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### **Trade In Endangered Species**

#### **CITES FACES NEW CHALLENGES AS IT CONSIDERS HEAVILY TRADED COMMODITIES**

The upcoming 12th Conference of the Parties (COP-12) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) on 3-15 November in Santiago, Chile, might mark an important milestone in CITES' history, paving the way towards extending the Convention's scope to increasingly regulate trade in species with high economic value. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for Parties to complement work at the WTO on clarifying the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and WTO rules. The COP will furthermore address the recurring question of whether conservation should primarily be achieved through restrictions or through sustainable use.

#### **Heavily-traded commodities: mahogany and toothfish**

While CITES has so far mainly dealt with rare species of limited economic interest, the scope of the Convention's application might be significantly broadened at this year's meetings, with several proposals on the table targeting heavily-traded commodities, such as timber and fish. The high economic value of these species, together with the welfare impacts that can be expected from implementing trade regulations, further increases the need for CITES to adopt a more holistic approach that takes into account sustainable livelihoods aspects as well as financial mechanisms.

Of particular interest is a proposal by Australia to list the Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish in Appendix II, which would strictly control the commercial trade in the fish. The proposal is opposed by Chile and Japan who do not believe that the species meets CITES criteria for listing in Appendix II. Japan also notes that the species should not be managed by CITES, but by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), a regional fisheries management organisation. This latter objection is likely to raise a number of issues that go beyond species-specific considerations to address CITES' role in the international management of fisheries and its relationship with other relevant bodies and agreements.

Also of relevance in this context is a proposal by Guatemala and Nicaragua to include neotropical populations of bigleaf mahogany in Appendix II. While this species is not currently at risk of extinction, it is in great demand, and many populations are seriously threatened while their genetic variation has been depleted. Illegal international trade further undermines current domestic management initiatives.

### **CITES-WTO relationship**

The possible restrictions on trade in economically valuable species are likely to step up the debate on the WTO-compatibility of CITES measures. To address this issue, the CITES Secretariat is taking a proactive role in promoting the "harmonious coexistence and mutual understanding" of the objectives of CITES and the WTO, an issue which is currently being discussed more broadly in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in the context of ongoing negotiations on the relationship between MEAs, such as CITES, and WTO rules (see related story, this issue).

In particular, the CITES Secretariat has put forward a draft resolution to the COP, calling on Parties to avoid the use of stricter domestic measures (SDMs, i.e. domestic legislation with trade controls stricter than those required by CITES; see BRIDGES Vol.2 No.2, <http://www.ictsd.org/English/BRIDGES2-2.pdf>) and to favour instead the adoption of incentive measures at the international level. In cases where Parties decide to take SDMs, they should do so "in a manner which would not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between Parties, or a disguised restriction on international trade".

Also of relevance in the trade context are efforts to increase the use of economic incentives to complement the traditional command and control regulations. As set out in the background document prepared by the Secretariat (COP12 Dec. 8), these could include tradable catch and export quotas, well-defined property rights to local communities, or positive incentives such as compensation schemes. Parties might also choose to mitigate perverse incentives, such as environmentally perverse subsidies or environmental externalities.

### **Conservation through sustainable use or restrictions?**

Countries will again discuss the listing of various elephant and whale species, and more broadly the question of whether conservation is best achieved through restrictions or also through the sustainable use of the species. The latter approach is highlighted in particular by Norway in a draft resolution submitted to the COP, which stresses the importance of conservation through sustainable use. Norway's move was likely motivated by its interest in reopening trade in certain populations of whales, one source noted.

This difference in approach has become apparent in the discussion on trade in African elephant ivory. Botswana, Namibia, South African, Zambia and Zimbabwe are proposing to export specific quantities of ivory under controlled conditions. India and Kenya are opposed to this proposal, instead favouring to transfer all African elephant populations back to Appendix I, thereby excluding them from international commercial trade except in very special circumstances.

Countries are similarly divided over the issue of whaling, in particular a proposal submitted by Japan to transfer most northern hemisphere populations of Minke whale and the western North Pacific population of Bryde's whale from Appendix I to Appendix II. These and other whale species are currently protected under the International Whaling Commission, which established a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986. At the IWC, whaling nations such as Iceland, Norway and Japan have been pushing hard for a lifting of the moratorium to allow for limited whaling activities. Both Norway and Iceland hold a reservation on the moratorium, which allows them to legally resume whaling. Iceland, which has recently re-joined the IWC at a special IWC meeting on 14 October, is reportedly planning to restart whaling for scientific purposes in 2006.

Documents of COP-12 are available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>.

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## Environment at the WTO

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### TOP-DOWN OR BOTTOM-UP? MEMBERS DELIBERATE HOW TO ADDRESS WTO-MEA RELATIONSHIP

At the third meeting of the special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Environment (CTE) on 10-11 October, WTO Members continued to disagree on how to examine the relationship between the WTO and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Major discussions took place over whether Members should adopt a 'top-down' approach, such as that favoured by the EC and Japan, or a 'bottom-up' approach, such as that advocated by Australia and a number of other Members.

#### Background

In paragraph 31 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Members agreed to negotiations, "without prejudging the outcome", on: (i) the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations set out in MEAs. The negotiations shall be limited in scope to the applicability of such existing WTO rules as among parties to the MEA in question. The negotiations shall not prejudice the WTO rights of any Member that is not a party to the MEA in question; (ii) procedures for regular information exchange between MEA secretariats and the relevant WTO committees, and the criteria for the granting of observer status; and (iii) the reduction, or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services.

At the last special session on 11-12 June (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 June, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-06-12/story3.htm>), there was wide support for an Australian proposal that the MEA-WTO negotiations be undertaken in three phases: analysis, discussion, and negotiations. WTO sources indicated on 11 October that Members were still in the study, or analysis, phase, and that it was not clear when this would graduate to the next stage.

#### A top-down approach

In its submission on the relationship between MEAs and the WTO (TN/TE/W/10, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), Japan proposed identifying and categorising specific trade obligations under MEAs according to their specificity, stating up front whether or not they should be considered compatible with WTO rules. Japan's paper proposed four categories for trade-related MEAs. As examples, it looked at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and at a number of regional fisheries agreements. It further stated that a possible outcome of negotiations could be the adoption of a binding interpretive understanding on MEAs and WTO rules. According to Japan, WTO Members must make clear when it is permissible or not for governments to impose trade-restrictive measures intended to meet their obligations under MEAs.

The Japanese proposal was welcomed by the EC, Norway and Switzerland. The EC said that on para 31(i), the WTO should first discuss principles and parameters, then look at applying these to specific trade measures in MEAs.

### **A bottom-up approach**

Australia countered the EC-Japan perspective, arguing that Members should first identify the specific trade obligations in MEAs to be addressed and the appropriate WTO rules, then discuss these provisions with the relevant MEA secretariats, then move on to a negotiating phase. Such an approach fits with the view of the US, which has said that in its view, the Doha mandate points to talks that examine the relationship between the two sets of rules and then simply describes that relationship.

Due to concerns around its non-membership in agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Biosafety Protocol of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the US at Doha successfully resisted negotiations on MEAs that could lead to changes in the WTO rights and obligations of non-parties to MEAs. Earlier in September, a US official warned that a push to formalise MEA-WTO linkages could result in developing countries questioning the basis for existing cooperation. Notably, the Australian perspective was supported by the US, Brazil, China, India, S. Korea and Taiwan at the October meeting.

In an effort to move the debate forward in the area of a bottom-up approach, a submission from New Zealand (TN/TE/W/12) compiled existing information on trade provisions of the Basel Convention, the Montreal Protocol and CITES, together with existing information regarding WTO rules that are potentially relevant to these MEAs.

According to sources present at the meeting, approximately 40 delegations made substantive interventions on top-down vs. bottom-up perspectives. As such, the source said, despite the differences in approaches, the CTE special session showed that substantive discussions were possible on both perspectives. Indeed, the EC said that its intention was to "complement" the Australian approach. For its part, Norway cautioned Members that the CTE needed to be careful that para. 31 (i) would not be used to weaken MEAs.

The issue of agriculture, which many see as the make-or-break issue of the Doha negotiations, reportedly cropped up frequently in Member interventions, particularly with reference to messages emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development advocating progress on reducing agricultural subsidies. The EC and Japan are often targeted by Members such as Australia, Brazil and others for maintaining high levels of support for their agriculture sectors. Sources indicated that the trade and environment negotiations are likely to be linked eventually with talks on agriculture.

### **Environmental good and services**

Regarding para. 31(ii), agreement now exists in the CTE that negotiations on environmental goods are to be addressed in the Negotiating Group on Non-Agricultural Market Access, while environmental services are to be addressed in the Services negotiations, with the CTE adopting a clarification and monitoring role. However, Members are not yet decided on how this role will be exercised. The US proposed that there could be joint sessions between the CTE and the Goods Negotiating Group. For its part, Qatar proposed including goods involving natural on an eventual list of environmental goods. A combined list of environmental goods elaborated by both the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (TN/MA/S/6) on 7 October was forwarded by the WTO Secretariat to the Negotiating Group on Market Access.

### **MEA observership still blocked**

On the continuing question of MEA observership, participation of MEA secretariats in the special CTE sessions remains blocked at the higher political level at the WTO (see related story, this issue). At last week's meeting, the EC proposed an early decision to give observer status to MEAs and to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Making reference to 'the spirit of Johannesburg', the EC argued that there was an urgent need for the WTO to open up to key MEAs and to UNEP, as the CTE negotiations could affect their future. Concerns voiced by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and by UNEP at the 8-9 October regular CTE session (see related story, this issue) reinforce the EC's arguments.

To get around the current observership blockage, an informal special 'MEA information session' of the CTE is scheduled for 12 November, where MEA secretariats will engage with Members. However, this remains an informal meeting, and MEA representatives reportedly remain sceptical that it can replace substantive input in a formal session.

ICTSD reporting; "EU Calls For UNEP To Be Given Observer Status In WTO Talks," UN WIRE, 11 October 2002; "Update On The Environment Talks At The WTO," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL, 10 October 2002.

## **Biotechnology**

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### **EU AGRICULTURE MINISTERS FAIL TO FINALISE GMO RULES**

The European Council of Agriculture Ministers at its 14-16 October meeting failed to reach agreement on the European Commission's proposed labelling and traceability regulations for genetically modified organisms (GMOs), instead postponing the debate to next month's Council meeting. Discussions on the EU's GMO-related regulations also took place in the European Council of Environment Ministers on 17 October, where ministers reached agreement on proposed legislation to implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

#### **Council of Agriculture Ministers**

Disagreement persisted in the Council of Agricultural Ministers, inter alia, over how strict the labelling requirements for GMOs should be. While the UK opposed labelling of products derived from GMOs (as proposed by the Commission), others called for the proposed regulations to be tightened even further by including labelling for meat and dairy products from animals fed on GM feed.

Countries also disagreed over the labelling threshold for the accidental presence of GMOs. The European Commission had proposed a threshold of one percent, which was amended to 0.5 percent by the European Parliament at its last meeting (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-07-11/story2.htm>). However, some countries and civil society groups regard these thresholds as too high, instead calling for zero percent. Denmark, as the current EU president, put forward a compromise proposal for a three-year transition period on accidental GMO presence for GMOs, which had received a positive scientific assessment before 31 December 2002.

While the current de facto moratorium on the approval of new GMOs was not explicitly discussed in the meeting, there was a general understanding that the legislation was "the next step to lifting the moratorium", one Commission official noted.

#### **Council of Environment Ministers**

At the meeting of the Environment Council, Ministers reached political agreement on the European Commission's proposed legislation to bring the EU in line with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which regulates the transboundary movement of GMOs. A common position will be adopted at the next Council meeting after the text has been finalised. It will then be sent to the European Parliament

for a second reading. The Parliament on 24 September had adopted the Commission's proposal, including a number of amendments (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 26 September 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-09-26/inbrief.htm>).

The Council furthermore discussed the Commission's proposed labelling and traceability regulations. Hans Christian Schmidt, Denmark's Minister for the Environment and Council President, welcomed efforts made by delegations in addressing the last outstanding issues, stressing the importance of the regulations with regard to consumer protection as well as the EU's external and trade policy.

ICTSD reporting; "EU deadlocked on GMO food control, mulls compromise," REUTERS, 15 October 2002; "EU puts off deal on biotech rules," AP, 10 October 2002; "2456th Council meeting - Agriculture and Fisheries," 12900/02 (PRESSE 309), 17 October 2002; "2457th Council meeting - Environment," 12976/02 (PRESSE 320), 17 October 2002.

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## Intellectual Property

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### WTO STALEMATE PERSISTS OVER DEVELOPING COUNTRY IMPORTS OF GENERICS

Meeting last week from 14-17 October, delegates from both Geneva-based trade missions and capitals were unable to reach a compromise around compulsory licensing options for developing countries under the WTO's Doha mandate on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and public health. Despite a Chair's paper that aimed to reach convergence among Members' disparate views on the subject, a notable split remained between developed and developing countries (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-25/story2.htm>).

According to paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health, the TRIPs Council must find a solution to the problems countries may face in making use of compulsory licensing (i.e. circumventing IP rights, for instance by producing generic versions of licensed pharmaceuticals) if they have too little or no pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity. The TRIPs Council is mandated to report to the WTO General Council on this by the end of 2002. Article 31(f) of the TRIPs Agreement says production under compulsory licensing should be predominantly for the domestic market. However, many developing countries facing public health problems are unable to produce pharmaceuticals with their existing domestic capacity.

#### Chair's proposal

At the meeting, TRIPs Council Chair Amb. Eduardo Pérez Motta (Mexico) tabled a proposal ("Possible elements of a Paragraph 6 Mechanism") that aimed to bridge the gap between Members' positions. Developing countries are seeking greater leeway in their ability to import pharmaceuticals from the cheapest source, while developed countries, particularly the US and Switzerland, are loathe to grant patent-free pharmaceutical access to all developing countries.

The Chair's proposal suggested, inter alia, that least-developed countries (LDCs) could have automatic access to the cheapest source of drugs, while other developing countries could use the system if they proved they did not have adequate pharmaceutical industries of their own. This was rejected by the Africa group of countries -- who were supported by Brazil and India -- who said all developing countries should have the right to use the cheapest source for drugs, regardless of patent rights.

According to sources, most developing countries objected to any Member being ruled ineligible in advance, and several objected to a decision that would create "new categories" of Members at the WTO. Countries such as Hong Kong and Singapore -- while classified as developing countries at the WTO -- said they would oppose criteria based on such things as income levels, while Hungary and Bulgaria expressed their concern that transition economies with lower incomes should not be excluded from access to cheap medicines.

For its part, Brazil was concerned that the talks were backsliding. "We're going backwards," said one Brazilian delegate. "They [the Quad group of Canada, the EC, Japan and the US] are trying to put in language that would be more restrictive than what now exists under TRIPs. It doesn't look very good." The delegate was referring, inter alia, to an attempt by the Quad to restrict foreign suppliers of generic medicines produced under compulsory licenses to those located only in developing countries. Developing country sources said the Quad proposal seemed aimed at restricting the ability of generic producers in industrialised countries to produce for developing countries, thereby reducing the possibility of medicines being illegally diverted to rich country markets.

While the chair said his paper was an effort to present a balanced basis for further work, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela said they felt the consultations had not been as transparent and inclusive as they would have liked. The Chair responded by saying that any delegation wanting to participate in the consultations was free to contact him, and that this practice would continue, with the aim of producing a proposal by the next formal TRIPs Council meeting on 25-27 November (the last meeting scheduled for this year). A group of developing countries including Cuba, India and South Africa said it would also prepare a document for the discussions.

Although the issue is intended to be resolved by the end of this year, developing countries say the delay could stall overall negotiations.

The General Council, to which the TRIPs Council must report its progress on compulsory licensing, is scheduled to convene on 9-11 and 13 December.

For further information on TRIPs and pharmaceuticals, visit:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/pharmpatent\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/pharmpatent_e.htm). For the Doha mandate on TRIPs and Public Health, visit: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dda\\_e/dohaexplained\\_e.htm#trips](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/dohaexplained_e.htm#trips).

ICTSD reporting; "Developing Countries Accuse Quad Group Of Seeking New Bars on Access to Medicines," WTO REPORTER, 17 October 2002; "WTO members delay patent decision," IAFRICA.COM, 17 October 2002.

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## **In Brief**

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### **ICELAND REJOINING WHALING COMMISSION**

During a special meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Cambridge, UK on 14 October, IWC members voted for Iceland again to become a full member of the Commission, despite the country's reservation on the global moratorium on whaling. The vote was extremely close, with 19 votes in favour and 18 against. Conservationists now fear that the power in the IWC has shifted from anti-whaling nations to pro-whaling nations. Greenpeace oceans campaigner Richard Page said: "The commission's decision is thoroughly disappointing and defies all common sense." Although pro-whaling nations are now in slight majority, the international moratorium on commercial whaling is likely to stay in force, as a three-fourths majority is needed to rescind it. Iceland has agreed that it will not resume commercial whaling until 2006 at the earliest, and only then under strict regulations. However, it has retained the right to start "scientific" whaling. One day after the meeting, the Swedish Environment Ministry said it regretted the "Yes" vote by the Swedish delegation. The complicated voting procedure at the IWC, and a last-minute procedural challenge by Antigua and Barbuda, which both belong to the pro-whaling camp, had apparently confused the Swedish delegation to support Iceland's membership.

During the one-week meeting in Cambridge the IWC also granted indigenous peoples from Russia and the US a quota to hunt bowhead whales, which had been rejected earlier this year.

"Greenpeace blasts whaling body over Iceland entry," REUTERS, 17 October 2002. "Pro-Whaling Iceland Joins International Whaling Commission," ENS, 14 October 2002. "Iceland Joins Whaling Panel, Shifting Power to Whalers," The New York Times, 19 October 2002.

## **CGRFA DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHT SPLIT OVER BIOTECH AND IPRS**

Debates on issues related to biotechnology and intellectual property rights (IPRs) at the ninth session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) on 14-18 October in Rome, Italy, highlighted differences between those countries favouring a precautionary approach and food security, and those wanting to promote market access for new technologies and their products. This division became apparent, *inter alia*, during discussions of the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology, with some countries, including Cuba, Ethiopia and India, calling for an elaboration of the code, while others, such as Australia, Canada, the EU, Norway and the US, cautioning against duplication and overlap with other forums. In the final report, the CGRFA Secretariat was requested to prepare a study identifying relevant work in other forums, the work that remains to be done and issues of particular relevance to the FAO and the Commission. Differences also emerged during discussions of what proved to be the most controversial issue at the meeting, namely the adoption of the draft revised Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) between the Agricultural Research Centres and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Final agreement was reached after three days of difficult negotiations, including a new formulation on IPRs, binding the recipient not to seek IPRs over the material or its genetic parts or components in the form received, or over related information.

Relevant Documents are available at <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/meetings.htm>. For further information on the meeting, as well as the first session of the CGRFA acting as the Interim Committee for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (9-11 October 2002), see the ENB summaries at <http://www.iisd.ca/>.

ENB Vol.9 No. 246, 21 October 2002.

## **EU PLANS SUGAR POLICY REFORMS IN LIGHT OF NEW REPORT**

A recent report commissioned by the Agriculture Directorate-General of the European Commission states that the EU's sugar production subsidisation and pricing system have contributed to intensive farming practices that can lead to environmental degradation. "In the absence of price support and production quotas, the EU would probably devote a smaller area of land to sugar production and this could bring benefits of lower input use, reduced water use and/or reduced soil erosion in some areas," said the report compiled by the London-based Institute for European Policy. The report comes at a time that Australia and Brazil, which are the world's biggest producers of sugar cane -- claim that the EU is providing export subsidies to its sugar producers in excess of its WTO commitments, distorting world prices. The European Union, which has defended its pricing system in the past, has found the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific group) to be an ally against the Australian and Brazilian criticism (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-02/story1.htm>). While the EC believes that the scheme is of assistance to ACP countries, it is now aware of difficulties associated with their policies and is reportedly prepared to make reforms, for which discussions will begin early in 2003.

"Lamy Says Appeal Against EU Sugar Regime Is Bad For The ACP," EUROSTEP PAF, 11 October 2002; "EU Rounds Up Developing Trade Partners To Ward Off WTO Attack on Sugar Subsidies," WTO REPORTER, 15 October 2002; "News from the DG Trade," EU TRADE NEWS WEEKLY DIGEST, 11 October 2002; "EU's sugar policy not best for environment - report," World Environment News, 21 October 2002.



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**Events & Resources**

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**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/cal/index.htm>.

**Coming up in the next two weeks**

23 October - 1 November, New Delhi, India: COP 8 AND SESSIONS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES (SBI AND SBSTA) UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE Organised by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. For further information, contact: Ms. Isabelle Colineau, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Science & Technology Programme; tel: (49-228) 815-1425; fax: 815-1999; email: [icolineau@unfccc.de](mailto:icolineau@unfccc.de); Internet: <http://www.unfccc.de>

October 24 - 26, Delhi, India: THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR CHP AND DECENTRALIZED ENERGY CONFERENCE. Organised by Winrock International India. Central themes of the event will be the GHG emission reduction impacts of DE and the application of DE in developing countries. For further information, contact: tel: (91-11) 614-2965; fax: 614-6004; email: [winrock@vsnl.com](mailto:winrock@vsnl.com); Internet: <http://www.localpower.org/pages/Brochure%20.pdf>

24 October, New Delhi, India: "IMPACT OF UNSUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: THE ROLE OF CONSUMER GROUPS." Organised by the CUTS Centre for Sustainable Production and Consumption. This event will discuss the history and background of Climate Change Treaty, and the importance of COP8 for developing countries in particular India. It will also highlight the linkage between unsustainable production and consumption patterns and climate change and the role that consumer organisations and consumers can play to reduce greenhouse gas emission. The event will try to generate a plan of action involving consumer groups to take measures that could change unsustainable production and consumption pattern that has been aggravating climate change. For further information contact: Sajeev K.S. Nair; email: [cutsarc@zamnet.zm](mailto:cutsarc@zamnet.zm); tel: (260-1) 224-992; fax: 225-220; Internet: [www.cuts.org](http://www.cuts.org)

25 October 2002, Geneva, Switzerland. "WIPO-UPOV SYMPOSIUM ON THE COEXISTENCE OF PATENTS AND PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS IN THE PROMOTION OF BIOTECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. " Organised by The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). The Symposium will provide a high-level forum for discussion and analysis. It is expected that it will identify areas for further action to enhance the co-existence of patents and plant breeders' rights in the promotion of biotechnological developments. For further information, contact: tel: (41-22) 338-9233; fax: 733-0336; email: [upov.mail@wipo.int](mailto:upov.mail@wipo.int); Internet: <http://www.wipo.int/globalissues/activities/2002/symposium/index.html>

27-29 October Rome, Italy: 19TH SESSION OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE SPECIFICATIONS, REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, APPLICATION STANDARDS AND PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT. Organised by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO. For further information contact: Mr. Gero Vaagt, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization - FAO; tel: (39-6) 570-52753; fax: 5705-6347; email: [gero.vaagt@fao.org](mailto:gero.vaagt@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org>

28 October - 1 November, Manila, the Philippines: CGIAR Annual Meeting 2002. For further information, see: Internet: <http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm02.htm>

29 - 30 October, Quito, Ecuador: TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AMERICAS. Organised by the Ecuadorian Center for Environmental Law. Discussions on key issues related to sustainable development within the framework of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) will be held. Discussions will cover investment, intellectual property rights and biodiversity, market access,

sustainability assessments, and civil society participation and transparency. For further information, contact: CEDA - CENTRO ECUATORIANO DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL; telefaxes: (593-2) 2231-410/1; 2238-609; email: ceda@uio.satnet.net ; Internet: <http://www.ceda.org.ec> .

29 October - 1 November, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: GLOBAL MOUNTAIN SUMMIT. The Bishkek Global Mountain Summit will be the feature event of the International Year of Mountains, drawing together the ideas and recommendations generated by previous events, from all levels and sectors of society, into proposals for concrete action. For further information, contact: Andrei Iatsenia, UNEP Mountains Programme Coordinator; tel: (41-22) 917-8273; fax: 917-8036; e-mail: iatsenia@unep.ch; or Andrew Fesenko; email: andrewf@mail.ru; Internet: [http://www.globalmountainsummit.org/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.globalmountainsummit.org/Home_Page.html)

30 October - 1 November, Denver, United States: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE SUMMIT 2002. Attendees of this conference will emerge with the "state-of-the-practice" in performance management for environmental and natural resources programs. For further information, contact: Bret Johnson; tel: (001-703) 894-0481; fax: 894-0482 email: johnson@performanceweb.org; Internet: <http://www.performanceweb.org/pdf/E126.pdf>

4 - 9 November, Yokohama, Japan: 33RD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL. For more information contact: International Tropical Timber Organization; tel: (81-45) 223-1110; fax: 223-1111; e-mail: itto@itto.or.jp; Internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp>

3 - 15 November 2002, Santiago de Chile, Chile: 12th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES. The Parties will meet to decide whether to accept, reject or modify each of the 54 proposals that have been submitted by member countries (Parties) to amend the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). For further information, contact: tel: (41-22) 917-8139/40; fax: 797-3417; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.cites.org>.

5 - 7 November, Prague, Czech Republic: ENERGY EFFICIENCY BUSINESS WEEK CONFERENCE 2002. This conference and trade show will examine different energy efficiency issues, and will be primarily directed at a business audience. For further information, contact: Romana Dvořáková; tel.: (420-2) 2424-7552; fax: 2424-7597; email: romana.dvorakova@svn.cz; Internet: <http://www.svn.cz/eebw/html/index-e.htm>

6 November, Guangzhou, China: ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK CONFERENCE ON CHINA AND THE WTO. The conference will address the issue of China's entry into the WTO and implications especially for the Asia-Pacific region. Through the conference, the Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN) and its member organizations seek to expand linkages and cooperation with Chinese NGOs and academic institutions, not only on the WTO but also on other relevant issues. For further information, contact: APRN Secretariat; tel: (632) 713-2729; fax: 716-0108; email: secretariat@aprnnet.org; Internet: <http://www.aprnnet.org/fourth.htm>.

7 - 8 November, Geneva Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. Organised by the WTO.

7 - 9 November, Boston, United States: ECOLABELS AND THE GREENING OF THE FOOD MARKET. This conference for the food and drink industry will focus on current trends in ecolabeling, and examining their value to consumers, the environment and the bottom line. For further information, contact: fax: (001-617) 627 3856; email: winnie.lockeretz@tufts.edu ; Internet: <http://nutrition.tufts.edu/conted/ecolabels/>

7 - 8 November, Brussels, Belgium: TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE INVESTING CONFERENCE 2002. Organized by Brooklyn Bridge. This international conference will focus on sustainable investment. For further information, contact: Robert Rubinstein; tel: (31-020) 428-6752; fax: 7785504 / 4286753 (If faxing from Amsterdam do not dial 084); email: robert@tbli.org; Internet: <http://www.tbli.org/>.

## Other Forthcoming Events

11 - 22 November, Rome, Italy: FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CRIC). Reports submitted by affected country Parties, as well as those submitted by United Nations agencies, inter-governmental organizations and developed country Parties, will constitute the basis for the review at the first session of the CRIC. For further information, contact: CCD Secretariat; tel: (49-228) 815-2802; fax: 815-2898/99; email: [secretariat@unccd.int](mailto:secretariat@unccd.int) ; Internet: <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric1/menu.php>

4 December, Hamburg, Germany: THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs) IN INTERNATIONAL, EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL LAW. This seminar will feature the current regulatory framework and policy-making on genetically modified organisms within international, EU and national law. For further information, contact: Ms. Karin Meyer-Pannwitt; tel.: (49-40) 766-18072; fax: 766-18078; email: [meyer-pannwitt@tutech.de](mailto:meyer-pannwitt@tutech.de) ; Internet: <http://www.tutech.de>

14 - 16 December, Islamabad, Pakistan: SECOND SOUTH ASIA WATER FORUM. This event will focus on the following themes: Groundwater in South Asia, Dams and development, Groundwater, poverty and IWRM, and Gender participation in groundwater management. For further information, contact: Karamat Ali; tel: (92-42) 920-2226; fax: 920-2485; email: [s.pwp@cgiar.org](mailto:s.pwp@cgiar.org); Internet: <http://www.gwpforum.org/servlet/PSP?iNodeID=204&itemId=2622>

## RESOURCES

Communication from the European Communities and their Member States: "Review of Article 27.3 (b) of the TRIPS Agreement, and the relationship between the TRIPS agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore," (17 October 2002), IP/CW/383. Available at: [www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org) document search.

"Congress? Opportunity to Make Trade Go Green" by John Audley, in the CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT'S TRADE, EQUITY, AND DEVELOPMENT PAPER SERIES: Environment's New Role in U.S. Trade Policy, 3 ( 9 2002). This paper constructs a roadmap for Congress to use the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) it granted President Bush to develop an effective new role in protecting the environment. To request a copy, contact: Scott Nathanson; tel: 202-939-2289; email: [snathanson@ceip.org](mailto:snathanson@ceip.org); Internet: [www.ceip.org/pubs](http://www.ceip.org/pubs).

"Trade's dynamic solutions to transboundary pollution" by Linda Fernandez , in the JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT, 43 (3, 2002): 386-411. This study develops a differential game to examine the effects of trade liberalisation on transboundary water pollution.

THE STATUS OF THE DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT ON BIOTECHNOLOGY: REPORT OF SURVEYS OF FAO MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS. By the FAO, (9 2002). This report summarizes the comments received from a survey conducted in 2000 of FAO Members and relevant stakeholders who were familiar with the draft International Code of Conduct on Plant Biotechnology. While some respondents had no objections to the current Draft, the report says there is a "wide consensus" that it needs substantial revision before the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) considers its approval. To view the document, see: Internet: <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs9.htm>.

"Ecological modernisation of GM food" by Dave Toke, in ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS, 11 (3, 2002): 145-163. Christoff's 'weak'/'strong' model of ecological modernization (EM) is applied to the case of GM food and crops in the UK. This case study can be effectively modeled using EM in general and the utility of the EM model is increased in this instance by using Christoff's version of EM. Christoff's criticisms of Hajer's

interpretation of EM have relevance in this case study, although not necessarily in other cases. It is apparent that EM theory in general may not be able to deal with all aspects of issues such as GM food.

"Biodiversity and optimal policies towards R&D and the growth of genetically modified crops" by Alistair Ulph Lucy O'Shea, in ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS, 22 (4, 2002): 505-520. This paper provides a model illustrating the possible nature of government policy with regards to genetic modification, taking into account its impact on the environment. An attempt is made to show that it is necessary not only to intervene in the growing of crops, but also to intervene in R&D through a tax on the adoption of new GM technology.

THINKING INSIDE THE BOXES. By IFPRI, in PERSPECTIVES, 25 (8 2002). This paper believes that WTO needs new categories to define food insecurity based on objective, relevant quantitative indicators. Those categories, along with some clarifications and changes in the current language of the Agreement on Agriculture, should help food-insecure nations. To view this document, see: Internet: <http://www.ifpri.cgiar.org>

"International Conservation Treaties, Poverty and Development: The Case of CITES" by Barnabas Dickson, in NATURAL RESOURCE PERSPECTIVES, 74 (1 2002). The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to protect wild species from the threat posed by international trade. While the original treaty does not acknowledge a positive role for trade, the Parties to CITES have subsequently developed a range of trade measures that implicitly recognise that a regulated trade can have conservation benefits. Nevertheless, there is still considerable uncertainty about the effectiveness of trade measures as a conservation tool, and, in the CITES context, their potential for poverty reduction remains largely unexplored. To view the document, see: <http://www.odi.org.uk/nrp/74.pdf>.

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](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

### Job Vacancy

IUCN, Vietnam IUCN - In Vietnam, IUCN will soon start the implementation of the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) Sub-Sector Support Project - Phase II in collaboration with the Non-Timber Forest Products Research Centre (NTFP RC)/Forest Science Institute of Vietnam (FSIV) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The project aims at supporting ecologically sustainable use, management and development of NTFPs that contribute to biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods of poor people resident in and around forest areas, and to local and national socio-economic development in Vietnam. For this Project, IUCN now recruit experts to fill the following positions: 1 CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR (CTA); 1 TRAINING ADVISOR (TA); 2 FIELD ADVISORS (FAs) CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR (CTA). To apply for the above positions: Interested candidates should send their applications and CVs along with the names of two referees before 15 November 2002 for the CTA position and 29 November 2002 for the TA and the two FA positions to: Country Representative, IUCN Vietnam Office, I.P.O. Box 60, Tel: 84 4 9330012, Fax: 8258794; email: [office@iucn.org.vn](mailto:office@iucn.org.vn); Internet: <http://www.iucn.org>.

BRIDGES Trade BioRes® is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>, in collaboration with IUCN - World Conservation Union, <http://www.iucn.org>, and IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, CEESP, <http://www.cenesta.org/ceesp/>. This edition of BRIDGES Trade BioRes was edited by Hugo Cameron, [hcameron@ictsd.ch](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). Contributors to this issue were Jordan Gold and Marianne Jacobsen. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch. des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from BRIDGES Trade BioRes may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editors or the Director. BRIDGES Trade BioRes is made possible in 2002 through the generous support of the Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning, and the Environment (Netherlands). It also benefits from ICTSD's core funders: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), the Rockefeller Foundation, MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland). ISSN 1682-0843

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