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Trade Issues at WSSD

WSSD PREPCOM FAILS ON TRADE, SOME PROGRESS ON FISHERIES AND MEAS

Delegates at the fourth and last official preparatory meeting (PrepCom IV, 27 May - 7 June, Bali, Indonesia) for the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 26 August - 1 September) fell far short of their intended goal to finalise the Plan of Implementation for WSSD, with issues related to trade and finance proving to be some of the biggest stumbling blocks. Progress was made on some trade-related biodiversity issues when delegates reached agreement on language regarding fisheries subsidies and the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and WTO rules. While some civil society groups welcomed delegates' failure to finalise the text, saying that an unfinished text was better than a bad deal, others expressed concern that the lack of progress might have a detrimental impact on high-level and public support of and interest in the WSSD process.

Some movement on MEA-WTO relationship

Delegates agreed on a formulation on the relationship between the CBD and agreements related to trade and intellectual property rights, settling on "enhancing synergy and mutual supportiveness". This language represented a compromise between the US and Australia, which had wanted to restrict references to "mutual supportiveness" as used in the WTO Ministerial Declaration adopted in Doha last year, and other countries, which had proposed language used in CBD decisions. According to several source, the inclusion of the concept of "synergy" was important to encourage active cooperation and to ensure that decisions taken in other intergovernmental processes are at least on equal footing with WTO rules and that the mandate of these processes was taken into account in the WTO negotiations.

However, in the context of section X on an "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development", delegates failed to agree on a formulation regarding the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and WTO rules, leaving various options in the text, including coherence, complementarity, coordination, no hierarchy and mutual supportiveness (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-03/index.htm>). The MEA-WTO issue will again be taken up in Johannesburg as part of the implementation text and is also expected to be proposed as an element in the political declaration by the EU.

Also of relevance in the trade context is the still bracketed (i.e. unresolved) proposal by megadiverse developing countries to negotiate "an international regime to effectively promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity and its components". The establishment of such a legally-binding regime has long been advocated by several developing countries, NGOs and indigenous peoples, most recently at the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the CBD where it was raised, inter alia, by Cameroon on the behalf of the African Group, Ethiopia and the Philippines (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 18 April 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-18/story1.htm>). One observer noted, however, that this provision was unlikely to be included in the final document given the strong resistance of the US, EU and some developing countries.

One small gain on fisheries

Civil society groups claimed one small victory in the area of trade and environment when delegates tentatively agreed to "eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to over-capacity". As some pointed out, this language went far beyond the mandate on fisheries subsidies agreed at Doha which simply instructs WTO Members to begin negotiations with the "aim to clarify and improve WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies". These negotiations are currently underway in the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 16 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-16/story1.htm>).

Given the reluctance by some countries, in particular the EU, to commit to strong language on subsidies in the trade-related implementation discussions at PrepCom IV (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 June 2002; referenced above), many expressed surprise that the provision on fisheries was adopted. Indeed, the reduction of subsidies that contribute to overcapacity continues to be a contentious issue within the EU in the context of the recently proposed reform to the Common Fisheries Policies (CFP), with the so-called 'Friends of Fishing' -- made up of France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Ireland -- most unwilling to reduce subsidies (see related In Brief, this issue). Japan and Korea have also traditionally been opposed to strong language on fisheries subsidies in related discussions at the WTO. As one source speculated, the language used in the provision might have found support by all countries, as it was sufficiently vague to allow for different interpretations of how to implement it. Another observer also pointed out that the agreement was reached due to growing awareness among many countries regarding the significant contribution subsidies can make to overexploitation of fisheries resources.

Trade discussions end in deadlock

Efforts continued in the second week of PrepCom IV to narrow down the substantial differences between countries on issues related to trade and finance in section IX of the text on Implementation (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 June 2002; referenced above). Negotiations finally broke down on Friday when delegates failed to reach an agreement and decided to forward the extensively bracketed text to Johannesburg. NGOs largely blamed the intransigent position of the US, Australia and Canada -- in particular their refusal to move beyond the agreed language of Doha and Monterrey -- for the failure to reach a compromise, with some describing these three countries as the "Axis of Environmental Evil". Others also speculated that developing countries held out for so long because they had considerably more bargaining power in the WSSD context than during negotiations in Doha and Monterrey. That is, developing countries had little to gain from an agreement that imposed additional environment-related obligations and conditions on how to use ODA and

conduct trade, but did not provide additional financial support and/or increased trading opportunities. Some furthermore noted that the lack of progress reflected the difficulties in integrating the three pillars of sustainable development, with little coordination between those dealing with trade (Doha), finance (Monterrey) and environment/foreign affairs (PrepCom IV).

From Bali to Johannesburg

Informal talks on trade and finance issues are expected to be held in New York in July. Also, a pre-summit meeting -- most likely symbolic rather than substantive -- has been scheduled for the end of June in Brazil to muster political support for WSSD (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 June 2002, referenced above). In addition, PrepCom Chair Emil Salim (Indonesia) was nominated to conduct further informal consultations in the lead-up to WSSD, including preparing elements for a political declaration to be released later this month. Some suggested that the current impasse on the most contentious issues, including the various trade references and the MEA-WTO relationship, might be resolved by taking the provisions related to these issues out of the implementation document and moving them into the political declaration.

In the lead-up to WSSD, civil society groups are likely to use the current deadlock to step up their efforts to raise awareness amongst delegates and the general public regarding the 'limits' of globalisation. As several NGO sources noted, PrepCom IV has highlighted a growing awareness among the sustainable development community that the "blind pursuit" of trade liberalisation needed to be checked. As a number of sources agreed, the added value of WSSD and its influence on related discussions in other fora, including the WTO, might not lie in the details of the texts to be adopted in Johannesburg, but rather in encouraging the questioning of the underlying paradigms of globalisation and the legitimisation of anti-globalisation concerns through the intergovernmental process of WSSD.

The Draft Plan of Implementation and other relevant documents of the meeting are available at <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>.

ICTSD reporting; ENB Vol. 22 No. 41, 10 June 2002.

Trade in Endangered Species

INDIGENOUS WHALING QUOTAS - AN ONGOING BATTLE

The US last week announced that it would seek to reverse the decision of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to reject the US-Russian request to renew whale hunting permits for indigenous people. Such permits are normally granted, but were refused at this year's annual IWC meeting in Shimonoseki, Japan, on 20-24 May. The meeting had ended with several frustrated delegations in both the pro- and anti-whaling camps, and an even greater political split between the two groups. The issue of whaling also arose during the Fourth Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom IV, 17 May - 7 June, Indonesia) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development during discussions regarding language on the management of marine resources.

Indigenous whaling triggers strong disagreement

Discussions at this year's IWC meeting escalated on the last days when a second vote rejected a US - Russian five-year quota request on 280 bowhead whales for US Alaskan Eskimos and the native people of Chukota, Russia. It is the first time since its 56-year existence that the IWC has rejected a request of this kind as aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas have usually been granted. Pro-whaling nations such as Japan accused the US of double standards, pointing out that the US had blocked a previous proposal by Japan to increase their hunting quota while at the same time seeking to renew quotas for its own indigenous people. According to one Japanese delegate, "Japan is tired of asking year after year for 50 minkees...only to have the United

States vote against it...this year, the United States delegation has a message to take back home - end the hypocrisy."

The US delegation regretted the position of Japan, noting that Japan had always supported aboriginal whaling. The head of the US delegation Rolland Schmitt called the vote "the most unjust, unkind and unfair vote ever taken". "It appears there is a barter system going on ... we're bartering on something other than quota," he added, pointing to alleged pressure by Japan on smaller Caribbean countries, which receive overseas aid from Japan, to vote in line with Japan. The vote also caused frustration among the indigenous people in question as they derive 80 percent of their diet from whales.

The US now finds itself in a difficult position, as it has legal obligations to grant the Inuit a whaling quota, which some believe might be the reason why the US Department of Interior is now seeking to reverse the vote. In a letter to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Neal McCaleb, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, expressed the Department's regret regarding the IWC decision: "I can assure you that my office will continue to advocate forcefully for the continuation of aboriginal subsistence hunts," he wrote. The Minister-Counsellor for Environment, Science and Technology at the US Embassy in Tokyo also stated that the US would seek reversal of the vote by the end of this year in cooperation with other countries with the hope that Japan would not block the proposal. Joji Morishita of the Japan Fisheries Agency however stated, "as far as Japan is concerned, our basic stance is the same."

The IWC will meet again next year and will have to face difficult political discussions and a growing loss of faith among several IWC members.

Whaling also contentious at PrepCom IV

The whaling issue also arose at PrepCom IV for the WSSD when Norway proposed language to promote the sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources. Opponents to the proposal said that specifically mentioning marine living resources would include and encourage whaling. The Norwegian delegation, however, argued that the language was taken from Agenda 21, which led others to respond that the language used in Agenda 21 had been taken out of context. The issue was resolved when delegates agreed to change the language to "conservation and management of the oceans". One observer expressed disappointment that the discussion on sustainable use had been hijacked by the "paranoid" concerns of some countries, most notably the US and Australia, which had focused much of the attention on whaling, thereby undermining a constructive debate on criteria for sustainable use.

Background

The IWC, set up 56 years ago to monitor international whaling activities, imposed a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986. The moratorium was set to run until the adoption of an international management regime that would set sustainable quotas and other rules for whaling activities. The regime is yet to be agreed, but whaling nations' calls for lifting the moratorium are growing louder every year. They claim that certain minke and gray whale populations are now so abundant that they actually threaten the stability of some fish stocks. The clash has spilled over to the arena of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), where the conservation status of these whale populations was one of the issues most bitterly fought over in April 2000 (Bridges Year 4 No.3, page 10 and No.2, page 9, <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/index.htm>). Japan and Norway will again request their removal from Appendix I at this year's meeting of CITES Parties in November.

Additional Resources

Further information on the IWC meeting: http://www.iwcoffice.org/2002_meeting.htm.

Documents of PrepCom IV, including the Draft Plan of Implementation: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>.

ICTSD reporting; "Whale hunt deal fails," REUTERS, 24 May 2002; "Commission Meeting Ends After Defeats For Both Sides," UN Wire, 24 May 2002; "Indigenous hunting sparks anger at whaling meet," REUTERS, 23 May 2002; "US to seek reversal of IWC whale hunt decision," REUTERS, 7 June, 2002.

Environment at the WTO

WTO Environment Committee Focuses On MEA-WTO Relationship

The WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) met on 11-12 June in a special (negotiating) session where Members focused on the scope of negotiations outlined in paragraph 31 of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha last year. These include the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), WTO-MEA information exchange, and reduction of barriers to environmental goods and services (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 April 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-04/story3.htm>).

Which MEAs, and which provisions within MEAs?

Discussions on the MEA-WTO relationship focused on the scope of the negotiations, including which MEAs should be addressed and what the modalities of the negotiations should be. In its submission, Australia suggested three phases for negotiations that would include an identification of the most relevant MEAs with specific trade obligations, an examination phase, and action if necessary (TN/TE/W/4; CTE submissions are searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>).

For its part, Argentina argued for a narrow interpretation of the Doha WTO-MEA language, advocating a study phase to define the negotiation mandate precisely. The Argentinean submission (TN/TE/W/2) said that the WTO talks should not address any MEA provisions that were not trade-specific or mandatory. This contrasts with an earlier paper from the EC (TN/TE/W/1) that had suggested a broad interpretation of this issue, particularly with regard to language in the Doha mandate outlining what constituted "specific trade obligations" in MEAs (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2002, referenced above)

There was some resistance by the US, Mexico and Bolivia with regard to establishing a definition to determine which MEAs should be addressed. The EC, Chile and Japan supported including regional MEAs in the discussion. The EC and Japan further stated that they should not be limited only to those MEAs currently in force, as argued by Argentina in its submission.

Delegates broadly agreed that the outcome of the negotiations should have no impact on WTO Members who were non-parties to MEAs, as also stated in the Ministerial Declaration.

Observer status still unresolved; MEA-WTO info exchange

Regarding the thorny issue of observer status for MEA secretariats at the special sessions, a number of developing countries (Brazil, Cuba, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan and Thailand) said that this is being addressed at the General Council level, while the Trade Negotiations Committee is looking at whether organisations that have observer status in regular WTO bodies should also have it in special sessions. As such, they said, it was not the place of the CTE special session to rule on the question. Currently, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) maintains observer status at the CTE but not in the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

Despite these sentiments, Switzerland, Korea and Norway told the Committee that the CTE special session had a mandate to look at this issue; Switzerland said it was imperative that MEAs be granted observer status in order that the CTE special session could carry out its work. The US suggested the development of specific

guidelines for MEA characteristics for granting of observer status. Currently, eight observership requests are pending, including from the ACP group, IMF, OECD, UNEP and four MEAs.

There was relatively little disagreement among Members on the question of information exchange between the WTO and MEAs. Most observers say this issue tends to be one of the less-contentious areas of negotiations. Some countries, including Canada, Indonesia, Mexico and Switzerland, supported the idea of institutionalising information sessions. This was also reflected in a US proposal (TN/TE/W/5) that further advocated providing access to restricted documents by MEA secretariats.

New Zealand supported on environmental goods

In the context of discussions on environmental goods and services, New Zealand presented a paper (TN/TE/W/6) clarifying the concept of environmental goods that received broad backing among the Membership. Referring to previous work "that may help clarify the concept of environmental goods", the paper set out proposed "categories of environmental goods" as well as details of proposed product coverage.

The EC was the only country to propose that "environmental goods" should also include those goods that were produced in an environmentally friendly fashion and goods that were environmentally sound (i.e. easy to recycle). Malaysia, India, Korea and New Zealand, however, were uncomfortable with the EC's reference to production methods. At the last meeting of the CTE special session in March, Members agreed that this item of the environmental negotiating mandate should be implemented in the context of parallel WTO market access and services negotiations, but that the CTE could contribute to these by examining what constituted environmental goods and services.

Linkage with the CBD

Discussions on the relationship between the WTO and the CBD have been underway in the CTE since 1996, primarily under Item 8 of the CTE's work agenda - 'the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)'. Issues discussed under this item include the relationship of the TRIPs Agreement to the environment; transfer of environmentally-sound technology; environmentally-unsound technologies; indigenous and traditional knowledge; and certain MEAs, in particular the CBD. For further details, see also BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2002 (referenced above).

ICTSD reporting.

In Brief

FAO FOOD SUMMIT ENDORSES BIOTECH

Much to the disappointment of many NGOs, the FAO June World Food Summit - Five Years Later (10-13 June, Rome, Italy) formally endorsed biotechnology as a way to address hunger, while failing to make mention of the role of organic foods. The US had been heavily pushing biotechnology as a solution to world hunger. According to the meeting's Declaration, already approved before the end of the summit, "We are committed to study, share and facilitate the responsible use of biotechnology in addressing development needs." The Declaration also advocates the advancement of "research into new technologies, including biotechnology," adding: "The introduction of tried and tested new technologies including biotechnology should be accomplished in a safe manner and adapted to local conditions to help improve agricultural productivity in developing countries." One source commented that the notion of biotechnology -- an issue firmly contested by the EU -- had also been supported by the G-77 (a coalition of some 130 poorer countries). Responding to the Declaration's support for biotech, president of the NGO Forum Sergio Marelli reacted angrily: "It is incomprehensible. It shows the influence of nations, led by the US, upholding the interests of multinationals involved in biotechnology."

BRIDGES Trade BioRes will report further on the outcomes of both the Food Summit and the NGO/CSO Forum on Food Sovereignty in the forthcoming issue.

See also BRIDGES Weekly, 12 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-06-12/story2.htm>.

Further information on both events, see: <http://www.forumfoodsovereignty.org> and <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english/index.html>.

ICTSD reporting; "Biotechnology to Combat Hunger," IPS, 11 June 2002.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL REVIEWS COMMISSION'S PROPOSED FISHERIES POLICY REFORM

During discussions on 11 June on the European Commission's proposed reform package for the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the European Council agreed on some key points outlined in the proposal, including a recognition that overcapacity of the fishing fleet is placing intolerable pressure on fish in European waters. The Council, which is made up of European Fisheries Ministers, also for the first time agreed on measures to regulate the exploitation of deep sea fish species. In its reform package released late last month, the European Commission proposed to replace the annual process of setting fishing quotas -- the so-called 'total allowable catch' (TAC) -- with a method of setting them in the framework of a multi-annual management plan. In this way, sufficient levels of fish stocks could be maintained, as the quotas would be determined according to most recent scientific recommendations. In parallel, the Commission plans to stop subsidising new fishing vessels so as to reduce excess fleet capacity. Further, the Commission announced that the reform package included an action plan against illegal fishing as well as a strategy for EU fisheries development partnerships with third countries so as to achieve sustainable fisheries in non-EU waters. Sources indicate that France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Ireland -- the self-proclaimed 'Friends of Fishing' -- have expressed opposition to the proposed reform package. In related developments, delegates at the Fourth Preparatory Meeting (28 May - 7 June, Indonesia) for the World Summit On Sustainable Development tentatively agreed to "eliminate" subsidies that contributed to overcapacity (see related story, this issue).

To access the full CFP reform package as proposed by the Commission, visit http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/reform/roadmap1_en.htm.

"EU Fisheries Policy: Commission Outlines Reform To Give The EU Fisheries Sector A Future," EU PRESS RELEASE, 28 May 2002; "Paris Opposé à la Réforme De La Pêche" L'AGEFI, 28 May 2002; "Europe to regulate deep sea fisheries," ENS; 12 June 2002.

GMOS FOUND IN FOOD AID TO LATIN AMERICA

Nicaraguan groups alerted US lawmakers earlier this month that food aid delivered to Nicaragua from the US through the World Food Programme (WFP) had been contaminated with genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The recipient government had been unaware of the contamination, which was from a strain (StarLink) that was deemed unfit for human consumption by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1998. Despite a 24 May WFP press release indicating that they "[do] NOT distribute food that is NOT acceptable for human consumption [...]", the agency was responsible for the distribution of contaminated corn and soy flour as well as corn seeds. The food aid, which was being provided in order to alleviate hunger and malnutrition resulting from an El-Niño- induced drought, was donated by the US Agency for International Development [USAID] (corn and soy flour) and Germany (corn seeds). A USAID spokesperson said the agency could not ensure that food sent as aid had not been grown from GM seeds

because grain mills in the US do not normally separate traditional crops from genetically altered crops. A WFP spokesperson said the US donated about 50 percent of WFP food. In a related case, the Bolivian Forum on Environment and Development (FOBOMADE), a citizens group in Bolivia, announced on 10 June that a sample of USAID food aid had also tested positive for the presence of StarLink corn, as well as two other types of engineered corn not approved in the EU -- RoundUp Ready and BtXtra. Three strains of GMOs were also found in food aid delivered to Guatemala through the WFP.

"Nicaraguans Say Food Aid Tainted", IPS, 9 June 2002; "Illegal Genetically Engineered StarLink Corn Contaminates Food Aid" GE FOOD ALERT, 10 June 2002; "UN slammed for distributing GM corn in Guatemala," REUTERS, 13 June 2002.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>. For further information on WTO events, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739 5007; fax: 739 5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

Coming up in the next two weeks

11-15 June, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 2002 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN SMALL TOWNS AND MULTI-VILLAGE SCHEMES. The event is organised by the Water and Sanitation Programme in partnership with the World Bank and will provide a forum to: Share experience amongst sector specialists, governmental and other agencies concerned with small town water supply and sanitation services. Review the findings of the Small Towns and Multi-Village Systems Initiative, and present a case study synthesis report and conclusions on key ingredients for successful small towns water supply. Take stock of the knowledge built up in the first phase of WB/WSP work, identifying gaps and critical additional work required. For information contact: Belete Muluneh; tel: (1-251) 1-627-700; fax: 1-627-717; email: bmuluneh@worldbank.org; Internet: http://www.wsp.org/english/afr/addis/addis_desc.pdf

13-14 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. On the agenda: MEA information session; discussion of paragraph 32 of the Doha ministerial declaration, with particular attention to paragraph 32(ii) - the relevant provisions of the agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights; discussion of paragraph 33 of the Doha ministerial declaration on technical assistance, capacity building and environmental reviews; and discussion of paragraph 51 on identifying and debating developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected. The report of the last meeting held on 21 March 2002 is contained in WT/CTE/M/29.

13-15 June, Montreal, Canada: SUSTAINABLE JUSTICE 2002 - CONFERENCE ON IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW. The conference is organised by the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law and seeks to address issues related to the environment, economy, social justice, human rights, health and the inter-linkages among them. For information contact: CISDL, tel: (1-514) 581-4984; fax: 39-8197 email: conference@cisdl.org; Internet: <http://www.cisdl.org>

14 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

14 June, Geneva, Switzerland: FROM RIO TO JOHANNESBURG - A REFLECTION ON THE INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD TRADE. The Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED), in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is organising an

interdisciplinary scientific colloquium on the institutional foundations of current world trade, while considering their compatibility with sustainable development. The colloquium is aimed at researchers in the fields of social sciences as well as natural sciences. For information contact: Catherine Minetti; tel: (41-22) 9065943; fax: 9065947; Internet: http://www.unige.ch/iued/new/information/conferences/conf_2002_06_14-15_riojoha.html

16-20 June, Adelboden, Switzerland: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS. The event is a contribution to the International Year of the Mountains (IYM2002) and in preparation for the WSSD, the SARD-Mountains 2002 conference will provide outputs in the form of: a declaration on their role and tasks of sustainable mountain agriculture, indicators and key policy elements that foster SARD-Mountains; and an action plan comprising approaches and strategic elements to be considered in actions and projects as well as proposals for concrete actions and projects on national and international levels. For more contact: CreaConsult Ltd.; tel: (41-26) 670-3419; email: info@sard-m2002.ch; Internet: <http://www.sard-m2002.ch/>

17-21 June, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe: THE 9TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE IASCP - THE COMMONS IN AN AGE OF GLOBALISATION. Globalisation is a pervasive characteristic of the new millennium and highly topical in terms of the attention now being given it in the social and ecological sciences. It is seen as the latest stage of a process where technological, economic, ecological, cultural and military trends, traditionally observable on a geographically limited scale and scope, are extended to the entire globe, leading to the emergence of new players with new and different (power) relationships among them. The conference theme is addressed from a broader perspective, not restricted to natural resources management, but to include issues of governance, economic systems and hidden values, tourism and global ideology. For further information contact: Cass Trust, Zimbabwe; tel: (263) 4 303080; fax: 4 307720; email: iascp@cass.org.zw; Internet: <http://www.iascp2002.org>

17-21 June, Geneva, Switzerland: 6TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPs INC) Organised by UNEP Chemicals
For further information contact: Mr. Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals; tel: (41-22) 979-9111; fax: (41-22) 797-3460; email: jwillis@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops>

18-20 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES.

24-25 June, Maastricht, Netherlands: SEMINAR ON REGULATORY ISSUES RELATED TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. Organised by the Universiteit Maastricht, Faculty of Law and The Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University. The seminar will address recent legal developments relating to the regulation of GMOs and will include practical information on existing rules and possible future changes to these. The seminar will address aspects of current national, EC and international regulations dealing with GMOs, such as their approach to risk analysis, precaution, and labelling will be examined comparatively. For information contact: Ruggero Lala, Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University; tel: (31-20) 620-0225; fax: 624-9368; email: ruggero.lala@amsu.edu; Internet: <http://www.amsu.edu/courses/law/law62002.htm>

24-25 June, Tokyo, Japan: FORUM ON THE CDM AND KYOTO PROTOCOL - OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAPAN IN ASIA. Organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc. (MRI), the Forum includes international speakers representing policymakers, the private sector and financial institutions. For more information contact: UNIDO/MRI Forum Secretariat; tel: +81-3-3406-7012; fax: +81-3-3406-7528; e-mail: cdm2002@newsbase.co.jp; Internet: <http://www.unido.or.jp/f020624e.htm>

24-25 June, Budapest, Hungary: UNEP FI ROUNDTABLE FOR ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION. The roundtable is organised by the UNEP Finance Initiative, and is the fourth in a series of Regional Outreach events designed to address the business case for sustainable development and foreign direct investment dynamics within transition economies. The results will feed into the WSSD. For information contact: Niamh O' Sullivan, UNEP FI; email: niamh.o.sullivan@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.unepfi.net/ceit/>

24-27 June, Monterey, United States: SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMISTS. Sponsored by the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (AERE) and the European AERE, hosted by the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, together with the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara. For information contact: Michael Hanemann; tel: (1-510) 642-2670; fax: 845-8639; email: hanemann@are.berkeley.edu; Internet: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~carsonvs/>.

26-27 June, Kananaskis, Canada: G-8 SUMMIT. The 2002 Kananaskis G8 Summit is a small, retreat-style meeting that will focus on three priorities: strengthening global economic growth; building a new partnership for Africa's development; and fighting terrorism. In addition, Leaders will review progress since their last meeting in four areas related to global poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals as stated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration: promoting universal primary education; fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; bridging the digital divide; and debt reduction and the HIPC initiative. For information contact: John Klassen, Summit Management Team; tel: (1-613) 957-5555; fax: 941-6900; email: pm@pm.gc.ca; Internet: <http://www.g8.gc.ca/>

26-28 June, Rome, Italy: 50TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION. The Executive Committee of the Commission will meet for its 49th Session. For more information contact: Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme; tel: (39-06) 57051; fax: 5705-4593; e-mail: codex@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/>

28 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

Other forthcoming events

16-19 July, Fiji: THIRD SUMMIT OF ACP HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT: For information contact: Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; tel: (32-2) 74-0600; fax: 735-5573; email: info@acpsec.org; Internet: <http://www.acpsec.org/fiji/index.html>

22-25 July, Dresden, Germany: THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH. This meeting will be the third international conference in the series on water resources and environment research. The aim of the conference is to encourage and facilitate interdisciplinary communication among scientists, engineers and professionals working in the fields of ecological systems, sustainable management, development of water resources and conservation of natural systems. For further information contact: Cathleen Schimmek, Conference Secretariat; tel: (49-351) 463-33931; email: icwrrer2002@mailbox.tu-dresden.de; Internet: <http://www.tu-dresden.de/fghhihm/hydrologie.html>.

22-26 July, Guatemala City, Guatemala: CONTRIBUTION OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: A WAY FORWARD. The conference is being organized as a follow-up to recommendations made by the Expert Meeting on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management held in Rome in 2000. For information contact: Glenda Lee, Coordinator, Local Organizing Committee; tel: (502) 379-9830; fax: (502) 475-4407; email: cici2002@inab.gob.gt; Internet: <http://www.inab.gob.gt>

22 July, Montreal, Canada: FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. For information contact: Ozone Secretariat; tel: (514-954) 8219; fax: 6077; email: Michael.Grabner@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone>

22-23 August, Johannesburg, South Africa: SECOND SOUTH-SOUTH BIOPIRACY SUMMIT: BIOPIRACY - TEN YEARS POST-RIO. Hosted by Biowatch South Africa, the conference aims to raise awareness, enable information sharing, and build capacity on issues of access and benefit sharing and to facilitate the development of mutual strategies and statements for the WSSD. For information contact: Adele Arendse, Biowatch South Africa; tel: (27-21) 447-5939; fax: (27-21) 447-5974; email: adele@biowatch.org.za; Internet: <http://www.biowatch.org.za/>

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller, hbaumuller@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Matteo Rizzolli, mrizzolli@ictsd.ch).

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS - GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT. By Paul F.J. Eagles, Stephen F. McCool and Christopher D. Haynes, 2002. Abstract: The link between protected areas and tourism is as old as the history of protected areas. Though the relationship is complex and sometimes adversarial, tourism is always a critical component to consider in the establishment and management of protected areas. These guidelines aim to build an understanding of protected area tourism, and its management. They provide both a theoretical structure and practical guidelines for managers. The underlying aim is to ensure that tourism contributes to the purposes of protected areas and does not undermine them. For further information, see http://iucn.org/bookstore/book_descriptions-1.htm.

"Anti GM Crop Sentiment and Policies in the European Union: Some Economic Consequences," by Brookes, G. in CROP BIOTECH BRIEF 2 (2, 2002). Available at: http://www.isaaa.org/kc/Services/Media/biotech_briefs/Brief2-2.pdf

"Multifunctional Agriculture and Domestic/International Policy Choice," by David Blandford and Richard N. Boisvert in THE ESTEY CENTRE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TRADE POLICY 3 (1, 2002). The concept of multifunctionality, in which agriculture is viewed as a source of both commodity and non-commodity outputs, has stimulated debate on the desirability of further trade liberalization. The authors explore the economics of multifunctionality and its policy implications. The authors argue for a new policy approach in which land and natural resource managers are remunerated for positive non-commodity outputs and penalized for negative outputs. This would require devolution in policy implementation from the centre to the local level. Such an approach would permit countries to achieve broader social objectives, while at the same time continuing to pursue trade liberalisation. Available at <http://www.esteyjournal.com>.

FOOD FOR ALL: THE NEED FOR A NEW AGRICULTURE. By John Madele. Published by Zed Books, 2002. Looking at the kind of agriculture that is needed for everyone to have sufficient food, the book points out that world leaders have committed themselves to halving hunger by the year 2015 as a first step towards food for all. The author shows how we already have the experience on which to base a new approach to agricultural production and to feeding the world's population, including a low-external input approach, a reintegration of traditional farming techniques, farming practices like organic agriculture and permaculture, and a range of 'green' technologies which can play a role in bringing world agriculture back to a path which offers a viable livelihood to farmers, food for the hungry, without harming the environment. For further information, see <http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk/>.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: A POLICY FRAMEWORK. By Dr.P.K.Rao. Published by Pinninti Publishers, June 2002. This book is a timely reading for the potential contributors to the forthcoming

Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development. The issues examined include: Is eradication of poverty and intergenerational welfare part of the Sustainable Development (SD) approach? Is there a distinction between sustainability and SD? Are green taxes useful? Why do we need a World Environment Organization and what are its organizational prerequisites? What reforms are relevant at international and national levels? For further information, see http://www.pinnintipublishers.com/environment_and_development.htm.

GENOMICS AND WORLD HEALTH. By World Health Organization, 2002. This Report, prepared under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR), is intended to highlight the relevance of genomics for health care worldwide, with a particular focus on its potential for improving health in developing countries. Available at: http://www3.who.int/whosis/genomics/genomics_report.cfm.

Electronic Resources

THE INFO FINDER, available from the International Food Policy Research Institute. A global link to research on agriculture, hunger, poverty, and the environment. This new search engine allows you to find digital information from the websites of all 16 Future Harvest Centers, the CGIAR, and FAO, which collaboratively developed this research tool. <http://infofinder.cgiar.org/>.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNET ATLAS OF THE OCEANS. This Atlas is a culmination of more than two years of collaboration between the UN and a host of scientific institutions, including the National Geographic Society, the Census of Marine Life and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The Atlas features 14 global maps, links to hundreds of other related sites, and more than 2,000 documents on 900 subjects ranging from climate change to poisonous algae. It aims to encourage greater awareness of acute marine issues, such as overfishing of species, destruction of coastal habitats, and the effects of pollution and global warming on the oceans. Available at <http://apnews.excite.com/article/20020605/D7JUS99O1.html>.

GROWING DIVERSITY. Set up by the Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN), Centro Internazionale Crocevia, The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, and Brot für die Welt, this is a unique initiative involving local organisations working on biodiversity management in its broadest sense, which includes those involved in agriculture, forests, aquatic resources and indeed all life that sustains people. The Project' aims to provide a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences, to contribute to the empowerment and strengthening of the groups involved, to increase awareness on the central importance of biodiversity in rural livelihood systems and to promote the local management of biodiversity within the wider context of rural development and policies. Available at <http://www.grain.org/gd/>.

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