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Trade In Endangered Species

CITES AT A CROSSROAD - ELEPHANTS, WHALES AND STRICTER DOMESTIC MEASURES

The use of economic incentives in the conservation of endangered species and the relationship between conservation measures and WTO rules were among the topics discussed during the first negotiating days of the 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. Also, discussions on resuming limited ivory trade, as suggested by five Southern African states, and Japan's proposal to downlist certain whale species proved highly controversial, raising fundamental questions on the extent to which sustainable use of wildlife resources could and should contribute to conservation efforts.

Parties remove references to avoiding stricter domestic measures

In the first week of the Conference, delegates discussed a document on economic incentives and trade policy put forward by the CITES Secretariat (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 24 October 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-24/story1.htm>). Parties adopted the draft decision contained in the document which sets out future activities for the CITES Secretariat to further explore this issue. Parties also discussed a draft resolution, which, inter alia, encourages the use of social and economic incentives at the domestic level to achieve the objectives of the Convention, the removal of perverse incentives, and the avoidance of stricter domestic measures (i.e. domestic legislation with trade controls stricter than those required by CITES). India, the EU and Brazil opposed the draft resolution, in particular its reference to avoiding stricter domestic measures, arguing that the Convention does allow for the use of such measures. Delegates subsequently agreed to delete this reference. Parties also agreed to include language addressing the mutual supportiveness of trade, environment and development, using language from the Plan of

Implementation agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. The amended resolution was redistributed on Thursday for further consideration.

Controversial 'compromise' on ivory trade

As expected, one of the most hotly debated species-related proposals at COP-12 was the proposal by Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to allow one-off sales of existing ivory stocks, which would be followed later by an annual export quota. Kenya, India as well as most conservation groups were opposed to this proposal, arguing that it would increase poaching and illegal trade and thereby threaten elephants in all African states.

African range states had reportedly reached a compromise on this issue at their meeting on 29-31 October immediately prior to the CITES conference. Kenya, however, opposed the compromise, stating that it was "very disappointed with the outcome of this decision" as it would neither represent the best interest of Africa nor of its elephants. The deal would allow Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to sell their ivory stocks in order to finance conservation programmes and benefit local communities. Furthermore a revised annual export quota would be established for the five states under strict conditions and monitoring mechanisms. The compromise is now up for discussion among all 160 Parties to CITES and a final decision on the resumption of limited ivory trade is still to be reached.

Japan harpooning itself in the foot?

Also on the CITES agenda are proposals tabled by Japan to lower the protection for minke and bryde whales by transferring bryde and certain minke whales populations from Appendix I to the more permissive Appendix II. However, the wording of the proposals could outlaw some of the whaling undertaken by Japan, according to Rune Frovik from the Norwegian pro-whaling group High North Alliance. Frovik noted that Japan's proposal specifically suggested to only allow trade "between nations". However, much of the whale meat caught by Japan for scientific purposes came from whales caught by Japan in international waters, which were then 'imported' into Japan (referred to as "introduction from the sea" under CITES). This 'unilateral trade' conducted by Japan would not be allowed if Japan's proposals to allow trade between nations was adopted, Frovik argued.

Opposition within Norway, traditional a pro-whaling nation, to the proposals might significantly reduce chances for its adoption. "These proposals are in conflict with Norwegian whaling policy. We have therefore asked Norway to take a strong stand against the Japanese proposals," said Bjorn Hugo Bendiksen, vice-president of the Norwegian Whalers' Union. "The adoption of these proposals will limit our future options to normalise sustainable whaling." In a joint letter to Japan, the Norwegian Whalers' Union, the Norwegian Fishermen Association and the High North Alliance have requested Japan to either radically change the annotations to the proposals or to simply withdraw them. Karsten Klepsvik, spokesman of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, also expressed doubts that progress could be made on the whaling issue. "We are not making a [pro-whaling] resolution this year because we see no possibility of succeeding in the current situation," he noted.

Documents of the meeting are available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>. For daily coverage, see <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/cites/COP12/>.

"Twelfth Meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties," IUCN November 2002.

"Tough questions on species survival," BBC News, 2 November 2002. "Japan to push for whale exports at UN talks" REUTERS, 4 November 2002. "CITES needs stable funding as it approaches 30," ENS, 4 November 2002; "Japan outsmarts itself," HNA, 30 October 2002; ENB, Vol.21 No.23, 7 November 2002.

Intellectual Property Rights

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS SCRUTINISE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROVISIONS IN FTAA TEXT

A wide range of civil society representatives met on 29-30 October in Quito, Ecuador, for a stakeholder forum entitled "Towards Civil Society Participation in the Americas" to discuss the content and the process of the negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The intellectual property chapter in the FTAA text -- one of the most controversial issues in the negotiations and in discussions among civil society groups -- was among issues discussed at the forum, where participants adopted a strong set of recommendations urging countries to take greater account of development needs and public concerns.

The meeting took place prior to the FTAA Ministerial meeting on 1 November which provided an opportunity for Ministers of the western hemisphere to receive the preliminary drafts of the nine negotiating groups and review progress in the FTAA negotiations so as to establish guidelines for the next phase of these negotiations.

Civil society groups highlight deficiencies of IPR chapter

Forum participants regarded the intellectual property chapter of the FTAA as the most ambitious and diverse draft agreement on intellectual property rights (IPRs) ever assembled. Many pointed out that the development dimension and public concerns found little mention in the draft, resulting in an imbalanced text for developing countries of the hemisphere and dissatisfaction among civil society groups. According to the civil society groups' final recommendations to Ministers, any chapter on IPRs in the FTAA text would only make sense if issues like genetic resources, traditional knowledge, technology transfer, flexibility in plant variety protection, and competition regulations were included and fully developed. Some even considered that the FTAA should not deal with IPR issues at all, but that they should be left to discussions and negotiations at the multilateral level where more balanced results could likely be obtained.

Access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge

Despite these criticisms, participants also acknowledged some positive steps in the draft chapter, namely the incorporation of issues related to the relationship between IPRs and genetic resources and the protection of traditional knowledge for the first time. However, in the recommendations to Ministers, participants called for defensive mechanisms to also be incorporated in the IPR chapter, including "legal certification of access and prior informed consent as substantive conditions for the concession of such rights" and the possibility of revoking of patents obtained in breach of such requirements.

Regarding traditional knowledge, participants recognised the importance of this knowledge to cultural, economic and environmental activities and the right of traditional communities to decide about their own knowledge. Accordingly, recommendations were presented to also incorporate defensive mechanisms in the intellectual property filing process and an obligation to establish national *sui generis* systems to protect traditional knowledge in the IPR chapter of the FTAA.

The incorporation of these two new issues in the draft IPR chapter are relevant to the agenda of the new programme of the WTO and the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization. In particular, discussions are currently underway in the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) regarding traditional knowledge, biodiversity and exceptions to patentability (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 26 September 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-09-26/story1.htm>), as mandated by the Doha Ministerial Declaration. WIPO has continued its work on IPR clauses in access contracts and discussions on possible defensive and positive measures to protect traditional knowledge (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/story1.htm>). The merit of the FTAA chapter on intellectual property

rights is not only the inclusion of these issues in a potential regional agreement but to textually reflect the proposals of developing countries on these matters.

The civil society forum was organised by the Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental (CEDA) and Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) and attended by a wide range of civil society groups including WWF, IUCN, CIEL, IISD, Carnegie Endowment, WRI, NSC, FIDA, IDPA, RIDES and SPDA.

Background

The FTAA process started with the Ministerial Declaration of Denver of 1995, which mandates negotiations for a Free Trade Area in the Americas. This negotiating process seeks to eliminate trade and investment barriers in the hemisphere by finalising a comprehensive free Trade Agreement by 2005. The process covers various trade-related issues including: market access (industrial goods and agriculture), antidumping, subsidies, investment, services, intellectual property, government procurement, competition policy, e-commerce and dispute settlement.

The draft FTAA text is available at www.ftaa-alca.org.

ICTSD reporting.

Climate Change

US SIDES WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN RESISTING ADDITIONAL CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

The deep division between developing and developed countries' positions was again apparent at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in New Delhi, India, on 23 October to 1 November. Many civil society groups accused the US of deliberately polarising the debate by supporting developing countries in their efforts to avoid additional commitments to reduce carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases.

Divisions at the Conference largely centred around whether to hold discussions regarding the need for "further action" on combating climate change, in particular after the first commitment period ending in 2012, as called for by the EU, including the role that developing countries should play in addressing climate change and what commitments they should accept. In the end, a debate on post-2012 action was postponed, and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration did not call for follow-up action, instead emphasising the need for adaptation measures, sustainable development and technology transfer.

The US was the only industrialised country to express satisfaction with the final declaration, which they regarded as "a balanced document for future course of action to deal with climate change." In contrast, the EU, backed by Canada, Japan and Switzerland, expressed disappointment with the outcome, which they saw as lacking vision and action for the future. "The Declaration is very much about the poor and poorest countries' development needs," said Steen Gade from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. "However, the message that we have a common responsibility for the state of the globe, and that that responsibility includes taking the next step towards a necessary stabilisation of the global climate, does not appear as clearly as we might have wished."

On the positive side, the EU welcomed the inclusion of references to the Kyoto Protocol in the final Declaration, which had not appeared in the first draft. In particular, the Declaration calls on Parties that have already ratified the Protocol to "strongly urge Parties that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner". Some progress was also made on several of the technical issues, notably the

rules and procedures for the Clean Development Mechanism (i.e. collaborative projects to reduce emissions or sequester carbon in developing countries), guidelines for reporting and review, and additional guidance to the Fund for least-developed countries.

Many civil society groups blamed the US for deliberately slowing down the talks by further deepening the North-South divide and supporting the efforts of the G-77/China to postpone the debate on additional commitments. "The Bush administration, working closely with Saudi Arabia, has taken a number of steps at this meeting to obstruct the process," said Jennifer Morgan, director of WWF's climate change program. "Given that the Bush Administration cites the lack of developing country commitments as one of its main reasons for abandoning Kyoto, the US tactic gives cynicism a bad name," the Climate Action Network (CAN) added. CAN also criticised the references to the Kyoto Protocol, which they said fell short of expectations. "The wording on Kyoto is merely cosmetic," CAN noted in its statement. "The declaration fails to demand the immediate and unconditional ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all countries, especially the worlds' biggest polluter, the United States." Despite describing the limited progress on Kyoto implementation issues as "not helpful", CAN did not regard it as "a big setback as time remains to get things right before COP-9".

Measures to address climate change have recently been put onto the WTO's agenda, with Saudi Arabia's submission to the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) regarding trade implications of energy taxation, subsidies and incentives of OECD countries on developing countries exports (WT/CTE/W/215, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). While the Saudi proposal did not receive a great deal of attention at the 10-11 October CTE meeting, it did put climate change issues on the table at the WTO, particularly targeting potential carbon taxes that could emerge from an eventual binding agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

To date, 96 countries (55 required) have ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol accounting for 37.4 percent of CO₂ emissions (55 percent required). Entry into force, expected next year, will depend on Russia ratifying the Protocol, following the US withdrawal from the deal last year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 March 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/27-03-01/story3.htm>). Russia has declared that the country was moving towards ratification, but that the matter would need to be discussed in parliament before ratification.

COP-8 documents are available at <http://unfccc.int/cop8/>. Issues of the CAN newsletter ECO can be found at <http://www.climatenetwork.org/eco/>. For daily coverage, see <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/climate/cop8/>.

ENB Vol.12 No.209, 4 November 2002; "COP8: The climate change negotiations ended with a disappointing result," EU PRESS RELEASE, 1 November 2002; "Build trust before COP-9," ECO, 1 November 2002; "Dissent clouds Delhi climate declaration," ENS, 1 November 2002.

In Brief

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CRITICISE WIPO FOR MEETING CLASH

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) came under strong criticism from a number of developing countries for re-scheduling the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (Eighth Session) to exactly coincide with the November-session of the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). Discussions at the WIPO meeting will be closely linked to those at the TRIPs Council as they will address the revision of the Substantive Patent Law Treaty (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 10 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-10/story1.htm>). Developing countries have repeatedly pointed out the problems they face with overlapping meetings in WIPO and the WTO, in particular as for several of them the same representatives participate in both forums. The Group of Countries of Latin

America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) has also sent letters in the past calling meetings to not be scheduled in the same week. The WIPO Secretariat argues that the meeting had to be postponed so as to hold it back-to-back with the Working Group on Reform of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) on 18-22 November.

ICTSD reporting.

ILLEGAL PLANTING OF GM SOY IN BRAZIL MAY HURT AMAZON

Brazil's rejection of genetically modified (GM) soybeans - a decision generally praised by green groups - might cause increased degradation of the Amazonian rain forests, according to some observers. "Ironically, Brazil's choice to produce non-GM soya is resulting in huge tracks of land being cleared," said Andy Tait from the environmental group Greenpeace. William Laurance of the Panama-based Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute added, "soya farming really is emerging as the critical driver of Amazonian deforestation." Commercial release of GM soya in Brazil -- the world's second largest soybean producer -- has been held up following a number of injunctions issued by Brazil's Federal Court. However, GM contamination particularly in the south of the country has forced some Brazilian farmers who wish to grow non-GM beans, to continuously move north into the rain forests where industrial farming has led to increased felling of trees. The government has also made major investments in improving infrastructure through its Advance Brazil programme which Laurance has said will lead to the "peeling (of) about seven and a half thousand kilometres of highways [...] transportation projects, channelling and damming three large river systems and so on."

"Brazil non-GM soy seen threatening rain forests," REUTERS, 5 November 2002.

FARMERS ACCUSE CGIAR OF EXCESSIVE FOCUS ON 'TECHNO-FIXES'

Hundreds of farmers from 10 countries -- gathering for marches and a street conference at the annual meeting of the Consultative Group on Agriculture Research (CGIAR) held on 28 October - 1 November in Manila, Philippines -- called for farmer-led and farmer-centred approaches to replace the current system of agricultural research. They claimed that the GCIAR focuses on "techno-fixes," including the use of genetically modified organisms, which farmers fear have worsened agricultural problems and make organic farming increasingly difficult if not impossible. In the "unity statement" of the Peoples' Street Conference, farmers stressed that "the failure of the CGIAR to defend genetic diversity in the light of [genetic] contamination is disgraceful" and that "CGIAR have promoted a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to research that ignores the knowledge and experience of farmers, farming communities, and indigenous people." The farmers also demanded that patents on any form of life or intellectual property be disallowed.

"Food Scientists Face Farmer Anger, Water Warnings," ENS, 31 October 2002.

NEW GOLD RUSH IN AUSTRALIAN RAINFORESTS

In what some termed as Australia's new "gold rush", corporations and scientists are hunting for new drugs and products to be derived from plants found in the country's tropical rainforests. As Selwyn Snell, CEO of BioProspect Ltd., an Australian science group, pointed out, "Australia remains the last continent to be discovered in biodiversity." The key to the continent's potential for these companies is that it has many biological species that are not only unnamed, but also unregistered. It is this potential that has attracted "bio-prospectors" from around the world including large pharmaceutical producers who hope to make a discovery, like a cure for cancer or HIV. Australia's northern rainforests, mostly found in Queensland and Western Australia, have already yielded a number of new compounds for antibiotics, pesticides, and a pill that is thought may be able to prevent prostate cancer.

"Bio-prospectors seek treasure in Australia forests," REUTERS November 5, 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/cal/index.htm>.

Coming up in the next two weeks

3-15 November, Santiago de Chile, Chile: 12th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO CITES. For further information, contact the CITES Secretariat, tel: (41 22) 917-8139/40; fax: 797 3417; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.cites.org>

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

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

7-9 November, Boston, USA: ECOLABELS AND THE GREENING OF THE FOOD MARKET. This conference for the food and drink industry and will focus on current trends in ecolabeling, and examining their value to consumers, the environment and the bottom line. For further information, contact the organisers, fax: (1 617) 627-3856; email: ecolabels@tufts.edu; Internet: <http://nutrition.tufts.edu/conted/ecolabels/>

11 November, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland: MEA-UNEP MEETING ON ENHANCING MEA AND WTO INFORMATION EXCHANGE. Organised by the secretariats of a number of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and UNEP. It will immediately precede the special session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment on 12 November that will also address information exchange and observer status between MEAs and the WTO. For further information, contact the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch, email: etb@unep.ch; Internet: http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/MEA_WTO/11Nov2002.htm.

11-15 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (SCT) (Ninth session). For further information, contact: WIPO, tel: (41 22) 338-9111; fax: 733 54 28; email: WIPO.mail@wipo.int; Internet: http://www.wipo.inthttp://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo_content_frame=/news/en/conferences.html

11-22 November, Rome, Italy: FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CRIC). For further information, contact: CCD Secretariat; tel: (49-228) 815-2802; fax: 815-2898/99; email: secretariat@unccd.int; Internet: <http://www.unccd.int/cop/cric1/menu.php>

13-15 November, Edmonton, Canada: CONFERENCE ON ADVANCES IN FOREST MANAGEMENT - FROM KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE. The purpose of the conference is to share with forest stakeholders and other interested persons the latest advances in SFM knowledge developed by network researchers and to show how the new knowledge is being used in practice to guide SFM decision-making by the Network Partners. For further information, contact: Kathryn Veeman; tel: (1 780) 492-2477; fax: 492-8160; email: kathryn.veeman@ualberta.ca; Internet: <http://www.ualberta.ca/sfm>

14 November, Sydney, Australia: 'MINI-MINISTERIAL' MEETING OF CERTAIN WTO MEMBERS. During this event, the ongoing WTO negotiations will be discussed. The Sydney meeting will occur a year after the WTO launched the current round of trade liberalisation talks in the Qatari capital of Doha (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-13/wtoinbrief.htm>).

14-19 November, Venice, Italy: UNESCO INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS. This event will bring together over 500 experts to discuss the successes and problems of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Participants will address ways of making the Convention and UNESCO's efforts to protect World Heritage better known. Attempts will also be made to strengthen future partnerships for World Heritage Conservation. The theme for this year's event is "Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility". For further information, contact: Lucía Iglesias Kuntz, UNESCO Bureau of Public Information; tel: (33 1) 45-681702; email: l.iglesias@unesco.org; Internet: <http://whc.unesco.org/venice2002>

15-17 November, Valencia, Spain: 17TH SESSION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. The GBF17 will be convened immediately prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. GBF17 will address the following five key issues: The World Summit on Sustainable Development: the Future for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Agriculture, Wetlands and Water Resources; Wetlands, People and Climate: Preparing for Change; the List of Ramsar Wetlands: Enhancing the Framework and National Implementation; and Wetlands Restoration and Mitigation. For further information, contact: Caroline Martinet, IUCN; tel: (41 22) 999-0216; fax: 999-0025; email: caroline.martinet@iucn.org; Internet: http://www.gbf.ch/present_session.asp?no=27&lg=EN

15-16 November, Valencia, Spain: NGO AND LOCAL COMMUNITY WORLD CONFERENCE ON WETLANDS. The event's theme will be "Ramsar, 30 years on" and will examine the conservation actions and the wise use of water derived from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands during its 30 years of life. For further information, contact: Patricia Carrera and Raquel Albano, Ecologistas en Acción; tel: (34 91) 531-2389; fax: 531-2611; e-mail: preramsar@nodo50.org; Internet: <http://www.nodo50.org/preramsar/>

17-20 November, Orlando, United States: SYMPOSIUM ON CHALLENGES FACING SMALL FARMERS. This meeting is organised by the International Farming Systems Association, and will focus on small farms in an ever-changing world: meeting the challenges of sustainable livelihoods and food security in diverse rural communities. For further information, contact: Peter Hildebrand, University of Florida; tel: (1 352) 3921965; fax: 392 7127; email: peh@ufl.edu; Internet: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa>

18-21 November, Midrand, South Africa: GREEN CITIES, SUSTAINABLE CITIES CONGRESS. Organised by the Institute of Environment and Recreation Management (Africa). The Congress will follow on the World Summit on Sustainable Development. For more information, contact: tel: (27 11) 789-1384; fax: 789-1385; email: ierm@vdw.co.za; Internet: <http://www.ierm.org.za/events.asp>

18-26 November, Valencia, Spain: THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION (COP-8). Organised by Ramsar Convention Wetlands. For further information, contact: Mr. Dwight Peck, Executive Assistant for Communications, Ramsar Convention Wetlands; Fax: (41 22) 999 0169; email: peck@ramsar.org; Internet: <http://www.ramsar.org>

18-22 November, Monterrey, Mexico: FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT. The Symposium will review the main issues involved in the management of transboundary basins and aquifers. For further information contact: Javier Aparicio Mijares; tel/fax: (52 55) 5666 0835; e-mail: aparicio@tlaloc.imta.mx; Internet: <http://www.transboundarywatersmexico.org/>

20-22 November, Delft, the Netherlands: FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. Organised by UNESCO and Green Cross International as part of their contribution to the World Water Assessment Programme. For further information contact: Janos Bogardi, UNESCO France; fax: (33 1) 45685811; email: pccp@unesco.org; Internet: http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/delft_first_circular.pdf

21 November, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA: WHEN MEDIA, SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY COLLIDE: THE CASE OF FOOD AND BIOTECHNOLOGY. During this workshop stakeholders will discuss how media coverage has influenced and been influenced by science, industry, policymakers and advocacy groups on the topic of agriculture biotechnology and food and human health. For further information, see: <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/1121/>.

21-22 November 2002 CLIMATE POLICY FOR THE LONGER TERM FROM HERE TO WHERE? The event is organised by the Royal Institute For International Affairs (RIIA) in association with Climate Strategies. For further information, contact: Georgina Wright; tel: (44 207) 9575754/ 9575700; fax: 3222045/ 9575710; email: conferences@riia.org; Internet: www.riia.org

Other forthcoming events

25-26 November, Venice, Italy: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE WATER SECTOR This initiative organised by the IWA plans to direct thinking and actions over the next decade towards making the concept of a sustainable water sector an everyday occurrence. For further information, contact: Lara Changizi; tel: (44 20) 7654 5518; fax: 7654 5555; email: sustainability2002@iwahq.org.uk; Internet: <http://www.iawq.org.uk/template.cfm?name=sustainability2002>

25-29 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (EIGHT SESSION). For further information, contact: WIPO, tel: (41 22) 338 9111; fax: 733 54 28; Email: WIPO.mail@wipo.int; Internet: <http://www.wipo.int>http://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo_content_frame=/news/en/conferences.html

25-29 November, Rome, Italy: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION and 14TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES. For further information, contact: Ozone Secretariat; tel: (254-2) 62 3850 or 62 1234; fax: 62 3601 or 62-3913; Internet: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/mop/14mop/14mop.shtml>

26 November, University of Leuven, Belgium: SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GLOBALISATION. This year's conference will examine the two following questions: How can we counterbalance the fast-moving one-sided economic globalisation process? What are the ethical, social and ecological conditions to make globalisation work for everyone? How do we evaluate the results so far of the Doha Development Agenda? For further information, contact: email: information@globalisationdebate.be; Internet: <http://www.globalisationdebate.be>.

26 November, Amsterdam, Netherlands: LINKAGES - HOW DO WE BRIDGE THE GAP ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR. For further information, contact: tel: (91 141) 207 482; fax: 207 486/203-9; e-mail: cuts@cuts.org; Internet: <http://www.cuts.org/linkages-index.htm>

6-7 December, Berlin, Germany: 2002 BERLIN CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: This conference will discuss the theme "Knowledge for the Sustainability Transition: The Challenge for Social Science." For further information, contact: Sabine Campe; tel: 49 331 2882572; fax: 2882600; email: sabine.campe@pik-potsdam.de; Internet: <http://www.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2002/index.htm>

9-17 December, Geneva, Switzerland: FOURTH SESSION OF THE WIPO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE. For further information, contact WIPO; tel: 41 22 338-9111; email: WIPO.mail@wipo.int.

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.

GREENING THE AMERICAS: NAFTA'S LESSONS FOR HEMISPHERIC TRADE. Edited by Carolyn L. Deere and Daniel C. Esty. Forward by José María Figueres- Olsen. September 2002. The various chapters in the Deere-Esty volume review the history of the environmental negotiations of the NAFTA, explore the treaty's economic and environmental impacts, and draw lessons that can be applied to the ongoing Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. Greening The Americas analyses in detail NAFTA's environmental elements, highlighting those provisions that should be included in future agreements and

those that should be amended or dropped. Available from MIT Press. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit <http://www-mitpress.mit.edu>.

"Intellectual Property Protection For Plant Innovation: Unresolved Issues After J.E.M. v. Pioneer" by Mark Janis and Jay Kesan, in *NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY*, Vol. 20, No. 11, November 2002. This article analyses the US legal case of J.E.M. Ag Supply and Farm Advantage versus Pioneer Hi-Bred, identifies issues that the December 2001 US Supreme Court decision on the case leaves unresolved, and explains how those issues have emerged in recent disputes over plant intellectual property rights (IPR). The piece argues that, while some view the J.E.M. case as the conclusion of the plant IPR "saga," the decision applied only to the "relatively narrow" issue of plant variety protection under the U.S. utility patent regime. Available at: <http://www.nature.com/nbt/>

"The Looming Trade War Over Plant Biotechnology" by Ronald Bailey, in *TRADE POLICY ANALYSIS*, No. 18, 1 August 2002. The author believes that US negotiators should pursue two actions in order to counter the efforts of EU negotiators to create a "trade barrier" against genetically modified (GM) foods from the US. First, Bailey argues that the US should block the acceptance of draft documents of the Codex Alimentarius Commission at the group's meeting in July 2003. Secondly, Bailey contends that the US should make a concerted effort to prevent the Biosafety Protocol from coming into effect. Available at: <http://www.free-trade.org/pubs/pas/tpa-018es.html>

"Making the law of the jungle: the reform of forestry legislation in Bolivia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, and Indonesia" by Eduardo Silva, David Kaimowitz, Alan Bojanic, Francois Ekoko, Togu Manurung, Iciar Pavez, in *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS* (3, 2002). In the debate over the forest, policy research organisations have concentrated on uncovering the causes of deforestation and recommending measures to develop them sustainably. This article examines the conditions under which those prescriptions find their way into public policy, specifically, into reforming forest laws.

"Environmental challenges facing the MERCOSUR" by Roberto Salinas, in *JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT*, 11 (3, 2002). According to the author, the MERCOSUR was initially conceived as a purely economic agreement, but gradually other aspects of regional integration became issues among the trading partners. In terms of rhetoric and discourse the MERCOSUR has almost become naturalized as a region, with assumptions being made about the complementarity and substantive cooperation of the partner states and their policies. Unfortunately, it has borne very few concrete results in terms of economic growth, poverty reduction, and environmental protection.

"The time dimension in international regime interplay" by Regine Andersen, in *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS*, 2 (3, 2002). The importance of understanding the interplay between different international agreements is increasing, due to the rising number of international agreements with overlapping functional scopes. Three propositions are suggested in this article on how different development stages of overlapping international regimes affect their interplay. The propositions are illustrated with the case of overlapping regimes pertaining to the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The regimes are the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The case study shows that an analytic grasp of the time dimension might uncover barriers to regime formation, as well as strategic opportunities.

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