

## AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Over 2,500 participants from 154 countries reaffirmed their commitment to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy in the total energy supply at last week's International Conference for Renewable Energies (*renewables 2004*) held in Bonn, Germany from 1 to 4 June.

IUCN Director General Achim Steiner addressed *renewables 2004* during the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD), discussing the challenge of capacity building from the perspective of the Scientific and Technological Community stakeholder group. The input of the Scientific and Technological Community into the MSD was coordinated by the International Solar Energy Society, the International Council for Science, and IUCN, through the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (ELC), Bonn.

The IUCN Environmental Law Programme (ELP) hosted a side event on international law and the promotion of renewable energy together with the Renewable Energy and International Law Project (REILP) and the Berlin-based Adelphi Research. The side event provided a rich ground for discussing some of the opportunities and barriers for promoting renewable energy in the context of international law.

Dean Richard L. Ottinger, Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) Climate and Energy Specialist Group participated in the International Parliamentary Forum that took place on 2 June 2004, in parallel with the plenary session of *renewables 2004*. The Forum, which drew 310 parliamentarians from 67 countries, adopted a resolution that, among other things, points to parliaments as the driving force for the legislative initiatives required to develop renewable energies to their full potential. It also recommended the establishment of an intergovernmental organization, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA) that would advise governments and international organizations on the development of policy and funding strategies for renewable use, to promote non-commercial technology transfer and to provide training and development.

IUCN provided the only exhibit focused on law and renewable energy, distributing copies of "Energy Law and Sustainable Development" which was edited by Dean Ottinger and Professor Adrian J. Bradbrook (Vice Chair, CEL Climate and Energy Specialist Group). The recently-released 2004 IUCN ELP Newsletter, which focuses on energy, was also displayed at the IUCN exhibit, providing participants with a bird's eye view of the legal and policy challenges relating to renewable energy as well as a glimpse of the IUCN ELP's activities.

Government delegates to *renewables 2004* adopted a Political Declaration through which they have agreed, *inter alia*, to work within a "global policy framework" together with representatives from parliaments, local and regional authorities, academia, the private sector, international institutions, international industry associations, consumers, civil society, women's groups, and relevant partnership worldwide. It was also agreed that the dialogue would continue beyond Bonn, leading to preparations for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development, set to take place from 2006 to 2007.

Various governments, international organizations and stakeholders have also committed to a range of activities aiming towards the increased use of renewable energies. These commitments have been collected into an International Action Programme, cited by the Political Declaration as the means through which up to 1 billion people can be given access to energy services through renewable energy.

The delegates to *renewables 2004* also took note of the Policy Recommendations for Renewable Energies, which provides a menu of policy options to decision-makers on how to promote the development of the market for renewable energies. The CEL Climate and Energy Specialist Group had the opportunity to comment on a draft of this document through IUCN's participation in the MSD International Advisory Group.

Earlier in the week, the ELP team attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Renewable Energy Forum, where Dean Ottinger made a presentation on "The meaning of [a] legal framework for Renewable Energy Promotion." The IUCN ELC also played host to the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Fund for International Partnership's "Sustainable Energy Development Practitioners Conference" held from 30 to 31 May 2004 and attended by over 40 energy experts from all over the world.

For detailed reports on the events that took place at *renewables 2004*, log on to <http://www.iisd.ca/sd/ren2004/>.

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