Natural disaster like Floods, Earthquake, Cyclones, land slides, Tsunami, Heat waves and Disease etc forces millions of people to migrate from their homeland. The Asian tsunami of 2004 displaced 2 million people and many of them remain in refugee camps. UN estimated that 150 million environmental refugees will exist in the year 2050, due mainly to the effects of coastal flooding, shoreline erosion and agricultural disruptions.



Fate of Small islands: Perchance to Drown?

Flooding is only one of several ways in which climate change may spur environmental refugees. For small island chains such as Tuvali, Vanuatu, and the Maldives, however, flooding is the current danger; these island nations may be early victims of rising sea levels. In 2005 a small Vanuatu community was moved inland to escape flooding.



Erosion and disruption of fresh water are likely to affect those portions of small islands that remain above sea level. The Maldives are particularly threatened. According to a United Nations report, "with about threequarters of the land area of Maldives less than a meter above mean sea level, the slightest rise in sea level will prove extremely threatening." With tide variation, environmental impacts are increased: "Many islands already suffer inundation and shoreline erosion" that lead "to freshwater shortages and disease outbreaks.

The average elevation of Maldivian islands are about 1m, therefore a slightest rise in sea levels could submerge most of our islands and force us to leave the beautiful islands forever. Scientists have long warned that the Maldives islands will be wiped out by rising sea levels in the coming decades.

REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT



Scientists say that if we still maintain today's unsustainable lifestyle, by the year 2050, we will need another planet Earth to accommodate our future generations. This revelation is based upon the ecological footprint of the people living today.

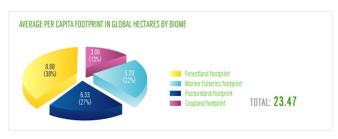
Ecological footprint concept and calculation method was developed as the PhD dissertation of Mathis Wackermagel under Ree's supervision in 1990 to 1994. They defined Ecological footprint as a 'measure of load imposed by a given population on nature. It represents the area of the Earth's surface necessary to sustain levels of resource consumption and waste discharge by that population'. In simple words' it is the measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystem and natural resources' (Wikipedia).

The concept of ecological footprint is based on the assumption that anything that consumes items or energy needs a certain amount of land, water and other natural resources to survive on earth. This means the more active

and consuming someone or something is, the larger the ecological footprint. There are many ways to measure, calculate and estimate the ecological footprint. Your footprint is broken down into four consumption categories: carbon (home energy use and transportation), food, housing, and goods and services. Your footprint is also broken down into four ecosystem types or biomes: cropland, pastureland, forestland, and marine fisheries. Here are the global averages:

AVERAGE PER CAPITA FOOTPRINT IN GLOBAL HECTARES BY CONSUMPTION CATEGORY





There are only 15.71 global hectares available per person on a renewable basis. This means we are overshooting the Earth's biological capacity by nearly 50%. To sustain present levels of consumption, we would need:



Calculate your footprint today!

Go online to calculate your footprint:

http://www.ecologicalfootprint.com/ http://www.footprintnetwork.org

There are many simple ways to reduce the footprint you leave on the planet. Learn how to reduce your footprint in each consumption category-carbon, food, housing, and goods and services-but don't stop there. Amplify your impact by encouraging others to follow your lead. Engage your friends and community with local and global movements for social change, or start your own movement!

Reduce your Carbon Footprint

Use cleaner transport

- Walk, bike, or take public transit whenever possible.
- Avoid allowing your car and motor bikes to idle. If you'll be waiting for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine (except in traffic).

nphis Newsletter | Issue25 | November 2010

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly to keep the emission control systems operating at peak efficiency. Check your car's air filter monthly, and keep the tires adequately inflated to maximize gas mileage.
- Avoid short airplane trips-take a bus or train instead. Add energy-saving features to your home
- Install compact fluorescent bulbs in all your home light fixtures-but remember, compact fluorescents contain mercury, so look for low-mercury models and be sure to dispose of old bulbs safely through your local hazardous waste program.
- Insulate your water heater. Even better, switch to a tankless water heater, so your water will be heated only as you use it.
- Choose energy efficient appliances.

Adopt energy-saving habits

- Ease up on the usage of air conditioners and keep it at 25 degrees minimum. Clean or replace dirty air conditioner filters as recommended to keep the A/C operating at peak efficiency.
- Unplug your electronics when not in use. To make it easier, use a power strip. Even when turned off, items like your television, computer, and cellphone charger still sip power.
- Dry your clothes outside whenever possible.
- Make minimal use of power equipment when landscaping.
- Defrost your refrigerator and freezer regularly.
- Choose green electricity. Many utilities give you the option to purchase electricity generated by wind and solar power for a small rate surcharge.
- Purchase carbon offsets to make up for the energy use you can't eliminate.

Reduce your Food Footprint

- Eat more local, organic, in-season foods.
- Plant a garden-it doesn't get more local than that.
- Shop at your local farmer's market or natural foods store. Look for local, in-season foods that haven't traveled long distances to reach you.
- Choose foods with less packaging to reduce waste.
- Eat lower on the food chain-going meatless for just one meal a week can make a difference. Globally, it has been estimated that 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions are associated with meat consumption.

Reduce your Housing Footprint

Choose sustainable building materials, furnishings, and cleaning products.

■ Explore green design features for your building, like passive solar heating, a rainwater catchment or grey water recycling system, and recycled materials.

- Choose efficient appliances, including low flow shower heads, faucets, and toilets.
- Choose furnishings that are second-hand, recycled, or sustainably produced.
- Plant drought tolerant plants in your garden and yard.
- Use biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning products.

Adopt water-saving habits

- Take shorter, less frequent showers-this not only saves water, but the energy necessary to heat it.
- Don't use the garbage disposal. Compost instead.
- Run the dishwasher and the laundry machine only when full.
- Wash cars rarely, or better yet, take them to a carwash. Commercial carwashes use less water per wash than home washers, and they are also required to drain used water into the sewage system, rather than storm drains, which protects aquatic life.
- Avoid hosing down or power-washing your deck, walkways, or driveway.
- Regularly look for and fix leaks.

Reduce your Goods and Services Footprint

- Buy less! Replace items only when you really need to.
- Recycle all your paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic. Don't forget electronics!
- Compost food waste for the garden. Garbage that is not contaminated with degradable (biological) waste can be more easily recycled and sorted, and doesn't produce methane gases (a significant greenhouse gas contributor) when stored in a landfill.
- Buy recycled products, particularly those labeled "post-consumer waste."

References: http://www.footprintnetwork.org, http://myfootprint.org , http://www.ecologicalfootprint.com/

MOU SIGNED ON ESTABLISHING MADANJEET SINGH CLIMATE RESEARCH CENTER

8 November 2010 - Government of Maldives and South Asia Foundation (SAF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today on establishing of Madanjeet Singh Climate Research Center (UMCRC) at

Pemphis Newsletter | Issue 25 | November 2010

the Maldives Collage of Higher Education in the Maldives.



Minster of Housing and Environment Mr.Mohamed Aslam signed the MoU on behalf of the Maldives Government, and Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki the chairperson of SAF Maldives chapter signed the MoU on behalf of South Asia Foundation.

The establishment of the center is funded by Madanjeet Foundation and a total of MRF 35280317.5 (thirty five million two hundred and eighty thousand three hundred and seventeen rufiyaa 5 laari) will cost for the building and development of the center.

Speaking at the ceremony Minister Mohamed Aslam highlighted the importance of establishing such a center in the Maldives to research the environmental and climate changes. The Chairman for the South Asia Foundation Maldives Chapter Mr.Ibrahim Hussain Zaki also spoke at the ceremony. In his speech he thanked the ambesedor Madanjeet for his help and works doing to develop the Maldives and for the South Asian region. In the Asian Region there are a number of Climate Research Centers build by the Madanjeet Foundation and this is the last center that will be established in this region.

Source: MHE Website

URL: http://www.mhte.gov.mv/v3/2010/11/08/mou-signed-between-the-government-of-maldives-and-south-asia-foundation-saf-on-the-establishment-of-madanjeet-singh-climate-research-center/

DENMARK TO FUND MALDIVES CLIMATE PROJECTS

27 November 2010 - The Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Mr Søren Pind today announced that Denmark would fund the Maldives'

climate change projects through its fast-track initiative.

Speaking at a press conference in Malé along with President Mohamed Nasheed and Danish Minister for Climate Change and Energy Dr. Lykke Friis on Sunday, Mr Pind said Maldives was among three countries selected to support different climate change projects.

"We will see, in close support with the government, how we can cooperate and make projects, for instance, to stop erosion", he said.

While details are yet be finalised, it is expected to Denmark will provide funding for infrastructure and capacity building projects in the Maldives.

At the press conference, Minister for Climate Change and Energy Dr. Lykke Friis said during her trip to the Maldives, she got a very clear indication that urgent action was needed to address climate change.

"What we also take back home is it is not enough just to talk about climate change, but you have to walk the talk", she said.

President Nasheed thanked the Danish government for its role in climate change and for sending the ministers to the Maldives.

Before the press conference, President Nasheed met with the two visiting ministers and held extensive discussions on a range of issues, including climate change, democratic reform, and religious extremism.

Source: President's Office Website (URL: http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/4/? ref=1,5,5751)

MINISTRY FREEZES HCFC IMPORTS

National Ozone Unit

The Ministry of Housing and Environment has set the maximum import quota limit of 67 Metric tons for HCFCs for the year 2011. The decision was revealed in a public announcement made by the Ministry of Economic Development on the new control measures for the import of HCFCs to the Maldives. Under the new arrangements the import of HCFCs will be allowed to only those Parties who get selected through a competitive bidding process. A special permit on the import of HCFCs will be issued to selected Parties by the Ministry of Economic

Development.

The decision by the Government to freeze and control the importation of HCFCs to the Maldives is in accordance with the decisions of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (in particular Decision XIX/6), and the declaration by the Government to phase-out HCFC by 2020.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by interested bidders through a written application to the Ministry of Housing and Environment. Interested Parties shall submit their Bids before 23 December 2011.

MALDIVES
PARTICIPATES IN THE
TWENTY-SECOND
MEETING OF THE
PARTIES (22 MOP) TO
THE MONTREAL
PROTOCOL ON
SUBSTANCES THAT
DEPLETE THE OZONE
LAYER

Miruza Mohamed

The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties (MOP-22) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone layer took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 8-12 November 2010. The meeting was attended by over 400 participants from member countries, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, industry and the agricultural sector.

Mop-22 opened with a preparatory segment from

Monday to Wednesday, 8-10 November, which addressed the MOP's substantive agenda items and related draft decisions. This was followed by a high-level segment on Thursday and Friday, 11-12 November 2010. The high-level segment adopted the decisions forwarded to it by the preparatory segment.

Mop-22 adopted 16 substantive and several procedural decisions, including on: the terms of reference (ToR) for the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel study on the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund; the ToR for the evaluation of the financial mechanism; assessment of technologies for ozone-depleting substances (ODS) destruction; budget; and data and compliance issues. MOP-22 was not able to make progress on low-global warming potential alternatives, or ODS destruction, which many delegates said were issues key to the long-term future of the protocol. Although the draft decisions to amend the Montreal Protocol to include the hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) were not successful, their proponents remained committed to addressing HFCs through the Montreal Protocol in the future.

Maldives delegation includes Minister of State Mr. Akram Kamaludeen, Permanent Secretary Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Director General Mr. Mohamed Zuhair and Assistant Director, Miruza Mohamed. Speaking at the high-level segment, Minister of State called for financial support for climate co-benefit activities from Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol and Vienna Convention.



Maldives delegation also held meetings with UNEP and GTZ regarding the upcoming Technology fair in Maldives. The outcome of these meetings includes an Exchange of Letters between the Government of Maldives, GTZ and UNEP on providing non-ODS, low-GWP air-conditioning systems to the Maldives to support the pledge of the Government of Maldives to become carbon neutral by 2020. The assistance will be provided via implementation of a pilot Air Conditioning programme in Maldives. The technology will be implemented, with zero ozone depletion potential and extremely low-GWP, derived from a demonstration

project funded by the German Ministry of Environment



Meeting with Mr. Bernhard Siegele Deputy Program Manager/GTZ Proklima, Ms Stephanie, Overseas Sales Manager Zheng/Gree,

Ms Linda Ederberg, Communications Manager/Proklima, Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator/UNEP, CAP



Meeting with Mr. Bernhard Siegele, Deputy Program Manager of GTZ and Mr. Atul Bagai, Senior Regional Coordinator/UNEP

Exchange of letters was signed by Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP ROAP, Mr. Bernhard Siegele, Deputy Program Manager of GTZ, and Mr. Akram Kamaludeen, Minister of State for Housing and Environment of the Maldives at the UNEP Regional Office for Asia Pacific in Bangkok on Novermber 12, 2010.



During the Inauguration Minster of State stated that it was timely that this was happening at an important juncture, where Meeting of the Parties was taking place in Bangkok, where partnerships were being sought to realize national pledges and international commitments and he is looking forward for an early realization and implementation of this initiative and to showcasing this new technology in air-conditioning, so that other countries could also follow the example led by the Maldives.







2010 International Year of Biodiversity 2010 مِرْمُتُورُدُورُ مُرَاثِدُ عُورِ مُرْمُورُدُورُ مِنْ مُؤْرِدُورُ مُرْمُورُدُورُ مُرَاثِدُ مُؤْرِدُورُ مُر

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