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## Trade In Endangered Species

### CITES ASSUMES NEW ROLE IN REGULATING TRADE IN ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE SPECIES

The Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) has assumed a new role in regulating international trade in endangered wildlife with a number of landmark decisions taken at the 12th Conference of the Parties in Santiago, Chile (3-15 November) related to economically valuable species, including mahogany and sharks. Furthermore, while many conservation groups expressed disappointment with the approval of one-off ivory sales, they hailed victory on a number of fronts, such as a rejection of Japan's proposals to down-list certain species of whales and to regulate the trade in seahorses for the first time.

#### Increased protection for mahogany and sharks

Parties adopted Guatemala's and Nicaragua's proposal to list big-leafed mahogany in Appendix II (limited trade under strict controls) of the Convention, thereby requiring each of the mahogany range states to ensure that all exports are sustainable and covered by CITES export permits. The listing only applies to countries where the mahogany is native (i.e. Central and South America), but not to countries that grow introduced mahogany trees, such as Indonesia or Malaysia. Many conservation groups saw this decision as a sign of growing realization among countries that CITES was not just about trade bans, but about managing resources. "Contrary to popular belief, such a listing does not mean that the species is endangered or that trade will stop, but rather that international action is being taken to reduce over-harvesting and illegal logging," said Ximena Buitron of TRAFFIC South America.

The strong focus on marine species was also widely seen as part of this shift in opinion. In particular, delegates voted to place the basking and whale sharks on CITES Appendix II -- a move which many regarded as a landmark decision as CITES has not traditionally played an important role in global fisheries. Also, while the proposal by Australia to list commercially valuable Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish was

withdrawn, CITES Parties agreed to assist the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in its efforts to eliminate illegal fishing of toothfish. The Australian proposal had been strongly opposed by Chile where Patagonian toothfish is often served in restaurants. Parties furthermore adopted a voluntary resolution to improve international monitoring of harvest and trade of toothfish -- "a small, but significant step toward reducing the rampant pirate fishing that is wiping out whole populations of this species across the Southern Hemisphere," according to Ginette Hemley of WWF.

### **One-off sales of ivory allowed for three countries**

Countries adopted proposals by Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to allow one-off sale of ivory stockpiles, collected from elephants that died of natural causes or as a result of government control of problem animals. Botswana and Namibia had withdrawn their request to institute annual sales of ivory in addition to the one-off sales. Any future one-off sales will be supervised through a rigorous control system and will not occur before May 2004 to allow for the gathering of baseline data on population and poaching levels. The CITES Standing Committees can suspend trade if they find the importing or exporting countries to be in non-compliance with their regulations. Parties, however, rejected Zimbabwe's request for a one-off sale and Zambia's proposal to down-list its elephant population from Appendix I to II.

Conservation groups were divided in the reaction to these decisions. Many expressed anger with the approval of the sales, describing it as a "death warrant" for elephants. "Poachers, smugglers, and profiteers are not interested in the fine print that outlines the conditions attached to future ivory sales, nor in the 18-months delay before any sale can take place", said Will Travers, president of the Born Free Foundation and chairman of the Species Survival network.

Other groups, however, saw the decision as an African solution to an African problem, which tried to strike a balance between conserving elephants and the growing needs of local communities. "If [these conditional sales] are successful, we may achieve a significant advance in how elephant populations are managed, and in particular, how ivory is trade in a way that limits impacts on wild pollutions," said Tom Milliken, director of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa. However, while CITES had tried to address the issue of sustainable livelihoods in this and other decisions, the problem had not been given the attention it needed, Sabri Zain of TRAFFIC International noted. Instead, questions regarding the motivations and forces behind illegal trade and poaching often got overshadowed by Appendix listings and media coverage of 'charismatic megafauna', he added.

### **Whale proposal rejected**

Delegates voted against a proposals by Japan to transfer most northern hemisphere populations of Minke whale and the western North Pacific population of Bryde's whale from Appendix I (no trade allowed except in exceptional circumstances) 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. Many Parties regarded these proposals as weakening the primacy of the IWC and an attempt to bypass the IWC moratorium. 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.

COP-13 of CITES will be held at the end of 2004 or early in 2005 in Thailand.

### **Additional Resources**

COP-12 documents: <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/index.shtml>; Daily coverage: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/cites/COP12/>

"Making a killing or making a living? Wildlife trade, trade controls and rural livelihoods," TRAFFIC & IIED, March 2002. [http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/livelihoods\\_summary.pdf](http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/livelihoods_summary.pdf); "Elephant ivory sales approved for three nations," ENS, 12 November 2002; "Nations vote to protect minke, bryde's whales," ENS, 8 November 2002; ENB Vol. 12 No. 20-30, 3-18 November; "CITES delegates vote to shield endangered species," ENS, 15 November 2002; "CITES conference ends with strong decisions on wildlife conservation," CITES PRESS RELEASE, 15 November 2002; "CITES meeting endorses sea change," TRAFFIC PRESS RELEASE, 15 November 2002.

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**Environment at the WTO**

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**TRADE, ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS PROGRESS ON MEA-WTO LINKS**

On 11 and 12 November, officials from WTO Member trade and environment ministries convened with multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) secretariats for two back-to-back meetings, where they considered the relationship between the WTO and MEAs, in particular how to improve information exchange between the two regimes. The 11 November session, organised by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), was geared to promote synergies between MEAs and the WTO and lay groundwork in an informal context before the WTO's special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) on 12 November. At the CTE meeting, Members agreed upon how to structure the Committee's work under paragraph 31(i) of the Doha Declaration (relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs).

**Observership remains contentious**

Many participants at the 11 November session expressed frustration over the difference between the relatively transparent observership criteria for most MEAs vis-à-vis the current blockage for observership at the WTO [the WTO Secretariat participates at many of the MEAs' Conferences and Meetings of the Parties, requiring only an expression of interest to attend]. One non-governmental representative commented that holding informal MEA information special sessions of the CTE was not a sufficient replacement to granting MEAs observer status in the special sessions, as they were "special sessions" in name alone, and not real negotiations. Given that the Doha negotiating mandate addresses MEAs specifically, he said, it was vital that they participate at the negotiating level. This view was echoed by a trade diplomat from a developed country, who stated that in his view, a major consequence of the 11-12 November meetings was that "it's critical to have the MEAs in the room".

With the question of observership for MEAs in the special (negotiating) sessions of the CTE still blocked due to political reasons (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-06-12/story3.htm>), the CTE had agreed earlier this year to convene an informal special session on MEA information exchange (para. 31(ii)), where MEA secretariats could interact with WTO Members on relevant aspects of the Doha mandate. The EC continues to press for ad-hoc observership for MEAs, but resistance from Egypt, Malaysia and others means that the issue is likely to remain on hold until a resolution is found at the level of the Trade Negotiations Committee and the General Council.

**Members agree on work structure for 31(i)**

At an informal CTE session following the MEA information session on 12 November, Members agreed on a compromise method on how to structure negotiations on the relationship between MEAs and the WTO mandated under para. 31(i) of the Doha Declaration (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-17/story1.htm>). The compromise, which articulates a primarily 'bottom-up' approach based on specific trade obligations in MEAs, breaks an impasse between the EC and most other Members. Most countries had supported addressing 31(i) from a specific trade obligations approach, such as that advocated by Australia last spring or, more recently, New Zealand (see TN/TE/W/12, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). The EC favoured discussing conceptual issues first, then moving on to addressing specifics. The compromise reached by Chair Yolande Bike (Gabon) adopts the specific trade obligations approach while mollifying it somewhat by saying that she would raise conceptual issues as these arose in the course of the negotiations. Members will focus on the 31(i) mandate with this approach at their first CTE special session of 2003 in February. Sources indicate that many -- though not all -- Members would like discussions to be based on a revised June 2001 WTO Secretariat matrix on MEA trade obligations (see WT/CTE/W/160/Rev.1).

Beyond the February meeting, Members have not yet agreed on how many CTE meetings would take place in 2003.

MEA secretariats present at the UNEP session included: the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, and the Ramsar Convention. Present at the WTO CTE special session were: the CBD, the UNFCCC, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Basel Convention, and UNEP.

ICTSD reporting.

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## Forestry

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### TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANISATION NARROWS GAP ON TIMBER CERTIFICATION

The conciliatory tone during discussions on the controversial issue of certification as a means to promote sustainable forest management was widely seen as one of the substantive successes of the thirty-third session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-33), held from 4 to 9 November in Yokohama, Japan. Also of interest in the trade context were debates on the relationship of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) with other international organisations such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the WTO.

#### Moving closer on certification issues

During ITTC-33, countries appeared to have moved closer in their positions on the notoriously divisive issue of timber certification. Especially producer countries showed far more interest in learning about certification than had been the case in previous ITTC sessions. Countries are broadly divided into two camps (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-04-04/story6.htm>). On the one side, the majority of developing countries as the main producers of forests products are generally opposed to certification, arguing that they often lack the resources to implement such schemes and that certification might be used as a disguised barrier to trade if their non-certified products are discriminated against. In contrast, those countries supporting certification -- mainly from the developed world -- argue that it would be beneficial for consumers, forests and producers. Also, they point out that certification schemes are usually voluntary and that countries are not forced to comply with them.

During the discussions in Yokohama, the Secretariat introduced a new study on phased certification for sustainable forest management as a possible compromise for both sides. [A phased approach involves dividing full compliance with the certification standard into a series of interim targets or milestones, thereby allowing limited resources to be focused on one or two tasks at a time.] Indonesia supported phased certification in both producer and consumer countries and so did Switzerland and Ghana. Other countries, however, such as the US and China, reminded delegates of the ITTO's commitment not to support any particular scheme or endorse any particular standard. They also expressed concern that certification might act as a non-tariff trade barrier. Despite these differences in opinion, observers noted that the idea of using certification to combat illegal logging was increasingly gaining support at the multilateral level, and that certification was no longer encountering the same level of suspicion as before. Delegates agreed to further investigate the possibilities of phased certification schemes at ITTC-34.

Certification, however, continues to be a controversial issue amongst civil society groups. The Rainforest Foundation recently released a report accusing one of the major forest certification organisations, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), of allowing the certification of timber companies that have been implicated in human rights abuses and logging in tropical rainforests that contain endangered species, as well as companies that have falsely claimed to comply with FSC's audit requirements. The FSC rejected the claim and stated that its certification system was in order and functioning well. The report from the Rainforest Foundation will be discussed at the next annual council meeting of the FSC.

## ITTO's Relationship with CITES and the WTO

In the context of the ITTO's international role, delegates discussed CITES proposals related to forestry. Particular attention was drawn to a proposal by Nicaragua and Guatemala to list big-leafed mahogany in CITES Appendix II (limited trade under strict controls). The Council Chair highlighted that members were required to inform the ITTO on proposals for CITES listing although the ITTO was already part of the CITES working group on mahogany. In an effort to increase the cooperation with CITES, delegates discussed the need for providing CITES with specific forestry expertise, when such proposals are filed. The proposal on moving big-leafed mahogany to Appendix II was approved by the CITES Conference of Parties (see related story, this issue).

Regarding the relationship between the WTO and the ITTO, some experts noted that the ITTO was the perfect forum for discussing trade in timber commodities as it was committed to not endorsing particular certification schemes. The ITTO has applied for observer status at the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), which is still pending.

## Forestry and trade

Another interesting link to the WTO -- aside from certification and labelling discussions -- could be the WTO mandate to negotiate on the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental services under para. 31 (iii) of the WTO Ministerial Declaration adopted in November last year. In this context, the EC has submitted a communication in 1999 on classification issues in the environmental sector, which includes protection of forests and promoting sustainable forestry in the list of environmental services. However, the proposal has so far not received major backing from other countries and discussions at the WTO on how to define environmental services continue. In the context of the ITTO, emerging markets for forest services include: water services (i.e. forests play an important role in maintaining water quality); ecotourism especially in rainforests; carbon sequestration; as well as protection of biodiversity.

## Additional Resources

Documents of ITTC-33: [http://www.itto.or.jp/ittcdd\\_ses/thirty\\_third\\_sessions.html](http://www.itto.or.jp/ittcdd_ses/thirty_third_sessions.html)

Daily coverage: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/forestry/itto/ittc33/>

"New And Emerging Issues Of Relevance To The International Tropical Timber Council And A Future International Tropical Timber Agreement" ITTO, available at Internet:  
[http://www.itto.or.jp/ittcdd\\_ses/download/33rd/E-C33-6.doc](http://www.itto.or.jp/ittcdd_ses/download/33rd/E-C33-6.doc)

Communication From The European Communities And Their Member States: "Classification Issues in the Environmental Sector," S/CSC/W/25, available on the WTO website (<http://docsonline.wto.org/>).

ENB Vo.24 No.14, 11 November 2002; "Certification scheming," TROPICAL FOREST UPDATE,  
<http://www.itto.or.jp/newsletter/v12n3/index.html>

## In Brief

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### COMESA RECOGNISES NEED FOR REGIONAL GMO POLICY

Agricultural ministers of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), meeting in Kampala (Uganda) on 4 November, agreed to create a regional policy on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), thereby responding to recent concerns throughout the area regarding GMOs, in particular GM food aid. This agreement followed a decision by Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states earlier in October to set up an Advisory Committee on GMOs "to develop guidelines to assist member states guard against potential risks in food safety, contamination of genetic resources, ethical issues, trade related issues and consumer concerns" (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, October 10 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-10-10/story3.htm>). COMESA ministers also recognised the need for regionally common agricultural strategies and policies. They furthermore examined the impact of HIV/AIDS

on various other farming issues such as small holder agricultural production, market access, and rural infrastructure. Erastus Mwenga, COMESA Secretary General, emphasised the precarious food security situation in the region, which he said was a result of both external and internal policies related to inappropriate technology, poor infrastructure, subsidies, and market access in developed countries.

COMESA is a regional trade and economic integration grouping of 20 African nations, including Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"COMESA agriculture ministers tackle policy on GMOs, food security," COMESA, 18 November 2002.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS QUESTION APPROVAL PROCESS FOR GMOS IN INDIA**

The civil society groups Gene Campaign, Forum for Biotechnology and others have urged the Central Vigilance Commissioner to review the conduct of India's regulatory and scientific agencies, and in particular to assess the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) responsible for GM crop approval. Those questioning GEAC's activities highlighted lack of transparency, which they said had led to corruption and irregularities. In particular, they expressed concern that large corporations could buy influence of key officials for favourable reviews of GM crops. To date, GEAC has only approved Bt cotton for commercial release. The Committee at its 7 November deferred its decision on GM mustard for a number of weeks. Some feel this delay is in response to NGO and farmers' organisations pressure. However, the GEAC has decided that no additional trials would be conducted creating uncertainty as to the benefit of the deferment. The Gene Campaign believes that the food and feed safety studies for the GM mustard may not be satisfactory and that additional proper field trials are required.

"GM Mustard: NGOs Appeal to CVC to examine corruption and irregularities," GENE CAMPAIGN, 11 November 2002.

### **SPS COMMITTEE DISCUSSES EU GMO REGULATIONS AS POSSIBLE WTO CHALLENGE LOOMS**

At the 7-8 November meeting of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), the US, Canada, Australia, Argentina and the Philippines again raised concerns regarding the EU's continued de facto moratorium on the approval of new genetically modified organisms (GMOs) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/story3.htm>). Australia also added concerns regarding the EU's proposed labelling and traceability regulations. For its part, Argentina submitted a set of questions, which the EU said they would respond to in writing (G/SPS/GEN/354, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>). The European Commission -- speaking on behalf of the EU -- expressed its frustration that nothing had happened on these issues in the EU since the July SPS Committee meeting, but also stressed that it was a delicate and extremely political process.

The US has yet to decide whether to formally challenge the EU regulations at the WTO. The most recent call for a challenge has come from US agriculture groups that have urged the US government in a letter on 8 November to "engage the EU in a WTO dispute settlement proceeding against its illegal moratorium". European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection David Byrne in a recent interview acknowledged that the legal defences for the EU in case of a dispute "would be very narrow", but also warned that even if the US won the challenge, they might risk a consumer backlash in the EU which would undermine the Commission's efforts to build public confidence in GM foods.

The EU's responses to questions posed by WTO Members regarding the proposed labelling and traceability regulations are contained in the WTO documents G/SPS/GEN/337 and 338.

ICTSD reporting; "Warning on GMO rules delay," FT, 12 November 2002.

**"CALL OF THE EARTH" INITIATIVE TO BE LAUNCHED TO PROTECT IP AND TK**

An international group of experts on intellectual property (IP) and indigenous people's traditional knowledge (TK) will launch a three-year independent global project at a global dialogue in Bellagio on 25-30 November. The initiative, called "Call of the Earth: Ancient Wisdom for Sustaining Livelihoods, Cultures, and Environments" is aimed at the protection of IP and TK of indigenous peoples by initiating discussions on IP topics that have been identified as important by indigenous peoples in various international forums in an effort to shape conceptual approaches, policies and practices for future interventions in IP public policy development. The initiative thereby aims to respond to both "threats and challenges of emerging international IP policies which do not adequately reflect or respond to the concerns of indigenous peoples." It will involve global and regional IP dialogues, create a "knowledge base," and assist creative local initiatives and capacity building. Other groups that plan to support the "Call of the Earth" initiative include the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations University, and the Mataatua Declaration Association.

For further information, see: <http://www.earthcall.org>.

**RAMSAR IN NEGOTIATIONS DEADLOCK OVER INVASIVE SPECIES**

At the Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP-8) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, taking place in Valencia, Spain, from 18 to 26 November, negotiations on invasive species have reached a deadlock in the contact group, due to deep divisions among Parties over a EU proposal to include a reference to the decision on alien invasive species adopted by the COP-6 to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) in April 2002 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-02/story1.htm>). Australia, supported by the US and Brazil, opposed the inclusion of the reference, arguing that the COP-6 decision was invalid. The issue could not be resolved in the contact group and negotiations were moved back to the plenary meeting. As a result, substantive discussion on invasive species was overshadowed by procedural issues, IUCN - The World Conservation Union noted. They added that the carry-over of the dispute from one Convention to another was an "unintended side-effect" of the desire to achieve harmonisation between multilateral environmental agreements.

"Invasives bring first fireworks to Ramsar Convention", 19 November 2002, IUCN.

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**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>. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

**Coming up in the next two weeks**

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; fax: (41 22) 999-0169; email: [peck@ramsar.org](mailto:peck@ramsar.org); Internet: [http://www.ramsar.org/index\\_cop8.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/index_cop8.htm)

18- 22 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF PATENTS (EIGHT SESSION). For further information, contact: WIPO, tel: (41 22) 338-9111; fax: 733-5428; email: [WIPO.mail@wipo.int](mailto:WIPO.mail@wipo.int); Internet: [http://www.wipo.inthttp://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo\\_content\\_frame=/news/en/conferences.html](http://www.wipo.inthttp://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo_content_frame=/news/en/conferences.html)

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. This event is a part of organiser's contribution to the World Water Assessment Programme. For further information, contact: Janos Bogardi, UNESCO France; fax: (33 0 1) 4568-5811; email: [pccp@unesco.org](mailto:pccp@unesco.org); Internet: [http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/delft\\_first\\_circular.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/delft_first_circular.pdf)

21 November, 18.00-20.00 CET: ONLINE CHAT "NEW WTO TRADE ROUND: TALKING TRADE - WHAT'S GOING ON?" Does trade make a difference? What's up in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)? Are trade negotiations also good for development and environment? One year after the launch of the new trade negotiations round, European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, the Egyptian Trade Minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali and a representative of WWF, Dr Keith Tyrell, will debate whether this round is on track and voice their hopes and concerns. For further information concerning this discussion, see: Internet: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy9/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy9/index_en.htm).

21 November, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA: WHEN MEDIA, SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY COLLIDE: THE CASE OF FOOD AND BIOTECHNOLOGY. For further information, contact: tel: (202) 347-9044; fax: 347-9047; Internet: <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/1121/>.

21 November, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. Various items will be discussed from the annual report to the Council for Trade in Goods. Followed by 22 November, 15:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. Items to be discussed include programme March 2002-March 2003 under Paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Doha Development Agenda (TN/AG/1).

21 November, Brussels, Belgium: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRADE -- A NEW APPROACH. Commissioner Pascal Lamy is keynote speaker at a meeting concerning the Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre (STIC) project. This new global partnership is geared to enable developing country producers to benefit from growing market pressures to integrate environmental and social factors into their export strategies. The project is designed by the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC), European Partners for the Environment (EPE) and the Dutch Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), with the support of DG Trade. For further information, contact: fax: (32 2) 539-4815; email: [info@epe.be](mailto:info@epe.be); Internet: [http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/civil\\_soc/meet.php?action=consult&critere=82](http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/civil_soc/meet.php?action=consult&critere=82)

21 November, Brussels, Belgium: SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND INNOVATION CENTRE EUROPEAN BRIEFING. Events will include workshops and lectures on various areas of sustainable development with the primary focus being the European arena. For further information, contact: tel: (32 2) 539-4815; email: [info@epe.be](mailto:info@epe.be).

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) 957-5754/ 957-5700; fax: 322-2045/ 957-5710; email: [conferences@riia.org](mailto:conferences@riia.org); Internet: <http://www.riia.org>

21-22 November, Vancouver, British Columbia: THE THIRDS ANNUAL BIOFUTURE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION. Organised by BioFuture. This conference will focus on Technical/Management and the latest science and business applications and solutions of the biotechnology industry. This four-tier conference targets industry technical and financial leaders. For further information, contact: BIOFUTURE; fax: (403) 256-8495; Internet: <http://www.biofuture.org/>

25 November, Bellagio, Italy: CALL OF THE EARTH: A GLOBAL DIALOGUE. This event is part of an initiative in response to the "threats and challenges of emerging international IP policies which do not adequately reflect or respond to the concerns of indigenous peoples." For further information, contact:



Alejandro Argumedo, Call of the Earth Project Coordinator; email: [ipbn@web.net](mailto:ipbn@web.net); Internet: <http://www.earthcall.org>

25 - 26 November, London, England: THE WORLD FOOD AND FARMING CONGRESS (WFFC). This Congress offers the opportunity to hear divergent views on the future of world agriculture; to debate critical issues and to offer key recommendations to the world's food and farming leaders. For further information on this conference, contact: Isabel Dennis; tel: (44 20) 7370-8853; fax: 7370-8235; email: [info@wffc.co.uk](mailto:info@wffc.co.uk); Internet: <http://www.wffc.co.uk>.

25-27 November, 10:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE- RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. Discussion will include, among other items, Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health. Followed by 28 November, 10:00, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. Discussion will focus around negotiation of the establishment of a multilateral system of notification and registration of geographical indications for wines and spirits.

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](mailto:WIPO.mail@wipo.int); Internet: [http://www.wipo.org/news/en/index.html?wipo\\_content\\_frame=/news/en/conferences.html](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) 623-850 or 621-234; fax: 623-601 or 623-913; 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](mailto: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; email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org); Internet: <http://www.cuts.org/linkages-index.htm>

27-28 November, New Delhi, India: OECD WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND MARKET ACCESS: ADDRESSING DEVELOPING-COUNTRY CONCERNS IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. The objective of this Global Forum workshop is to promote constructive dialogue among representatives of Member and non-Member economies on market access issues arising from environmental requirements (standards and regulations), and ways to improve the capacity of developing countries to meet those requirements. It is hoped that this event will contribute to advancing the process initiated in Doha and contribute to the preparations for the WTO's Fifth Ministerial Conference to be held in September 2003 in Mexico. For further information, contact: Ronald Steenblik, OECD; tel: (33 1) 4524-9529; email: [ronald.steenblik@oecd.org](mailto:ronald.steenblik@oecd.org).

27 - 29 November, Cusco, Peru: MEETING OF MEGADIVERSE COUNTRIES. Organised by The Group of Like Minded Megadiverse Countries. An expert meeting on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (ABS) and traditional knowledge will take place over the first two days of this. The final segment of the meeting will bring together Ministers and high-level representatives of the Group to analyse and approve a political statement. To view the Cancun Declaration of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries, see: <http://www.embamexcan.com/english/Environment/CancunDeclaration.html>

2 - 4, Palais des Nations, Geneva: DECEMBER TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THIRTIETH EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LDCs. Organised by UNCTAD. This event has been planned to discuss the Least Developed Countries Report 2002. For further information, contact: the UNCTAD secretariat: fax: (41 22) 917-0056; email: [unctad.meetings.services@unctad.org](mailto:unctad.meetings.services@unctad.org).

4 December, Hamburg, Germany: THE REGULATION OF 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. Academics, representatives from government, industry and NGOs will discuss the state of affairs and options for the future in various jurisdictions. 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>

5 December, London, England: ROUND TABLE ABOUT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PATAGONIAN FOREST SECTOR. Organised by The British Argentine Chamber of Commerce (BACC) and the Argentine Embassy in the UK. During the event Dr. Guillermo Defossé, chairman of Patagonian Andes Forest Research and Advisory Center (CIEFAP-Centro de Investigación y Extensión Forestal Andino Patagónico and Ricardo Irianni, Undersecretary for Forestry of the Province of Chubut will speak. For further information, contact: Mrs Claudia Morales; tel: (02 07) 495-8730; email: [enquiries@bacc.newnet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bacc.newnet.co.uk).

### Other forthcoming events

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](mailto:WIPO.mail@wipo.int).

13 - 17 December, Cairo, Egypt: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE IN ARID AND SEMIARID ZONES. The focus of this conference will be on best practices in developing countries for science, for public policy and management, for increasing the participation of local people in decision making, and for improving partnerships and capacity building. The conference is part of a project funded by UNEP/GEF and is implemented by the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations. For further information, contact: Helen Martin; fax: (39 040) 224-0689; email: [info@twonso.org](mailto:info@twonso.org).

18 - 20 December, New Delhi, India: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, AND EARTH CARE POLICIES. The second International Conference of the Bhoovigyan Vikas Foundation, closely following on the heels of the WSSD, proposes to discuss issues pertaining to Sustainable Agriculture, Water Resources Development, Earth-Care Policies and fusion of technologies for sustainable agricultural development. For more information, contact: M. Moni; tel: (91 011) 436-2790, 436-0975; fax: 436-4873; email: [bhoovigyan@rediffmail.com](mailto:bhoovigyan@rediffmail.com); Internet: <http://www.bhoovikas.nic.in>

### 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](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS KNOWLEDGE, ACCESS, AND DEVELOPMENT. Edited by Peter Drahos and Ruth Mayne, 2002. The publication analyses the potential threats of intellectual property rights, and suggests ways in which the intellectual property system can be changed to serve development goals. It synthesises the views of academic experts and NGOs at the cutting edge of current

campaigning and debate. For further information, contact: email: [publish@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:publish@oxfam.org.uk); Internet: [www.oxfam.org.uk/publications](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/publications)

"Turning in circles : district governance, illegal logging, and environmental decline in Sumatra, Indonesia," by John F. McCarthy, in *SOCIETY AND NATURAL RESOURCES*, 15 (10, 2002). After examining the impact of political and economic changes on Indonesian illegal forestry, this article concludes that the logging epidemic has complex, multidimensional causes that allow for no easy remedies. Moreover, as many of the dynamics described here will continue to predominate after Indonesia implements new decentralisation laws, this ensures that the informal system of exchange and accommodation described here will continue to shape forest outcomes.

"The impact of forests and forest management on neighboring property values," by Yeon-Su Kim Rebecca L Johnson, in *SOCIETY AND NATURAL RESOURCES*, 15 (10, 2002). This study estimates the contribution of forests and forest management to property values around McDonald-Dunn Research Forest near Corvallis, OR. We investigated the economic effects of proximity to the forest, different forest conditions, and management schemes to neighboring property values using a geographic information system. Proximity to the forest has a positive contribution to property values; this relationship is even stronger for houses closer to the forest. Forest attributes also affect property values. The sales price is lower for property from which clear-cut sites are visible at the time of purchase if all other characteristics of the house are identical.

"Quantifying the impacts on biodiversity of policies for carbon sequestration in forests" by Stephen Matthews, Raymond O'Connor & Andrew J. Plantinga, in *ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS* 40 (1, 2002). There is currently a great deal of interest in the use of afforestation (conversion of non-forest land to forest) to reduce atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide. The main objective of this paper is to estimate the changes in farmland and forest bird populations that are likely to occur under an afforestation policy. Econometric models of land use are used to simulate the response of private landowners to subsidies for tree planting on agricultural land.

### Electronic Resources

Planeta.com's Forest Resource Guide takes a look at the forests and forestry issues around the globe and we pay particular attention to the forest and selva of the Americas. To visit the Forest Resource Guide, see: <http://www.planeta.com/ecotravel/resources/trees.html>

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